Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

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

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"LES MISERABLES."

The following unpretensious lines were suggested to the writer on seeing two children, apparenrly brother and sister, lying asleep, at midnight, this winter, in the doorway of a fine mansion in one of our largest Canadian cities.

Why sit ye there, poor little ones,
Upon the cold and cheerless stones?
Can slumber veil your infant minds,
While sweep o'er thee cold, damp winds?
Great Heavens! what a contrast's this!
Outside sits misery, *inside*, bliss.
The children of this mansion grand
Repose in peace, a happy band,
While at the gates, oh, piteous sight:
Two half-clad children pass the night,
Brother and sister, hand in hand,
Lying asleep on Life's cold strand;
What are your dreams, comfortless pair?
Of a *mother* whose fame is fair?
A *father's* love, pure, noble, good?
Or, alas, of to-morrow's food?
Offspring of sin perhaps thou art:
Sin in which *you* have had no part.
God help you, to you this will prove
A world void of hope and of love.
My heart bleeds for you, little ones,
Prone sleeping on the cheerless stones,
Which to you are bed and cov'ring,
While the midnight storms are gath'ring.
Two of your age I have at home,
Oh may *they* never have to roam
In quest of such a wretched bed,
As never, yet, *thank God*, they've had.

How Morgan Escaped.

A special despatch to the *Bulletin*, from Cincinnati, on the 30th, says, that John Morgan, on retiring, arranged with his brother Dick to exchange cells from the top to the lower one, on the first floor. The floor of the lower cell is 2½ inches thick, in which a hole was cut, running to the main wall around the penitentiary. This wall was cut under, and the party escaped into the open country. The night was dark, and a heavy rain was falling at the time. Not the slightest clue has been discovered of their whereabouts or the route they have taken. The manner of escape was ingenious, but, after all, it is simple enough when based upon the almost certain theory that they were correctly informed as to the ground they had to work through.—They, by patient labor for nearly four weeks, with small pocket-knives, had dug through the floor of their cells, composed of about one foot of stone and brick, down into a 4-foot sewer. Two weeks ago one of the escaped prisoners asked the guard for a few boards to cover the bottom of the cells, giving as an excuse that the damp stone was injuring their health. The unsuspicious guard granted their request. The boards were used to cover up the holes they were cutting. On the night of their final escape, on retiring to their several cells, Dick Morgan managed to change with his brother John from the upper to the lower tier. After getting into the sewer they crawled to the heavy grating and masonary at its mouth and found they could not escape by that route. They, however, made a hole upward to a heavy pile of coal, which rolled in on them to such an extent that they were forced to go further back into the yard. They then excavated the soft earth clear under the main wall, and so correctly was the distance calculated that they came into the open road one foot from the foundation. One of the party, Capt. Hames, was by trade a brick mason, and seems to have had the management of the affair. A note signed by that worthy was left behind. It reads as follows:—

"Castle Merion, Cell No. 20, Nov. 27.

"To Captain Merion, Warden of the Penitentiary.—Commencement, Nov. 4th; Conclusion, Nov. 20th; labor per day, three hours; tools, small pocket-knives. Patience is bitter but its fruit is sweet.

"By order of my six honorable confederates.

"Henry Hames, Capt. C. S. Army."

Acknowledging an Obligation.—Lieut. J—— n, late of the Sixteenth New York regiment, was a few days ago walking down Main Street, Utica, when he was accosted by a fellow, half-soldier, and half beggar, with a most reverential military salute—

'God bless your honor,' said the man, whose accent betrayed him to be Irish, 'and long life to you.'

'How do you know me?' said the Lieutenant.

'Is it how do I know yer honor?' said Pat, 'Good right, sure, I have to know the man who saved my life in battle.'

The Lieutenant, highly gratified at this tribute of his valor, slid a fifty cent bill into his hand, and asked him when.

'God bless your honor, and long life to you,' said the grateful veteran, 'sure it was at Antietam, when seeing your honor run as fast as your legs could carry you, from the rebels, I followed your lead, and ran after you out of the way, whereby, under God, I saved my life. O, good luck to your honor, I never will forget you.'

An Eye to Business.—A legal friend in the west sends the following:—"Several years ago I was practising in one of the beautiful towns in Wisconsin. One beautiful day, while I was seated in office at work, I was interrupted by the entrance of a boy, the son of one of my clients, who had walked into town, six miles, in a blazing sun for the purpose of procuring a Bible. He has been told, he said, that there was a place where they were kept. Anxious to encourage him in his early piety, I left the brief work on which I was engaged and went over with him to the stand of a Presbyterian deacon who had the coveted book in charge. I introduced him to the deacon, telling him the circumstances. He praised the boy very highly; was delighted to see the young man so early seeking after the truth, &c., and presented him with the best bound Bible in his collection. Buddy put it in his pocket, and was starting off, when the deacon said, 'Now, my son, that you possess what you so much desired, I suppose you feel perfectly happy?' 'Well, I do, old hoss, for between you and I, I know where I can trade it for a most plaguey good fiddle!'"

