faintly and indistinctly, yet well defined to the practised and keen eye of a woodsman.

Custa, who had brought his rifle into the garden, began quietly to load it. He had cleaned it some hours before, ere he had taken up a book.

'Custa,' said the father, who, alone with the young Wyandot, did not hesitate to manifest his deep anxiety, 'what mean you to do? Can I be of any use?'

'No!' replied the Wyandot, solemnly; 'but trust to me. Miss Amy shall rest by her sister's side the day after to-morrow, or Custa will be dead.'

'I know your devotion, mysterious and inexplicable as it is,' said the Judge; 'but oh, Custa! excuse a father's anguish. If the Indians are roused I have every reason to fear the worst. Do you hope?'

'Custa has found salt and meat on your board,' continued Custa, solemnly; 'he has slept in your house, and the fair girls have taught him wonderful things—to read in a book—and Custa knows that all the pale-faces are not wicked. 'Let the white-leaved oak, then, be glad—the smile of the fawn shall be seen in the house ere the third sun has set.'

The judge took his hand and was about to reply, when the Indian drew his hand away, clutched his rifle, levelled it, aimed at the very edge of the palisade, and fired.

'What is it?' exclaimed the judge, while the whole mass of individuals in the block rushed out—Jane, Harvey, Charles, the squire, and all the hunters, block and farm assistants.

'Go look who is in the block-house,' said the young Indian, as he calmly re-loaded his rifle; 'you will look and none will be found.'

Harrod, Harvey and two others bounded towards the block-house with waving torches, opened the door, entered, and then came rushing forth again with wild and passionate gestures.

'The nest is there, but the hawk and the crow have fled,' said Custa, quietly, he not having moved from the spot where they had left him.

'They are gone,' replied Harvey, furiously, 'clean gone, and yet the doors were all fast.'

'Who is the snake?' asked Custa, quietly.

The whole group shuddered and crowded up closer to the Indian, as the fearful truth enforced itself upon them that there was a traitor in the camp. None spoke for an instant, and each man and woman looked at his or her neighbor with a glance of awful meaning. The demon of suspicion—that horrid fiend of evil, which is more blasting to the soul's peace than myriad petty ills—had taken up its abode in that charming resting-place, by the waters of the pleasant river, and within echo of the majestic forest trees.

The still night, the gloom, the sighing breeze, the vague darkness on the opposite bank, the probable presence of enemies, and those enemies the loping Indian, with reeking scalps around his waist, his ear attuned to such music as the cries of dying children, the shrieks of the victim at the stake, the wild, passionate entreaties of mothers asking mercy for their innocent babes, carried a pang of horror to every bosom. The ruthlessness, the inhumanity, the glory of the Indians over the massacre of the whites, the awful scenes so common on the borders—homes pillaged, whole families destroyed, or when young carried into captivity worse than death—were things familiar as the dawn of day to those on the outskirts of civilisation, however little note may be taken of them by the moralist or the philosopher, regretting that the red-skins are falling like the leaves of the tree before the wind, ere they are ripe and ready.

The destruction of the Indian tribes, their decay and dispersion, are things to be mourned over; but the agonies, the bitter tears, the widowed men and women, the murdered babes, the scalped wretches left for dead, who were living, the series of awe-striking tragedies that mark the settlement of what has fearfully been called the Bloody Ground, are things which should never be forgotten, which should always be taken into account when we examine the colonisation of these states in an historical point of view.

The voice of the judge first broke the horrid silence of that panic-stricken group.

'There is a snake, Custa,' he said, in accents that trembled with agitation and alarm; 'there is a snake in my house—a Judas, a traitor, who eats of my bread and drinks of my cup, and yet has sold me. Woe unto him when the day comes that his sin is discovered!'

A profound silence prevailed for a few moments, after these earnest and threatening words were uttered by the judge, whose feelings of anguish at the thoughts of the dangers his children had to endure are scarcely to be described in words. None ventured to speak for a moment, and then the words uttered were by no means cheering.

'The time has come,' said Custa, solemnly, 'that the dove must be sought for.'

And he turned to Harvey and whispered a few words in Deleware—a dialect both understood.

He then moved silently away, walked to the water's edge, sat down on a log close to the river, and gazed fixedly at the opposite forest. He sat, however, deep within the shadow of the stockade.

