Poland. Her situation must be difficult indeed. The hour of danger which has so often predicted it at last arrived, that danger which she might have warded off long ago by an independent and dignified attitude. In case of the absolute rejection by the Czar of these propositions it is not stated what she will do. To pretend to maintain neutrality under such circumstanees is simply absurd, and she will have no alternative but openly to declare for Russia or for the allies. Of Austria I have not heard a word in that affair; having completed her abasement by her abject submission to Papal domination, she is hardly worth being mentioned among nations who have any pretensions to self-respect.

I have received the following interesting letter from Butcharest, dated 30th October:—

"After six weeks efforts and attempts on the part of Prince Stirbey and the Court party to induce Emmanuel Balliano to accept the functions of Minister of the interior, this candidate selected as he was by the Court and by Count Coronini himself, could hardly be prevailed upon to serve the interests of the man against whom he had sent such serious charges to the Sublime Porte, and against whom he was the principal witness during the commission of enquiry held by Dervish Pasha. The terrible blow struck at the very heart of Russia by the fall of Sebastopol and the triumphs of the Allies in the Crimea forced the Hospodar, who was long the partizan of Russian Orthodoxy, to solicit one more, and to try to obtain at any cost, a reconciliation with one whom he had hitherto regarded as his personal enemy. The result is that the efforts of Prince Stirbey have at last been crowned with success, owing also in a great measure to the gracious intervention of M. Baclard, the consul and agent of France, who has had sufficient influence over M. Balliano to make him accept the offers of the Prince, and remove all causes of misunderstanding between them. By these means it has come to pass that M. Balliano has accepted the portfolio of the Home Department, to the immense satisfaction of the Court; and Prince Stirbey, overjoyed at having triumphed over a dangerous enemy, will doubtless consider himself, in consequence of the reconciliation, absolved from any grave charge which may have hung over him. He will, therefore, repose upon his laurels, confident in the support Baclard has generally afforded him, his Court, and his pure and honorable *entourage*.

"As I cannot form any precise idea as to the interior views of M. Balliano, or of the reasons which induced him to accept the post of passive Minister to Prince Stirby, I abstain from prejudging the manner in which he will act under the supreme will and inspiration of a man whom he had denounced as an enemy to Turkey and to this country, as conniving at the aggressive to his Suzerain, and, finally, as the head of an illegal and corrupt Administration. We shall see how he will contrive to reconcile his manner of thinking and acting with that of the man he had accused who, still master of the situation, persists in the same line of conduct which was denounced by those who signed the charges against him, and which had been traced out for him by Russia; and who at this moment is the supporter and strict executor of the *regime* supported by Austria, and which amply compensates for the absence of M. Haltchinski.

"As for Prince Stirbey he will enjoy the double advantage of practising more on the credulity of the Turkish Divan by the alliance which he has formed with the man who at last has joined from the ranks of the national party devoted to Turkey, and then acting as he has ever done. I trust however, that the Ports will not allow itself to be deceived by a man whose reign has been but a long series of intrigues and flagrant illegalities, of administrative and financial disorder, and whose close is amid general discontent and detestation.

"This state of things, which I defy any one who has the slightest regard for truth to contradict, justifies us in hoping that Turkey will at length be convicted that the elect of Russia, the phantom of the Treaty of Balta Liman, the executor of Russian policy in our country, who shows no indication of a change of system, is not the man fit for her, whom he has so often defied, nor for the provinces he has misgoverned.

