Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

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

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Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., OCT. 14, 1864

THE CONFERENCE AT QUEBEC.

On the 10th inst. the delegates from the four Provinces met at Quebec, and the great conference was organized, Sir E. Tache being chosen President. The following is a list of delegates:

For Canada:—Hon E P Tache, M. L. C., Minister of Militia; Hon John A McDonald, M. P., Attorney General, U. C.; Hon G E Cartier, M. P., Attorney General, L. C.; Hon G Brown, President of the Executive Council; Hon A. Mowat, Postmaster Gen.; Hon A A Ouat, M. P., Minister of Finance; Hon T D McGee, M P., Minister of Agriculture; Hon Wm MacDougall, M P, Provincial Secretary; Hon Alexander Campbell, M L C, Commissioner of Crown Lands; Hon J C Chapais, M P., Com. of Public Works; Hon Hector Langevin, M P., Solicitor General, L. C.; Hon James Cockburn, M P., Solicitor General, U. C.

For Nova Scotia:—Hon Charles Tupper, M P., Provincial Sec'y; Hon A G Archibald, M P.; Hon. W A Henry, M. P., Attorney Gen.; Jonathan McCully, M. L. C., Hon R. B Dickey, M. L. C.

For New Brunswick:—Hon Samuel L. Tille, M P., Prov. Sec'y; Hon W H Steeves, M L C., Executive Councilor; Hon Peter Mitchell, M L C., Executive Councilor; Hon John M Johnson, M P., Atty Gen.; Hon E B Chandler, M L C.; Hon John H Gray, M P; Hon Charles Fisher, M. P.

For Newfoundland.—Frederick B L Carter Esq., Speaker of the House of Assembly; Ambrose Shea, Esq., M. P.

For Prince Edward:—Hon. Col. Gray, M. P., President of the Executive Council; Hon W H Pope, M P, Provincial Sec'y; Hon. Edward Palmer, M L C., Attorney General; Hon Geo Coles, M P; Hon Edward Whelan; M L C; Hon A N McDonald., M L C; Hon T H Haviland, M P.

The correspondent of the *Leader*, telegraphing on the 11th says:—The Conference appears to have enjoined strict secrecy on its members. As nothing but rumor is heard, some representatives of the press now in this city will to-morrow address a communication to the Conference, suggesting whether it would not be better for all concerned to allow the publication of the propositions made and the treatment they meet, while the speeches and sentiments of members are kept secret; and stating that this compromise between absolute secrecy and unlimited publicity is acted upon by European Congresses which hold in their hands the fate of nations and the peace of the world.

In the absence of anything official or authentic I can only give you the utterances of rumor, which says that a scheme of Colonial Confederation was drawn up by our Government before the meeting of the Conference, and that it agrees as nearly as possible with the semi-official programme lately published in the newspapers of Canada. This scheme, it is said, was laid before the Conference by the Hon. John A. Macdonald, and is now under discussion.

The speeches on the subject have been lengthy, averaging about three a day; and it is thought the proceedings will last the middle of next week.

The general opinion is that the Conference will agree upon the outlines of a plan of confederation, leaving many details for future consideration and action. Whatever scheme may be adopted it will have to undergo the ordeal of a general election in all the Provinces; and it will probably therefore be two or three years before a Confederation of the Provinces can be brought about.

It is thought that if it were not for the objections of Lower Canada there would be no difficulty in agreeing to a legislative union. Both plans will doubtless be exhaustively discussed in the Conference, and a compromise embodying both may be finally adopted.

The Conference to-day adopted rules to govern the mode of transacting business.

It is said that the final action of the body will be made known through the medium of resolutions.

The Governor-General gave a dinner last night at which some of the delegates from each of the Provinces were present.

QUEBEC, October 12.

Secresy as to the doings of the Conference is still strictly observed.

An answer to the application of the representatives of the press to be allowed admission to the sittings of the Conference has been ordered, but not yet delivered.

It is the general admission that there is a fair prospect of agreement between the delegates from the several Provinces.

There is a very general feeling that the Confederate government should be strong, and that no unnecessary power should be given to the local governments.

Several members are known to favour a vice-royalty. The question will be discussed.

The proceedings of the Conference take place in committee of the whole on the entire scheme.

A VERY DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT.