'Custa says,' began Harvey, 'that if you would rest safe this night, you will let two sentries mount guard together, each man treating the other as if he were the traitor.'

'His advice is good, and shall be followed,' said the judge. 'Woe is me! I would rather have given them a bag of dollars and a blessing, and sent them away to tell our number and weakness, than have this curse upon our house. But the Indian is right, and it must be.'

'He says,' replied Harvey, 'that the dogs——'

'Good heavens!' cried the judge, 'the dogs never barked.'

'The negro fed them, and they never bark at those who come from within—and he bade me say the dogs will still keep the water—look you well to the stockade. Harrod we all know, and it would be well if he scouted outside. Custa says he could see every inch of the line if he lay where the grave of his mother gives a shadow on the plain.'

All shuddered, for they guessed the awful motive of the Indian.

'The Indian is about right,' said Harrod, solemnly; 'that is judgmatical and cute—it's just, I think, and proper, seeing neither he nor no man can tell who the traitor is—least wise he's right—he means right up and down this: Bill Harrod 'ud never lie close to his mother's grave if he meant any sly Injun artifyces.'

'Perhaps, honest Harrod, he did mean all this,' replied Harvey; 'but he did not mean adything harsh. When things have come to this pass, a man must be careful.'

'Custa is right, and Bill Harrod is the man as says so—there's a precious creeping, crawling snake somewhere, and that's a fact. This child wud just like to see his fangs, that's all—he'd extract 'em in a coon's whistle or a bear's jig, which is moderate time. It ryles me, too, to be taken for a low sarpent as never went no higher in creation than a sink-hole; but I'm your man, judge, whin you're ready, I am.'

'You shall go, Harrod,' said the judge; 'and though I would as soon suspect my own son—yes, I say it, Harrod, my own son—my duty just now is to act as if I suspected everybody. But I should like to say one word to the Wyandot.'

All turned to the log where they had last seen him; but not a trace or sign of him was to be discovered. He had disappeared so mysteriously that none could explain his departure, except by some wild agency like that which had enabled the Shawnee and the black to escape from the block-house.

Again there was a hush and a whisper, and then the crowing of a cock was distinctly heard, at an hour of the night when cocks do not usually crow even in American woods, which are supposed by some to be very different from any other forests in creation.

''Tis Custa,' said Harvey, with a low laugh. 'I am but a white man, and yet I must join him as mysteriously. Stand back and let me go as he has told me.'

The bold artist took his gun, bade adieu to all, and glided up close to the palisade. Along this they saw him go, with the step of a ghost, until he was close to the water. He was seen no more until about five minutes later, when a canoe was noticed floating along the stream apparently without any human agency, in an opposite direction to that by which the fugitives had disappeared. In another instant it was invisible—hid by the heavy gloom cast by the tall trees upon the slow-moving waters.

'God bless them,' said the judge, fervently; 'and may they bring me back my child.'

'God bless them!' sobbed Jane, of whom, with all the solemn and stately mien of an Indian warrior, Harvey had avoided taking leave.

'God bless them!' repeated Charles and all the rest, save the squire, who shrugged his shoulders and turned away, after announcing his intention of watching all night with young Moss in the top room of the block-house.

This was readily acquiesced in by the judge, and every arrangement was made to allow them to pass the night with satisfaction to themselves. Of course, in those days, this meant that they took a goodly supply of those creature-comforts which are now, to a certain extent, prohibited by legislative enactment in some of the very places where then they were indulged in to such an extent.

Harrod took his rifle, called a companion to his side, shouldered his arms, opened the postern gate, and sallied forth to that mound where the grave of his mother stood up from the surface of the plain, a sad and solitary memorial of the first and only death in that locality.

Shadows flitted about that night; there was hooting of owls, and the melancholy cry of the whip-poor-will, and the sighing of the forest trees; there were strange sounds in the air and on the waters; but, contrary to the expectation of most persons in that place, there was no interruption to the slumbers of those who had lain down to rest within the stockade of Moss House.

The Herald.

Wednesday, September 6, 1865.

BARRACKS, TROOPS, &c.

