

NEWS.

THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC CANAL.—The engineers despatched by the French Government to take the requisite surveys for the projected canal across the Isthmus of Panama which is to join the two oceans, are stated in accounts from thence to have successfully accomplished their mission. The preferable point for the end of the canal on the Pacific side was selected at Vaca de Monte, a few miles west of the city of Panama, in the valley of the Caimito. On the Atlantic side, the Bay of Lemon was fixed upon as affording superior convenience for shipping to the port of Chagres. The total cost of construction of the canal was estimated at 125,000,000 francs, or say five millions sterling. The total length would be 76½ kilometers. There would be the necessity for cutting an "immense tunnel," which, for shipping, must form an important portion of the estimated expense. The depth of the canal was to be about seven yards, the width of the bottom twenty yards, and on the surface forty-five.—*1h.*

IN 1845, 1505 slaves were emancipated in the French colonies, making the total number set free since 1830, 45,247. Slavery is detested in France as an atrocious abomination. It is in course of abolition in its colonies, and in the course of a few years, France will be able to make the same glorious boast as England, that her flag floats over none but freemen, and that every slave placing his foot upon her soil instantly becomes free.

In Sweden fines are rigidly enforced against such as are intoxicated; and for the fourth offence a man is exposed in the parish church the following Sunday, deprived of his elective franchise, and disqualified from appearing as a representative.

RUSSIA.—The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in this country last year was 1371 pounds, of the value, in English money, of £3,160,000. Within the last five years the total quantity obtained has been 5949 pounds, of the value of £12,792,000. Of late the quantity of gold has greatly increased, with every prospect of the increase continuing. England hitherto has taken our gold, but now our government fears that England will not be able to take all the country produces, and it is a matter of some difficulty to know what is to be done with the remainder. There is a great scarcity of sailors in our merchant marine, and the government has, in consequence, afforded further facilities with respect to the employment of foreigners.

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES IN TURKEY.—Information has been received from New Leeds, Izmitz, on the shores of the Black Sea, in reference to the woollen manufactory which was commenced upwards of ten years ago by the Turkish government, under the management of a Leeds gentleman. Here the present Sultan has, at very great cost, built a wooden factory. The undertaking has proved successful, and the gentleman who went from Leeds to conduct it has received the unqualified approval of the sublime Porte, as well as some valuable tokens of the estimation in which he is held.

LA BELLE FRANCE.—It is stated in *La Reforme*, a French publication, that of thirty-three millions of people in France, twenty-seven millions do not drink wine; thirty-one millions never taste sugar; twenty millions never wear shoes; thirty-one millions never eat meat; eighteen millions eat no wheat bread; and four millions are clothed in rags.

WOLF FIGHT.—About a fortnight ago, a young man named William Jackson, in one of the back settlements, was returning in the evening from the woods, where he had spent part of the day shooting pigeons; having had pretty good sport, he went whistling carelessly along within about a mile of home, when he heard a crackling in the underwood behind him, and turning to learn the cause of the noise, he beheld three enormous wolves coming directly towards him. He saw no chance of escape, and summoning resolution, determined to fight it out as his only hope of escaping with life. Possessed of a good double-barrelled gun, charged with heavy shot, and a large pocket-knife, he threw down his game, placed his back against a large tree, and silently awaited the attack of the ferocious animals, who were now within a few yards of him; the wolves approached, and walked round him two or three times at a short distance, but seeing no chance of attack behind, they advanced in front of him, abreast, with manifest design in their movements to spring on him! when within a few feet, he levelled his gun and fired the two barrels off in succession, and two of the wolves fell, mortally wounded; the third sprang at him, whom he saluted on the head with a stunning blow from the butt-end of his piece; recovering immediately, he seized the young man by the leg, and both fell to the ground together in a deadly struggle, in which the wolf tore his antagonist severely in different parts of the body; feeling himself growing weak from loss of blood, the brave youth remembered his knife, which with some difficulty he drew from his pocket, and as a last effort, made one desperate plunge at the savage animal, and immediately fell exhausted and senseless at the foot of the tree, awfully mangled in the conflict, and covered with blood; when consciousness returned, he gazed wildly around him, apparently unconscious of the past, until the sight of his three enemies lying dead beside him, awakened his wandering senses to the reality, and his almost miraculous escape from death by his knife he found sticking firmly to the handle in the heart of his latest foe; with great difficulty he reached home, and alarmed his friends, who repaired to the spot with lights, and brought home the skins of the dead wolves, as trophies of what we may justly call an exploit. The hero of the fight, as we may rationally term him, has nearly recovered from his wounds, although he will bear to his grave the broad scars of his triumphant and deadly struggle with the three wolves.—*Ottawa Advocate.*

HORRIBLE CRUELTY IN MADAGASCAR.—The *Democratic Pacificque* publishes a long extract from a letter, giving a horrible account of the atrocities committed at Madagascar by the Hovas upon an English soldier whom they had captured. "They stripped him naked, and then five or six officers, with their knives, and in the midst of the circle which had been formed, began pricking him in the tenderest parts of his body. The soldier, who was extended on the ground, rose, as by an effort of heroism, and received their thrusts standing. At this time there were not less than five or six bleeding wounds of the sagay which he had received in battle, and the blood streamed from the new wounds inflicted by his assailants. His face was of a livid paleness, but it wore an air of contempt for his butchers.