"In order to give more exact ideas of the attitude assumed by M. Beclare with reference to Prince Stirby, and of whom we have to complain, I am enabled to inform you, and I do so with regret, that displomatic agent is said to have transmitted to his government a paper purporting to show that the admirable reign of Prince Stirby ought to be prolonged beyond the term which expires in June next. In thus supporting the principal object and the personal views of his protege, whose interest he seems to have embraced from the first moment of his arrival, and in taking no notice of preceding facts, M. Baclard appears to act less as the representative of a Power, which is the friend and ally to Turkey then as the zealous friend of a man tacitly disavowed and tolerated from necessity, and from a wish to make a temporary concession to the alliance of Austria, which has still to be waited for. In spite of this declared support which shows a complete accord between the false sentiments of the protected, and the credulity of the protector, and in spite of the moral convictions of the latter, who is thus blinded, the persistence of the vast majority of the discontented will not be affected, but will endure as long as the fatal reign which they labor to throw off. The antecedents and the hostile disposition of Prince Stirby, which have just destroyed all hopes of his reinstatement in a good opinion of the population, ought not to obtain either the approbation or the indulgence of M. Beclard; who, to the astonishment of our country, acts as if he shared the sentiments of a man condemned by his own country and by Turkey. I avoid entering into an examination of the motives which may have won for prince Srtirby such supports; but it is quite clear that it was the duty of a diplomatic agent to learn more accurately, and appreciate more fairly, the wrongs of the country, and the justice with which Turkey has decided on whose side was the right. If he had endeavored, with the impartiality which belonged to his position, to become more thoroughly acquainted with the real state of affairs in the Principalities, all the manœuvres practiced on him would have been paralyzed before the great manifestation of the general interests which are common to Turkey and her allies. It could not be unknown to any one that a government such as that we have to endure is less for the maintenance of our institution than for that of the men who turn it to their personal advantage, and that it is still, at this moment, a Russian authority in the hands of a former delegate of the Czar. Such a state of things could not appear to any one as the most proper to satisfy either the interests of Turkey or the views of the Western Powers, which are directed to withdrawing the Principalities from Russian influence, and bringing them still closer to Turkey, to restoring them to their independence, and to uniting and strengthening the Roman population under an authority less disposed to forward the policy of a powerful neighbour and to serve the interests of the country and of Turkey rather than those of individuals. Prince Stirby, by more than 25 years' devotedness to Russia, by his tendencies and his acts, which in 1837 earned for him the name which history will preserve, is forcibly isolated from his Suzerain and his allies, and cannot do otherwise that combat the resistance excited by the Russian *regime*, and must throw himself for support on the Powers that are hostile to both. The recommendation of the diplomotic agent in favour of a prolongation of his fatal authority beyond its general term, can only encourage his *protege* to persevere in a policy so opposed to the general interests of the country. But if M. Beclard thus exhibits himself the perhaps involuntry apologist of Prince Stirby, and has courage enough to astonish the Moldo-Wallachian population by the declaration that the Hospodar is the only man can conciliate all under the present circumstances, and if we are thus taken by surprise, ought we for that to abandon the hope of seeing our efforts successful? No! for there is not a man who can extenuate the excesses and illegalities which to him seen so trifling, and which are still practised, or deny the advantages which result from them to the partisans of the present *regime*.

"We are well aware that there are well informed persons who wish to console or to encourage us by showing that it is not worth to attach so much importance to the conduct of an agent who sees *en couleur de rose* all that his predecessors had seen *en noir*, and *vice versa*; that such conduct is after all a matter of consequence, insomuch as it is well known in Paris that his credulity and good faith has been practised upon by the attentions and the flatteries of which has been made the object. A letter from Paris, emanating from a good souree, and which has been handed about here, would seem to confirm that opinion, if one may judge by the following sentence:—'A consular nullity has been placed intentionally in Wallachia for the system of the Emperor is to allow everything to be said and done as people may think proper until the moment when one of these luminous and resolute ideas shall penetrate, and decide what must be done. It appears that is now the case. Heaven grant that it be in favor of these unhappy Principalities.' I need hardly assure you that I respond to the prayer. In the meantime it is for the apologists, diplomatic and otherwise, of Prince Stirby, whose conduct has occasioned by observations, to justify their acts or explain their errors, and, if they can, give a satisfactory consideration to our assertions.

"We are disposed to believe that M. Beclard has been led into error by the artful Prince with whom he has to deal; I hope such is the case, but I also hope that when his eyes are opened to the deceit practised on him he will change his mode of action. He must, indeed, have been deceived, when Prince Stirby can persuade him that he is the victim of Russian policy, that he is the most persecuted man on earth, in consequence of his anti-Russian sentiments, and that even at the moment I write he is still the object of Russian enmity; that he loathes the Austrian, and that his sole thought is how to get red of this new influence which crushes him, in order to throw himself body and soul into the arms of France, and remain under her benevolent protection. What answers can be given to such falsehood and so much impudence? The entire Principality is the judge of the matter, and it now remains to be seen whether M. Beclard will be sagacious and clear-sighted enough to see on what side trust is to be found.

"The nomination of M. Balliano as Minister in the Interior is one of the latest proofs of the art and perfidy of Prince Stirby, who has thus wished to exculpate his administration from the serious charges so long and so often made against it. I am convinced, however, that notwithstanding this nomination, matters will go on in precisely the same way as they have hitherto done, for acting on the system he has adopted, he will paralyze the action of a Minister not responsible, and treat him as the passive instrument of his supreme will and his absolute power, as has been long time the case, in virtue of the Russian *regime*.

"The ten months of Mr. Crezzoulesco's *ad interim* administration have sufficiently proved the fact, and the baffled efforts of the honest and intelligent man, but who by reason of these very qualities had become as it were the nightmare of Prince Stirby, offer an example which the over-credulous would do well to profit by. No change of Ministry can effect the order of things which has lasted so long, and it would be unjust to find fault with Mr. Balliano, or his opinions seeing that the responsibility of what will occur only attaches to the chief who alone directs the Government of the State, and who directs the whole of the governmental machinery, who names to every post, who dismisses, punishes, rewards, approves and disapproves, who annuls, at his will and pleasure the sentence and decisions of the court of justice, who makes and unmakes all, and who is, in a word the State. Such a man will paralyze the action of every new Minister, as he has always done, and render null all attempts at amelioration, in order to maintain in every branch of the administration the same machines which he has so long employed and favoured; and then this excellent Prince will have the effrontery to tell M. Baclard that affairs do not go on better under the direction of his own accuser, M. Balliano. In this manner the farce of the Court continues to be played out on our political stage, and the credulous continue to applaud."