It is disagreeable to be always fault-finding; but, however unpleasant the task, it is sometimes necessary to discharge it. When we view the actions of the party in power, first, in selling the old Barrack Property in opposition to the wishes of the citizens of Charlottetown, and subsequently in sending for soldiers, purchasing a new site and erecting barracks thereon, we cannot remain silent without charging ourselves with a dereliction of duty. Before the advent of the present party to power, the old barracks contributed a fair share to the general revenue of the Colony in the way of rents, and no spot within the vicinity of Charlottetown was so admirably situated, either as a parade-ground or public park, and to hear the Government organ No. 1 now talking of appropriating a portion of Government Farm to that purpose, is simply ridiculous. We would far rather see the Government Farm as it is, than placed in the hands of any Government, whether Conservative or Liberal, which might, in order to please a few of its friends, or to increase the revenue, sell the proposed "Victoria Park" again to private individuals for building lots. We never could understand the profound wisdom which illumined the caverns of Col. Gray's intellect in selling the Barrack Property; and, certainly, when viewed in the light of recent events, the compliments tendered to him by the *Islander* for that questionable piece of statesmanship must appear ironical in the extreme. As to the new Barrack site, we must say that it is the most dismal spot that could be selected for such a purpose—all view of the harbor being obstructed on the one side by the woods on Government Farm, and being almost equally objectionable on all other sides, the site on the Brighton Road is far better located for a penitentiary than a barracks; and we feel assured that Her Majesty's officers and soldiers have no reason to compliment the Government for their judgment or taste in the selection of Barrack grounds. We know not whether any member of the Government had any interest in the ground in question, but we do know that the name of one prominent member of the Executive is freely mixed up in the Barrack contract, concerning which we promised to offer a few remarks this week. According to the statements of one of the parties tendering, as also of those of another master-builder who was desirous of tendering, the circumstances connected therewith are not free from suspicions of foul play. We know that under Col. Gray's administration it was a common practice to reject the tenders of all but those of the avowed friends of the Government, without any regard to the terms of the tender; but in this case we are happy to know that such a charge cannot be made. The public, however, can judge if there is any cause of complaint from the following circumstances. On or about the 24th ult. handbills, bearing the signature of the Col. Secretary, were issued from the office of the Queen's Printer, setting forth, among other things, that tenders would be received at the Secretary's office until 12 o'clock, noon, on Tuesday, the 29th August, for the building of a barracks, the plans and specifications of which could be seen at the office of the Superintendent of Public Works. In accordance with this notice, Mr. Thomas Essory called at the Superintendent's office, but it was always closed, nor could he, up to the time limited for tendering, succeed in finding Thomas Alley, Esq. Mr. Essory was thus debarred from tendering, and his complaints, which were both loud and long, are, under the peculiar facts of the case, reasonable and well-founded,—irrespective of the circumstance that he has always been a zealous Conservative and a supporter of the Government. If Mr. Alley was unable to attend his office personally between the 24th and the 29th ult., he should have employed a substitute in his absence to exhibit the plans of the barracks or give such information as might be within his power to parties desirous of tendering for the work. Messrs. Lowe and Barnard were more fortunate than Mr. Essory, in seeing the plans, etc.; and, after inspecting the ground and making their calculations, which were necessarily placed at a high figure in consequence of the increased price of labor and material which would ensue from the limited time in which the work was to be performed, a joint tender was made out and taken by Mr. Lowe to the Secretary's office, at 12 o'clock on Tuesday, the 29th ult. No other tender was in before theirs, nor was any other received at the Secretary's office for twenty minutes after 12 o'clock, when Mr. Lowe left. Now, we have heard that some time ago, Mr. Benj. Williams' tender for a public job was rejected, although the lowest, on the ground that it was some minutes behind the time specified in the notice calling for tenders; but in this case the Government may be justified in disregarding a few minutes in point of time, where the difference was so great between the parties tendering—namely, £2,300. That the public interests will be *liable* to suffer in this Barrack business, is evident from the following considerations. The Superintendent of Public Works, who has secured the job, whether fairly or by favor we do not venture to say, is a paid official of the Government, and it is questionable whether any bonds limiting him to the 15th of October for the completion of the work, will be entered into between him and his employers. Neither is it likely that if that time is exceeded, he will forfeit a penalty either great or small. The Superintendent has also prepared the plans, but who is to inspect his work after completion, or to certify that the work has been finished in accordance with the plans submitted to Messrs. Barnard and Lowe? We do not say that Mr. Alley will not strictly fulfil the obligations which would be imposed on another, but we state what must be apparent to every one, that if no penalty attaches to a non-performance of the work within the time specified, and if the original plans can be varied or departed from by the contracting Party, it may in the end be discovered that the tender of Messrs. Barnard and Lowe was the *lowest* after all. In conclusion we would add, that we care not what Party is in power where tendering for public work is concerned, for in this the utmost good faith and honesty ought always to be observed, irrespective of party predilections, aims, or favoritism.

