mind or circumstances. The reckless extrava-1 mind or circumstances. The reckless extrava-gance of some of the class of persons we allude to, its amusing from its very absurdity. Two-idle young men, with more money than vift, see a couple of files creeping across a pane of glass in the window, and they each instantly bet a thousand guineas upon the event of which fly gets across the plane soowest. Or, suppose they are lounging in the stable-yard, they bet a result, lar young the event or bet an equally large sum on the event of the pulls out, at the first pull, the largest of hay from the face of the hay rick. Other examples, equally contemptible, of the insanity of betting and gaming, may easily be

Among innumerable specificities related of the rain of persons at all related of Among ununarrane suscenses related to the rain, of persons at play, there is one worth relating, which refers to Mr. Poeter, a gentle-man who, in the reign of Queen Anne, posses-sed one of the best estates in the county of Northumbe and, the whole of which he lost at he and in twelve months. According to the story told of this madman—for we call him story tota of this maniman—for we call him nothing else—when he had just completed the loss of his last acre at a gentiling-house in London, and was proceeding down stair to throw himself into his carriage to carry him home to his house in town, he resolved upon throw times into his carriage to carry that home to his house in town, he received upon having one throw more, to try to retrive his losses, and immediately returned to the room where the play was going on. Nerved for worst that might insisted that the person Nerved for the had been playing with should give one chance of recovery, or fight with him; his proposition was this; that his carriage and houses, the trinkets and loose money in his pockets, his town house, plate and furniture—in short, all he had left in the world, except the clothes on his back—should be valued in a lampa terrain sum, and be thrown for at a single cast. No persuations could prevail on him to depart from his purpose. He threw, and last; then conducting the winner to the door, he told his coachman that there was his master, and marched forth into the dark and dismal streets. had been playing with should give o ie chance ched forth into the dark and dismat streets. house, home, or any one creditable support. Thus beggared, he retired means of support. Thus beggared, he retired to an obscure lodging in a cheap part of the town, subsisting partly on chairty, sometimes acting as the marker of a pilliard table, and ocometimes acting as the masker of a billiard table, and oc-casionally as a helper at a livery stable. In this mirrable condition, and with nakedness and famine staring him in the face, exposed to the taunts and inguls of those whom he had once supported, he was recognized by and driend, who give him ten guineas to purchase necessaries. He expended five in procuring decent apparel; with the remaining five he repaired to a common gaming-house, and in-creased them to fifty; the then ajourned to one of the higher order of houses, sat down with of the higher order of houses, sat down with former associates, and won twenty thousand pounds. Returning the next night, he lost it pounds. Returning the next and after subsis-ting many years in abject penary, died a rag-god beggar at a penny lodging-house in St.

Giles's,
It has been very justly remarked in an article on gaming in Fraser's Magazine, that one of the greatest evils of the practice, "is the introduction through its means of improper persons into society, from which they otherwise would, and ought to be, excluded." The writerial of the property of would, and ought to be, excluded. The writer of the article in question proceeds to narrate a case in point, of an Irish adventurer, O'Byrne, who some thirty or forty years ago got himself insinuated into the very highest got himself insinuated into the very highest circles, and was visited by the first people in the land, on account of his address at play An intimate friend of mine (says the writer heard him boast having had at one time at his table, two princes of the blood, four dukes, ses, besides ministers from foreign three duchesses, besides ministers from foreign courts, and others of high distinction, and these of both sexes. But the attraction was neither his society—for there was nothing here to atract—nor his dinners. It was the mania for deep play at that memorable epoch that brought the strance, and ill-assorted congrecation together. Sitting down one night to play in private at picquet, with a certain person whose name there is no occasion to mention, he found himself the winner of a hundred thousand pounds. Being aware of the inability of his antagonist to pay the whole of the sum, and suspecting that, if he could not pay the whole, he might pay none, he designedly suffered him to recover all that he had won from him, except ten thousand pounds, which he received. In consequence of this masterly managure, the with Mr. Hare gave the name of Senophon O'-Mr. Hare gave the name of 'Zenophon O'-Byrne,' from his retreat with the ten thou-sand. These things (continues our authority) were in the mouths of men some thirty or forty years back, and as they never, I believe, ap-peared in print, are no doubt all but forgotten; but it may not be amiss to exhibit such disgusting scenes-as the Greeks did their Helots-to ing generation, and with the same en in view.