A private letter from Madrid of the 18th, mentions that the new regulations concerning the Bank of Fernando will not affect the establishment of the head of which are the French capitalists already mentioned.

Nothing decisive has been done with respect to the resignation of M. Olozaga; its acceptance has not been officially or otherwise announced; it has not been withdrawn, nor is it likely it will be withdrawn.

EXTENSIVE FIRE AT CHATHAM.—The *Planet* states that about six o'clock on Wednesday a fire was discovered proceeding from a block of wooden tenements on the corner of King and Fifth Street, known as the, 'Pattison Property. The fire orginated in that portion of the building occupied by Mr John Patterson, chair-maker, who at the time was mixing varnish near a stove in the upper story, the flames accidentally coming in contact with that ignitable material, [illegible] mpassed the whole room, com- [illegible] Mr. P. to make his escape with [illegible] te, which some parties say he [illegible] d by jumping out of the window. [illegible] any organized assistance could be [illegible] t to bear on the raging fire, the [illegible] rear portion of the block was be- [illegible] ll recovery. The flames rapidly [illegible] to the adjoining buildings, east [illegible] st, and all the efforts of our really [illegible] firemen were unable to subdue [illegible] until they extended to the 'Old [illegible] ryman's Home," where they were [illegible] d, this house being thoroughly [illegible] d with water. Eight houses were [illegible] l, and the amount of £2,000 de- [illegible] d. No Insurance.

[illegible] following is an extract from a [illegible] letter, dated Sandhurst, August [illegible] 1855:—

"While I write, an inquest is sitting [illegible] body of Mr. Hunter, late of Ed- [illegible] h, the composer of 'Caller Ou,' [illegible] me others of our favorite songs. [illegible] dy was found (at the side of the [illegible] r new growth of a cut tree, upon [illegible] e of the Kangaroo Flat Road, [illegible] iles nearly from the township) yes- [illegible] morning, lying in a pool of blood, [illegible] had proceeded from a wound in the [illegible] m. Dr. Hoyle was called to the [illegible] nd described the whole circum- [illegible] s to me as they must have happen- [illegible] e had stripped himself of two [illegible] folding them up neatly, rolled up [illegible] eve of the left arm to the shoulder, [illegible] en, with a razor, cut into the arm [illegible] the joint to the bone, dividing the [illegible] al artery, &c., and bled to death [illegible] d moved out of the bush some six [illegible] before he had got to weak to pro- [illegible] urther. A parcel of papers, some [illegible] apers, and three music books were [illegible] along with the bloody razor and [illegible] ats, in the bush, and upon him a [illegible] ome snuff box, with an inscription, [illegible] ing gift from his Edinburgh friends. [illegible] papers and letters and a note of [illegible] agagement to sing three nights [illegible] in a hotel concert room in Long [illegible] a the rate of £5 a-week. He [illegible] o brothers here (in Bendigo,) very [illegible] able and respected; and from what [illegible] own of him, with sympathy for [illegible] fortunate relations, a very unusual [illegible] ion of sorrow has shown itself [illegible] st all classes. The [illegible] t is—'Committed suicide under a [illegible] emporary insanity.' From the [illegible] ce led, it appears that he left the [illegible] ip on Saturday morning to pay a [illegible] o one of his brothers on Kangaroo [illegible] that he made enquiries during the [illegible] r a person named Hill; that he [illegible] at the Clydesdale Hotel, to see [illegible] Motherspoon, to whom he detailed [illegible] ry desponding mood, his trials and [illegible] roggles in Australia; that he went [illegible] bush, (which formed a sort of [illegible]) during the evening, and occupi- [illegible] self with his music; and then— [illegible] *ale* on Sunday morning. He had [illegible] ong dead when found."—*Scots-* [illegible]

[illegible] e "Scientific American" of the [illegible] giving an account of a cast iron [illegible] wer and shot making, it is stated [illegible] n method of making shot origin- [illegible] ith a plumber named Watts, in [illegible] England, who about the year [illegible] reamed he was out in a shower, [illegible] clouds rained lead instead of [illegible]

[illegible] s well acquainted with the family [illegible] atts, and you are correct in attri- [illegible] the discovery to them, but not to [illegible] Watts, The following account of [illegible] covery I obtained from them per- [illegible] y, and being rather singular, I pre- [illegible] to the public through your valuable [illegible]