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND DOWNING STREET DICTATION.

Late New Brunswick papers contained the subjoined Minute of the Executive Council of that Province. As the Minute involves the question of Colonial Legislative independence in its relation to Downing Street dictation, we have no doubt the document will be read with much interest at the present time, when the policy of the Mother Country appears to be dictated by a few self-interested and ambitious Colonial politicians, who have succeeded by misrepresentation of the most indefensible character, to gain the point thus far. The Minute is at once an admirable piece of concise reasoning, free from obscurity or ambiguity, and a manly, out-spoken, yet respectful and loyal defence of the rights of British Colonists. As an humble member of the Colonial community, we feel obligated to the New Brunswick Government for the noble stand they have taken, and we think the vast majority of our fellow-colonists, whether opposed to Confederation or not, share with us this sentiment of thankfulness, to those truly independent gentlemen now forming the Executive Council of New Brunswick, for the position they have taken. So long as they maintain that position, and are actuated by the unselfish desire to protect in defiance of all influences the rights and privileges of their Colonial brethern, they shall command the respect of every truly independent Colonist. The disappointed schemer and the unreflecting theorist, may denounce the New Brunswick Government, for their unflinching independence; but time will demonstrate, that in rapping Secretary Cardwell over the knuckles for his unnecessary zeal and haste in attempting to force upon the Maritime Provinces a scheme of which he disapproved some months ago—as can be seen on reference to his correspondence with Governor McDonnell last Fall—they acted the part of truly loyal subjects. The people of these Provinces are now loyal enough; but we would not be answerable for that loyalty if the coercive councils of Canadian politicians and their satellites, dictated through self-interest or misapprehension, were to be put in force, and the constitution of even the smallest of the Provinces wrested from it. Rumblings in the political atmosphere are now to be heard—the characters of which are not to be mistaken; and, however much we may wish to conceal the fact from ourselves, we believe that a certain point has only to be reached, which will convince the present Cabinet of England, that the folly of Lord North's administration has been repeated in the present reign, while the people of the Maritime Provinces are willing and desirous to do all they possibly can to maintain "British Connection," by erecting fortifications, and supporting a force of volunteers and militiamen, yet, it is folly to assert that they experience the same undefinable terrors of American invasion which a few ultra loyal and possibly *disenterested* politicians pretend to feel; nor are they prepared to assume burdens altogether beyond their capacity, to repel a foe which has ever proved a profitable and kind friend, merely to maintain the Hon. T. D. McGee, *et hoc genus*, in state of semi-royal dignity.

Although the Americans have proved advantageous neighbors to us in times passed, as they are likely to continue to be in the future, and have been mainly instrumental in "building up" these Provinces—and although the United States have proved an extensive field wherein vast numbers of British Americans have found, and now find, profitable employment,—and even although an invasion would inflict no injury and might possibly do much good, yet the spirit of loyalty and attachment to monarchial institutions which characterise the inhabitants of British North America, are sufficiently powerful to subdue any inclinations towards absorption with the neighboring Republic. At the same time, and notwithstanding Mr. Cardwell's "huffish" reply, we can truly say with the Government of New Brunswick that "a large majority of the people of this Province are opposed to any closer political connection with Canada than that afforded by the tie of a common allegiance to the British Crown"—and upon those who seek to force a closer connection will fall the consequences which such an unwise course must necessarily entail. We trust the New Brunswick Government will never forfeit the confidence they have gained by the noble stand they have taken in the following

MINUTE OF COUNCIL.

The Executive Council in Committee have had under consideration a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 24th June, lately communicated to them by Your Excellency.

