THE PESTILENTIAL STATE OF THE THAMES.

Dr. Alfred Smee, in a letter to the *Times* on this subject, says:—"The time has arrived when it is absolutely necessary to call public attention, in the most emphatic manner, to the great danger which hangs over the inhabitants of this metropolis from the state of the river Thames, the more especially as there has been a tendency in some of the most able writers of the day to underrate the frightful consequences which may ensue from its present pestilential condition. The great fact has been overlooked by those who have earnestly called attention to the subject, that the river Thames at the present moment is in a state of general putrid fermentation—a state which I can positively assert is a new state, and one which from observation over 30 years it has never exhibited before. While I write the whole river is nearly as opaque and black as ink, and is much more offensive than the majority of the sewers which enter into it, the animal matter of which has not yet undergone the putrid fermentation. Those who have lived in London have observed year by year a general deterioration of the water—a gradual diminution of the higher forms of animal life from a large portion of the sewerage being added to it. Year by year an additional unpleasant odour has been superadded to the usual odour of nearly all rivers in agitation; but for the whole of the river to enter into a putrid fermentation is a new fact, the consequence of which we have no experience in London, nor probably in any other country. It must now be regarded as unsafe for man, woman, or child to venture upon our river, for no medical man can predict who may be affected, and we can only say that the putrid fermentation is liable in the highest degree to communicate its death-producing influence. Cholera is now absent. Were it epidemic probably hundreds of thousands would fall victims, as the whole river is essentially worse than those sewers along which the population was decimated. This, however, is the most favourable time of the year for London—a powerful current of air sweeps up the valley of the Thames, and renders London one of the healthiest of towns. In August, however, and in the first week in September the air is stagnant, and no such breeze refreshes the inhabitants. In all ages epidemics have then had their sway, and should this state continue who will dare predict the consequences which may issue."

While the sanitary doctors are disputing whether a partial purification of the Thames ought to be attempted by the simple expedient of conveying the sewerage of the metropolis into the deepest part of the river, or whether it should not be conveyed through an air-tight channel under an embankment clear away into the sea, a newspaper correspondent draws attention to a plan adopted in Rome and Paris. The refuse of these cities is taken a distance of several miles into the country, and there deodorised and sold. The solid product of the drainage of Paris fetches about 3s per sack, or about one-sixth of what English and French farmers are paying for Peruvian guano.

As a temporary remedy, an enormous quantity of lime has for several days past been employed to purify the Thames; and men are employed at low water in covering the putrid mud on the shore of the river with lime, so as to destroy or diminish the noxious effluvia. The cost of this lime process, Lord Malmesbury states, will be about £1500 a-week.

A parliamentary committee met on the 28th to inquire into the state of the river Thames. Mr. Walker, engineer to the Thames Navigation Committee, and Doctor Lewis Thomson, were examined. Considerable difference of opinion as to the means of purifying the stream was expressed. Mr. Walker thinks Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney's plan would be a total failure, and Dr. Thompson thinks there will always be an offensive odour as long as the river is used as a common sewer.

Protestants in Italy.—The following statement is made in the report of the Colonial and Continental Committee to the late Assembly of the Free Church:—"The converts are now permitted to meet in Florence in considerable numbers without receiving any molestations from the police, which, we trust, indicates a more tolerant spirit on the part of the Government. Protestantism is spreading in all the villages around the capital, and indeed in all the cities of the dukedom. So much is this the case, that the Pope has issued orders that, in connection with a jubilee which is about to be proclaimed, two sermons will be preached daily for a time to warn the people against the danger of Protestantism."

The Irish Magistracy.—The *Dublin Evening Mail* but echoes the of voice public opinion in saying that the scandal now for the first time brought before Parliament has long been in every one's mouth, and it is by no means limited in its application either to the county of Kerry or to the quarter sessions bench. Here is a pretty sketch of official distress: "Lord Donoughmore cannot stop with Mr. M'Dermott's case. There are other assistant-barristers who arrive on Sundays, who always travel on Sundays, and who prolong the sittings of their court until Sunday morning, to avoid arrest. But what of the resident Magistrates? Several of them are unable to leave their homes from the same cause. Some of the Police magistrates, too, are in the same predicament. In fact, the class of men, generally speaking, promoted by the Whigs were totally unfitted for the offices into which they were thrust by priestly influence. To make the law respected, the course of justice must be not only pure, but the admininistration of the law must be above suspicion. Men hunted by bailiffs from morning to night are not fit to be trusted with the administration of the law, and it is to be hoped that Lord Derby's Government will cleanse the Augean stable. A thorough and sweeping measure is absolutely necessary to restore public confidence in the administration of justice in Ireland.