Love will find a way.—A couple not one hundred miles from Manchester, carried on their courtship in rather a novel manner. A young man had fallen in love with the daughter of the employer; but from certain ideas of wealth, a match was opposed by the father. The consequence was that the young man was forbidden to visit his employer's house. The old gentleman was in the habit of wearing a cloak, and the young couple made this the innocent bearer of their correspondence. The lady pinned a letter inside the lining of the old man's cloak every day, and when the father went into the counting-house, and threw off his clcak, the lover took out the lady's epistle, read it, and sent the reply back in the same manner. Love and ingenuity were finally successful.

Men.—General Hamilton says: There is nothing so splendid as a splendid man. Men are strong. They do things and don't mind it. They can open doors in the dampest weather. They can unstrap trunks without breaking a blood-vessel, turn keys in a moment which women have lost their temper and lamed their fingers over for half an hour, look down precipices and not be dizzy, knock each other prostrate and not be stunned. You may strike them with all your might on the chest and it does not hurt them in the least (I mean, if you are a woman.) As the big man said, when asked why he let his little wife beat him, 'It amuses her, and it don't hurt me.' Men never grow nervous and cry.—They go up stairs three at a time. They put one hand on a four-rail fence and leap it without touching. Moreover men can talk slang. 'Dry up' is nowhere forbidden in the decalogue. Neither the law nor the prophets frown on 'a thousand of brick.' The sermon on the Mount does not discountenance 'knuckling to.' I should like to call my luggage 'traps,' and my curiosities 'truck and dicker,' and my weariness 'being knocked up,' but I might as well rob a bank. Between women and these minor immoralities stands an invisible barrier of *propriety*—waves an abstract flaming sword in the hand of Mrs. Grundy—and we must submit to Mrs. Grundy though the heavens fall. But who can reckon up the loss which we sustain?

The Crow of Ceylon.—In the Island of Ceylon there is to be found a very cunning and sensible crow, somewhat smaller than our native one, having a glossy back, and altogether rather an engaging, pretty bird.—Now, in the yard of the Governor of Ceylon, a dog was one day amusing himself by gnawing a bone, the scraps of meat upon which attracted the attention of one of these crows. It alighted on the ground, hopping round the dog and bone, and evidently waiting for an opportunity of seizing the fatter. The dog, however, was on his guard, and by certain growls and probably angry looks, which the bird understood, no doubt, protected his property. The crow was too hungry and too cunning to be baffled. He flew away, but soon returned with a companion. They hopped up to the dog, when the fresh arrival watched his opportunity and gave a sudden pull at the dog's tail. Not being used to such an insult he suddenly turned round to see who had taken this liberty with him. The bone for a moment was left unprotected, and was immediately seized by the first cunning crow, who flew away with it, joined by his companion, and they doubtless had a merry feast upon it.

The Exodus of Frogs.—A sight was witnessed on the plains near Hay, which no human eye has probably ever witnessed before, or is likely ever to see again. As a shepherd was snoozing, as is his custom, within the scanty shadow of a stunted gumtree, his slumbers were disturbed by what he described as "like a rushing wind whistling through a bed of reeds." But on looking around him, what was his surprise to behold the plain, for at least a square mile, covered with an innumerable army of frogs. On, on they came, in their hundreds and thousands, till it seemed as if the line would stretch out till the crack of doom. Had the Bishop of Natal been present, he might have supposed, and with some reason, too, that Providence was convincing him, by occular demonstration, that the ninth plague of Egypt was historically true. It was certainly a strange sight, this exodus of frogs, and is thus accounted for: the long and excessive drouth to which this part of the colony has been subjected had completely dried up the clayed swamp which they inhabited, and the poor creatures, to save themselves from perishing, were obliged to emigrate, for when the shepherd saw them they were en route for the Murrambidgee; and it is worthy of remark that many of the old frogs carried pleaninny frogs upon their backs.—*Brisbane Courier.*

No Joke for the Poles.—The treatment of the Poles in Warsaw is that of dogs. A London *Times'* letter says:—"As for the Cossacks, their whipping propensity seems to be a disease, but as it is a disease of a very malignant nature it ought to be checked.—Like boxers preparing to give a blow, these whipsters are perpetually practising the use of their long leather thongs. Sometimes they strike in order to drive back some one who has transgressed the bounds beyond which he ought not to have passed, but others, also, as if from mere habit, and from a wish to keep their hand in. The Pole who is struck grins with a contemptuous grin, and those around him utter execrations; and I saw no blow taken except with an expression of disdain from the receiver, which, I must add, seemed entirely lost upon the giver."

What will be the exclamation of Jeff. Davis after the termination of the next battle with Rosecrans' army? "I've Bragg-ed too much."

We love women all the better for their weakness. These strong-minded women always seem as if they wanted to be men, and couldn't.

The proprietor of a bone mill advertises that "parsons, sending their own bones to be ground, will be attended to with punctuality and despatch."

Charles Lamb's opinion of water cure!—'It is neither new nor wonderful, for it is as old as the Deluge, when, in my opinion, it killed more than it cured!'

A divine preached, one Sunday morning, from the text, 'Ye are the children of the devil,' and in the afternoon, from the words, 'Children obey your parents.'

A country newspaper, noticing the death of a young lady, remarked that 'she had an amiable temper, and was uncommonly fond of ice cream and other delicacies.'