Our contemporary, the *Irish Canadian*, varies its treasonable utterances now and then by some remarkable utterances with reference to the American War. In its last issue there is an editorial article the object of which is to show that the rebels would have been scattered to the winds long ago if the President had employed Irish talent in command of the federal armies. In proof of this the brilliant exploits of Sheridan are cited. We are free to admit that that general drove back a body of Confederate raiders, but there are no statistics to contradict the assumption that he had three men for one, and, after all, it can hardly redound to the credit of Sheridan in the eyes of the civilized world that he gave up to the torch millions of dollars worth of private property. The Duke of Wellington, whose illustrious name is placed beside that of Sheridan by the *Irish Canadian*, did not act so. His warfare was waged against *men* with arms in their hands, and he had an ugly habit of hanging people guilty of going out of their way to rob even hen-roosts. We think the regular out and out Yankee will hardly thank the editor of the *Irish Canadian* for the invidious comparisons he has made. Irishmen, indeed, or Scotchmen either, for that matter! The American Press has claimed that the Federal armies have gained victories "unparalled in the annals of warfare," that the federal guns roar louder and "kill deader" than any others, and that their *generals*, from McDowell to Sheridan are the greatest, "all-fired" heroes that ever wore epaulettes. Before their mighty achievements the doings of Charlemagne, Hannibal, Napoleon, Wellington, pale into insignificance and dwindle into obscurity. And here the *Irish Canadian* sets to work to prove that they are a set of ignorant numbskulls, who do their killing in the clumsiest fashion, and deserve to be scouted from command without delay. This we consider a very doubtful compliment to the people for whom our contemporary appears to have a great deal of admiration. We might add that there is something very inconsistent about the manner in which the "Irish Canadian" talks of Irishmen *vs.* America and the American War. We are told, to commence with, that a great prejudice exists in the United States against the Celtic race. On the contrary, Patrick is petted and glorified by the Americans as he never was before and in all human probability never will be again. Then we have America set up as the home of the Irish exile—the country in which he has full liberty, and an abundance of everything. Liberty to vote as he pleases, he may have, but his earthly paradise has been most frequently found in the construction of some railway or canal, and now, as the *Canadian* admits, he is invelgled into the front ranks of the federal armies, not from a high moral idea of putting down slavery, not because the Southern people have done him a real or fancied injury, but simply and solely because he has been led to believe that by shooting the "rebels" he is inflicting a mortal wound *upon England*. And yet the editor of the Toronto sheet looks with favor on the destruction of his compatriots in a struggle, the brunt of which, according to his own statement, the genuine Yankees are either *unable* or unwilling to bear. To join the strong against the weak is a discreditable piece of business to say the least of it, and certainly requires something like an apology to the world.

What a British Subject Saw Down South.

A gentleman who has been "thro' the lines," writes the following interesting letter to a New York journal. We have become so much accustomed to items of news filtered through the *relentive* minds of Government censors that it is refreshing to get even a peep at what is going on "tother side of the fence":—

OCTOBER 1st, 1864.

I have just returned from a Summer's sojourn in the Valley of Virginia, and jot down some of my observations and impressions for insertion in your paper, if you think them worthy. Perhaps my experience may help to correct the erroneous ideas in regard to the condition of the South, so industriously circulated by the Republican press on the eve of election. True, my sphere of travel comprehended but a small portion of the Confederate States, but the war in that war-wasted, downtrodden region whose people the Northerners are taught to believe the most thoroughly cowed and subjected of any in the South. Moreover, so constantly was I on the move, and so many did I meet, both soldiers and citizens, from all parts of the rebel States, that I had a very good opportunity to learn the condition and note the prevailing feeling existing there. And here let me say that never did I witness in any previous visit such a calm confidence, such a feeling of perfect certainty, seemingly, as to their ability to hold their own, and finally achieve their end. Not a sign of despondency was visible. I went down among them with ideas gathered from some New York papers—not THE DAILY NEWS—and was astonished to find the buoyant tones and cheerful hopes they entertained. They smiled as I made some remarks about the well-supplied table; and some soldiers of Lee's army, home on furlough, when I told them how my heart bled for their suffering and starved condition at Spotsylvania, when Sheridan was in their rear, received my well-meant sympathy with a shout of laughter, and the remark that they never would have discovered their deplorable state if I had not told them. I had frequent opportunities of conversing with men who had passed through the whole campaign around Richmond, and their invariable testimony was that the Confederate loss, even in the bloodiest battles, was comparatively light. Securely ensconced behind heavy earthworks, surmounted by huge beams, through the narrow intervals between which they poured a destructive fire upon the advancing enemy, they assured me they were almost free from danger. The reckless statements continually reiterated after every battle that the "rebel loss must have been very heavy, undoubtedly much greater than ours, etc.," excited their mirth. How any correspondent had contrived to get behind their works, and made an estimate of the loss, surpassed their comprehension. One instance related to me will suffice in this connection. The last assault which General Grant made on the Confederate works previous to his withdrawal to the South side, viz: that on June 3rd, cost him, according to his own statement, 5,500 men. The Confederate loss on that day, according to official returns, was about 500. I had the pleasure of meeting one of General Lee's body-guard, a dashing young soldier from the vicinity of Winchester, by the name of B. Campbell. (It will do no harm to give his name). He was enthusiastic in the praise of his Chief, whom, he said, the soldiers regarded as a father, and related a number of instances, which would be interesting did time and space permit. *Once* did he see General Lee betray some emotion, when, after the explosion of Grant's first mine, he had given the order to advance and retake the works which had been captured. As he witnessed from a height the daring bravery of his men, charging through a terrible fire, right into the intrenchments, without a pause, he clapped his hands and exclaimed, "Just look at my boys!" "Just look at my boys!"