[illegible] atts was by trade a plumber, and all [illegible] revious to this discovery, was made [illegible] sons engaged in that business. They [illegible] e melted lead drop into water, and [illegible] rt that came into contact with the [illegible] was always flattened. Mrs. Watts [illegible] ed her husband in the business, and [illegible] her particular province to cast [illegible] ot. They were both anxious to [illegible] them round, and Mrs. W. was one [illegible] day employed trying if she could [illegible] them; she dropped the metal into [illegible] d many other liquids, but they all [illegible] out indented on one side. She re- [illegible] to rest that night full of anxiety, [illegible] ind being entirely absorbed by [illegible] shot. During the night she dream- [illegible] going into a neighbor's shop, a hat- [illegible] trade, and while talking to him she [illegible] shot falling, and on asking him if [illegible] de shot, he went out, brought in a [illegible] ul, and they were perfectly round. [illegible] ch surprise she exclaimed, 'my God, [illegible] do you make them round?' 'By [illegible] ing them from a great height,' says [illegible] atter. Mrs. Watts awoke under [illegible] citing discovery, aroused her hus- [illegible] informed him of her dream, [illegible] they both dressed themselves, [illegible] it from the highest place on their [illegible] remises, and found the shot rounder [illegible] efore, but still indented. The [illegible] ay, they tried it from the tower of [illegible] homas' Church, that leans some [illegible] ver its base, when they obtained [illegible] ounder than the home attempt, but [illegible] et perfect. The next attempt was [illegible] in the shaft of a coal mine, a few [illegible] rom Bristol, at a place called Kings- [illegible] and from this trial they obtained [illegible] tly round shot. Watts ascertained [illegible] ight to make them round by trials [illegible] erent depths, entered a caveat for [illegible] nt, made known his discovery to a [illegible] y acquaintance, erected a shot [illegible] realized eighty thousand pounds, [illegible] ook to erect a large block of build- [illegible] Clifton, sunk all he had made [illegible] they were half finished, and be- [illegible] poor in his old age. I have passed [illegible] finished block many times, and it [illegible] alled Watt's Folly.

WM. PARTRIDGE.

[illegible] ghamton, Nov. 29, 1855.

THE POSITION OF COUNTRIES CHANGING.

[illegible] the remains of tropical animals are [illegible] in England and other countries [illegible] the arctic regions some philoso- [illegible] have concluded that there must be [illegible] motion of different portions of the [illegible] towards the north and that Eng- [illegible] was at one time situated in the [illegible] al regions and will in the course of [illegible] e covered with perpetual snows, [illegible] under the dayless gloom of the [illegible] circle.

[illegible] s true that the remains of animals [illegible] ahabiting the tropics are found in [illegible] nd thus affording evidence that [illegible] imate of that country must have [illegible] much warmer at some forme period [illegible] t these animals were endowed with [illegible] s to live in a colder climate. [illegible] er class of philosophers—the [illegible] ri:—entertaining the idea that the [illegible] was once a mass of molten fire and [illegible] g afterwards cooled slowly, the in- [illegible] heat given out at one period gave [illegible] ical temperature to the present [illegible] regions, thus enabling tropical ani- [illegible] to flourish there.

[illegible] e advocates of the plutonic theory [illegible] been very cautious in fixing the time [illegible] the earth was in its intensely heated [illegible] but the "pole-changers"—those [illegible] dvocate the different theory de- [illegible] rd—have not shown so much prū- [illegible]

At the late meeting of the British Scientific Association, Evan Hopkins, author of a work on geology, and a believer in the change of the earth's polar position, also a believer in magnetism being the cause of the motions of the heavenly bodies, expressed his opinion in a paper on the Geological Changes of the Earth, that about 9,000 years since, England basked under a tropical sun, and was now slowly drifting up to the North Pole. These views created some fun and discussion among the *savans* present, but from published remarks none of them answered him conclusively, as they ought to have done.

As Britain lies between the degrees of fifty and sixty latitude, it follows, that in order to have moved fifty degrees from the equator in 9,000 years, it must have been running north at the rate of one degree in one hundred and eighty years, (9,000÷50=180,) or about 2,024 feet every year. Mr. Hopkins should have been more cautious; he ought to have placed the period of change 1,000,000 instead of 9,000 years and then, in all likelihood, he would have acquired a very high reputation for profound investigation and observation. There is nothing like a little obscurity in treating such subjects; most of the philosophical theorists know this and practice upon it.

THE MINISTRY.

From the Whitby Commonwealth.

Does the present Ministry represent the well understood wishes of the people? and do its supporters in the present House of Assembly honestly represent their Constituents?

We emphatically answer No.—There never was in Canada, or indeed anywhere else, a Government so dishonestly and unnaturally supported. It fairly lives on inconsistencies. It had its origin not in the number of truths men could carry out, but in the number of untruths they could, without absolutely outraging public feeling beyond bearing, perpetrate and subscribe to. Ministers are usually formed to carry out great principles, and to remedy well established corruptions. The present Government was formed to abnegate great principles, and to cover over well proved official delinquencies.