Jealous Husband.—'Divorce at the next term of court!' exclaimed the excited Benedict; 'darn the divorce. I only want to get an injunction to stay her proceedings.'

What is the principal difference between the swallow and the cat? It is an admitted fact that 'one swallow does not make a summer,' but any cat can make a spring.

Synd Ahmud, a Mussulman writer of some repute, the author of a commentary on the Bible, is preparing for the press, at Ghazeepore, a reply to Cishop Colenso's work on the Pentateuch.

Swearing is fearfully prevalent among the teamsters of the Cumberland army. The last achievement in that way was "swearing the hair off a mule's back"—time, five minutes from the word go.

'It is very difficult to live,' said a widow, with seven girls, all in genteel poverty.—'You must husband your time,' said a sage friend. 'I'd rather husband some of my daughters,' answered the poor lady.

War Looming Up.—The prevailing feeling throughout Italy is that war is rapidly approaching; preparations are being made by the Italians against all possible contingencies, and an order has just been issued by the Minister of War for the construction of 200 cannon of large calibre, to be employed upon the fortifications and in the defence of the Italian coasts.

Federal and Confederate Prisoners of War.

For some time past there has been a cessation of the exchange of prisoners of war between the two belligerent sections of the American Republic, and the result is that the prisons of Richmond and Washington are filled with prisoners. A great outcry has recently been made by Northern journals of the terrible sufferings from absolute hunger and neglect, of the Union prisoners of war at Richmond. The New York *Tribune* however, admits that it is from necessity and not from malice, that the prisoners receive short commons. The belief seems to be gaining ground that no more prisoners will be exchanged during the war, so that capture means imprisonment till peace has been secured. The Richmond *Whig* says the fact is very suggestive to Southern soldiers, who do not like long years of confinement. "The more Yankees sent to Richmond, the sooner will our women and children be compelled to beg their daily bread."

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., DEC. 4, 1863.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

Few will deny, we think, that anything which relates to the national affairs of Europe is of vital importance to the rest of the world. It is to other continents what the heart is to the human organization. A spasm or serious disturbance there, affects in a corresponding degree the whole body; so, in the opinion of the shrewdest political theorists, a general war in Europe would set the world in flames. Unhappily, the highly combustible materials of which the Old World is composed, only await the application of the spark which will call into instant action the destructive power that has been laid up within the past few years. That "little-understood principle, the 'balance of power,'" has been of much service in keeping the peace. The very basis of mutual jealousy upon which it is founded has tended to the protection of minor states and the restriction within definite bounds of greedy despotisms. The principle, however sound in itself, is not an example of human perfection, either in the causes which produced it or in the manner in which it has been carried out, for it is obvious to any close observer that the most formidable difficulty at present in the way of the diplomacy of Europe owes its origin to the blow dealt against the principle of the balance of power by the partition of Poland. "Her independent "existence as an important element of the "balance of power, her rights as sanctioned "by treaties both general and particular, "have all been trodden under foot, amid "the silent indifference of Europe. She "remains a sad monument of the narrow-"minded selfishness of governments, and "a warning to small States of the slender "guarantees for their security afforded "them by the boasted sacredness of Euro-"pean engagements." The Treaty of Vienna in 1815 was convoked for the purpose of restoring the balance of power which had been so completely destroyed by the ambitious genius of Napoleon I. The necessity for that treaty was imminent, and there can be no question that in many respects its results were both important and valuable. It defined the boundaries of the Great Powers, and it was the international law under which weak nations were saved from the grasp of their powerful neighbors. But the treaty of Vienna was bad in this that it did an act of terrible injustice to Poland, by virtually partitioning her dismembered parts among the three Powers of Russia, Austria and Prussia, and by withholding the *substance* of nationality whilst it gave her the shadow. Of all the glaring inconsistencies incorporated in that important document, the one we have specially alluded to was the most prominent, and it is gratifying to the English reader to know that the proposal was only forced upon the shrewd Lord Castlereagh, at a moment when the return of Napoleon from Elba had brought about a crisis in the deliberations of the Congress. Other and serious incongruities there were, certainly, but many of them have since been rectified by the consent, direct or implied, of the high contracting parties. Belgium, by the treaty, was united to Holland. Such a union, as was predicted at the time by far-seeing politicians, resulted in the Belgian Revolution of 1830, whereupon Belgium received her independence at the hands of a convention of representatives of the great powers. Besides the modifications that have taken place in this way, the Treaty of Vienna has been encroached upon in a more equivocal manner. France lent her powerful assistance in wresting from Austria her Italian Provinces, ostensibly for the purpose of liberating Italy from a hated bondage, but really, as subsequent events would lead us to believe, in order that the Emperor Napoleon might have a plausible pretext for seizing the coveted prize of Nice and Savoy. And it is this very monarch, let us remember, who now comes forward with a demand for a new European Congress to redress grievances and succor down-trodden nationalities. Notwithstanding the almost universal distrust of Napoleonic ideas it must be allowed that the great intellect of the Emperor has grappled successfully with the problem which has so often shaken Europe to its centre. He sees clearly that the barbarous treatment of Poland has rendered the Treaty of 1815 a dead letter, and his arguments in favor of a fresh Congress are logical and convincing. But the conviction produced is apparently overbalanced by the fear that the reasoner is not to be trusted—that however plausible his protestations of a wish to preserve the peace of Europe, he is only actuated by a desire to secure his own aggrandizement. It is doubly unfortunate that *one man* should thus stand between the great powers and the cause of civilization and justice.—Expediency! Expediency! Expediency! is now the watchword. Poland may hold up her manacled hands, and implore for a portion of the justice that was extended to Belgium, and to which she has an equal claim, but *expediency* cries out that it is better for one to suffer than the many—Important changes may take place at the foot of the Alps, but expediency still urges that the forcible abrogation of treaties must be endured rather than that hasty action should precipitate a general war.—This principle of expediency, we conceive, is one of the greatest dangers to which Europe is exposed. The mutual jealousy and distrust upon which it is based, tend to widen existing differences, and to render each breach of treaty obligations on the part of semi-barbarous despotisms easier than the last. The severance of the remaining links of international law, may be the means of emitting the spark which will cause the apprehended conflagration.