French Parties and Mustaches—The Legitimists of the elder branch have, by tacit agreement, now pretty generally understood in Paris society, decided on a mark of mutual recognition. The cut of the moustache is now a safe guide to the politics of the juvenile and elderly loungers about town. In contra-distinction to the elongated and well gammed extremities of the Imperial patern, theirs are of square cut, and no attempt at the "pointed style" of hirsute architecture is allowable.

A Premium for Human Noses.—Prince Danilo, of Montenegro, paid a ducat for each Turk's nose that was brought to him. The number cut off is stated as high as 2000.

The war steamer Bloodhound had arrived in England from the coast of Africa, and an inquiry has been held on board in the matter of the capture of the American bark Thomas Watson near Sierra Leone.

Three warehouses on French wharf, London, with all their contents, were burned. Loss enormous. Another fire destroyed the Life Boat factory of Forrest & Co., and adjoining timber yards. Loss upwards of £100,000.

The important fortifications erected by the French at Civita Vecchia, have occasioned great uneasiness in Rome. It was reported the Pope was about to increase his navy largely.

Nana Sahib was especially prayed for on Wednesday before last, at the Union Meeting in Sansom-st. Church, Philadelphia. This was done at the request of a mother whose son was murdered by the Sepoys.

The "Leviathan" no more.—The London *Star* of the 29th ultimo, in noticing Queen Victoria's visit to the Leviathan, says:—

The ship is no longer to be called the Leviathan; she is to assume her original name—the Great Eastern. She has been registered in that name, William Harrison, master.

The shares of the Atlantic Telegraph Company are quoted at £550 to £600 (£1,000 paid).

Three young noblemen from Senegal, of the highest ebony tint, have arrived in Paris from that French colony, and have entered the military academy of St. Cyr.

The *Patrie* says that a Russian frigate, the, Balkan, has joined the French squadron in the Adriatic and been placed under the orders of the French Admiral. This news has created great sensation at Vienna.

It is said that the Government has paid Mr. Rarey £5,000 for the use of his secret in taming horses, and that a number of men are being instructed for service in India.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE COMMEMORATIVE BIBLE MEETING.

A Bible Meeting has been recently held in New Zealand to commemorate the completion of the translation of the entire Scriptures into the Maori tongue. The Rev. R. Maunsell, the translator, was supported on the occasion by several European and ten native advocates. Some particulars of the Meeting are thus communicated:

Ruini rises to move the first Resolution—"That the Word of God is the only true source of knowledge in Divine things." "Let no one," says he, "despise a small beginning: a match yields but a small flame, but who can extinguish the forest it has lit. So this work will go on increasing till the whole world is filled with the glory of the Lord."

Waata, the native magistrate, a very nice, intelligent native, moves the third Resolution—"That this Meeting rejoices to hear that the translation of the Holy Scriptures into Maori is now complete." "On the other side of the waters they have long enjoyed the entire Word of God, whilst we remain here longing for it, but not able to procure it. Let us rejoice in the possession of God's Word, which points out the course to be pursued and the evil to be avoided."

Selwyn, monitor of Kohaya school, seconds it. "Let me ask, why do we rejoice? 1st. Because God's Word is translated. The way of life is made manifest. 2d. Because God put it into the hearts of our Christian friends to translate the Word of Life."

Hori Taurao moves the fourth Resolution—"That this Meeting recognises the duty of aiding by contributions the British and Foreign Bible Society." "We must honour God's works. Let us show our love by giving our mite to the Lord's work."

Paori Katuhi, monitor of Maire, seconds it. "When there is no cheerer in the canoe it goes slowly, but when the cheerers stand up and urge on the crew, the canoe flies. Now you have plenty of cheerers, show your spirit, pull heartily, and bring this Society to the haven, 'when the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.'"

Kairapu, monitor of Tuahau, moves the fifth Resolution—"That an Association be formed, and Collectors appointed, &c." "Formerly we only heard of God's Word: now we see it. So we first heard of the Europeans: we first heard of their clothes, their ploughs, their animals, their wealth: now we see them and possess them. We heard of the Bible, year after year, year after year: now we shall soon have the whole, through the kindness of this Society. Were it not for the love of God we should not possess His Word. The Bible is for each man, woman, and child, that the light may shine in every place. This is not a work for us to lay aside, but to persevere in year by year."