The condition of the Southern army surprised me. I remained several days in Winchester, while Gen. Early's Corps was in the vicinity, and saw thousands of his men. Every man was well clad, and in capital health and spirits. Rations and supplies of all kinds were abundant. Droves of cattle were continually passing through the streets. By the way, in regard to the retreat of Early, "there hangs a tale." Several—both of his officers and men—inform me that they were acting the "quaker gun" strategy of Manasses over again, and that they would stay near Winchester just as long as Sheridan remained ignorant of the comparatively small force confronting his large army. Whenever he becomes aware of his tremendous superiority, then, said they, we will pull up stakes, and retreat up the valley again. Gen Sheridan may have taken them by surprise and gained some advantage, perhaps inflicting very heavy loss, but where the glory or "tremendous victory" is in a large army crushing a small one, I, who know the facts, cannot discover.

The ability of the South to carry on the war is greater now than at any previous period, and the determination and stern resolve of the people is steadily increasing, all the lying statements of deserters and refugees to the contrary. I make these assertions advisedly. The New York Times announced a few days since, that "gaunt famine stalks the streets of Richmond," and argues that the South is utterly exhausted from the fact that "gold" is at $30. The first statement, in the face of the most abundant harvests they have had for several years, is the most unmitigated falsehood. The last is scarcely worth answering. The enormous prices affect no one, as money is correspondingly plenty, nor do they show a scarcity, as measured by the gold standard, prices are the same as ever. Every student of political economy knows that no amount of confidence will maintain an excessive issue of paper money at par. An old farmer in the valley told me, a few days ago, that he could buy just as much for a bushel of wheat as ever he could. There is the true standard of plenty and scarceness.

A lady, who had lost almost everything on account of the war—husband, property, servants, &c., and whose three sons were in the army—assured me that never had the burdens of war borne so lightly upon them as during the past year, and that every succeeding month added to their powers of resistance, on account of the development of home labor; and, in proof of her words, showed me numberless useful articles, manufactured by her daughters and other ladies, whose fingers, once, had never known work. Among other things were bonnets and caps, made and trimmed entirely with homemade materials, besides abundance of gray homespun and stockings for her soldier sons—all of domestic growth and manufacture. No fear of want or exhaustion, when every house is a factory! This lady is but the representative of thousands of Southern mothers and Southern sisters. "Tell everyone you meet in the North," said she, as I bade her good by, "that we are better able to fight them successfully now than in the first year of the war, and that we are not only able, but willing."

The assertion that the rebels are "robbing both the cradle and the grave" to supply their army, is some thing more than a poetic license. The conscript age is from eighteen to sixty-five yrs, and not a man is taken above or below these limits, unless, of course, he desires. I know that to be so. In General Early's army, who has the reputation of being a most vigorous conscripter, I could see for myself the composition of the new recruits. Neither do they press every one into the army indiscriminately. I myself was arrested in Winchester as a conscript, but on claiming my rights as a British subject was immediately released. The whole affair did not detain me ten minutes. N. E. S.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

The telegrams are stale, flat, and decidedly unprofitable. In the absence of any items of interest, we are treated to a rehash of Sheridan's achievements. The State Elections are going on. Indiana and Ohio run off large "Union" majorities, but it is claimed that on the legitimate home vote, Pennsylvania will give a Democratic majority of 11,000 or 15,000. In a day or two the returns will be in, and we shall have full particulars.

NEW BOOKS.

Messrs. Chewett & Co., Booksellers and Stationers, Toronto, have favored us with *London Society* and *The Churchman's Magazine* for October. The *Society* is a superb number, the best, in fact, we have yet seen. The literary matter is racy and vigorous and the book in other respects is a *perfect* specimen of the printers' and Engravers' art. Call on Moorhouse and buy a copy, by all means. The *Magazine*, as we have before remarked, is worthy of a place on the parlor table of every intelligent Episcopalean family.

Godey for November is upon our table. This is the Queen of Fashion Monthlies, and persons subscribing for it may rely upon getting their copies as regular as clock-work. For sale here.

We have received from the publisher, John Lovell, of Montreal, a pamphlet, entitled "Letters by a Backwoodsman," treating upon the subject of confederation. We dare say it is most conclusive, but will not promise as much until it has been read.

Commercial Difficulties in the States.