THE MAYORALTY.

The address of J. V. Detlor, Esq., as a candidate for the Mayoralty will be found in our advertising columns. The language used is that of a man who is willing that whatever claims he may have upon the electors should be based upon his conduct as a public man. If he is elected, we are confident that he will make such a use of his ripened judgment and extensive knowledge of municipal matters as will be creditable both to the town and its chief magistrate. Mr. Detlor is a man of sterling integrity; he has been a useful public servant, and while it may be perfectly true that there are younger men who are just as well qualified to fill the position to which he aspires, we believe the electors would perform an act of gracefulness by returning him, at this particular time, to the "civic chair."

Since writing the above, a requisition to James Watson, Esq., signed by a considerable number of electors, has been handed in, and will be found in another place. Mr. Watson's qualifications and claims are so well known to the people of the town that it is entirely unnecessary for us to enlarge upon them. The two candidates are now in the field, and while we have nothing to say against a good warm contest, we trust everything will be avoided that has a tendency to create permanent ill-feeling between either the candidates or their supporters.

The War.—No fresh developments have taken place in the South-west. Lee has taken a very strong position on the Rapidan and is quietly waiting for the attack of his adversary. Meade has approached so close that a great battle is expected at any moment, if it has not already taken place.

☞ We would direct the special attention of our country readers to the important change made in the manner of electing township councillors. A synopsis of the new Act will be found in another column.

Blackwood for November is a capital number. The comparative dullness of the Perpetual curate is amply atoned for in the liveliness of "Tony Butler."—Several of the more solid papers are unusually interesting. Contents: Chronicles of Carlingford: The Perpetual Curate—part VI.; Old Maps and New; Tony Butler—part II.; Ducal Darmstadt; The Fall of King Otho; Hawthorne on England; Tara; May Song; Our Rancorous "Cousins." Reprinted by L. Scott & Co., N. Y.

Township Councils.

REPRESENTATION BY WARDS ABOLISHED.

An Act to extend the provisions of the two hundred and seventy-fifth section of the Act "respecting the Municipal Institutions of Upper Canada," and to provide for the election of Councillors in the several townships of Upper Canada, whenever the same may be divided into Electoral Divisions under the authority of the said section.

[*Assented to 15th October, 1863.*]

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. Whenever a township in Upper Canada is divided into Electoral Divisions, and polling places established therein, and Returning Officers appointed therefor, under and by the provisions of the two hundred and seventy-fifth section of chapter fifty-four of the Consolidated Statutes for Upper Canada, a meeting of the electors for such township shall take place on the last Monday but one in the month of December, before the annual election, as provided by the said, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, for the nomination of candidates, for the Councillors to be elected for the said township, at the Township Hall, if there be one in the said township, but if there be no Township Hall, then at the place where the first meeting of the Council of the said township was held for the then current year; and the Township Clerk shall give the notice required by section ninety-seven of chapter fifty-four of the Consolidated Statutes for Upper Canada.

2. The Township Clerk shall preside at such meeting, or in case of his absence, through sickness or otherwise, the Council shall appoint a person to preside in his place; and if the Clerk or the person so appointed does not attend, the electors present shall choose a chairman, being an elector, to officiate from among themselves.

3. Such clerk or person so appointed, or chairman so chosen, shall have all the powers of a Returning Officer.

4. If only five candidates have been within one hour proposed by any of the electors present at such meeting, the clerk or person so appointed to preside, or chairman so chosen, as the case may be, shall declare such candidates duly elected Councillors to serve for them next following year.

5. If more than five candidates shall be proposed after the first five, or any elector on his behalf, shall demand a poll, the said clerk or person so appointed, or chairman so chosen, shall, on the following day, post up in the office of the clerk the names of the candidates so proposed, and give notice of the names to the Returning Officer appointed for each and all the said Electoral Divisions.

6. In case of the nominaton of more than five candidates, and no candidate nominated after the first five, or no elector on his or their behalf then demanding a poll as aforesaid, the clerk or person so appointed, or chairman so chosen, shall declare such five candidates first nominated duly elected Councillors to serve as aforesaid.

