

THE CALUMET OR PIPE OF PEACE.—The calumet is held in great reverence by the North American Indians, and is used in transactions relative both to peace and war. The bowl of this pipe is made of a kind of soft red stone, which is easily wrought and hollowed out; the stem is of cane, alder, or some kind of light wood, painted with different colours, and decorated with the heads, tails and feathers of the most beautiful birds. The use of the calumet is to smoke either tobacco or some bark, leaf, or herb, which they often use instead of it, when they enter into an alliance, or on any serious occasion, or solemn engagements; this being among them the most sacred oath that can be taken, the violation of which is esteemed most infamous, and deserving of severe punishment from Heaven. When they treat of war, the whole pipe and all its ornaments are red; sometimes it is red only on one side; and by the disposition of the feathers, &c., one acquainted with their customs will know at first sight what the nation who presents it intends or desires. Smoking the calumet is also a religious ceremony on some occasions, and in all treaties is considered as a witness between the parties, or rather as an instrument by which they invoke the sun and moon to witness their sincerity, and to be as it were a guarantee of the treaty between them. This custom of the Indians, though to appearance somewhat ridiculous, is not without its reasons; for as they think that smoking tends to disperse the vapours of the brain, to raise the spirits, and to qualify them for thinking and judging properly, they introduced it into their councils, where, after their resolves, the pipe was considered as a seal of their decrees; and as a pledge of their performance thereof, it was sent to those they were consulting, in alliance or treaty with; so that smoking among them at the same pipe, is equivalent to our drinking together and out of the same cup. When a lover visits his mistress, which is always at night, he gently presents the lighted calumet to her. If she extinguishes it, she admits his addresses; but if she permits it to burn unnoticed, he retires disappointed and sad.—*Travels in North America.*

ENGLISH GOVERNESSES.—In Russia the governess is held in such respect that she is led forth as an honoured guest, taking precedence of the pupil whose education she has completed. In England, it would be difficult to ascertain her position—charged with the sole care of the “precious jewels” of an illustrious house; considered competent to cultivate their minds—to form their manners—to enlarge their views, that they may keep their position, and become all that is desired in English gentlemen—the person who does all this, if admitted into society at all, is thrust, unintroduced, into a corner, and expected to retire when the younger children are sent to bed—slighted by the servants—who consider her a servant—and looked upon as a person to be dismissed as soon as done with by the mistress! For one governess who receives a pension for past services—services which can never be repaid—there are, protected and prosperous, a hundred ladies’ maids; it is not at all uncommon to meet with pensioned servants, but a pensioned governess is a *rara avis*; we find them in hospitals and workhouses when they are overtaken by ill health, or faded into old age!—*The Art Union for June.*

FLOGGING IN THE ARMY.—A month has not expired since the death of the unfortunate victim whose case in so remarkable a degree has awakened public interest and discussion. Indeed it was not until a late hour this morning that the inquest on his body was concluded. And yet in this short space of time her Majesty’s Government have made a greater concession to the demands of humanity and reason than has ever before been granted to years of argument and petition. The efforts of Sir Samuel Romilly were vain, though his utmost expectations and requests did not reach to half the extent of the reform at present contemplated. The motions in the House of Commons, from time to time, though, in many cases, praying only for returns and inquiries, were invariably negatived. The first step towards the rescue of the soldier was made by a confidential circular of the Duke of York, in 1812, who ordered that “on no pretence should the award of a regimental court-martial exceed 300 lashes.” Still, however, these 300 lashes might be inflicted for the most ordinary offence, and the terrible power of the district and general courts were left uncontrolled. As late as 1825 a man was sentenced to receive 1,900 lashes, though the amount was reduced by the revision of the Commander-in-Chief to 1,200. In 1832, in the debate on one of Mr. Hunt’s motions on this subject, Sir John Hobhouse stated that the number of lashes which could be inflicted by the orders of regimental and district courts martial had been reduced from 300 and 500 to 200 and 300 respectively. In 1835, the Commission for investigating this subject was appointed, and in the following year the award of a general court martial was limited to 200 lashes, of a district court martial to 150, and of a regimental court martial to 100. It is only by considering the difficulties experienced in procuring, at these long intervals, the successive mitigation of the military code, that we can appreciate the concession so cheerfully and promptly made at present. *Bis dat qui cito dat.* If we have not got all we could have wished, we have got more than we could have hoped, and that before we could have expected it. And so promising are the contemplated arrangements, that we may confidently anticipate the residue of this barbarous privilege to be merely nominal, and that it will expire of itself for want of fuel, under the influence which the new regulations must exert upon the general well-being of the army.—*Times.*

NEWS.