We invite, says the Montreal *Witness*, attention to the opinion expressed by the financial editor of the New York *Independent*, usually a good authority in such matters, that a crisis is at hand in New York. Every one who knew anything of the laws of commerce, and the history of the past, was aware that a terrible revulsion must necessarily follow in some way the enormous expansion of paper currency and depreciation of gold in the U. States, and that revulsion appears to have set in in earnest. Those who made money by the nominal rise in prices, are bound now to lose it as fast, if they have equal stock on hand; and these losses will doubtless, cause many failures We heard of one case, for instance, of a New York house which held thirty-six thousand bags coffee, on which the fall in two or three weeks was $21 a bag. Whether this case be correct or not, there are, no doubt, enormous deprecations on property of all kinds. The fall of wheat has already broken a considerable number of merchants and bankers in the West, and the panic has to some extent reaching the atlantic cities; nor nor is the trouble confined to this continent. The fall in cotton, consequent upon increases production all over the world, and the near prospect of some settlement of the American difficulty, has so effected that staple in Britain that failures upon a large scale had commenced, and the money market was in a very feverish state. Owing, however, to the small extent in which Canada is involved in the cotton trade, and the way our currency has been happily kept distinct from, and independent of, the American currency, it is likely that Canada will be as little affected by the apparently approaching troubles as any country in the world.

ROWDYISM IN NEW YORK.—The New York *Herald*, of Thursday, says: "The general agent of the Emigration Commissioners stated at their meeting yesterday, that a young Englishman, named W. H. Cockerell, who landed on Tuesday from the Daniel Webster, was attacked on pier 21, East River, by three rowdies, who asked him to enlist, and, on his refusal, they beat him so badly that he has since been deaf, and in a state bordering on insensibility. Such occurrences, he said, are becoming frequent, and need the vigilance of the police if they have got any.

GETTING ON A TRAIN WHILE IN MOTION.—The Guelph *Advertiser* remarks:—We continually hear of accidents resulting from the rashness of persons in getting on trains while in motion, and we have still another to note. As the mail train going west was leaving the Guelph station of the G. T. R. on Saturday evening last, a German named Roux attempted to jump aboard. He succeeded in catching hold of the hand railing but could not get upon the car platform. Afterwards swinging for a few moments he was compelled to leave go, falling on the side of the track. Fortunately the wheels missed him, but in the fall he had two of his ribs broken and was cut about the face. He was able to resume his journey on Monday.

Damage to Shipping.

The Detroit *Free Press* of the 9th says: The heavy squall which took place on Thursday afternoon in this locality, resulted in more or less disaster to the shipping outside. On Lake Huron, near Point-au Barque, a number of vessels, chiefly from Lake Superior, encountered it in all its fury, and many of them had their sails torn to ribbons, which were sent flying through the air like so much brown paper. It is feared that more or less of them became seriously disabled, as they have not yet, with two or three exceptions, made their appearance. One or two captains with whom we conversed, conceded it to be the most violent hurricane they have experienced for many years. One vessel, the bark *Monitor*, was thrown on her beam ends while under bare poles.—She was laden with iron ore and has since passed down. On Friday night, during the heavy gale, an unknown black foreand-after was driven ashore in the river at Fighting Island and is well out of water. She is an upward bound craft, and apparently without cargo. When last heard from, the tug *Jones* (better known as the *Greenbrick*) was endeavouring to get her off. The Detroit *Tribune* of Monday, the 10th, adds the following particulars:—"The gale appears to have made a quietly clean sweep with the downward fleet. We learned Sunday evening of the following disasters, but it is feared the list does not comprise one half. The Austria lost all her masts, the Commodore lost one of her headsails and bulwarks, the schooner Jessie lost two jibs and her squaresail, the schooner Cornelia lost both masts and bowsprit, the bark Geo. Sigel lost her foremast, the schooner Dover lost her mainmast and foretopmast, the Resolute lost half her sails, the Hungarian lost her head sails and jibboom, the Czar lost her flying anchor and chain, the schooner Hubbard is ashore four miles from the lighthouse on the Canada side, Lake Huron, and there are two other vessels ashore in that vicinity. The bark City of Dublin lost her topsail off Presque Isle, and ran back to the river. The Aldin Robinson lost her flying anchor off Point aux Barque—The bark Flying Mist is hard aground at the Flats. The bark Starlight is aground at the Flats. She is righting. The vessel reported ashore at Middle Island reef is said to be the James Navagh. She is reported to have gone to pieces. Two of the three vessels report seeing a propeller broken down and labouring in the trough of the sea about 12 miles off Point aux Barque. The Traveller and Bradbury have go off. It will be almost a miracle if we do not yet have to record some fearful disaster, with loss of life, as the result of the terrible gale."

Torpedoes in Naval Warfare.