ANIMALCULE .- Professor Hitchcock ton letpresenting some geological facts respecting rtain regions in the western part of Massa-ussets, adds the following interesting post-

" Some of your readers may be gratified if I mention a discovery of some scientific interest, which I have made within a few days past; they have all, doubtless, heard of those mute living beings discovered by the mi rescope in stagment water, &c., and called ions of which may live in a single drop. But, until very rec would have supposed it possible that the letons of these animals would be found served in the soils and the tocks! Yet t light and white substance, very comm assachussetts, beneath the mad in sweaps which I find to be full of these fossil skelet which I and to be fail of these tossi sketetons: And it is curious, that if care be taken in placing the substance beneath the microscope, these skeletons will generally be found to be entire, although so thin that the light passes brough them to as to render them als through them to us to render them almost in-risible. The only species I have yet noticed has the shape of the common angle worm or earth worm, and it would take hundreds of thousands of them, probably millions to make up a cubic inch. Yet the deposite that con-tains them is probably two thirds composed of Useir remains, and in many places it forms a stratum several feet thick, covering many acres, and may be found, I doubt not, in every town in the State. I happen to have speci-mens only from Andover, Birdeyewater, Barre, and Pelham, all of which contain the relies. In Europe it has recently been found that

"In Europe it has recently been found that weral rocks of considerable thickness, (among several rocks of considerable thickness, (among which are flint and opal) are made up chiefly from animalcule. Indeed, the famous Pro-sian naturalist, Ebrenberg, has determined S fossil species. 9 of which are extinct, and the others correspond to the living species the polishing Slate, to variety Ehrenberg says : About 23,000,000 of these creatures would make up a cubic line, and in a cubic inch there would be 41,000,000, weighing 200 grains; the siliceous shield of weighing 200 grains; the siliceous shield of each animalculæ weighs about 187,000,000th part of a grain. The fossil animalculæ of the non ochre is only the twenty-first part of the thickness of a human hair; and one cubic of this ochre must contain one billion of the

Swiftness or Biggs, -- A German paper, aking of the swiftness of various birds, s, "A vulture can fly at the rate of 150 es an hour. Observations made on the coast of Labrador convinced Major Cartwright that wild geese could travel at the rate of 90 miles an hour. It is said that a falcon was discoveran hour. It is said that a falcon was discover-ed at Malta, 21 hours after the departure of Henri IV. from Fontainbleau. If true, the bird must have flown for 24 hours at the rate of 57 miles an hour, not allowing him to rest a moment during the whole time.

MEXICO.

At the taking of the firt ess of San Juan de Ulloa, on the 27th November, 5 men on the French side were killed, one of whom was a midshipman, and thirty-three wounded, two in were officers.

of whom were officers.

In the action, which was continued for two
hours and a half by two of the frigates and
four hours by the third, eight thousand balls
and three hundred and twenty bombs were
thrown into the fortress.

Admiral Baudin refrained from firing on the city, and though he was strongly advised to attack the fort during the night, which would have given him an immense advantage, he replied that he would only fight the enemy in the day. The other vessels belonging to the squadron took no share in the action, as there not room enough for their operations he French vessels still continue to

in the neighbourhood of the coast of Mexico prevent the entrance of vessels in any other out than that of Vera Cruz.

It is said that the English Consul had reof vessels in any other

It is said that the English Consul has re-quested Admiral Baudin to spare his house it he attacked the city. The admiral promised to observe his request. By a curious fathity the only bomb that reached the town, fell and exploded near the dwelling of this function-

, carrying away a portion of the roof. ary, carrying away a portion of the roof.
The French squadion now consists of 23
vessels. The port of Vera Cruz is now open
to all nations. The other ports of Mexico will
remain in: a state of blockade, until intelligence
from the state of Mexico shall arrive.