The Hovas, while these horrors were proceeding, set up shouts of triumph. Seeing that the Englishman defied their blows, the monsters laid hold of him, and began to tear out the nails of his hands and feet. He bore even this bravely for a time, but at length sunk to the ground exhausted, and closed his eyes. The Hovas then cut off his fingers and different portions of his flesh, after which they proceeded to the last and most cruel operation. Having done this, they stabbed him in the heart and cut off his head. Finally, they put into their mouths portions of the flesh removed by the horrible operation which preceded the *coup de grace*, and went off triumphantly to fix the head on a stake." The following will give a correct idea of the ferocity and heinousness of the Hova tribe:—"A young Hova, who, many years ago, was sent to Paris to be educated at the Royal College of Louis-le-Grand, had returned to his country with such feelings as might have been expected to arise from a civilized education. He occupied a high station among his countrymen. On passing along the beach at Tamatave a few days ago, his eyes met the seventeen heads, English and French, which had been fixed on poles some time ago. Moved by a feeling of humanity, this young Hova took the heads down and buried them. Hardly was Queen Ranavola acquainted with this fact, but she ordered them to be dug up and replaced on fresh poles. The young Hova was shortly afterwards beheaded, and his head fixed on an eighteenth pole alongside the rest." So true it is, that the dark places of the earth are the habitations of cruelty. In that very island—Tahiti—in which the *Democratic Pacificque* is now published, less than half a century ago, similar atrocities were common; and that they are not so still, is due, not to the interference of civilized governments, but to the preaching of the word of God by a few feeble and friendless missionaries.

IRISHMEN ABROAD.—Mr. W. Brown, of Liverpool, the candidate for South Lancashire, in addressing a public meeting at Lancashire on the 10th inst., said—"There was one thing highly creditable to the Irish peasantry. From the nature of his business many bills were drawn upon him from the United States. Scarcely a packet arrived without bringing from 50 to 100 bills of from £1 to £20, being remittances from poor Irish emigrants to their relatives. This showed that they were a most affectionate people, and we must, if possible, find out their wants, and make them as happy as we were in Great Britain.

ANOTHER PREACHER ARRESTED.—The Hagerstown News states that on Sunday week an itinerant colored preacher, named Wilmer, was arrested at that place, to answer the charge of convening tumultuous meetings of the slaves in that place contrary to the law in such cases provided. The reverend gentleman was brought before Justice Williams, by whom he was required to give bail in the sum of \$100 for his appearance at the next term of the Court. Several of his colored friends appeared, and very promptly entered the bail.

CONTINENTAL CANALS.—Europe has just acquired another channel of navigation destined to be of the highest importance to its commerce. The Rhine and the Danube, and consequently the Black and North Seas, are united by a canal, opened a few months since, and which permits a vessel from Rotterdam or London to transport its cargo across Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, and Wallachia, as far as Trebizond and Constantinople. This canal, bearing the name of the Lewis Canal (*Ludwigskanal*), has been executed by the King of Bavaria. The canal takes its rise at Bamberg, and falls at Kelheim into the Danube. The French canal of the Two-Seas joins the Mediterranean with the ocean; the canal of Hulslein unites the Baltic to the North Sea; and, lastly, the Lewis Canal places in communication the North Sea with the Black Sea.

A TIPPERARY MAN A NEW ZEALAND CHIEF.—It is stated that Heki, the New Zealand chief, who has given such opposition to the British authority in that colony, is a native of the county of Tipperary. His real name is Hickey. He emigrated from Ireland some years ago, and was shipwrecked on the coast of New Zealand, and taken into the interior of the island by a hunting party of the natives, and sold as a slave to one of the chiefs, who adopted him as his son, got him tattooed, and gave him his daughter in marriage. On the death of the old chief, his Irish son-in-law was chosen as his successor, on account of his skill in war. Previous to his elevation to the high rank he now holds, he changed his name from Hickey to Heki, the latter harmonising better with the language of the aborigines.

It is calculated that there are 966,000,000 souls in the world; of whom 153,000,000 are in Europe, 156,000,000 in Africa, 500,000,000 in Asia, 150,000,000 in America, and 7,000,000 in the Islands of the Pacific. Five parts of the population are Christians, six are Mahometans, eighteen are idolators, and the Jews form one part.

The Pope had issued his political amnesty on the 17th July, thus setting at liberty or recalling from exile upwards of 2000 persons who had been involved in political offences. This act of clemency had been hailed by the citizens of Rome with great rejoicings.

Several nuns have gone to Cairo to redeem Ethiopian women, forty of whom they have already ransomed and sent to Chambrey to be educated in religion and such worldly knowledge as is calculated to enable them to earn a respectable livelihood.

At a public meeting of the Sunday School Union, in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, it was stated that 2,600 children are receiving the blessing of Sunday instruction, from that and similar institutions.

The Cologne musical festival will be a monster concert, as no less than 2,000 vocal performers will sing together. Mendelssohn is to direct, and the festival is to be held in one of the old classic halls, which can contain 6,000 persons.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.—The corner stone of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto was laid, on Saturday, the 22nd instant, with more than ordinary display and ceremony. A grand procession formed at the Government House, at half-past 2 o'clock, and proceeded from thence to the Asylum ground, where the ceremony was performed.

CHINA.—The five high Mandarins of Amoy invited all the Missionaries, those from England and America, to a public dinner on the nineteenth of February, an honor never shown to any of the mercantile foreign residents.