A restless, inventive, and, we may say, a warlike people, are doing their best to turn this and every possible contrivance to account, in the grand work of human destruction. The American war has developed the Monitor, and seems likely to make something out of the torpedo. The belligerents have not been content merely to sink explosive cases—after the manner of the Russians—but have given wings or fins to the sinking volcano, and, in fact have created a sort of submarine fire-ship. In this way the Confederates destroyed the Federal sloop of war 'Housatonic,' as she lay off Charleston, on the 18th February last. We have indications nearer home of what may be expected from the use of gunpowder "undermining" principle, if such a term may be applied to naval tactics. Last week the Lords of the Admiralty witnessed some experiments in the way of submarine explosions in the neighbourhood of Pembroke dockyard, the site selected being a submerged rock in the offing, known as Prince Consort's rock, a ship of that name having struck on it in the course of last year. The Admiralty yacht 'Osborne' took up a position about two hundred yards from the rock, and we are told that two explosions were fired with great success, at a signal from one of the Engineers, who had charge of the proceedings. The effect is described as being very remarkable, an immense mass of several thousands tons of water and stones being heaved up, towering as high as the masthead of the 'Osborne.'—Thousands of fish, including salmon, congors, etc., were afterwards found floating dead upon the surface of the water. Not only did the Osborne vibrate with the violence of the shock, but a sensible effect was produced on the Blenheim and Saturn, which were more remote from the scene. Even on the shore and to a remote distance, the explosion was sensibly felt, and it was evident that an immense power was thus exercised without the aid of artillery properly so called. The employment of submarine explosions in naval warfare may evidently be accompanied by two different modes—if not more. Caissons filled with gunpowder may be sunk in narrow channels—as at the mouths of rivers, creeks and harbors—and be made to explode by percussion at the moment a vessel is attempting to pass over them. Or the application may be on a locomotive principle, as in the case of the American torpedo boats, which are said to carry a sort of an immersed ram, which, like a gigantic sting, plants the fiery component in the hull of the ship far below the water line, and leave it there to explode.—Gunpowder discharged under such circumstances will shake a vessel from stem to stern, and will most likely rend her to pieces. If this mode of warfare be carried out, it will go ill with vessels which have armored sides and wooden bottoms, and perhaps, in the destructive freaks of these modern torpedoes, we see the germ of another, "reconstruction of the navy."

Interesting Items.

A man in Lowell, Mass., cut out his horse's tongue the other day in a fit of temper.—Worse than brute!

McCormick, the rich reaper man, is the Democratic opponent for Congress, of John Wentworth, from Chicago.

The St. Catherines *Journal* reports the killing of three men at one time at Thorold by a railway train; all were intoxicated.

There are apprehensions of another mutiny in India, Viswabozavasantarayan is expected to head the revolt, and a real double-header he seems to be.

The British steamship Virginia has arrived at New York from Liverpool, bringing 2,101 bales of cotton on freight. A considerable part of this cargo is of East India production.

It appears from a careful and complete report made in New Orleans, that over 50,000 "freed" negroes have perished of starvation and misery in that department during the past two years.

Another suspension bridge is being constructed across the Ohio River, between Cincinnati and Covington, Ky. It is 60 feet high, 400 feet longer than the Niagara bridge and will cost $1,500,000.

A magnificent iron-clad frigate, called the Sebastopol, was launched at Cronstadt, Russia, on the 24th ult. She is 300 feet in length, has iron plates 4½ inches thick, and draws 26 feet of water.

The Governor General of Nova Scotia called on the President of the United States, at Washington, on the 6th, in company with the Assistant Secretary of State, and was the object of marked official attention from the Federal authorities.

Fears have began to be entertained in New York of a great financial crash in the explosion of the paper money bubble. Merchants and bankers have failed in Chicago, and other parts of the Western States, and the panic there is enough to excite one in New York.

A Jeremy Diddler, calling himself the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, was A minister or layelor, and a Baptist minister, has been practising on the credulity of the people of Kingston, uniting preaching, praying and lecturing with the less orthodox practices of forgery and swindling. He left in a hurry for the United States, whence he came.

A Wisconsin exchange says, on the faith of a private letter, that times are awful hard in Canada. No business doing, wages not sufficient to pay board and almost impossible to get work at anything. The country is overrun with shoulders from the United States and the Confederacy, while thousands of Canadians are leaving for the States to procure work.

Some one was snubbing in the presence of the President, and laughing and him on having the worst smoking and smoke. The President, it appears, had a cigar in his mouth, and a man stung by the nickel made a cigar. I told him I had no vices. He said nothing, staid to see some time, and then quietly out: "It's my experience, that those who have no vices, have plaguey low virtues."

THE HARVEST IN SCOTLAND.—The *Inverness Courier*, says:—"The harvest is now generally over in this district, and for the whole two weeks has been favorable for the work. The crop is pronounced to be a fair average, although generally stalks are rather light. Turnips are better by many than in many previous years, and the potato crop is abundant and free from disease. Hay has proved rather short in parts, and in consequence of the almost uninterrupted wet weather of July and August, grass is very scarce."

The Exports of Wheat.