From the language of this Despatch, it would be natural to infer that it related to some scheme for affecting an entire Legislative and Administrative Union of the British North American Provinces, which has not yet been made public; but words used in the concluding paragraph, taken in connection with various other circumstances, lead the Committee to conclude that it is intended to refer to the Resolutions in favor of a Federation of the various Provinces of British North America, agreed to by the Canadian Parliament at its last Session. These Resolutions have already been submitted to the people of New Brunswick, at the time and in the manner which the advocates of the scheme themselves selected. The Legislature was dissolved, and the people were enabled to pronounce their decision on this most important subject in the regular constitutional mode; and, after ample consideration, refused by an overwhelming majority to adopt the scheme; not because it was novel, as Mr. Cardwell has been led to suppose, but because they were unable to discover anything in it that gave promise of either moral or material advantage to the Empire, or to themselves; or that afforded a prospect of improved administration or increased prosperity.

The spirit of loyalty which has always animated the people of New Brunswick, and of which they have on many occasions given proof, is still as ardent as ever; and whenever it becomes necessary they are prepared to place all their means and resources at the absolute disposal of the Imperial Government; but they cannot believe that the contemplated confederation would either increase their strength or render it more available.

A large majority of the people of this Province are opposed to any closer political connection with Canada than that afforded by the tie of a common allegiance to the British Crown, and consider that such a union would have a decided tendency to weaken that dependance on the British Empire which they so highly prize, and would lead to the neglect and injury of their local interests; in which opinion the Committee believe that the people of the other Maritime Provinces fully concur; but even those who desire a Union must fail to discover in the Resolutions adopted at Quebec, any provision whatever for the accomplishment of a fusion which, in the words of Mr. Cardwell's Despatch, would unite in one Government all the British North American Provinces, and form a Province uniting in itself all the population and all the resources of the whole.

The Committee, of course, cannot suppose that the British Government share the ignorance with regard to the history and character of the Federal scheme which appears to prevail among the British public, and which induces the "Times" newspaper of 20th June to observe that "the two Canadas have put aside their ancient jealousies, and are ready to meet in a common Legislature," in apparent forgetfulness of the fact that they have so met for the last five and twenty years, and very probably without any consciousness on the part of the writer of the article that the jealousies between the Canadas, said to have been put aside, are avowedly the cause of the late proposal; and that its authors, in event of the failure, are pledged to restore to Upper and Lower Canada a great measure of the local independence surrendered by them in 1840.

The resolutions agreed to by the leading Canadian politicians in the month of June, 1864, as the basis of the formation of the existing Cabinet, and adopted solely under the pressure of local exigencies, contain the statement that "on consideration of the step most advisable for the final settlement of *sectional difficulties*, the remedy must be sought in the adoption of the federal principle," and provide that if such negotiations were unsuccessful, they would be "prepared to pledge themselves to legislation during the next Session of Parliament, for the purpose of remedying existing difficulties, by introducing the federal principle for Canada alone."

It is perfectly clear that "the existing difficulties" were the motive and groundwork of the scheme, and that the federal union was only sought as a means of separating the Canadas—a separation which the Canadian Government are pledged in all events immediately to effect—a fact which perhaps sufficiently accounts for the eagerness with which they seek to force its immediate adoption upon unwilling communities; for they are well aware that did the plan avowedly contemplate only the separation of the Canadas, it would be impossible even speciously to present it to the Imperial Government as in any manner a scheme of union.

Mr. Cardwell is perfectly right in supposing that the views and wishes of Great Britain are entitled to great weight; and they will ever be received with respectful attention in this Province; but the Committee feel certain that if there be one view with regard to the Colonies which is more clearly and distinctly held than another, by Her Majesty's Government and the people of England; if there be one wish on their part with respect to which there can neither be hesitation nor doubt, it is that the people of this Province, and of others enjoying through the wise liberality of England, Parliamentary institutions and free self-government, should act in reference to their own affairs as seems to themselves most consistent with their duty to their Sovereign and most conducive to their own interests.

To confer on this Province the right of self-government would have been mockery, if, in consequence of its claims to deference as a protector, the wish of the Mother Country was in all cases to be followed whenever expressed, whatever the opinion of those to whom the power of judging has been solemnly entrusted by the Sovereign and Legislature of Great Britain, and who, being on the spot and fully conversant with the subject, considered themselves not unable to judge with respect to their own affairs. When a wish is expressed by Her Majesty's Government, it will be received with that deference which is due to suggestions emanating from so high a source, and will be considered with an anxious desire to meet the views of Her Majesty's advisers; but if such views should unfortunately not coincide with the views of those on whom alone the responsibility of action in the Province falls, the Committee feel assured that Her Majesty's Government will expect and desire that the Government of this Province should act according to their own convictions of right, and in conformity with the sentiments of the people they represent.