Mone, monitor of Kohanga, concludes. "I will say to you, as the chiefs formerly said to their dependants when they desired them to carry food for the war expedition, 'Friend, make your heart strong like the green stone. Remember, the food is for you as well as for me.' So I would say, 'I ask you for money: do not withhold it. Remember the Word of God is for yourselves, as well as others, and in blessing others you will be blessed.' At first we were foolish: we called things by wrong names; biscuit we called pumice-stone; sugar, sand; and tobacco, rope. God we knew not, nor His truth. Now we have the Bible, and know the true doctrines of Christianity."

A hymn, and a prayer by a native Christian, closed the Meeting, the Collection on the occasion amounting to £9 1s 4d.

TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

New York, July 14.—Steamship Philadelphia from Havana July 8, arrived this morning. She brings California papers of the 21st ult., received by the Granada.

The California papers are rather barren of news of importance.

The Frazer river gold excitement is increasing in consequence of the glowing accounts furnished by the miners who have returned from that region. San Francisco is crowded with people on their way to the Frazer mines, and it was thought that in the States parties were making arrangements for the same purpose.

Labor is scarce, and wages have gone up 20 and 30 per cent. It is estimated that 8000 people have already left for the diggings. Six steamers have been on the route, besides ten sailing vessels.

Several American newspapers are projected in the British possessions, and one, the *North American*, is already announced at Victoria.—The steamer Cortez took 1500 passengers for that city, and every berth in sailing vessels was taken for days in advance.

The Hudson Bay Company have stationed armed vessels on Frazer's river, to prevent emigrants from carrying goods into the interior to sell. One American vessel, it is reported, had entered the river in spite of the blockade, the English commander not daring to fire upon her.

The report of the gold discoveries on Frazer's River, in the British territories north of Oregon, is fully confirmed. Since the first discovery of gold in California, and the consequent excitement of 1848–49, there has been nothing like the gold fever which rages there. It is calculated that 15,000 persons have left California for Frazer's River, between the 1st April and 20th June, and thousands are flocking there from other quarters.

THE ERIE RAILROAD DISASTER.

The accident on the Erie Railroad, near Port Jervis, on Thursday last, by which several persons have already lost their lives, and many others are seriously injured, occurred, by all accounts, in consequence of the breaking of a rail. The train consisted of an engine and tender, two baggage cars and five passenger cars, all filled. Where the disaster occurred is a long, straight track on filled ground with slight incline. The locomotive and three passenger cars passed over safe, and it is supposed that three cars struck the rail and broke about two feet in length off. The wheel of the fourth car went off and sunk in the ground, dragging the last car off the line entirely. The cars dragged along about twenty-five rods gradually, when the coupling broke and they were precipitated in a slanting direction down the embankment. The rear car only rolled over once, and the track fell directly, crushing it into atoms. There were about forty passengers in each car, who were scattered among the ruins. The fourth car rolled over once and lodged on piles of stones, crushing in the sides and tearing some of the seats away.

There was sufficient indications that something was wrong, to attract the attention of those in the first cars, although none of them were seriously disturbed except the last two.—Those experienced in running trains say, that although the rail had been broken when the first car was upon it, the strain from the engine in front and the cars in the rear would have been sufficient to keep it in the line of the road, and that none of the cars would run off until the draught strain had become too light to keep them in a line with the rails. This, they believe, was not the case until the last car struck the broken rail. That then it passed from the track, and in turning down the embankment, the second car was drawn over from the rear, and the coupling breaking, it ran down the slope.

After the accident, a number of men were collected to clear the ruins away, and it was found that the rear car had suffered most. The injured were removed to the embankment, and as quickly as possible were taken to Port Jervis, where they arrived at eleven, twelve and one o'clock.—Some thirty-six of the injured people were taken to Foster's Fowler House; the remainder, some ten or twelve, to the Delaware House. Five persons were taken out dead, and another died whilst he was being removed. Mrs. Lay of Waterbury, Conn., was much injured. She was under the roof of the car, and persons constantly walking over her whilst they were getting the injured from the wreck.