The wheat importations recently (says the *Times*) by steamers have been sufficient to induce the belief that it is advantageous to a point to realize it impossible for the few sailing vessels to ship to the United Kingdom. Our importations for the first half of the present year were almost exactly similar in amount to those of the corresponding period of last year, although considerably were moderate in comparison with those of 1862. Since June, however, the arrivals have increased, the total of wheat and flour for July being 2,663,120 quarters, or about 56 per cent in excess of those of July last year. Nearly half of this quantity arrived from the United States, but from accounts of their harvest this year there is little reason to believe that the supply from that quarter can be long kept up. The conditions are that Germany will divide the cropping season for the principal contributor, and that increased quantities may also be expected from Russia and the Danubian Principalities. The total sent hither from Germany during July was 113,612 quarters, against 59,028 in July last year. From Russia it was 94,193 quarters, against 57,946, and from the Principalities 10,488 quarters, against 1,997. The importation of all other descriptions of grain this year have throughout been much below those of last year, although we are likely to require good supplies of oats and beans, the present harvest apparently proved greatly deficient in those crops. It is at the same time certain that there will be an active trade with America in salted provisions, owing to the high prices of meat and dairy produce which are expected to prevail during the next eight months.—*Liverpool Courier, 14th.*

The Christian Religion in America a Dead Failure.

From the London Daily Telegraph.

It would be no difficult matter to show that the practice of the Christian religion on the North American continent has degenerated and deteriorated through the unworthiness of the ministers of that religion—that its vital spirit has been gradually waning during the last generation—that a nation once renowned as confessors and almost as martyrs, and who elected to endure privation that they might keep their faith intact, have as a body either sunk into skepticism or retained of religion only its features its form, and simulacrum—and that active and earnest Christianity has become practically a failure among twenty-two millions of people who contemn its charitable and merciful doctrines, and have for four years abandoned themselves, with scarcely a dissenting voice, meeting remonstrance with curses, and with no stronger apology than that political dominion is superior to the Gospel, to an unbridled lust for rapine and slaughter.

A few days ago a lad named Kober, who is rather more than fourteen years of age, was tried in Vienna on a charge of high treason. The boy dropped his pocket-book in the street, and the person who picked it up found in it a document which showed that its author and two other persons intend to make an attempt on the life of the Emperor. The principal conspirator and his associates, who had not attained their fourteenth year, were arrested, and, has already been said, brought to trial. Kober was sentenced for five years' imprisonment in irons; the other were acquitted.

The Roman Question.

The Paris *Patrie* of the 2bth ult., states that M. de Sartiges, in communicating the terms of the Franco Italian convention to the Pope, announced that the government of the Emperor renewed its offer of advice. It also promised its assistance in carrying out those measures his holiness might deem necessary to adopt in view of the state of things which the Pontificial government might shortly have to meet. The Pope and Cardinal Antonelli declared almost simultaneously that they were not surprised at the announcement, since they were aware that the present *status quo* could not be maintained forever by the presence of French troops, and that the Emperor had always acted loyally, and had indicated that the intervention was essentially provisional. The Pope added that he had at that moment no observation to make relative to the engagements undertaken by Italy, in reference to France, and requested time for mature reflection before communicating his impression of the effects the new state of things might have upon the Papacy.

A telegram from Rome, dated the 25th ult., says:—

"Mgr. de Ronnechose, at the ceremony of receiving the cardinal's hat, said:—'France has always wished and still wishes guarantees for the temporal power of the Pope. The Emperor Napoleon also desires them because he knows France too well not to be aware of the sentiment, and of the necessity for union between France and the Holy See."

Value of Land in England.

Large estates have changed hands of late we are told, at prices which will yield an interest of not more than two per cent., while money was four or five per cent. at call. Land is, in fact, a luxury—a fancy article. The buyer purchases not land alone, but social position. He does not buy for profit. He gratifies a sentiment, the wish of a life, a motive to exertion which sweetened toil and gilded many a dull task. He takes his place among the local gentry, drives into petty sessions every market day, is impannelled on the grand jury at assizes, takes his wife and daughters to the country balls and archery *fetes*, dines with the Duke who nominates the county members, sends the largest pine-apples and the green-house plants to the horticultural show. The country gentry at first looked askance. But if the new owner of Norman's Nest or Fairoaks House is rich and hospitable, if he subscribes liberally to the hunt and sends his son to Eton and Christ-church, the country practice dies away; and the second and third generations, at least, have little reason to complain. There is nothing in the "Arabian Nights" more surprising than the value of land is the great centres of commerce. The little tube cloth area at the south east corner of St. Pauls which gives the foreigner the best *coup d' oil* of our architectural masterpiece, is worth £60,000. The value of land around the Bank and Royal Exchange is still greater. When Oxford street was made, the land cost £57,000 an acre. In the improvement of Charlotte street the land was purchased at £67,000 an acre. When the new thoroughfare was driven through Coventry street and Long Acres the land cost £119,000 an acre. Mr. Cowper the first commissioner of works, has carried an act for the construction of a new street from Blackfriars' Bridge to the Mansion House. Having brought in a bill which gave the street a width of 70 feet, he proposed to increase it to 80 feet. The street is a very short one, but it was found the addition of 10 feet would add £100,000 to the expense, so the right honorable gentleman gave up the proposed extension. In some of the great provincial towns prices are still higher. In Manchester land has been given for sites in the best part of the town. In Liverpool, land has been sold at £30 per square yard, or nearly at the rate of £150,000 per acre. In Birmingham, the land held by the London and North western railway was sold at about £60,000 an acre. In Belfast, Glasgow, Sheffield, Leeds, &c., the same causes are in operation. The national progress of wealth and population tends to increase the value of land, especially in towns. The great London hospitals and schools enjoy princely revenues, not because their founders left a few hundred pounds in money, but because they bequeathed land from little value, but now covered with house property.—*London Review.*