Monsieur Chabot, the former Commissioner of Public Works, was convicted, before the whole people, of clandestinely and secretly giving contracts for something like a hundred and nine thousand pounds to one Baby—his name is pronounced Baubee—a Canadian. So this man was given by M. Chabot, at his own prices and without tenders, Public Works on the Lower St. Lawrence, to the extent as we have said of a hundred and nine thousand pounds. But this was not all.—Two tug-boats were advertised for by the same Commissioner of Public Works.—Mr. Baubée, among others, tendered for them; but Mr. Baubee tendered for an inferior class of boats than were advertised for; and though it was a manifest impropriety to give him the contract under such circumstance, he nevertheless got it from his friend, Mr. Chabot.

Now mark the sequel. Mr. Baby was permitted after he got the contract, to alter his tender so as to embrace the proper class of boats, and was actually allowed a higher price than others had tendered for these very same boats; what was more indecent still, he bought the boats from the other parties who had tendered, and thus made his profits by the transaction.

Now it is matter of parliamentary history that these transactions, gross, indecent and demoralizing, brought down the last Ministry. And who brought them down by exposing these thiugs, by eloquently and powerfully declaiming against them! The members of course, of the present Government—the men who made their case out to the public jury, received the verdict, and are now enjoying the benefits of it in the shape of large official emoluments and patronage.

But when Government is carried on according to the well understood wishes of an honest people—a people who wish to see fairness and uprightness not only prevail in public affairs, but desire to see guilt punished as well—one would suppose that Mr. Chabot would have been sent to Coventry, by the Government representing such a people; would have been spurned by those who had proclaimed his conduct as both demoralizing and dangerous.

What are the facts? Mr. Chabot, it is true, was obliged to leave the Board of Works; but where was he landed? What was the nature of his punishment?

He fell from the Board of Works into a far better and more lucrative office; the chief commissionership under the Seignorial Tenure Act.—He was degraded, poor man, into the best office in the gift of the present government in Lower Canada. He was punished by indignant political opponents with a situation with fifteen hundred pounds a year at least, and with immense powers and responsibilities! Ministerial and political indignation must be something like Paddy's dream—it goes beautifully by contraries!

Now for the abnegation of the principles. Sir Allan MacNab was one of those men, it was thought, who made up for the want of talent by great steadfastness in principle. He nailed his colors to the mast, and thought he could not weave much poetry or eloquence around them, it was believed he would defend them with a strong arm, and a never-failing determination. A few years ago, and he was the *beau ideal* of Tory honor, spirit and pluck.

Well, a few months ago, and what happened? Sir Allan MacNab was sent to form a Ministry; and lo, and behold his Toryism, like Bob Acres' courage, straightway oozed out of the tops of his fingers: and he actually agreed to the very measure, and voted for it too, which he said would positively annex us to the United States! What is more and worse still, the most clamoring radical in Upper Canada,—who, it was believed, Sir Allan would not have touched with a pole of any considerable length—actually forced him to face his music!

Good reader, do you think there was no abnegation of principle here? And is this the kind of ladder you wish to see your public men mount in order to rise to the highest offices in the country? And do you think that the Reformers in the present House of Assembly, who vote to keep up this kind of thing, fairly represent their constituents? And do you think that the Tories who uphold Sir Allan MacNab in such acts, honorably represent theirs?

The Carleton-Place Herald,
PUBLISHED every THURSDAY, at Carleton-Place, by
JAMES POOLE,
EDITOR and PROPRIETOR.
To whom all communications, remittances, &c., should be addressed, *post-paid*.
TERMS:
$1 per annum, if paid at the time of subscribing.
$1¼ if paid within six months.
$2 if not paid till after the expiration of six months.
No paper discontinued (unless at the option of the publisher) until all arrearages of subscription are paid.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:—Six lines or under, 2s 6d, first insertion, and 7½d. for each subsequent insertion: ten lines or under, 3s 4d for the first insertion, and 10d for each subsequent insertion; above ten lines, 4d per line for the first insertion, and 1d for every subsequent insertion. Advertisements without written directions will be inserted until forbid, and charged accordingly.

Advertisements should be handed in not later than Tuesday evening.

No Postage.

The new bill abolishing the postage on newspapers took effect on the first of July. Our subscribers will now receive the *Carleton-Place Herald* for ONE DOLLAR a-year in advance, FREE OF POSTAGE.

☞ We still continue to send a copy of the *Herald*, for one year *free* to any person sending the names of five *new* subscribers with the money ($5) in advance.

REMEMBER

WE take no Letters from the Post Office, unless the Postage is paid. Money Letters if post-paid and registered, may be sent by mail at our risk; and will be thankfully received.

The Herald

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY, AT ONE DOLLAR A YEAR!!

CARLETON PLACE, DEC. 20, 1855.

