

right of pre-emption in the first Act untouched, both in its effect and construction, although it does not refer to this power so clearly as might have been expected. It may be well to mention that the argument on which the Company maintain that the second Act has done away with the right of pre-emption, is solely that by the consolidation of the New-York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company with another, by the direct sanction of the Government, and of the consequent merge of the former Company, the right of pre-emption has ceased to be exercisable at all, and that saving clause has not sufficient operation to prevent this effect. This argument appears to amount to this,—that an express right reserved to the Government by one Act, which is recited in the second Act, is repealed by inference, notwithstanding that the second Act was still 17 years of exclusive monopoly to run, and no additional reason for adding to the price to be paid for Telegraph apparatus. In fact, the second Act, so far from being a benefit to the Government, is solely a benefit to the New-York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, inasmuch as it authorizes it to substitute for the line which it is itself bound to make, a line about to be made by another Company. It is evident that this reasoning is an after thought, and is only put forward as an attempt to bolster up the construction which it was before sought to place on the conditions under which the right of pre-emption was exercisable under the former Act; for in the prospectus recently issued by the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, a copy of which accompanies this case, is contained the following paragraphs:—

"The Act constituting the Company contained a provision giving the Government of Newfoundland the right to purchase, at any time after the 15th April, 1874, the Company's Telegraph lines, but not its land-rights, at a valuation to be fixed by arbitration.

"In view of a consolidation of the Companies carrying the Atlantic Telegraph, the Newfoundland Legislature has since passed an Act under which the Newfoundland Company has the power to enter into an agreement for amalgamation with the Anglo-American and French Atlantic Companies."

If the second Act had the effect which the Company's advisers now contend it had, where was the necessity for introducing these paragraphs at all?

There is a third Act of which we send a short abstract—it refers solely to an increase of capital, and it does not appear to us in any way material.

Consul is requested to peruse the second and third Acts, and to advise whether any modification of the opinion already given is rendered necessary by the provisions contained in those Acts, or either of them.

Lincoln's Inn,
2nd April, 1873.

I have perused the second and the third of the above mentioned Acts—viz., the Colonial Acts, 20 Vic. Cap. 1, and 20 Vic. Cap. 17, and see (4) no occasion to modify the opinion given by Mr. James and myself, under date the 1st instant. The latter Act merely confers power to increase the capital of the Company; and I can see nothing in the former to deprive the Newfoundland Government of its power to determine the concession at the expiration of 20 years, secured to it by the Act of 1854; but, on the contrary, an express provision that all the rights of the Government under that Act are to remain in force.

(Signed) RICHARD BAGGALLY,
April 3, 1873.

LOCAL ITEMS.

LABRADOR fishery accounts, via Trinity, received to-day from Corbett's Harbor North. Fish reported plenty at Indian Harbor and Cuthroat; crafts doing well.—*Newfoundlander*, Aug. 12.

The s. s. *Hawk* left port on Monday morning last taking as passengers, Assistant Judge Hayward and suite for the Western Circuit. We understand that the *Hawk* upon her return, will proceed with the Chief Justice and suite on the Northern Circuit.—*Courier*.

We very much regret to hear (by private letter from Bonavista, dated August 5th) of the decease of Mr. James Saint, on the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 5, aged 67 years. Mr. Saint had been ailing for some time, but was able to get out of doors in fine weather; and only from the Saturday preceding his death was he confined to his room and bed. He had been engaged in business in Bonavista for nearly forty years, and lived a life of great usefulness to the people and to the Church with which he was connected. He was a kind-hearted and consistent Christian gentleman, and whose loss will be deeply felt by many poor neighbours. His bereaved family have our sincere sympathy in the hour of bereavement.—*Chronicle*.

We copy from the *Morgan's British Trade Journal* the following information in reference to the launch of a fine ship built at Bridport for Messrs. Bowring Brothers. We understand that the "Titania" is expected here shortly with a general cargo from Great Britain:—

On the 11th June, from the ship building yard of Mr. Elias Cox, at Bridport, the three masted clipper brigantine "Titania," fifteen years A 1 at Lloyd's. Length over all, 135 feet; breadth, 25 feet; depth, 13 8. Owned by Messrs. C. L. Bowring & Co., of Liverpool, and intended for their Newfoundland and Brazil trades, and will be commanded by Captain R. H. Prout.—*Ledger*.