A DESERTER AND HIS SEDUCERS ARREST ED.—Yesterday morning, as the way train for Montreal was about to leave the depot, Coxsson Corcoran, of the Water Police, arrested a rather suspicious looking individual, who wore an extensive false beard, and carried in his hand a mason's square and hammer. The worthy officer's suspicions were well founded, for it turned out, on examination, that the overdisguised personage was a deserter from the 25th Regiment, who was about to "make tracks" for the Northern States. Coxswain Corcoran zealously followed up the work thus commenced, and in the course of the forenoon arrested two seamen, named respectively Charles Paiten and Henry Sutton, who had been in the cars, and who were charged with inducing the first prisoner to desert. An investigation was immediately commenced at the Police Court. The soldier, whose term of service, by the way, had nearly expired, will be tried by court-martial for desertion.—The seamen are under remand until to-morrow on the other charge.—*Quebec Chronicle, October 7th.*

The Cleveland *Herald* says: A large building is in course of erection on the south side of Kinsman street, west of Harmon street, just to both construction and purpose is decidedly novel. The building is 80 feet by 144 the side walls being 22 feet high. The frame is up and resembles a large church edifice. It is, however, nothing but an immense refrigerator, or rather it is to be a monster "hermetically sealed" can of pre served fruits. The front of the building, occupying about one fourth of the whole size, is to be used as a store or ordinary warehouse, and will be constructed in the usual manner. The remainder of the building is to be walled entirely with iron, perfectly tight, and divided from the front part by similar walls. With this enclosure is built another building, also of iron, with its wall about three feet distant from the walls of the outer building. The inner building is divided by iron walls into several smaller rooms, each of them being perfectly gas-proof. The ground beneath the building was packed with wet earth the beams laid in coal tar, and the surface of the earth will be covered with coal tar. The space between the ground and the flooring will then be packed tight with sawdust, as will be the space between the outer and the inner walls, and the hollow space in the iron lined doors. Over head will be packed tightly with ice, which will be congealed, by a peculiar process, into a solid mass of hard ice, seven feet thick. When all is completed, the small room will be filled with fresh fruits, such as apples, grapes, &c., the oxygen of the atmosphere withdrawn by chemical process, and the room hermetically sealed. The vivifying element being withdrawn and the temperature kept down by the peculiar process to about 32° F., the fruit remains perfectly fresh until the season for fresh fruit having passed away, a high market is open for them, when the chambers are opened as wanted, and the fruit taken out as fresh as when gathered. The process has been in operation by the patentees, Noyce & Shark, at Indianapolis, for more than a year, and pippins picked a year ago, were brought here by them last week as fresh as if just plucked from the tree. A similar building is erecting for them in Cincinnati.

Public Debt of the U S.

England's debt is £799,802,139, interest in dollars $119,970,320.

English wealth in 1861 at home and exclusive of all foreign investments and property $31,500,000,000

United States debt now 2,650,000,000

Interest, six per cent. in gold 159,000,000

Calculating by amount of interest, whether in paper or gold, the debt of the remaining United States is two and a half times that of Great Britain. But if we deduct the Southern portion of the wealth of the whole United States, as estimated at the last census, the debt of the latter will be eighteen times as much as that of Great Britain.

Fifty Acres Enough for One.

"Ten Acres" devoted to vegetable culture near a city may be a miracle of poverty, but in the outlying rural districts it is not quite "Enough," though infinitely better than nothing. A man with ten acres of anywise decent land need never fear the poor house, if he works it well. His family may out number the nine digits, but there will be corn in Egypt for all that.

Now we hold that fifty acres of good land, or that which can be made good, is enough, unless a man wishes to slave out his whole life in toil—digging till his old back is as crooked as a rainbow—till his muscles crack with the rheumatism, and his joints snap with anchylosis. Some penetrating genius has discovered that man has but one life to live on earth—way toil incessantly for the bread that perisheth? In the sweat of our brows are we to get our bread, but don't let us sweat immoderately for mammon. Enough is all we can use. We know of a snug little farm of thirty-four acres of cultivated land, and seventeen of rocky pastures, which yields a profit much larger than any one hundred and fifty acres we know of. It upholds a snug little cottage of eight rooms, a large barn with modern useful improvements, three acres of splendid orchard of all valuable fruits, half an acre of excellent garden, an acre and a half more devoted to carrots, turnips and onions—the fences are all post and rail, bushes and weeds are in eternal exile, the whole place is exceedingly fair to look upon, and to live on. This man is getting rich by being thorough in everything. His hen-house is perfect, his hens lay, and no droppings are lost. His pigsty is well supplied with muck and the house slops run into it. After taking the first premium he puts about six acres of corn into pork, which makes manure—his carrots and turnips he puts into beef, which makes more manure. Manure and thorough tillage are the grand secrets of all farming:—in New England at least. This man lives well—no pork diet for him—he eats turkeys, eats eggs, eats lamb, and the first of his fruits and herds. He dresses well, rides in a carriage, has a good pew in church, and sends his children to the first institution of learning. His wife isn't worked to death, and has a piano in the parlor. He pays about fifty dollars about fifty dollars a year for help, visits his neighbors and knows how to fish. No rich uncle ever left him any property—he began life by owning about half of his farm, without any building upon it, and five thousand dollars would not buy his real estate to-day.