(Signed) R. D. Wilmot,
T. W. Anglin,
Geo. L. Hatheway,
A. H. Gillmor, Jr.
Bliss Botsford,
W. H. Odell,
R. Hutchison.

Council Chamber, Fredericton, July 12, 2865.

Downing Street, 4th August, 1864.

Sir,—I have received your Despatch of the 15th July, in answer to mine of the 24th June.

It might, perhaps, have been well, that that portion of the Executive Council who are in New Brunswick, should have allowed the communication made to the Colony by Her Majesty's Government to be generally known and considered before they returned so decided a reply.

The first paragraph of the Minute seems to require no other notice than the observation that my Despatch enclosed for the information of the Legislature of New Brunswick the record of what had passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Ministers of Canada on the subject of Confederation; and it was therefore impossible for any one to misunderstand the reference, or to suppose that it applied to another and a different scheme.

Notwithstanding therefore your Despatch and its enclosures, I still confidently anticipate that the serious consideration of the Province of New Brunswick will be given to the earnest and friendly suggestions which, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, it has been my duty to convey to them through you.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) Edward Cardwell.

SIGNIFICANT!

We clip the following paragraph from the *Islander* of Friday last, and we may say, in reference thereto, that for reasons which must be obvious enough, we are not surprised at the announcement therein made. We trust this week's *Gazette* will contain the correspondence between the Government of the Colony and the Colonial Office in the matter of the troops now stationed here; for, we believe it will confirm the impression abroad that the Island and the recent so-called tenant disturbances have been misrepresented in order to obtain the approval of the Colonial Minister. Let there be no delay and no secresy in the matter, in order that the people may judge for themselves whether or not they have received fair-play at the hands of the Government of the day, in obtaining the sanction of Mr. Cardwell for the employing of troops to collect rents, as we are led to infer from the following:—

"We have understood that His Honor the Administrator of the Government, by the Mail of last evening, received a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, approving of the course pursued by the Executive Government in arming the Special Constables, and sending for the Troops."

We learn that the Hon. J. C. Pope, President of the Executive Council, has been nominated by his colleagues a Delegate on the part of this Island to the "Confederate Council" which will shortly meet in Quebec. We have as much confidence in him as in any other member of the Government.

It is said that more desertions among the soldiers stationed here took place last week. Who "enticed" them to do so?—"Who struck Billy Patterson?"—is a question to which we might receive as satisfactory a reply.

J. R. Bourke, Esq., denies that a purchase of Lord Melville's Estate has been effected. The more the pity, we say.

The Old Alleghanians.—*A great Musical Treat.*—The celebrated Alleghanians, Vocalists and Swiss Bell Ringers, lately returned from a tour round the world, are coming to our city. They will appear on Friday, Saturday and Monday evenings next at Temperance Hall. Every one, "with music in his soul," will attend.

The following is an extract from a letter written by the Rev. J. Griffith Dunn, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Trinidad, to a friend in Jamaica, West Indies:

"The pieces selected were chaste, as are all the pieces performed by these artists, and the sentiments of a pure and elevating character. Above all other popular amusements, music should receive the liberal patronage of every community. Its benign influences stop not alone with amusement, but tunes the mind and feelings for a higher, purer and more lasting enjoyment. It prepares the recipient alike for religious devotion and for the more refined enjoyments of social and domestic life. In this light the Alleghanians preeminently command the respect and patronage of the public."

To Correspondents.—"Freeholder" has been received and will appear next week. Its great length and the late hour at which it was received are the causes of its non-appearance this week.

☞ Our Agent will, during the latter part of this month, take a trip among our subscribers to the Westward. We hope that those of them who have not for the past three years given us anything, will not forget us this time. We have a large outlay weekly for wages and paper, and unless our small but honest claims are paid, we cannot be expected to subsist. We trust, therefore, that our friends will hold themselves in readiness, and send our agent home with a pocket full of money and his heart rejoicing.