We have heard it stated that Mr. Hanlon, of the Royal Engineer Department at this place, has invented some valuable improvements in respect to rendering the embrasures of batteries proof against shot of every description; also, a series of revolving loopholes for musketry, by means of which the men are so much protected as to render it almost an impossibility for an enemy, armed in a similar manner, to touch them in whatever situation they may be placed. Mr. Hanlon, we are informed, has proceeded to England by the R. M. Steamer Arabia, taking with him highly finished models of his invention, with the view of having them submitted for the consideration of the military authorities in London.—*Halifax Recorder.*

At the present time, there are 117 brick or stone, and 373 frame buildings—in all 400—going up in Milwaukie, at an aggregate cost of one million one hundred thousand dollars.

The Canadian Government have adopted the policy of retrenchment, and have resolved upon a general reduction of official salaries; commencing with those of the ministers of the Crown, and extending to the whole body of the Government employees.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

Queen Isabella had a narrow escape. Her return to Madrid by the new Alicante Railway was retarded by the disruption of a bridge on the canal of Mancanares. The engine of the express train, from Valencia and Andalusia, dropped some live coal as it whizzed over the bridge, which being constructed of pine trees, teeming with resin at every pore, took fire, and nearly destroyed the bridge. The bridge was repaired, and was safely traversed by the royal train, which brought her safely to Madrid. The clerical camarilla has, of course, converted this incident into capital, for inspiring the Queen with their dread of these "innovations." One priest in the Palace had the effrontery to tell her Majesty, before witnesses, that if she had been contented to travel after the fashion of her forefathers, instead of being whirled about by a diabolical machine, she would not have incurred such risks. But the Queen does not participate in the fears with which the priests look upon these "Satanic inventions," as they are pleased to term railways.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

A letter from Stockholm says: "The Prince Regent is to leave this city on the 21st, to take the command of the Swedish and Norwegian troops in the camp at Axevalla. The principal object of the King in uniting the troops of the two countries in the same camp is to promote that good feeling amongst them which is necessary to an army under a sole chief. The King has authorised Messrs. Glass and Elliot to establish a submarine telegraph from the coasts of England to those of Norway, and to erect telegraphic stations. This telegraph will naturally cause a diminution in the price of despatches between England and Norway, and will eventually obtain all those destined for the Grand Duchy of Finland and the Russian provinces of the Baltic."

NAPLES.

Advices from Naples state that Count Cavour persists in his demand that the crew of the Cagliari shall be compensated for their sufferings like the engineers. Austria evidently views the state of affairs with distrust. She has ordered new fortifications to be constructed at Placenza.

We are told in a letter from Naples that a league is being formed in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and the States of the Church for obtaining from the consumption of any English or French produce, to show the resentment of the Italians against the Western Powers for their interference in their affairs.

The *Univers* remarks that if the English company which has offered the Viceroy of Egypt a loan of two million sterling succeeds in getting as a guarantee the railway from Alexandria to Suez, and the village of Tanta, which is the first station of the line from Alexandria to Cairo, the railway and village of 2500 inhabitants will become, in some sort, English property; but fresh obstacles will be raised by this combination to the execution of the Suez Cannal.

The Paris Conferences.—The *Independence Belge* quotes from an authentic source some important revelations of the proceedings of the Conferences. In one of the sittings the condition of the Christian subjects of the Porte was brought under notice by the Russian plenipotentiary, who read an autograph letter from the Emperor Alexander demanding that Turkey should formally undertake to execute completely within two years the Hatti Humayoun of February, 1856, in favour of the Christian subjects of the Sultan; and if this duty remained unaccomplished, the Powers who signed the treaty of Paris should at once interfere. The Czar in this letter prohibited the Russian plenipotentiary from subscribing to any arrangement unless the plenipotentiary of the Sultan accepted the above proposition.

Lord Stanley, before quitting the Colonial Office, authorised a grant of £1000 towards defraying the cost of a complete account of Australian vegetation. We believe that Mr. Bentham has undertaken the duty of preparing the Australian Flora for the press.

The Asiatic cholera has made its appearance in London attributed to the poisonous stench arising from the river Thames.

News from Australia.—By way of Panama we have news from Australia dated at Melbourne on the 27th of April, twelve days later than that received through England.

The Melbourne *Argus* of latest date reports thus:

The Legislative Council was about to close its parliamentary session. The general elections were to come off in June.

The Melbourne *Herald* of the 22nd of April contains an editorial article recommending the federation of the Australian colonies. This step appears to be a popular one with all parties.

A large number of blood horses have been imported, and sold at high prices. One horse called Bolardo, half brother to Imperieuse, brought $7,750.

The markets were steady, labor in demand, and the report from the gold diggings continued satisfactory.