By Authority.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Prescott Emerson, Esq., to be a Queen's Counsel of the Supreme Court of this Colony.

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Secretary's Office, 11th August, 1873.—*Gazette*.

It is stated that the British colony of Victoria, Australia, has, since 1851, in round numbers, sent to England £150,000,000 of gold. The yield of gold slowly declined up to the date of 1871, when the yield began to increase, in consequence of the development of quartz mining, more especially at Sandhurst and Clunes. The amount of gold exported from Victoria per month is now over half a million sterling. Late advices state that a Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer brings £370,000 of gold from Australia, which will reach England in a few days. It appears that some of the companies at Sandhurst pay as much as 400 per cent per annum on their total capital.

THE STAR.

HARBOR GRACE, AUG. 16, 1873.

THE American mails, per steamer "Austrian," arrived here yesterday. From late papers we glean various interesting items. Principal news anticipated by telegraph.

THROUGH the kindness of a friend who has just returned—in the mail steamer "Walrus"—from Labrador, we are enabled to lay before our readers the subjoined particulars of the fishery on that coast:—

	BOATS.	SRINES.
Mannox Island.....	60 to 70...	None.
Adnavick.....	50 to 60...	do
Ragged Islands.....	50 to 60...	do
Cape Harrison, good deal fishgoing.		
Emily Harbor.....	70 to 80...	200 to 250
Brig Harbor.....	100 to 130...	250 to 400
Holton.....	100 to 120...	100 to 200
Ice Ticks.....	70 to 80...	100
Indian Harbor.....	100	200 to 400
Packs Harbor and Independent.....	15	
Long Island.....	20 to 30...	100 to 150
Grady.....	20 to 30...	100 to 150
Indian Tickle.....	20 to 25...	300 to 400
Domino.....	10 to 15...	100
Batteaux.....	30 to 40...	150 to 200
Punch Bowl.....	25 to 30...	150 to 200
Venison Tickle.....	25 to 30...	100 to 120
Bolster's Rock.....	20	
Tub and Snug Hrs.....	20 to 30...	100 to 200
Dead Island.....	15 to 20...	50 to 80
Fishing Ships' Hr.....	25 to 30...	50
Little Harbor.....	15 to 25...	60 to 100
Murray's Harbor.....	15 to 20...	80 to 100
Battle Harbor.....	10 to 12...	20 to 30
Cape Charles.....	15 to 20...	30 to 50
Chimney Tickle.....	30 to 35...	100 to 300
Red Bay.....	30	
Lance a Loup.....	100	600
Bianco Sablon.....	100	
Bigolette, no codfishery; salmon fishery good.		

We are pleased to note the progress of the Road Board during the past few weeks in the work of repairing and extending Harvey Street. This street, when completed, will be perhaps the finest in the country. Water Street is also receiving due attention, and the unfinished parts, to which we made reference a short since, are now undergoing a thorough repair. This district has received more attention from the present Government than from any of its predecessors, and the many improvements made within the past year or two very clearly illustrate the spirit of progress which has characterized the gubernation of public affairs. We trust nothing will obstruct the work in hand, and that it may soon be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

IN our advertising columns will be observed the business notice of Messrs. George C. Harris & Co. We hope the new firm will receive a liberal share of public patronage.

We understand that a cricket match will be played at Alexandra Park, on Tuesday next, between the natives and foreigners. We hope Newfoundland will be ably represented on the occasion, and that our native cricketers will give their opponents a "right good beating."

OWING to scarcity of bait, little has been done by our fishermen, in this neighborhood, during the past week.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have to acknowledge the receipt of a "spicy" effusion from the prolific pen of our talented "Amateur Quill-Driver;" but regret that want of space compels us to detain its publicity 'til our next issue.