UNITED STATES.

THE TOMBIGBY RIVER ON FIRE .- While MT. M. Cooper was prosecuting the removal of acGrew's shoals, after boring to the depth of 375 feet, his augur suddenly dropped and entirely disappeared. In the space of several moments a deep hollow sound was heard, reubling the rumbling poise of distant thun n the chasm below, and at the same instant thed forth from the shaft thus made, a clear, gusined tortic from the shart thus made, a cheary transparent, oleaginous substance or liquid, which boils up very similar to the efferty-cence of a boiling pot; and which, owing to the slaggishness of the current, has gradually diffused itself over the whole surface of the river. A quantity has been collected, and upon application of lire, it is found to burn

upon application of fire, it is found to burn equal to the present speran oil.

To gratify curiosity and make further tests, fire has been applied to the oil on the water, and the whole surface of the river is now burning, emitting a flame of the most beautiful pearance, about six inches high, and has ready extended about half way down to Fort herizon in the night, presents a most sublimspectacle, far surpassing in grandeur and beau-ty of appearance, the aurora borealis .- A chile

THE TRANSCRIPT.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 29rn DEC. 1838.

SATEST BATES.

From London ... Nov. 4 From New York,
From Laveryood, ... Nov. 4 From Habitas,
From Fare, ... Nov. 6 From Toronto, New-York papers furnish no later advices

from Europe.

Important from South America

Private Correspondence of the New-York Express RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov. 9, 1838.

e island of Martin Gartia, in the mouth of the Uraguay, has been captured by the French after a warm action in which they lost 24 kil-led and many wounded.—The Buenos Ayreans led and many wounded.—The Buenos Ayreans surrendered and were afterwards landed at Buenos Ayres. They lost 12 killed and 20 wounded. The French had about 500 men; the Buenos Ayreans about 120. The island had been given up to Fructuosa Rivera, who had been given up to Fructuosa Rivera, who had been given up to Fructuosa Rivera, who had been griven up to Fructuosa Rivera, who had been given up to Fructuosa Rivera, who had been to Buenos-Ayres in a British vessel of war.

The Fairfield sloop of war sailed this morrang for Buenos Ayres. The Independence frigate is laying here, waiting the arrival of the Exploring Expedition, which was at Madeina when the British Packet left,—the packet arrived on the 2d instant, via Penambuco and Babia.

Bahia.

The latest news from Buenoe Ayres was to Oct. 17th, brought by H. B. M. brig Spider-The blockade was every day becoming more

The Toronto Patriot of the 21st December says, on the authority of private advices, "that all is at present quiet in the western district, but that vast hordes of Brigands are district, but that vast horder of Brigands are gathering from all quarters on the American side, preparatory to the final setting in of the ice, which they deem essential to the finding a way back as well as a way here. We have always thought it rather injudicious to attack aways thought it rather injunt ious to attack them too suddenly on their arrival amongst us, for we only kill a few, and the rest scamper offit whereas, if we allowed them to advance into "the bowels of the land," not one could escape to tell the fate of the rest."

It is stated in the London (U. C.) Gazette It is stated in the London (U. C.) Gazette, that a number of the brigands have been found in the woods frozen to death; that a member of the Michigan Legislature is among the prisoners taken; and that they are shortly to be brought to London for trial.

On Wednesday the 19th instant, ten brigands were tried before the Court Marial at Kingston, four on Thursday, and twelve on Friday. The majority are very young lads, whose ages vary from 15 to 21, only seven out of the twenty-six being older.

On Saturday last, Sylvanus Swete and Joel Peeler, two of the brigands taken below Precot, were executed at Kingston, agreeably to their sentence. So far, every individual found guilty by the Court Martial in that place has been hanged.