The Wine of California.—California, like Missouri, will soon rival Ohio in the product of native wine. There is one firm in San Francisco which produced last year 200,000 bottles of champagne from their own vineyard in Los Angelos. This is but one of many instances of California enterprise in wine growing. Almost every State in that union now adds its quota—small in many cases, but always increasing—to the annual product.

The people of Nebraska City avow their determination to "level to the ground all places where liquor is sold." A resolution of Judge Bradford was unanimously adopted by the Bar, "that no lawyer should defend a liquor-seller's case."

The Halifax Journal says:—The curious in such matters as Garden fruits, &c., can see at Mr. Harris' nursery, Richmond road, Strawberries from four to five inches in circumference.

New Potatoes at present command the very handsome price of 16s. per bushel at Halifax.

New Brunswick papers record extensive fires in the woods, attended with a large amount of damage to buildings, fences, crops, &c. A portion of the Railway track and a number of sleepers are reported as having been destroyed on the Saint Andrew line.

Galway and America.—Faithful to their pledge to carry out the scheme of direct communication between the port of Galway and America, the projectors have advertised the dispatch of a second vessel in succession to the Indian Empire. The name of her successor is the American Empire, a vessel of 3000 tons burden and 1000 horse power. The day of departure is fixed for Tuesday, the 27th of July.

Anticosti.—The present state of the Island of Anticosti situate at the mouth of the River St. Lawrence, is occupying public attention in Canada, and efforts are about being made to have it settled. Anticosti is about 130 miles long, 35 broad, and contains two millions of acres; it would comfortably support 60,000 inhabitants.

Terrible Mortality at Sea.—A Heroine Wife.—The following statement in the New York papers reminds us of the courageous conduct of Mrs. Patten, of Coston, under similar circumstances, with which our readers are doubtless familiar:—

"Captain Baggs, of the New York steam tug Huntress on Monday morning fell in with the British ship Grotta, Captain Nicholls, 10 miles east of Fire Island, in a condition of great distress, and towed her into quarantine at New York. The Grotta left Saugua la Grande, Cuba, on the 25th ult., and on the second day out the yellow fever broke out among the crew in its most virulent form, and one after another died and was consigned to the deep, the ordinary remedies proving ineffectual in every case. On the ninth day out there were none left but the captain, his wife and two of the crew. On the first of July the captain was taken down with the fever, and his wife, who had until now been unremitting in her attentions to the sick among the officers and crew, was obliged to nurse her sick husband, and also occasionally to take her position at the wheel, while the surviving crew worked the ship. The Captain had already decided to put into New York, and was making the best of his way towards Sandy Hook. While he was yet able to give directions, he instructed his wife how to steer the ship. When spoken by the steamer, the captain's wife stood heroically at the helm directing the ship towards Sandy Hook. In one hour after the ship was taken in tow Capt. Nicholls died, leaving only three out of eleven persons on board—the two foremast hands and the courageous Mrs. Nicholls. The lady and the two survivors of the crew were properly cared for.

TICKLISH STATE OF TURKISH AFFAIRS.

The affair of Montenegro, and the ticklish state of diplomatic relations between France and Turkey and Austria, are now considered very serious. It is said that France has sent an ultimatum to Turkey, and that if a satisfactory answer should not be at once returned, more ships will be sent to the Adriatic. The *Patrie* says:—"The insurrections which break out daily in the Turkish provinces, the incessantly recurring conflicts between the Christians and the Mussulman authorities, reveal a state of things as dangerous for the integrity of the Ottoman empire as for the peace of Europe. It is impossible but that the Great Powers must seriously probe the evil and meet it by a prompt and energetic remedy—they must put the Sultan's Christian subjects in possession of the reforms promised by the hatti-humayoun of 1856, and guaranteed by the treaty of March 30." The *Patrie*, replying to the *Ost Deutsche Post* (which says that Austria protects Turkey, and would not have her submit to the degradation of allowing the insult she has received from Montenegro to go unpunished), utters these menacing words:—"May this interested protection, of which Austria alone intends to reap the fruits, not be fatal to Turkey, and lead her to attempt insane enterprises!" Do Russia and France contemplate cutting up the "sick man?"

The Crops in Europe.—The reports of the weather in Europe, concur to a greater extent than usual as to the prospect of abundant crops. The summer in England, thus far, has been of the highest temperature ever known, the month of June up to the 25th, having shown a temperature 1 degree above the average, the thermometer in London on some days having run up to 94 and 95. In that moist climate and so early in the season this must produce a great luxuriance of vegetation.