INVASION OF CANADA.—Some of our American exchanges are still keeping up the cry of "war with England" and the "Invasion of Ireland and Canada," as if there was the slightest probability that such a crisis should ever occur. It is amusing to read their exciting articles, in which they take much trouble to persuade their readers that if a war should break out between Great Britain and the United States, "the Canadas" would be swallowed up and instantly digested into the Model Republic. The Toronto "Globe" talks to them in fine style. He says—"nobody does ever seriously entertain such an idea for a moment."—Brigadier General Pierce may as a last resource, during a fit of political despondency mutter in that direction in hopes to get a little credit for spirit and determination; but he never contemplates anything more coming out of it than mere talk. At this moment when France and Britain have their hands pretty full, he may even get Mr. Cushing to write saucy letters, but he never means to fight, not he. He knows that Louis Napoleon and Lord Palmerston won't let him, and is quite sure that they will soon comprehend and smile at the peculiar style of his electioneering diplomacy. He may bluster and say rotund things; but he is aware that the good sense of Europe renders war impossible, while a little bullying and gasconade can do *his* cause no harm. This is all. He feels quite safe and acts as he lately did, from a consciousness of perfect security. But if the fact that the Allies will not fight with him were insufficient, he knows very well that the intelligence and morality of his own Republic loathe war in any quarter, and especially with the mother country. He knows,—no man better,—that all New England recoils with horror from any such crime, that New York and the South, though not very particular about morality, will not perpetrate it because of its injurious influence on trade. Thus he cannot break the peace even if he would, and is sure that nobody will give serious attention to any odd thing which he may either say or do.

Had this great President the remotest notion, either that the Allies would grow angry with him, or that his countrymen would permit a man of his quality to lead them into trouble he would be a good deal more cautious. As it is he only jests; a little coarsely perhaps, but this arises from the fact that men extend to him the jester's license, and give to his deliverances the jester's reward. People may be quite easy. A little noise can do no harm. President Pierce only fires blank cartridge, and his country will never permit him to use full. If then we would say a word about war we use the evil world only for the sake of argument.

"If," say certain journalists, "there were a war between this country and Britain, Canada would be ours." "Precisely so," as said the gentleman in black. These people never think we could demur to being conquered, but fancy we would rather like it; or if they imagine that we might be so foolish they have no doubt as to their own ability to do with us as they please. Now we would enlighten them on one or two points.

The first of these is that the people of this Province are more determinedly opposed than ever they were to become in any way a part and parcel of the United States. Twenty years since there were among us those who looked to such a consummation as very desirable, but this class have either changed their opinions or left the country. The grievences which then distracted it have been removed and when they were corrected the complaints died away; so that among those who were then most dissatisfied, we now find some of very firmest supporters of British connexion. Meanwhile others have come in, fresh from Britain inspired by the undiminished strength of old associations in which no shade of annoyance finds a place. Thus is it in Canada West; and for all practical purposes it is the same among the French population. They too have all they desire and are at rest. It is notorious that from the mines of Lake Superior to the shores of Gaspe, there is but one feeling of contentment with our lot, attachment to the British Crown, and determination to form no portion of the federal Union. We are so well off now; we are so free; the flag which floats above us is so honored; the power of Great Britain in the back ground is so watchful and vast that we feel that such a change in our political relations would necessarily prove a change for the worse. We have all the freedom of British subjects, with some good things besides, which our neighbours do not know. Loyalty and prosperity, however are not the only grounds for our satisfaction with our matchless position; we will not become a part of a Union which keeps slaves and every poor fugitive who steps on our free soil is another stone in that wall which renders impossible a political fraternization. Thus would we demur to and resist most vehemently, any attempt to break us off from our present allegiance, and force on us another.

But supposing there were war, and that we wished to repel invasion and resist conquest, could we prevent either? These journalists have no doubt whatever on this point. It is all settled. A second General Hull say they would land at Queenston a second General Brock would run away and in no time Canada would be grasped by the invincible legions of America. We could do nothing. We would be so terrified by the New York militia, that we would either as a people surrender at discretion or like the steam leg, scamper away over hill and dale through swamp and forest and betake ourslves to parts unknown. This seems to be the editorial notion of Canadian prowess. Now what reason is there for arriving at such conclusions? None at all save that these gentlemen judge of our tendencies by their own. In the first place our population amounts to two millions, so that we could, in case of invasion, raise according to ordinary calculations, a militia of two hundred thousand fighting men. We have military stores enough, and could be readily supplied with more from the mother country. Our population, also is naturally warlike. We have in every quarter officers and men who have served their country, and if many of them are too old for duty in the field they are fit to organize and drill and they have sons who would think it their dearest privilege to wear their fathers' swords in the good cause. Here is something to begin with, and we would have besides, the aid of the whole power of the Empire not engaged in other quarters of the world. But it may be urged by the other side that they could raise two millions of fighting men, to which may be added another million of strong-minded women and that this would overwhelm us. Perhaps it would, but the difficulty would be to get the 3,000,000 all into Canada! These warlike penny-a-liners forget that their vast Atlantic coast is vulnerable, and would need defenders and good ones too. They forget also that while *all* Canada would take up arms to resist invasion, all America would not take up arms to invade. Defence and attack make so much difference, that between this fact in our favour, and an exposed Atlantic sea-board, we firmly believe that we could call out far more men to defend our land than the enemy could bring to attack it. We also hold the two best fortresses on this continent Quebec, and Kingston; both of them very hard nuts to crack especially for volunteer artillerymen. It is not for us to boast. This is the sacred privilege of the victorious journalists. All we would say is that while there is not the smallest chance of war or anything like it still if people tried to take Canada they would find abundance of strong arms and strong hearts on the shores to meet them. No, no. Canada can or will hold her own if need be better in 1852 or in 1875 than she did in 1812. She maintained the integrity of the British Empire then when her whole population consisted of but a few hundred thousands and repelled the entire force of the United States consisting of as many millions; and if the melancholy necessity should ever arise, she would do so again. Vaunting neither agrees with our habits nor our inclinations only we are neither cowards nor traitors, nor anything but what our fathers were, true born Britons. We pray that God may avert that fearful catastrophe which certain parties so smilingly contemplate; we abhor the spirit which would encourage and find pleasure in such calamities; but we believe if the bad should ever attack us we are able to defend our rights and territory.