7. In case of a poll being so demanded, the Returning Officer for each Electoral Division, in such township, shall cause a poll to be opened at the polling place appointed in such Division, on the first Monday in January following, and shall take the votes in the same way and keep the poll open for the full time required by law for taking the votes, in cases where no Electoral Division shall be established.

8. Every Returning Officer shall, on the day after the close of the poll, return the pollbook to the Township Clerk, verified under oath before the said clerk, or any Justice of the Peace for the county or union of counties in which the said township may lie, as to the due and correct taking of the votes for the said Electoral Division.

9. The Township Clerk or person appointed, or chairman so chosen aforesaid, shall add up the number of votes set down for each candidate in the respective poll-books, and ascertain the aggregate number of votes, and shall at the Township Hall, or such other place at which the nomination was held, at noon of the day following the return of the poll-books, publicly declare the same, beginning with the candidate having the greatest number, and so on with the others, and shall thereupon publicly declare elected the five candidates respectively standing the highest on the poll.

10. In case two or more candidates have an equal number of votes, the said clerk, whether otherwise qualified or not, shall give a vote for one or more of such candidates, so as to decide the election; and except in such case, no Township Clerk shall vote at any such election.

11. This Act shall be taken and read as part of the Act, intituled: An Act respecting the Municipal Institutions of Upper Canada.

THE PROPOSED CONGRESS.

The Paris *Moniteur* publishes the text of the Letter addressed to the Sovereigns of Europe by the Emperor of the French, proposing a general Congress to settle the affairs of Europe. The following is a translation:—

"Most High and Most Illustrious Sovereigns Princes, and Free Towns which constitute the High German Confederation:—

"In presence of the events which every day arise and become urgent, I deem it indispensable to express myself without reserve to the Sovereigns to whom the destiny of nations is conflicted.

"Whenever severe shocks have shaken the bases and displaced the limits of States, solemn transactions have taken place to arrange the new elements, and to consecrate by revision the accomplished transformations. Such was the object of the Treaty of Westphalia in the 17th century, and of the negotiations at Vienna in 1815. It is on this latter foundation that now reposes the political edifice of Europe; and yet, as you are aware, it is crumbling away on all sides.

"If the situation of the different countries be attentively considered, it is impossible not to admit that the Treaties of Vienna upon almost all points are destroyed, modified, misunderstood, or menaced Hence, duties without rule, rights without title, and pretensions without restraint. The danger is so much the more formidable because the improvements brought about by civilization, which has bound nations together by the identity of material interest, would render war more destructive.

"This is a subject for serious reflection; let us not wait before deciding on our course for sudden and irresistible events to disturb our judgment and carry us away despite ourselves in opposite directions.

"I therefore propose to you to regulate the present and secure the future in a Congress.

"Called to the throne by Providence and the will of the French people, but trained in the school of adversity, I am perhaps bound less than any other to ignore the rights of the Sovereigns and the legitimate aspirations of nations.

"Therefore I am ready, without any preconceived system, to bring to an International Council the spirit of moderation and justice the usual portion of those who have endured so many various trials.

"If I take the initiative in such an overture, I do not yield to an impulse of vanity; but as I am the Sovereign to whom ambitious projects are most attributed, I have it at heart to prove by this frank and loyal step, that my scle object is to arrive without a shock at the pacification of Europe. If this proposition be favorably received, I pray you to accept Paris as the place of meeting.

"In case the Princes, allies and friends of France, should think proper to heighten by their presence the authority of their deliberations, I shall be proud to offer them my cordial hospitality. Europe would see, perhaps, some advantage in the capital from which the signal for subversion has so often been given becoming the seat of the Conferences destined to lay the bases of a general pacification.

"I take advantage of this opportunity to renew to you the assurance of my sincere attachment and of the lively interest which I take in the prosperity of the States of the Confederation. Whereupon, most high and Illustrious Sovereign Prince, and Free States which constitutes the most exalted German Confederation, I pray God to have you in His holy keeping.

"Written at Paris on the 4th of November in the year of grace 1863.

"NAPOLEON.

"Countersigned, Drouyn de L'Huys."

The London *Times* treats the subject as a very unreal proposition, and says it may possibly turn out that this proposal of a Congress is something in the nature of a fire-escape—the expedient of a man determined to come down somehow from an untenable position, but unable to go down the staircase and unwilling to jump out of the window. If this be the correct view of the case, what was wanted by the Emperor was rather the proposal of the Congress than the Congress itself. His proposal has been made for purely domestic reasons, and without consulting us. We have not the least right to complain that he plays cards his own way, but we fairly object to take a hand in the game. Nay, probably by such a course we may be doing the Emperor the greatest service in our power. By refusing to join him in a coercive policy towards Russia, he has been able to shift no inconsiderable part of his failure on our shoulders.—He will now be able to say that the same cause has blighted his grandest scheme for the regeneration of Europe under the presidency of France.

The *Post* continues silent on the Congress question.

The Paris correspondent of the *Advertiser* says the Congress does not seem to take.—The assent of the small fry comes in plentifully. Disreputable nations like Spain, and petty German potentates, are greedy to sit in the society of their superiors, but what the Emperor wishes to know is whether England, Austria and Russia will assent. He is even curious to know whether Russia would deign to come, though her assent would signify but little. As yet the cold shoulder is all that is to be seen. The Congress is drifting away into the abyss of improbability, and will whirl and whirl round till it sinks into the bottom.