On the continent the experience has been somewhat similar, and the condition of the vines in the South of France is pronounced to be unprecedentedly splendid. There is likewise a great promise as respects grain. Hay, in France, is short in quantity, owing to the hot weather, but excellent in quality.

For the silk crop, a very important one in all the South and West of Europe, a fine early summer is essential, but the heat this year has been beyond that which is most suitable for the worms. On the whole, however, the European yield is estimated as certain to amount to at least five eighths of a full crop, and looking at the results of the last two or three years this is a most favorable change.

Mortality of Children in Australia. The Melbourne *Argus* says:—"The extraordinary mortality o children in this city is one of the most painful and most remarkable phenomena of our present condition. To us alone, of all the inhabitants of the temperate zone, the return of the genial spring and summer brings not rejoicing, but woe. For six months of 1853 the deaths exceeded the births in the proportion of two to one; in 1854 the proportion was reduced to less than three to two; in 1855 the births predominated as 21 to 17; the improvement continued in 1856, until in 1857 we had only 70 deaths for 100 births. These figures prove rather the astonishing degradation of our previous sanitary condition than the merit of our present state. In our fourth year of progressive improvement our mortality is still greater than that which is recorded in the deadliest plagues. In a delightful climate, amid abundance of wealth, our children die more quickly and in greater numbers than in a land of pestilence and famine."

The Electric Telegraph in Australia.—There is now uninterrupted telegraphic communication between Melbourne, in Victoria, and Albury, in New South Wales. In the latter colony the line has been completed as far as Berrima, and the junction is expected to be complete in a few weeks. The western line from Melbourne has been carried to Portland, close on the South Australian frontier, and will be carried on to the boundary line as soon as Mr. Todd brings the Adelaide line to the same spot. A contract has been entered into by Messrs. Macnaughten and Co. for the supply of the submarine cable across Bass's Straits. The contract is placed at £25,000, and an agent is dispatched to England to superintend the construction of the cable. In order to prevent the slightest delay when the cable does arrive, contracts have been advertised for the erection of posts and wires across King's and Hunter's Islands. Communication between the capital of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania is expected to be complete within twelve months.

MORE PARTICULARS FROM THE ATLANTIC CABLE FLEET.

The Boston *Courier* of last Saturday gives the following additional particulars of the unsuccessful attempts made to lay the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, furnished by the first mate of the ship Alice Munroe, which vessel arrived at Boston the day previous, having been in company with the Niagara, one of the Atlantic Cable fleet, on the 27th June.

"The Alice Munroe left Liverpool on the 13th of June, three days later than the date of the sailing of the telegraph fleet from Plymouth.—She experienced almost constant southerly gales and was forced to take a much more northerly course than she otherwise would have done. Being a very staunch vessel, she rode out the storms with entire ease and safety, and was subject to no injury.

On the morning of the 27th, just after breakfast—say about eight o'clock, saw the U. S. steam frigate Niagara, lying to, in latitude 52 05, longitude 33 15, and was shortly boarded by a boat from, containing Mr. Cyrus W. Field of New York, and the lieutenant desired Capt. Comings to take certain letters and papers relating to the telegraph expedition to the United States, and wrote one or two letters on board the Alice Munroe, during the hour or more they remained on board of her.

They also communicated to Capt. Comings and Mr. Richards a statement of their doings for the past fortnight.

They stated that both vessels, the Niagara and Agamemnon, experienced the most violent southerly gales from the day they left Plymouth, and were driven as far north as latitude 54—much Brighter than the rendezvous—thus delaying their operations for several days. The Niagara behaved in all respects like a thorough sea-going vessel, and was none the worse for the storms. The Agamemnon, on the contrary, suffered severely. At one time the commander of the Agamemnon informed his first officer that they might as well prepare for a watery grave—he had no hopes of saving his vessel two hours longer so great was her straining. But the storm subsided at last, and the Agamemnon rode out the gale. A most unfortunate accident occurred on board, however, caused by the breaking loose of the 'cone' which held the cable in its position on the gun deck. The cable 'got adrift,' and was pitched about the deck, undoubtedly much to its damage. Two hundred tons of coal also 'got adrift on the same deck, and caused infinite trouble. Two seamen were injured by these accidents, one of them having an arm broken, and the other having a leg broken.