THE RAILROAD TAX.

Below we copy an article from the last weeks issue of the Bathurst *Courier*, in which our cotemporary blames the Council of these United Counties, with being too hasty in taxing the people for the interest on the debentures issued on account of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway. We think there is too much truth in the remarks of the *Courier*. Some of the members of the Council, have all along, fought against the project, with a zeal worthy of a better cause. They have been opposed to the building of the road; and to this fact may, in some measure, be traced their hasty demand on the people for the interest. We understand that in Beckwith and some other Municipalities the greater part of this tax has been already paid. In Ramsay, the collector refused to proceed on his tour, and delayed for several weeks until another meeting of the Council in that Municipality, when it was agreed that the railroad tax should not, at present, be collected in Ramsay. The same resolution has been come to in other places; and it appears probable that either the government will forbear for a while, or that some other means will turn up to meet the demand; and that the money already paid will be retured to the people. The following is the article alluded to:—

In referring to Railroad matters in our last, we gave what we conceived to be the causes, not only of the unsatisfactory condition of the Brockville and Ottawa Railroad, but also of the levying of the Railroad tax on the inhabitants of these Counties. Since then information has reached us which induces us to believe that no necessity existed for levying the tax. The Government does not want the money—did not even demand it, further than to notify the County Council, as the holder of their bonds, that the interest had fallen due on such a date, and to provide for the payment of it,—just as the holder of any commercial paper is required to notify all the parties thereto when it becomes due. Had the County Council on receiving this notification let the matter drop, relying on the forbearance of the Government in not peremptorily enforcing payment, there would have been nothing further about the matter; but a majority of them, in their eagerness to levy a *railroad tax* either did not or would not, look at the matter in this light—a tax they were determined to levy, whether it was required or not, and it was levied accordingly. The Township Councils, however, might, and should, have refused to place the railroad tax upon their collectors rolls, as it had no business there, and we understand the local Municipal collectors cannot enforce payment of the railroad tax, so that those who have not paid need not do so. Brockville and Elizabethtown have not levied a railroad tax, because their Councils saw that it was not necessary, and were not actuated by a desire to render the railroad unpopular. And as Brockville and Elizabethtown are not paying a railroad tax, why should Lanark and Renfrew? The Township of Bathurst is following the example of their neighbors in the front, and the collector has been instructed not to collect the railroad tax. Other Municipalities will doubtless follow in the same course. The Town Council of Perth, however, following in the wake of the County Council, are determined to make the people pay the tax, and that too at a time when the extreme dearness of provisions renders it very burdensome and oppressive on the laboring portion of the community; in fact it is a tax which few people in Perth can at present well afford to pay. At the meeting of Council on Monday evening last, Mr. Shaw had a resolution prepared, and which he read in Council, instructing the Collector not to collect the railroad tax, and to refund the amounts to those parties who have already paid; but he could not find a seconder, and the matter fell through. Messrs Doran, Hogg, Cox, Matheson, Deacon and Shaw were present—Mr. Doran in the Chair—but not one could be found who would second Mr. Shaw's motion for relieving the people of the railroad tax. Had the motion been seconded, discussion would have been elicited, and the views of Councillors made known, but the plan adopted killed the motion without a word.

There appears to have been too great an eagerness on the part of those whom the people have entrusted with the management of the matter, to levy a railroad tax. The tax should not have been levied until it became absolutely necessary to do so—until, in fact, the Government had instructed the Sheriff to collect it. The money could easily be raised at short credit, and the tax collected afterwards. Besides, the money is better in circulation than locked up in the Treasurer's iron chest. Moreover, negotiations are now in course of completion for closing a new contract and having the work on the railroad go on vigorously in the Spring. In closing this contract the interest due by the Counties is too paltry a sum to be taken into consideration. If not paid, the new contractors will pay it; but if paid before the contract is closed the money will be lost to the Counties, as there is no possibility of recovering it; and if, by waiting a little the money can be saved to the people, so much the better. "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and the railroad tax is better in the pockets of the people than in the Bank of Upper Canada.

