

Be careful of your habits; these make the man. And they require long and careful culture ere they grow to a second nature. Good habits I speak of. Bad ones are most easily acquired—they are spontaneous weeds that flourish rapidly and rankly without care or culture.

News of the Week.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

English dates to the 19th—10 days later than previous advices—have been received by the Galway steamer *Hibernia*, which arrived here yesterday afternoon with the mails for St. Johns, N. F. The *Hibernia* had 294 passengers, and left again for New York at half-past 6 last evening.

The *Daybladet* of Copenhagen (official paper) says—The ultimatum of Austria and Prussia, delivered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Saturday, demands the retraction of the Constitution of the 18th of November before this day, and the temporary return to the status quo existing before its promulgation. What will happen if Denmark complies with this unjustifiable and brutal demand they do not state. If, on the other hand the ultimatum should not be complied with, they threaten all the misfortune at their command, commencing with the withdrawal of their Ambassadors.

The Post's Paris correspondent says—From Copenhagen we learn that the English Government has let it be understood that material aid will, after all, be afforded if the German forces cross the Elber.

The Times' City Article referring to the delicate position of affairs, says:—

The news of the summary notification sent to Denmark by Austria and Prussia, for the withdrawal of the obnoxious constitution, on pain of immediate occupation of Schleswig, produced further depression on all the markets yesterday, which was aggravated by the increasing intensity of the drain of gold from the Bank of France, and the probability that its action on this side may induce an early return of the rate of discount to 8 per cent.

The latest despatches state that the envoys of Prussia and Austria have left Copenhagen, the Danish government have refused to accede to their demand. War seems inevitable.

The *Diritto* publishes an address from Caribaldi announcing the formation of a committee to promote Italian union. He invites the Italians to rally round this centre and to recognise its authority. The *Diritto* has been seized, and the case will be brought before the Courts.

A curious and interesting discovery

has recently been made in California of a pyramid very similar in construction to the Egyptian pyramids, only very much smaller. The stones composing the courses average six feet in length, and from one foot to three feet in thickness.

SOLDIERS' CONCERTS.—Arrangements are being made by Mr. G. W. Martin to give, during the winter, a series of free concerts to the soldiers garrisoned in London. The choir will consist of 700 members of the National Choral Society, and the concerts will be given in Exeter Hall.

CURIOUS FREAK OF LIGHTNING.—The lightning lately produced a curious effect upon the Church of St. Aphrodise, in the town of Brriers, in the south of France. It struck the roof and went through it. No great damage was done to the roof; but it lighted all the wax candles placed in the choir and at the altar; and when the attendant at the church opened it in the morning he found all the candles at the altar lighted just as they are when grand mass is celebrated.

MAORI INGENUITY.—The natives of New Zealand are hard pressed for powder during the present war, and somehow or other they either procure it or they manufacture a substitute. The latest instance of their cleverness was discovered when a native woman offered a sovereign for a quantity of little trap eyelet holes, such as ladies use in lacing, and on inquiry it turned out that the Maories required them for percussion caps having found that the top of a common lucifer match inserted in the centre of these eyelet-holes answered every purpose.

Green peas were gathered, in the latter part of December, from an open garden at Ventnor, in the Isle of Wight.

The Royal Agricultural Society will hold their next meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in July. The amount offered in prizes is £3370, being an increase of £865 over the list for this year.

The two large flower-beds in the private garden of the Tuileries lately contained several roses in full bloom. Gardeners state that such a phenomenon has not been witnessed since the beginning of the present century.

The Oxford Chronicle says that the largest cake ever made in the world is now on view at the shop of Mr. Arnatt, confectioner, St. Giles, in that city. It weighs 3,000lbs., stands seven feet high, and is 18 feet in circumference. There have been used in its manufacture 550lbs. of flour, 3,000 eggs, 5 barrels of currants, two cwt. orange and lemon peel, 300lbs. of butter, 400lbs. of sugar, besides other ingredients. The cake was cut by the Mayor at the annual conversazione of the Churchman's Union, on the 4th of January.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government came down to the Province Building, brilliantly attended, this day at 2 o'clock, P. M., and was received at the eastern entrance of the same by a Guard of Honour, comprising about 100 men, the band and Queen's colour of H. M. 17th Regt., in the passage leading to the Council Chamber by the Greys and Mayflower Companies, and a salute from the Artillery, befitting his rank and position. The attendance inside the Council Chamber was unusually numerous and comprised the elite of the city and garrison. After the customary preliminary His Excellency was pleased to open the Legislative Session with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me great pleasure to meet you in Parliament, where, I feel assured, your exertions will be unceasing to maintain the honor and advance the interests of this highly favored Province.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts will be submitted for your inspection, without delay.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be prepared with the utmost regard to economy, consistent with due provision for the public necessities.

You will be glad to find that our Exports during the past year have very much exceeded those of 1862, and that although a material reduction was made in the avallorum duties, the revenue of 1863 largely exceeds that of the preceding or any former year, leaving a considerable surplus in the Treasury after meeting the demands of the public service.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of congratulating you and the people whom you represent upon the signal success which has attended the efforts made to place this Province in a creditable condition in connection with the ideal defences of the country.

The patriotic manner in which the great body of the people have responded to the call upon them for Militia drill, and the remarkable progress made in acquiring a knowledge of military movements, affords the most conclusive evidence that this colony fully appreciates the advantages of British connection, and is both willing and able to raise an effective arm in its own defence, in any emergency that may arise.

I have no reason to doubt that you will make such provision for this important branch of the Public Service as will enable your Volunteers and Militia to maintain that prominent position among the