The two vessels and their tenders finally arrived on the ground, and on the morning of the 26th, a connection of the cable was effected; the weather being then sufficiently calm. The paying out of the cable had scarcely commenced before the wire snapped. After a few hours detention, another splice was made, and the steamers started, the Agamemnon and her consort for Ireland, and the Niagara and her companion for the American coast. Signals were kept up between the two fleets constantly, a message being transmitted every fifteen minutes; and all was going on well till about forty miles had been paid out when the electricians on board the Niagara discovered that the current was broken. This was at half past twelve a. m. of the 27th. The Niagara was immediately put about, and she had already reached the mid-ocean rendezvous, at eight o'clock, when first seen by the Alice Munroe.

It was believed on board the Niagara that the cause of the second breaking was a kink in the Agamemnon's wire caused by its disarrangement during the gale; but of this there is no certainty. Nothing was said to Mr. Richards about the working of the new 'brakes'; probably there had been no occasion to put them in use.

Mr. Field could not conceal his evident downheartedness; he certainly had occasion for much foreboding. The theory that June was the most propitious month for carrying out the enterprise was entirely destroyed; the vaunting boasts of the London *Times* as to superior capacities of the Agamemnon, were put to rest by the narrow escape of that vessel from going to pieces without the aid of rocks or icebergs; and the two breakings of the wire at the very beginning of the trial,—these were certainly enough to dismay the stoutest confidence.

The Alice Munroe parted from the company of the Niagara shortly after noon of the 27th, and lost sight of her about four o'clock. The Agamemnon had not come in sight. The Niagara had hoped that her consort would arrive in season to make another trial that day; but as the weather was foggy, though calm, it is hardly possible that anything was done on the 27th. For two days subsequently, the weather was quite calm and favorable, but after that there was another succession of heavy southerly gales, and the weather on the Banks, as experienced by the Alice Munroe, was exceedingly rough."

INTERESTING ITEMS.

A Blind Preacher.—In the parish church of Peterculter, Deeside, on Sabbath last, Mr. Corbet, a young man lately licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen, by authority of the Established Church, preached. He also conducted all the services, read the psalms to be sung, and also a chapter from Scripture, from copies printed in raised letters for the blind. As the fact of the blind preacher being to officiate had been previously known, there was a large attendance.

Curious.—In the course of a recent lecture in the theatre of the College of Surgeons, on Thursday week, Dr. Brown Sequard stated that he had found a spot in the brain, the point of the "pen" of the calamus scriptorius, not larger than the head of a pin, which, if touched, is instant death, as lightning. All the other parts may be cut or carved with impunity. The Royal Society has, on two different occasions, voted to this distinguished physiologist a portion of the Government grant of money entrusted to them to distribute in aid of scientific research.

The Quakers and the French Emperor.—The Society of Friends recently addressed a memorial to the Emperor of the French, remonstrating on the Negro Emigration scheme as a virtual revival of the African slave trade. A deputation of that body, comprising Josiah Foster, John Morland, and Robert Charlton, went to Paris to present it, but they were not able to obtain a personal interview. The document was left in the hands of Count Walewski, to be presented to the Emperor, and information was subsequently received that this was done.

The Damage at Cairo.—The whole loss by the flood will be inside of $60,000. The Illinois Central Railroad can make all their repairs for $7000. The loss to the citizens in furniture, buildings, and stock, will not exceed $50,000. The water rose above low water mark forty seven feet, which is two feet higher than ever before known by those who have lived in that vicinity since 1788.

Singular.—A curious freak of nature has been discovered at Hightstown, New Jersey, in the shape of a log containing three different kinds of wood—oak, maple, and hickory—all grown together in the most perfect manner. The outside of the log had the appearance of white oak, and only after cutting off the end could the strange amalgamation be discovered.

Hoarding Specie.—The *Cambridge Chronicle* says that a broker in Boston recently purchased of the heirs of an old man, ninety-four years of age, who died recently in Barnstable county, a quantity of coin which had evidently been hoarded up for many years. The deceased owned the house and land which he occupied, but it was not supposed that he owned much property besides, although he was known to be close and miserly, after his death his premises were searched, and specie of various kinds was found to the amount of fifty thousand dollars.

Straw Overshoes.—A patent has been granted to a citizen of Utica, New York, for a new kind of overshoe, designed for persons traveling by sea and land. It is made of braided straw. Straw being a non-conductor of heat, the natural warmth of the foot is retained, without being subject to the dampness by the foot sweating, the straw being porous, and neither absorbing the dampness or allowing it to pass off.