This farmer is no myth; we know him, and more minute statistics might be given to show that fifty acres is enough—enough unless a man desires to dig and scrub over a large farm of hat tilled acres, and perhaps not be any better off in the end than my friend with a small farm.

It is fact that a two hundred acre farm might be made equally good, but it is another fact that they seldom are. Thorough tillage in New England cannot extend over a multitude of acres. Fifty acres of good land (it can be made rich it poor now) with a snug house in a spacious yard, with an abundant fruitage, and everything as perfect as a man can make around it, is a working man's paradise. There is his vine-wreathed arbor in which to spend his papers of a summer Sunday eve, and behold the sun sink down through the golden gate ways of the west the while—there is everything beautiful and bright around him in the house and out of doors, and why is it not all the paradise earth can give?

We hold that the man who makes an acre of this earth more beautiful or produce is doing Heaven service, and if he has not over fifty acres, he can make it all shine with tuition and beauty, and never ask discount besides.—*Country Gentleman.*

The McKenzie Case in Montreal.

The Montreal *Witness* of Saturday says: "A heavy weight was removed from the public mind yesterday, and trial by jury in some measure redeemed from the contempt into which it had fallen on account of some previous glaringly unjust verdicts. Thomas McKenzie had been taken into the office of one of our first merchants through kindness, he being a stranger, and destitute, and had been entrusted on account of his ability with both the books and the cash of the firm—a union of offices which is, to say the least, highly dangerous. By a series of fraudulent entries, extending over several years, the man robbed his employers of upwards of sixty thousand dollars. Happily for the ends of justice, there were several indictments based upon different false entries. In the first trial, although the facts were clearly proved, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. This verdict, together with that in the Phillips case, in which a clerk who had run away with a money parcel from the Grand Trunk Company, was acquitted in the face of the clearest evidence, gave a shock to public sentiment which it would be difficult to describe. It was seen in both cases that evidence was of little account in the decision of the jury, and that there was no protection to be looked for in the law as it stands against swindling and robbing. How the juries were obtained which returned these verdicts, should, we think, be matter for government investigation, with a view to the amendment of the jury law, for our courts should never be disgraced again by such glaring failures of justice. The second indictment in the McKenzie case, coming as it did before a different jury, resulted in conviction; and, as we have said, the public breathes more freely."

Public Executions in France.

The late execution of Latour for murder and that criminal's revolting behavior, are commented on in terms of great disgust by the Paris *Nation*, which asks whether the scene witnessed at the final moment is of a nature to produce an edification in the minds of spectators. Far from such a result arising, the *Nation* considers the whole scene of the execution ar profoundly demoralizing, and founds on it an argument against capital punishment being carried out in public. After describing the conduct of Latour on the scaffold, the writer remarks:

The crowd remained dumb with stupor, and could not imagine a man insulting death when so near it. No jests were made to pass away the time, as recently occurred on the Place de la Roquette. The gaiety of Latour disconcerted the curiosity of the spectators, and filled them with a sort of terror. It was not a lesson which they beheld before them, but a scandal, a thing without a name, by which in a few hours an entire population may see all the bonds of its faith, morality, and sense of decency torn asunder. Why were not the criminal and the execution concealed from the public gaze? We demand closed doors for horrors of the kind. Such blood does not purify—it pollutes. Let it be shed far from every eye, if you think it indispensable that blood should be shed. In whatever manner the condemned man confronts the last punishment, whether in singing or turning pale with terror, there is nothing moral in the spectacle of a head falling. If the man turns pale, the people say he is a coward! If he is calm and collected, they say he is courageous! If he sings and swears like Latour, the people no longer understand; everything in their minds is confounded and mingled together, and the only impression they can feel is the immoral one of that double outrage to human life which is manifested in the crime and in the punishment. Where is that argument of the criminalists who say, in order to justify the punishment of death that all murderers fear it? There are certainly murderers who fear it, but we know of others now who are scarcely moved by it. These latter must, however, be put to death also; they have a right to the same favor. Then it is that the scaffold becomes the infamous tribune, in which the pinioned man upon eternity is casting its shadow, displays his hideous infamy, and insults everything that the world holds sacred, from the judge