There is another view of the matter which appears to have been lost sight of; it may be put in this way:—Who are the creditors of the Counties—the holders of our debentures? The Government of Canada. And who are the Government? The representatives of the people—persons chosen by the people to take charge of the public property of the country.—The people's debentures are therefore in the hands of the people's representatives; and is it reasonable to suppose that the people will be harrassed or oppressed for the payment of these debentures during the temporary suspension of a great public work to aid in the completion of which they were issued. The idea is absurd. Were the road abandoned altogether, then the Government; would look to the Counties for payment; but so long as this is not the case, and there is a prospect of the road being made, there is no necessity for levying a tax. The Government does not need the money, and payment will not be pressed. The Municipal Loan Fund Act was not passed for the purpose of enriching the Government by taxing the people—nor for the purpose of benefitting money-brokers—but to enable Municipalities to obtain money to make public improvements; and it is unreasonable to suppose that the Government will be as exact in enforcing payment of Municipal debentures as a money lender would be with respect to a promissory note, although endorsers in both cases require to be notified when the liability falls due.

Looking at the matter in all its bearings, the conclusion appears inevitable that the County Council have been too hasty in levying a railroad tax—that a portion of them at least have been too eager to embrace the opportunity of levying such a tax, solely for the purpose of bringing the railroad into disrepute with the people. Some of the Councillors have been bitterly opposed to the railroad from its very commencement, and would as soon see his Satanic majesty visiting the Counties as a railroad car. It is therefore not at all surprising that they should endeavor to throw every obstacle in the way of its progress, and endeavor to render it unpopular.

The people of Western Canada are ahead of this section in enterprise and prosperity, and why? Because they are getting railroads constructed in every direction. In adopting the railroad policy, they are either right or wrong. If right, we should follow their example. If wrong, we should send a delegation up West to inform the people that they are great fools, for making railroads, and that it is a far wiser policy to travel through the mud at the rate of a mile an hour, than to fly along in a rail car at the rate of thirty miles an hour.

Let us have the railroad, and even if we have to be taxed to pay for it, it will be cheaply purchased at that.

PUBLIC LECTURES. We perceive, by an advertisement in another column, that the people of Ramsay are to be favored with a series of lectures, on interesting subjects, to be delivered weekly during the winter. This is due to the exertion of the Sons of Temperance at Almonte, and we hope that their untiring zeal to administer to the moral and intellectual interests of the people in that vicinity, will be duly appreciated.

☞ A man in Mount Vernon, Maine has raised in the open air, for the last three years, the coffee plant, the seed of which was brought five years ago from Cuba.—It grows about two feet high and produces its berries in pods something like peas.—The plants, he says, have matured, even this season, and the berries ripened without injury from frost.

☞ A sad affair occurred at Quaker Village, Vt., on the 28th ult. A party of girls were on the ice upon a pond, when a pet dog, falling through, a girl named Mary Jane Fargo went to the rescue, and fell through and was drowned. Her younger brother tried to rescue her and was himself saved with difficulty.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Copies of any of the following journals may be seen at our office, by persons wishing to subscribe.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—For December, is received, and fully sustains the high character which this periodical has earned. As this number commences a new volume, now is the time to subscribe. Published by Harper & Brother's New York at $3 per annum. See advertisement.

THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE.—We have also received the December number of this elegant and highly instructive Magazine. It is unlike any other monthly we receive, and hence its place can be supplied by no other. It contains nothing but what tends to please, instruct and elevate the mind, combining literature, art, and religion; not despising or decrying imaginative literature, but giving it a secondary position to science, history and facts. This number completes a volume. Published by Carleton & Philips, New York, at $2 per annum. See advertisement.

THE HOME MAGAZINE.—We have just received the January number of the "Home Magazine." It is published by T. S. Arthur, Philadelphia, at $2 per annum. A copy of this magazine should be in every home in the country. The present number commences the seventh volume, and is more than ever interesting. It is a work which presents truths to the mind in the most winning attire—in the lighter garb of attractive fiction as well as in the grave narrative of fact.

PETERSON'S LADIES' NATIONAL MAGAZINE.—The indefatigable publisher, has already supplied us with the January number of this highly attractive magazine. It contains, besides the usual number of elegant engravings, 102 pages, of interesting and instructive reading. It is decidedly cheap. This number commences a new volume, which can be had for $2 a year. We published the prospectus a few weeks ago.

MEDICAL SPECIALIST.—The Fourth number of this exceedingly neat publication is on our table. It is ably edited by Dr. Robert Hunter, New York, and devoted principally to the different diseases affecting the respiratory organs. We hope it may succeed in aiding to prevent and heal those almost careless maladies to which its columns are devoted. It is only $1 a year.

LIFE ILLUSTRATED is published by Fowlers and Wells, New York, at $2 a year. It is one of the best papers on our exchange list; presents the cleanest face, the clearest type, and the most interesting amount of reading matter.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVOCATE, is the title of an elegantly illustrated monthly Journal, published at the Wesleyan Book Room, Toronto,