A Curious Growth.—The *Adrian* (Michigan) *Watchtower* says a curious instance of vegetable growth was exhibited, a few days ago in that city, on the bandage with which a broken and lacerated leg was dressed. In the morning, when the attendant came to examine the dressings, two mushrooms, perfect in form were found growing out from the leg.

Great Storm at Albany.—Albany, July 11.—To-day has been the hottest this season. Thermometer at 9 o'clock this morning stood at 97.—At 11½ o'clock we had one of the most severe rain storms ever seen in this vicinity. The streets were flooded for half an hour so as to be impassable. The wind blew a gale, uprooting trees and shattering chimneys and awnings. In the country a few miles from here they had a terrific hail storm, some of the hail-stones being larger than hens' eggs; and doing considerable damage to the crops. Two miles below the city a vessel loaded with lumber was blown ashore. Thermometer is now 70.

A Missouri Tornado.—Mr. Hand, who witnessed the approach of a recent whirlwind in Lexington and Cladwell Counties, Mo., describes it as being accompanied by a cloud which resembled a black wall along the horizon, when first seen. As it approached the air was filled with flying limbs, leaves and dust. Mr. Hand's waggon, lying in the track of the tempest, was seen to rise from the earth and sail along the air as if endowed with wings. The next instant the log house in which the spectator of this strange phenomenon was standing was enveloped in complete darkness in the bosom of the tempest. There were eighteen persons in it, whose cries and screams of terror, mingled with the rush of the falling timbers, were fearful to hear. The house was torn to pieces down to the third round of logs from the bottom, and yet, strange to say, of all those within its walls, not one was dangerously hurt, though several were bruised more or less. After the cloud had passed the flying waggon was found 300 yards from the spot where it had been first caught up, and the kitchen skillet was picked up sixty yards from the house. The storm was accompanied by a heavy fall of rain, which deluged low fields, forced creeks out of their banks, and swept away bridges.

The course of the whirlwind—for such it seems to have been—was from the northwest to the southeast. Everything in its path, houses, fences and trees, were overturned. In Caldwell County the dwelling of John George, a two and a half story house of stone, had its roof blown off and the walls crushed in. Mr. George was severely injured by the falling stones, having received ten serious bruises and cuts. His daughter, a girl of twelve years of age, had a thigh broken, and both legs broken below the knee besides. A son aged 15 years was blown from the house a distance of half a mile into the open prairie, without knowing how he got there.

The Late Disastrous Earthquake in Mexico.—The New Orleans papers of Thursday contain details of Mexican news. The earthquake in the valley of Mexico on the 8th of June, was very disastrous. The loss in the city of Mexico alone is estimated at $5,000,000. Churches, theatres, aqueducts, convents and Railroads were seriously damaged or entirely demolished. The villages along the valley were all more or less injured. The country seat of Gen. Gadden, late American Minister, was almost entirely demolished. Fifty lives were lost as far as known.

Decrease of the Population of New York.—One of the disastrous results of last year's commercial revulsion is very distinctly indicated by the New York Directory for 1858-9, just published by John F. Trow. According to that annual census of the permanent population of the City, which professes to give, with great accuracy, the names and residences of every business firm and house-keeper in it, there has been a considerable decrease of population since last year. The Directory now contains about 140,000 names, nearly 4,000 less than it contained in 1857. This falling off indicates a much greater loss, for only the heads of families and persons engaged in business as permanent residents are included in the count. It is the first year, we believe, since the last war with England, that a similar result has been shown.—[New York Times.

Proposal to Send Clergymen to Parliament.—Archdeacon Thorpe of Bristol has invited the clergy of that diocese to petition, now that the Jews are to be admitted to Parliament, that clergy of the Established Church may not be disqualified as members of the House of Commons. The prohibition does not extend to the House of Lords. In the first place, that assembly, commonly called "The Upper House," consists of lords spiritual and temporal. There are thirty of the former, and about four hundred and twenty of the latter—making the House of Lords four hundred and fifty in number, against six hundred and fifty-eight members in the House of Commons.

A writer in the New Orleans papers estimates the damage by the St. Charles Crevasse, to the sugar crop in six parishes in Louisiana, at 49,500 hhds. That is, where last year 72,000 hhds. were raised, there will this year be only 24,500.

It is understood that the Railway East will tap Truro early in the ensuing autumn, after which it is earnestly to be hoped that steps may be immediately taken to extend the road to Pictou.—*Halifax Journal.*