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Latest Despatches.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—The Conservatives have won a triumph at Greenwich by electing Mr. Boord, a London Distiller, to Parliament, vice David Solomons, deceased.

It is stated on good authority that Mr. Gladstone will not seek re-election, but contemplates retiring to private life.

NEW YORK, 6.—Letter from Government of Argentine Republic to the United States of Columbia on intervention on behalf of Cuba has been received. Nearly all South American republicans offered friendly services in like manner.

Enthusiasm in Peru over Cuban question is intense, and it is reported that a loan of twenty millions is to be issued in that country on behalf of Cuba.

LONDON, 7-S.—At Cabinet Council, this afternoon, a discussion resulted in ministerial changes. Marquis of Ripon, Childers, and Baxter, resigned. Gladstone, with Premiership, becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lowe, home office. Bruce is Peered, and will succeed Phipps in Presidency of Council. Bonham and Carter, joint Secretary of the Treasury. Arthur Peel, liberal whip. Bright, Chancellor of Lancaster.

Quantities of debris discovered off Ireland, supposed to be from wreck of the State Line Steamship "Alabama." No survivors heard of.

At a meeting of the directors of the Direct Company, it was unanimously resolved to change the route from New Hampshire to Newfoundland.

It is announced that Lord Cavendish and Sir Arthur Wellesly Peel are to assist Gladstone in the Exchequer office. It is also stated that Algon and Greville are offered one of the Treasury Lordships.

OTTAWA, 12.—Parliament meets at 3 p.m., to-morrow. The Governor-General will arrive to-morrow morning. It is believed here that the house will be prorogued or adjourned, to meet 30 days hence. Intense excitement here.

LONDON, 12.—A squadron of Austrian war vessels have been ordered to the coast of Spain.

NEW YORK, 12.—Gold 115½.

NEWS ITEMS.

The steamship "Ida," the first of a line of steamers to be placed on the route between Montreal and Newfoundland, calling at Sydney, arrived on Monday last. The White Ball Line to which this ship belongs, is principally owned by Messrs. Lord, Magor & Munn of Montreal, and consist of three first class vessels similar to the "Ida." We have no doubt that this speculation will realize something handsome for the enterprising owners. Besides the regular trade and passenger traffic between Newfoundland and Montreal, a large trade will necessarily arise between Cape Breton, Montreal, and Newfoundland and in case the line continues regularly to touch at Sydney, the trade will gradually increase, thus benefiting both the owners and the people of the country. Some years ago when the Cunard Steamers ceased calling at the Bar, the trade between Cape Breton and Newfoundland was destroyed and many articles which were formerly exported to that Island either were forced on the home market at a sacrifice, or sent to other places, but so soon as this new line begin their regular trips, this trade will at once spring up in increased proportions. We wish the enterprise every success, and hope that every facilities will be offered to the movers in it.—*Cape Breton Advocate*.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Times" says: The announcement of the royal betrothal has been most sympathetically received at St. Petersburg, both on account of the sincere interest felt in the Princess, and also as an earnest of good relations between Russia and England. It is asserted that the marriage will be celebrated in January and Queen Victoria has held out hopes of honouring the ceremony with her presence.

The "Globe" referring to the fact that the English look upon the marriage as another pledge of the preservation of peace in Europe, says: There is no doubt that in all Russia the joyful event excites the same sympathetic feelings and good wishes as in England.

It is officially announced that the Khan of Khiva and all his ministers, who fled from the capital on the approach of the Russian troops, have returned and submitted to General Kaufman, beseeching his clemency and imploring his merciful consideration. The General, pending his disposition of their cases, has placed them under guard.

The increase of leprosy in British Burmah has attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner and a Central Assylum is talked of for the benefit of those afflicted with the mysterious malady. The natives, however dislike removal to a distance from their homes, and it is thought, doubtful whether an assylum will attract the lepers.

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GENERAL NEWS.

A New Method of Murder.