LATEST FROM EUROPE!

Arrival of the "Africa."

Halifax, Aug. 30.

The R. M. Steamship *Africa* arrived last night from Liverpool, via Queenstown, bringing dates to the 19th inst. Among the passengers were the Hon. Provincial Secretary of this Province, and the Hon. Attorney General of New Brunswick.

The cholera had entirely disappeared from Alexandria. It has, however, been raging at Ancona. Two delegates of public security at Ancona had been dismissed for cowardice in running away from their posts in alarm at the approach of the pestilence.—Although it is now the unhealthy season, yet no case of cholera had yet occurred at Rome, where the authorities are making energetic sanitary preparations to meet the emergency. Great fears were entertained of the infection reaching Turin. At Genoa great alarm was prevailing, and, by order of the Bishop of the diocese, solemn devotions had been celebrated in the splendid Lady Chapel of the Cathedral. Equal alarm was prevalent in the kingdom of Naples, where the scourge had already made itself.

Prince Alfred, having by family agreement, executed in the lifetime of the late Prince Consort, been duly appointed heir-persumptive to the Ducal Throne of Saxe-Coburg Gotha in the event of his uncle the reigning Duke's dying without issue, a solemn proclamation of his Royal Highness' majority and capacity to reign was made in the Ducal Palace at Coburg on the 6th inst., by order of the Duke,—the Prince having that day completed his 21st year.

The recent unsettled weather has excited some apprehension for the harvest. Reaping operations have, to some extent, been delayed by the rains; and though no serious damage is believed to have been yet done, it is impossible to say what evil effects may accrue unless there be an early return and a continuance of sun shine.

The sanitary condition of London is not unsatisfactory. The deaths last week were 1,374, which is very little above the corrected decimal average. In the same period the births amounted to 2,042, or nearly 200 in excess of the corrected average for the last ten years. The excess of births over deaths were 668 last week.

The cattle plague is the great topic of public discussion at the present moment. When the finest flocks and herds in the world, without comparison, are dying by hundreds in a few hours, there is abundant ground for the alarm and even panic, that prevails among the graziers, the stock-breeders, and salesmen, to say nothing of the public, who are already feeling sorely the enhanced price of meat and butter. Every newspaper we open teems with articles, extracts, and letters, upon the plague; but whether the pestilence has been imported or generated within our own shores is still a mystery.

A shocking attempt at murder was made in the Chatham Barracks at the end of last week. A sapper in the Royal Engineers, a young man named Currie, deliberately discharged his rifle from his dormitory window at Major de Vere whilst that officer was speaking to some other officers on the parade ground. The ball entered the back immediately below the right shoulder, and, proceeding in an oblique direction, passed through the lungs and came out a little below the left breast. It struck the gravel and rebounded over the heads of several soldiers who were standing near the spot, fortunately without injuring any one except the victim of the assassin's malice. It is feared that the wound will prove fatal. Major de Vere is a highly-distinguished officer, and served gallantly throughout the campaign in the Crimea. The cause of Currie's animosity to him is that he ordered him into confinement not long since for some misconduct or neglect of duty. Since the sad event the assassin has maintained a dogged indifference,—occasionally expressed his regret that he did not at once accomplish his design, and saying that the Major deserved his fate. These murderous attempts of soldiers upon their officers—become so common of late,—point to the existence of some serious defect in our military organization.

FRANCE.

According to the accounts published in the French papers, the journey of the Emperor Napoleon to the camp at Chalons was a perfect series of ovations. On every station on the line of railway, crowds of the inhabitants cheered the Emperor as he passed; and wherever the train stopped the Imperial visitor was besieged by an excited throng, whose enthusiastic welcome testified to the popularity of the Emperor in the Provinces.

The Empress of the French and the Prince Imperial have joined the Emperor at the camp of Chalons, where grand military spectacles are of daily occurrence. The period for the return of the Court to Paris is not yet fixed.

The British fleet are at Cherburg, returned the visit paid by the French at Plymouth. The reception of our iron-clads and tars has been, *malgre* the bad weather, all that an Englishman could desire. On this, as upon all other occasions, the Emperor's courtesy and admirable tact have been exhibited. To compliment his Navy's guests he has made the English fleet masters of his stoutest coast strong-