One of the French journals, which has been used to convey the sentiments of the Emperor to the world, has placed the question of a Congress upon three issues, into one of which it must resolve itself, and it has alluded to the course which France would probably adopt with regard to each. The writer (M. Laguerronniere) puts the case thus—Either the powers will all, without exception, conform to the Emperor's views, and at once accept the proposal for a diplomatic conference: or some only will accept; or, again, all will refuse. In the event of all the powers accepting the invitation—which, however, is too brilliant an anticipation to be indulged in, even by the writer himself—"France will have obtained a bloodless victory which will serve the cause of civilization without any cost to humanity, and complete the work of establishing peace on the principles of right." Should some only accept the invitation, "the Congress will be impossible, but France will have prepared the way for alliances which may some day assist in carrying out the policy she has adopted, and the attempt will at all events be a resting place until the powers be forced, by complications which are inevitable, to have recourse to a Congress."

Should all the sovereigns refuse, "France would suffer complete isolation, which, however, would be dangerous to others, not to her, for, once free to act, she would subordinate her policy to her interests, and calmly wait with the certainty that it would depend on her alone to modify or keep down the equilibrium of Europe under the pressure of her grandeur."

A Paris letter says the "*Constitutionel* and *Pays* have both received instructions to anticipate the failure of the proposal for a Congress."

The French Army—Its Organization, Strength, and Place of Service.

Paris Correspondence of the London Times.

When all the changes of garrison are completed, the following will be, according to statistics lately published, the distribution and strength of the French army:—With the exception of certain troops on foreign service, that army is now on what is called the peace footing, and 412,000 men and 80,000 horses. There are two reserves, which may be called in at a moment's notice, one of old soldiers and another of young ones—the latter not yet incorporated, but almost ready to be dismissed from drill. These additions would bring the army up to between 600,000 and 700,000 men—a very respectable figure, and quite sufficient, as a French paper lately observed, to meet all eventualities.

The 412,000 are thus distributed:—In Mexico, two divisions of infantry and a brigade of cavalry, &c., together nearly 34,000 men; Cochin China, 1,600 men. The above are on the war footing. On what is called the footing of *rassemblement* is the corps of occupation at Rome, about 20,000 men in one division of three brigades, with a few squadrons of cavalry. On the peace footing, divided into divisions and brigades, the army of Paris, (three divisions of infantry and one of cavalry,) the army of Lyons (two divisions of infantry and one of cavalry) and the divisions of cavalry of Luneville, consisting of four regiments.

There is also at Paris what is called a reserve brigade, of three battalions and five squadrons, specially allotted to the garrison of the capital, and which never leaves it. These two armies and the Luneville division may be reckoned at 40,000 men. The Imperial Guard forms a special corps, a reserve composed of two divisions of infantry, one of cavalry, three brigades and a body of horse and artillery—altogether thirty-three battalions, (thirty-four just now on account of the battalion of Turcos,) thirty six squadrons (thirty seven with the Spahis), forming a total of 30,000 men.

The remainder of the French army is distributed in six great corps, five in France and one in Algeria. There used to be generally 65,000 or 70,000 men in Algeria, but just now there are not so many, several regiments having been sent thence to Mexico. The troops in Algeria may be divided into two classes—French corps which remain there in garrison for a certain number of years and then return to France, and what are called indigenous corps, which never quit the colony except for fighting purposes. In this latter corps, however, it is to be observed, there are a great number of Europeans. They consist of three regiments of Zouaves, three of Turcos (*Tirailleurs Algeriens*), three of Chasseurs d'Afrique, and three Spahis—about 15,000 infantry and 3,000 horse. Besides these there are the punishment battalions, popularly known as the battalion of *Zephyrs.*

The Siege of Charleston.

A correspondent of the Augusta (Ga.) *Sentinel* writes from Charleston:—

"Yankee gunners keep up their practice at Sumter, and day and night punch and hammer away, without accomplishing anything. The Confederate flag, despite their efforts, defiantly floats above the ruins. When the siege is raised, if a live Yankee is allowed to get to Sumter he'll make his fortune sure—picking up old brass and iron.

"Yesterday morning the iron clads tried Moultrie, but soon got sick and quit. The bombardment was furious for a while, but after exhausting much ammunition and some time doing nothing, the monitors skedaddled.

"About 25 100-pound Parrott shells were flung into the city to-day. Old Gilmour scattered them promiscuously in the lower part of the city, and it really seemed from the way in which they were pitched about that he was trying to hit somebody. The City Hall building had a hole punched in one corner and some of the marble cornice knocked away.—One struck the telegraph office and the operators 'cut stuck.' One smashed through the roof of a house in Queen street, and several falling in this neighborhood, the frightened citizens 'vamoosed to the tune of the double-quick.' Several fell in the vicinity of the banks of Broad street and East Bay, tearing up the streets, smashing window panes and kicking up the mischief generally. One went crashing through the Mechanics' and Planters' Bank, and it is evident, I think, that Gillmore was after making a deposit. Whether he will be regularly 'booked' and his currency taken 'at par' is more than I can say.