A man was hanged the other day at San Francisco for murder with a weapon of a peculiarly dangerous, and, for a long time, mysterious nature. This is a sand club formed by filling an eel skin with sand. When this instrument was first brought into use the authorities were greatly puzzled by deaths, apparently from violence, yet no marks could be found on the outside of the body. A burglar was finally captured with a sand club in his possession made out of an eel skin stuffed with sand. Being closely questioned he explained its use. When the victim is struck, for instance, on the head, he drops insensible and soon dies from congestion of the brain. Often the skull suffers no injury from the stroke, and if the person struck recovers sensibility he gradually relapses into a condition of idiocy. Sometimes a man struck in the body will be knocked down by the peculiar force of the blow and feel no immediate results from it. In a few weeks, however, the flesh will begin to mortify under the line of the blow and rot down to the bone. Heller, the celebrated pianist, is supposed to have met his death in Mexico from a stroke of this diabolical weapon.

Death of an old Explorer.

An old explorer Mr. Hamilton Hume has died at Coombs, New South Wales. Mr. Hume's explorations of the interior date back to the year 1813; for it was then that he discovered the country around Berrima, one of the most fertile districts in New South Wales. Three years later he signalled himself by the discovery of Lakes Bathurst and George, and received a grant of 300 acres of land, in recognition of the value of his services from the Government. In 1824 he undertook in conjunction with Hovell, a retired shipmaster, the command of an expedition which was to find its way overland from Lake George to Western Port. He was the first European who set eyes on the Australian Alps, and before his time the Upper Murray and the Owens had no existence on the map. The latter received the name it still bears from the late Mr. Hume, by whom it was so called after his friend Major Owens. Mr. Hume's discoveries of the country on this side of the Murray preceded by 11 years the exploration of "Australia Felix" which were conducted by Major Mitchell, and were nine years earlier than the visit of the Messrs. Hentp to Portland Bay. At the time of his decease Mr. Hume was in the 75th year of his age.

The Central Asia Railway Scheme of M. de Lesseps.

M. De Lesseps appears to be in earnest about his Grand Central Asiatic Railway Scheme. He has obtained, through Prince Orloff, the Russian ambassador at Paris authorization for his son and M. Cotard to travel through the provinces of the Russian empire between Orenburg and Samarcand, in order to explore the country, and the necessary orders have been given by the Government to the imperial authorities of those parts. After this exploration a preliminary plan will be submitted to a commission of engineers, savans and financiers, and no funds will be asked for from any quarter until the project is ripe for forming a company, when the final surveys will be made in accordance with the instructions of the commission. M. de Lesseps calculates that these surveys will occupy probably a year and a half, and that the whole line from Orenburgh to Teshawur can then be finished in six years.

Failure of the Iceland Fisheries.

Schr. Membrino Chief, Capt. McQuinn arrived at Gloucester on Wednesday, from Iceland, whither he had been on a halibut trip. Capt. McQuinn states that the weather was so rough and blowy during his stay there that it was impossible to fish at all, and he was obliged to give up the voyage and return home. The *William T. Baker*, Capt. Pierce, which sailed in company with the *Chief*, proceeded to Greenland, to make up a fare if possible. This is the first season the Iceland fishing has been attempted, and it will probably be the last. With such good fishing grounds nearer home, there is no need of vessels going either to Greenland or Iceland for halibut, and we predict this branch of the fisheries will be entirely abandoned another season.—*Cape Ann Advertiser*.

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The Latest Munchausen.

STORY OF A MAN WHO LIVES AT THE NORTH POLE.