The Buffalo papers contain accounts of a public meeting held in that city, which is me-presented as "one of the largest marking." esented as " one of the largest meeting ever held in the capital of Michigan." The Burnal Daily Advertiser says, after giving an account of the proceedings of the meeting, "Let Gene-ral Brady come to Bufalo, and he shall have Shot for Shot, and More! These officers of the general government, if they do not know their duty, must be taught it."

The Montreal Herald of Thursday gives the following paragraph relating to the movements of the brigands and Canadian refugees on the Lower Canada frontiers:—

"We have it from undoubted authority that

the Americans our frontier are again ab their unhallowe, oik of "sympathising." —
Bouchette, the « — vigers, and Gagnen are
now at Champla— in command of a large body
of men. Colones Bryant, dias Grand Eagle,
sat Aldburg, under the pretence of conducting
a mintary school, and he certainly has an extraordinary number of pupils, it they all yay for
their tution. Malhiot and Dr. Cote are at
Swanton with about 200 refugees and Americans, all of whom are well arneed and provided
for, 22

The Court Martial at Montreal has pronounced sentence of death upon the prisoner Huot, whose trial closed on Monday, but he is recommended to the mercy of the Executive.

The evidence on the part of the prosecution The evidence of the prosecution in the case of Levesque, Morin, and others, was concluded on Wednesday; and the prisoners were allowed till to-day to prepare their defence. The evidence against most of them is said to be most conclusive.

The head quarters of the 65th regiment arrived at Sorel on Saturday afternoon.

Messrs. Etienne Parent and J. B. Frechette, the editor and orinter of the Canadien news paper, were arrested and committed to prison Thursday last, on a charge of high treasor

The Canadien professes to be informed by a private letter from Montreal, that D. B. Viger, at present in jail in that city, has been offered his liberty, on condition offered his liberty, on condition of giving se-curities, which, however, he refuses to do.

It is rumoured that an express was sent off from Montreal on Wednesday last, for Three Rivers, with an order for the suspension of Judge Vallières.

The Deputy Postmaster-General has given notice that an addititional charge of 124 cents will for the future be made on letters sent leurope via New-York; in consequence of the owners of the American lines of sating packets intending beneforth to demand a ship postage of that amount. The charge of 25 cents on of that amount. The charge of 25 cents of letters sent by the Atlantic steam-ships, con

From the Mercury of Thursday.

From the Mercury of Thursday.

On Thursday, at two o'clock, the Volunteer Brigade, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel the Honorable James Hope, mustered on the parade ground at the Jesuit Barracks, and marched thence to the Esplanade where they again formed, the Cavalry, under Captain Burnet, on the right, next to them were the Seamen attached to the Queen's Volunteers, with two twelve pounder carronades on winter carriages, and then the infantry in three divisions, in close column of companies.

The snow was too deep to admit of their ferming line or marching past, and the whole ferming line or marching past, and the whole

The snow was too deep to admit of their forming line or marching past, and the whole accordingly marched. off, proceeding through Lewis street, the Place d'Armes, the Upper Town market, St. John street and other of the principal streets. The number of men under a s might be about 2,000, and most of the panies being in uniform they presented an

a singit do about 2,000, and most of the co-apanies being in uniform they presented an imposing appearance. A great number of spectators were present and a long train of carioles followed the line of march.

We are sorry to learn Major Sewell has resigned the command of the Light Infantry Companies which he held with the rank of Major. The reason assigned is, that his military duties interfered with those of the Post Office. However that may be, there is only one general expression of regret that the Volunteers should be deprived of the services of an officer so competent to the command he exercised and who, in addition to his military experience, gained in the regular service, possessed so happy a manner in conveying assiruction to the young Volunteer.

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late Apot On Mo infant sor On Mor of his age egiver G By the By the her ancie Hale belimity in marriage herst, Co America, at Monti believe, a in India. We do Canada, Highness sovereign Hale retu which off of the C. Lanaudie

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