"Several counting-rooms on the wharves were slightly smashed; but, during the entire shelling, which lasted from about 9½ to 1 o'clock, no one was hurt.

"Some time ago it was thundered from the Northern press that, ere the ides of November, Charleston would be in ashes, and straightway all Yankee-land waxed merry and prepared for a grand jubilee. Dahlgren 'screwed his courage to the sticking-place'; Gillmore plied the spade and pick, trained his heavy guns and harped upon 'Greek fire.' We still live, and the 'hot bed of the rebellion' is not yet in ashes."

The London Tragedy.

From the London Times.

What can be a more commonplace object than a railway cab? And, from the hundreds plying at the Shoreditch station of the Great Eastern line on Saturday evening, the wildest imagination, tasked to devise a new horror, would scarcely have selected such a vehicle as the scene of the murder of a woman and two children, while driving from one part of London to the other. But the incidents of actual life are perpetually putting to shame the poor and weak inventions of those who attempt to describe it. Man's passions are bolder even than his imagination. Some dare do what few dare to think, and from the contrast springs the hackneyed commonplace about "truth being stranger than fiction."—With what ideas would a spectator have followed the cab hired at 9 o'clock on Saturday evening, with its four passengers, supposing them to have been remarked at all? Not, certainly, that the murder of three of the occupants by the fourth would in a few hours ring through the land, exciting all the horror that follows a crime of such unparalleled atrocity. Yet all the circumstances under which it was committed have such an ordinary every-day character that not a single incident was likely to attract notice. There was no quarrel, no display of passion, no "row" or threats of violence. All was the fatal quietude of fixed resolve, which gave no alarm either to the victims or the bystanders. What is more common than the drawing up of a cab at the door of a public house for the fare to refresh and treat the driver? There are classes of people who seem to think the drive incomplete without both processes.—When the cab, therefore, stopped at the door of the Green Dragon, what indicated any fell purpose? Nothing; it was a most ordinary incident in the life of the street; it would not attract a glance from one man in a thousand. But before the vehicle drove on again the terrible deed must have been accomplished. The cabman was sent into the house with a shilling for a pint of beer. He handed it through the window to "the gentleman," and went to the horse's head. In a moment, and unperceived by the victims, for a flash of suspicion or a single cry of alarm would have saved them, the deadly poison must have been mixed with the liquor and administered. The pot was given back to the driver and taken into the house, "the gentleman" turning it mouth downwards, and spilling whatever was left of its contents on the pavement. In the next minute, what a freight of death was passing, unsuspected by all, along Cornhill!—Science may be able to determine how long each victim survived the draught. But the scene the interior of that cab must have presented in the interval that elapsed before it arrived at Furnival's Inn, Holborn, the imagination almost refuses to follow. The murderer must have set face to face with the dead woman and her children, watching them one by one expire. Perhaps the second stoppage in Holborn marks the point of time when he was quite assured they were all dead.—Here, again, there was nothing to excite any suspicion. He got out, paid the fare, with an added sixpence to the driver, and, directing him to go to the Royal Oak, disappeared in the direction of Holborn hill.

During two days no trace of the murderer was detected, and it began to be feared that this was another added to the list of crimes which have never left a clue to their perpetrators. But on the night of Monday the criminal was discovered and arrested. The suspicions of a neighbour, excited by the published description of the dead bodies and the return of the man to the house without his wife and children, led to his detection. But he had evaded human justice. By midnight on Monday the tragedy was completed by the suicide of the criminal, who had taken some strong poison when he heard the police knocking at his barred and bolted door. He died soon after his capture. The public is spared the repetition of the frightful details brought out with all the minuteness of a criminal trial; but there can be no doubt of the man's guilt, and it is some satisfaction to know that such a being is no longer among the living.

The Divorce Court Scandal.

The London correspondent of the Cork *Examiner* says:—

"The rumor which described the plaintiff in the cause of O'Kane v. O'Kane and Palmerston, as a clergyman of Established Church proves to have been incorrect. He is, as I have ascertained on reliable authority, a member of the Catholic Church, and some years since kept a school at Killarney. He then became connected with the Kerry *Star*, and on the demise of that short lived journal, came over to London, no doubt, with the object of bettering his fortunes. I do not presume to prejudge the case, but I may state that but one opinion is entertained here in regard to the matter. That opinion is, that there is no foundation whatever for the charge against Lord Palmerston. The lady waited on him, it is true, at Cambridge House, with a memorial or prayer for assistance, and the noble lord received her with the courtesy and kindness which belonged to his nature. He also, I have been given to understand, assisted her with his purse, and in this wise, and in this alone, qualified himself for the unenviable position of co-respondent which he now occupies."

The London correspondent of the Irish *Times* writes that it is said at Westminster Hall that Mr. Digby Seymour, Q. C., has been retained to conduct it. The damages are laid at £30,000, and one of the pleas entered by the respondent is that there is no marriage between he self and the plaintiff.—The lady has filled the situation of governess in a family nearly connected by marriage with Lord Palmertson.