The *New York Star* lately published what it claims is a letter from William North, one of the Arctic explorers who accompanied Sir John Franklin on his memorable expedition from England in 1854. North is still in the Arctic regions, and, according to his statement, a great continent exists between the seas of ice. The Munchausen narrative "was written on white sides of pieces of skin laced together with sinews, enclosed in a morticed log and set adrift. It was picked up in Hudson's Bay, confided to a gentleman in LaConner, Washington Territory, and by him forwarded here." The following extracts are taken from North's letter:—

In May, 1854, being desirous of leaving England, I shipped before the mast on the Erebus, under command of Sir John Franklin, on an Arctic voyage. Before winter we reached latitude seventy seven degrees north, in Wellington Channel. This was the highest the ships ever got. Captain Franklin died of brain fever in 1858. We abandoned the ships in April 1858. Captain Crozier decided to go to ninety-nine degrees south, hoping to reach Hudson bay. Our provisions becoming exhausted all but myself perished I lay on the snow insensible, when I was rescued by some Esquimaux and lived with them several years. From my observations I became convinced that there was a habitable land further north. The birds and the animals often came, in large numbers from that direction and then suddenly returned. The Indians all had a superstitious fear of going far in that direction, and none who did so were ever seen again. It was supposed that they had perished of cold and starvation, or were killed by inhabitants beyond the mountains. I concluded to push on to the north, and reach the North Pole, or perish in the attempt. No one would go with me, so I went alone, taking two dogs and a boat that I had rigged on runners. This was on the Greenland shore, as far North as the ice mountains, known to navigators as the giants.

It was the early spring of 1860, according to my reckoning. The season was the most favorable I had ever seen, and in two months I must have travelled fully 600 miles, living on game and seals killed on the way. I will not dwell upon the perils and privations of my journey except to say that I had killed my dogs to save me from starvation. When, on the 26th June, 1860, according to my calendar I passed out of a crevice or gorge between two great walls of ice, just in time to escape death by a falling mass larger than a ship, into an open space of table land, from which I could see below me, and stretching away as far as the eye could reach, a land more beautiful than England or any other country I had ever seen.

When my feelings had become calmer I descended the mountain, at the foot of which I came upon a village, in which there was a great crowd of people, who seemed to be celebrating a carnival or festival, being clad in skins. I was greatly affected by the heat and fainting, remaining insensible about two days. I was carefully attended by priests, but closely guarded. Soon after I was taken before a chief, who is called Jail, and received by him with distinction. He is nearly seven feet high and splendidly made. He is blonde, with long flaxen hair, and is about forty years of age. The queen is also a pure blonde, very tall and beautiful. I am learning the language, which is very similar in sound to the Swedish. I am almost sure the ruling race here are the ancient Northmen of history. I am sacredly protected and treated with the greatest consideration but carefully watched. The peasantry or serfs seem to be entirely another race and are swarthy. The people here worship the sun in summer and the moon in winter. Soon after I arrived the sun commenced declining, and finally disappeared on the 15th October, appearing again above the horizon on the first day of March, showing that the day or summer here is seven and a half months, and night or winter four and a half months in length.

The remainder of the letter is given to description of the vegetation, animals and mineral resources of the country. The trees are very fine, and include cotton, wood, oak, elm, birch and pine. The vegetation grows rapidly in summer, grass growing to a height of a foot in two weeks in June. The animals are moose, reindeer, musk ox, buffalo, bears, wolves, foxes, rabbits, etc. There are also horses, very small and highly esteemed. The walrus and seal are domesticated, and are used for towing barges and canoes on the lakes and rivers. They have grain in abundance, being wheat, oats and barley; also potatoes, apples, plums, grapes and many varieties of berries. Geese, ducks, and swans are numerous. Fish of many varieties abound in swarms, the salmon being a favorite. Iron is plenty, mostly magnetic. Stone is also found, and there are large quantities of fine granite. Precious stones, as also gold and silver abound, and fine diamonds are frequently seen. Gold and silver hammered into oval-shaped pieces, are used for money. In concluding his letter, North says:

I have now been here about eleven months, this being according to my calendar, the 22nd of May, 1861, and the heat is growing somewhat oppressive. They have not offered me any violence, and I do not think they will, as the priests are too anxious to learn from me what they are satisfied I know. I am learning their language slowly, but faster than they are aware; shall put this statement, properly secured in a sealskin, into the river, hoping, but scarcely believing, that it may pass the cataracts, and be picked up by some whaling ship or other craft.

The letter is signed "William North of H.M.S. Erebus, Sir John Franklin's expedition, enclosed May 28."

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