Last week we had only time to notice the intelligence brought by the *Hibernia* in the briefest manner. We now give more copious extracts.

The news of the week from the United States has shown more activity in the prosecution of the war with Mexico; and it is likely that the chief places in the northern part of that extensive but distracted Republic will soon be in the hands of the American forces. Should the fine tract of land in question finally belong to the United States, there can be little doubt that it will be much sooner peopled and improved than it would be under Mexican management; and from the disposition recently manifested by the great majority of the House of Representatives, there is reason to hope, that, however much they may annex, no farther extension of the area of slavery will be permitted.

Santa Fe has fallen into the hands of General Kearney without a contest, the Mexican Governor, Armijo, having retreated to Chihuahua. The American General fixed his quarters in the palace, and proclaimed himself Governor of New Mexico, amid, it is said, shouts of applause on the part of the inhabitants.

General Taylor was fast approaching Monterey, where an active contest was expected; but very little can be averied with accuracy until the official despatches are published.

The remnant of the Mormons have been obliged to yield to violence, there being, it appears, no power in the laws to protect them. The numerous body of that remarkable sect, which emigrated in spring, is said to be in a wretched and starving condition among the wild regions of the Upper Missouri. Upon the whole, the followers of the Mormon prophet appear to meet the same fate with those of Judas of Galilee (Acts v. 37).

Certain American divines and religious papers are indulging in much self-complacency on account of the victory obtained, or supposed to be obtained, over the British abolitionists at the Evangelical Alliance. The fact is, the controversy on the subject, which has raged in the United States for the last ten years, is comparatively new in Britain, and therefore the Americans were thoroughly versed in all the highly plausible arguments and assertions on their own side of the question, while the British had to seek for the replies to them. Had the American abolitionists been prepared with a single able man in the Alliance, provided with the documents and facts which are so well known here, we are satisfied the result would have been far otherwise.

The awful storm which endangered the *Great Western* on her last passage out, is largely described and much dwelt upon by several of the passengers in the American papers.

The Canadian news of the week are not important, if we except the steady advance in the value of all the productions of the country, an advance which cannot fail to increase the purchasing power of Canada for the year, to the extent of nearly fifty per cent., and which must therefore exhaust the stocks of goods on hand, in a remarkable manner, unless they were greatly overdone indeed, for the trade formerly expected. Our readers will remember the gloomy forebodings entertained in many quarters, of the utter prostration of Canadian interests, more especially those connected with bread stuffs consequent upon free trade—wheat was, if we remember right, to be three yolk shillings a bushel in Upper Canada, and other things in proportion. Surely the facts of the case as now developed, will shake the confidence of protectionists in their own wisdom, and set the people’s minds at rest as to the safety of Free Trade. We do not mean by these remarks, to say, that the rise in prices altogether results from free trade, it is doubtless a consequence of the increase of consumption, and the failure of the potato crop, combined of which the former element alone, is attributable to free trade; but we do mean to say that free trade will not upon the average lower the prices of our productions, in any greater degree than it will lower the prices of the articles which we consume in return, and therefore that all its benefits, whatever they may be, are obtainable without counterbalancing disadvantages.

The great innovation of the the present day, viz: the transmission of intelligence by lightning, is making rapid progress, and bids fair soon to invade, and we trust *electrify* the somewhat lethargic Canadas. Preparations are, we see, making, to connect Toronto, as well as Montreal with New York, Boston, Washington, &c. &c., so as to bring them all within about a minute’s distance. Truly all this is surpassing strange. Many of our citizens earnestly desire a lightening line to Halifax, by which we would have the news from Europe two days ahead of Boston; and from Montreal as a central point transmit them to all parts of the American Continent. Whether this will be speedily accomplished or not depends, we presume, on the Legislature.

Halifax papers contain an account of a dreadful storm at St. Johns, Newfoundland. The shipping have suffered considerable damage, and the temporary houses erected since the great fire are wholly blown down.

CANADA.

DARING HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE LIFE.—On Wednesday, the 7th inst., a little after 5 o’clock in the evening, as Mr. Evans, of the firm of Messrs. B. Brewster & Co., was riding in a gig, accompanied by a lady, near where the stream of water comes down from the Mountain, at St. Catharines, about one mile and a-half from town, they were met by two fellows, both of whom, on coming close up, drew out pistols; one seized the