The London correspondent of the Belfast *News Letter* mentions another case of scandal:

"I may inform you that another remarkable case is likely to occupy the attention of the Court of Divorce, in which another member of the Government will figure as a co-respondent. The honorable gentleman in question is not a member of the Cabinet, although he may be ranked amongst the foremost occupants of the Treasury Bench. He entered Parliament a few years ago as a Radical, thoroughly independent, of course, and ready to resent any advances on the part of ministers as an offence against his personal honor and consistency. Very soon, however, he exchanged his seat below the gangway for the Treasury Bench, where his fierce attacks upon private members, and coarse and reckless vituperation when defending the Government, have combined to make him one of the most unpopular of the motley team which Lord Palmerston endeavors so unceasingly to keep quiet. The name of this gentleman in connection with certain proceedings now pending in the Court of Divorce is freely mentioned, but at the present stage of proceedings is not desirable to refer to particulars. It may, however, be right to state that the co-respondent is unmarried."

☞ The counties of Lanark and Renfrew borrowed $800,000, and their indebtedness to the Loan Fund by the non-payment of interest is now increased to $1,177,363.

☞ The Bishop of Huron a few days since received an anonymous letter containing $4,000, to be applied by the corporation of Huron College in the manner most likely to foward the objects of the institution.

☞ Tobacco can be raised in the South-west for five cents a pound, and money made at that.

☞ The proprietors of the New York hotels have organised a special police to protect their guests.

☞ Mrs. Lincoln has chills.

☞ An Englishman travelling the other day to St. Petersburg, found himself in the same carriage with a Russian general, an intelligent, pleasant man, who conversed freely in French, and by no means avoided the discussion of politics. Among other things he remarked that it was a mistake to suppose that the Emperor would not grant Poland the six points, and that it would ultimately be seen that he would concede that, and even more. "Yes," replied the Englishman, "he will grant it when there are no more Poles." "Precisely so," was the cool reply, "and the country will be much better without them."

☞ A physician of Wheeling, New York, has for some time past been attending a young girl who has been sadly deranged.—The other day, to see what effect it would have, he poured about a pint of water upon her head. The girl was then permitted to go into another room, where she conducted herself very quietly. The doctor was about leaving the house, when the girl (who was standing in the door of the room) beckoned for him to come to her. She stepped back into the room, and as the doctor was about to come, she threw a bucket of water upon him, remarking that his face needed washing as much as her's did.

Stubborn Insurrection.—A special correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Warsaw, says that although the Russians have lately gained advantages over the National Government, the insurgents continue as violent and determined as ever, and that the insurrection has again broken out in several districts in which it was thought to have been suppressed. He renews his charges of cruelty against the Russian authorities, and affirms that, although the Grand Duke Constantine positively forbade the flogging of women, General Berg, the newly appointed governor of Warsaw, had three daughters of a rich brewer, the youngest only twelve years of age, whipped, because they would not disclose the names of the visitors at their father's house.

Reasons why Horses do not Breathe through their Mouths.—The soft palate, as it is technically called, *velum palati*, is a sort [illegible] affixed to the roof of the mouth [illegible] of the palatine arch; it has [illegible] which rests upon the epiglottis. [illegible] posterior direction, so that anything [illegible] of food coming from the mouth [illegible] pushes it backward; but anything coming from the œsophagus or trachea, pushes it forward and downward, closes it, and thus prevents all egress. So that air is expired and respired through the nasal outlet, and all matter vomited from the stomach must also be ejected through the nostrils. In the act of coughing, however, which is a spasmodic action, the air returns in body and with force sufficient to raise the velum palati, so that a passage through the mouth is, at the moment, secured.

The mechanism of the palate is as follows: Its composition is nearly the same as that of the hard palate, yet abounds more in glandular substance and muscular fibre; by means of the levator palati, its substance is raised. On the lateral and internal portion of the membrane we find bundles of fibres, constituting a pair of muscles known as *depressors*, which aid in retaining the palate in its place, viz., on the epiglottis. From the above brief remarks the reader will perceive that it is not natural for a horse to breathe through the mouth.

The Fenian Brotherhood.

The London *Times* publishes a communication giving the following explanation of the name which the new Irish league has taken for itself:

"In Wright's History of Ireland, pp. 9 and 10, you will find what you so much desire—viz., 'After the flood, the population of the world assembled to raise the Tower of Babel, and was separated into 72 peoples, speaking so many different languages. Gomer's grandson, Feniusa, Farsa, or Phenius, King of the Scythians, was anxious to make himself acquainted with all the 72 languages. With this object, he sent out 72 learned men to reside seven years among the 72 different people who spoke them, and on their return he left his kingdom, having placed his son Neoul on the throne, as regent, during his absence, and proceeded with the learned men to the plain of Shenaar, the scene of the dispersal, where this learned monarch founded a school of languages. To this Phenius, the Irish annalist, ascribes the invention of the Ogham characters, or ancient Irish alphabet, and they tell us that in this college, on the plain of Shenaar, was cultivated the purest dialect of the Irish language, called the Bearla Feini. Phenius commanded Gadel, the son of Eathur, to digest the Irish language into form and regulation, and to divide it into five several dialects. The first was the Fenian dialect, spoken by the militia and soldiery; the second the political; the third the historical; the fourth the dialect of the physicians; and the fifth the common idiom, or vulgar Irish, used in general by the people, which, after the name of Gadel, the president, was named 'Gavid Healg.'"