malformations, illicits, etc., which are not produced in the regular and healthy course of nature, but evidence her debasement and disappointments.) Ten thousand times this phenomenon may have occurred unnoted, before some stern necessity of thirst, fatigue and destitution induced some one to partake freely of the product, in spite of the reluctance and revolt of the senses. The effect was immediate and palpable—elasticity, energy, courage, invigoration,—the first pair and the apple over again. The depression, prostration and pain came afterward, and could be forgotten or referred to some other cause. If the first bold experimenter in alcohol did not choose to repeat the dose, the second, fifth or the tenth was doubtless less wise. It crept gradually into use—first as a medicine or wonderful elixir, capable of curing almost any disease; and very soon repaid the confidence reposed in it by creating many new disorders and aggravating those previously known. While it may have been medically used in some cases with effect, it has unquestionably created a thousand pains where it removed one, and caused more deaths than all the medicines on earth ever have postponed or prevented.

(To be continued.)

Treasury.

Wilt thou go with this Man.

I remember Dr. Hawker concluding an admirable discourse with these brief words:—"The words were addressed to Rebecca of old; "*Wilt thou go with this man?*"—"Souls, will ye go with Christ? Will ye go to Christ?" "I would go with him," saith one, "but would he have me?" Did he ever reject one that came to him? "I would go with Christ," saith another, "but I am naked." He will clothe thee. "I would go to him," says a third, "but I am filthy." He can cleanse you; nay, his own blood shall wash you, and his own veins will supply the purifying stream. "I would go with him," saith another, "but I am diseased and leprous, and cannot walk with him." Ah! but he is a great physician, and he can heal thee. Come as thou art to Christ. Many say, "But I cannot come." I remember a saying in the North of Ireland, in the revival, which just hits the mark. The young converts will say to one another, when one says "I cannot come," "Brother come if you can, and if you can't come, come as you can." Will you not come, when by coming to Christ you may save your soul? We do not know what faith is when we say to ourselves, "It is so mysterious I cannot reach it." Faith is trusting Christ. It is the end of mystery and the beginning of simplicity; the giving up of all those idle feelings and believings that aught else can save the soul; and the reception of that one master-thought, that Christ Jesus is exalted on high to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sins. Never soul perished trusting Jesus, never heart was blasted with perdition that had confidently rested itself upon the cross. There is thy hope, poor shipwrecked mariner, yonder constellation of the cross with those five stars, the wounds of Jesus. Look there and live. One glance, and thou art saved.—*C. H. Spurgeon.*

THE
Protestant & Evangelical Witness.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1861.

"Upon this Rock."

Matt. xvi. 18.

On this celebrated passage we find four views. By the "Rock," some suppose, is meant Peter's faith or confession; others say the Rock indicates Christ himself, whilst others would have Peter understood to be the Rock, and a fourth class maintain that the whole college of Apostles are included in the term Rock. Protestants may be divided in their opinions of that passage; but Roman Catholics are as much, if not more, diversified in the same. Popes, Councils, saints and theologians of this church can be named, as supporters of the four interpretations just enumerated. So much for the boasted unity of Rome. This difference of opinion is the more note-worthy from the fact, that the text is made to do great service in building up and maintaining the claims of papacy, especially the dogmas of the pope's supremacy and also his infallibility. Having presented the variety of opinion held by Romanists upon the passage, we give upon the authority of an able German writer the following analysis of the views of the so-called Church fathers: "Launoy, Doctor of the Sorbonne, out of 77 sayings of the most famous church fathers and church writers, has found only 17 which explain Peter as the Rock; 44, on the contrary understand the *faith*, and 16 *Christ* himself. Gregory of Nyssa records particularly that 'to this day many will not at all admit that it is the *confession* which is here spoken of.'" If Romanists at the present time agree with Pope Pius IV., and with him declare that: "Nor will I ever take and interpret the Holy Scriptures otherwise than according to the *unanimous* consent of the fathers," we cannot understand how they can pretend to make any use of this passage for the Pope's supremacy, or any thing else, so differently explained, by different and contending fathers. This Pope's creed, also, destroys the argument drawn from this text in favor of succession from Peter; for Cyprian says: "The other apostles were the same as Peter, endowed with equal fellowship, both of honor and power." Notwithstanding the assertion of Bonario, that all the fathers are of the same opinion one with another, we hold, that they do not agree, and to such an extent are they at variance, that he who adopts the creed of Pius IV., will make void the Scriptures by his tradition. Casting these fathers as dictators in matters of faith and interpretation wholly aside, we must, in accordance with protestant and common sense principle, allow Scripture to be its own interpreter. Looking then at the word of God for an infallible answer, we ask did Peter claim authority over the other disciples, or amongst on his part, did they grant him superiority or primacy? The true answer to this question, will go far in opening up the way to a correct solution of any real or supposed difficulty in the text under review. As a fruit of worldly ambition, marring the beauty and correctness of apostolic aspiration, Luke had a dispute entertained by the disciples on the point of supremacy—"who should be greatest among them." Probably, this contention arose from the statement in this passage, and the privilege granted to him with James and John in witnessing Christ's transfiguration. Besides the carnality of the apostles, whatever may have given rise to the controversy, our Saviour emphatically condemns, first the spirit from which it originated, and then goes on to show that instead of allowing one to lord it over another, (in popish style) he unequivocally places the apostles on equality; for, granting the same power to all, he says whatsoever ye shall bind &c., and again where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I &c. There is nothing here about Peter, as rock, head and chief. See Matt. 18: 1—20 a passage, which evidently looks back to Matt. 16: 17—19., and constitutes the false views and inferences of Peter and some others of the apostles which at that time they appear to have entertained. It is a pity that our Catholic brethren, even to by more than even, the example of Peter, when in error, from upon the correctness of his Master! In matters of the fathers of sacred history, we find no trace of Peter's primacy, as pope among the apostles. He was, on some occasions, set on a pinnacle far above, and above his brethren. He then preached on the day of Pentecost and carried the gospel to the Gentiles, but in no place do we find him exercising authority, or treated with special deference by the other disciples; but rather the contrary. In Acts 6: 2., we find that it was not by his authority that the multitude of believers were called together to select fit persons to serve tables; but that "the *twelve*," and the twelve lay their hands on the persons chosen, v. 6. When Peter appeals to the disciples of Christian propriety, and [illegible] of his attendants, that the household of Cornelius might be baptised, Acts 10; 47., we are led to think of anything but the presence and action of a pope. And, in the following chapter when accused of consorting with gentiles, he does not defend himself by a rebuking reference to his possession of supreme powers, but rather by an humble appeal to human weakness, or inability to resist divine authority; *what* was *I* that I could withstand God. Oh! how unlike the ravings of Bellarmine, who says "the Pope can transubstantiate sin into duty, and duty into sin;" or the "senseless parasitism and blasphemy," uttered in the council of the Lateran, when it was declared that Leo possessed "power above all powers, both *in heaven and in earth!!!*" In Acts 15, we find that a General Assembly is convened, but not by Peter, and though he speaks in it, the advice of James is adopted. Then the historian remarks "it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church to send chosen men", &c. Where is Peter's primacy here? In Gal. 2; 9., James is mentioned first; and in the 14th verse of the same chapter we find him publicly censured by Paul for dissimulation. His successors in this quality are very numerous in a certain quarter, we allow. In 1. Peter. 5: 1., he calls himself an *elder*, not a pope. And in 2 Peter 1: 16, and 3: 2 he speaks not in his own name, but in that of the apostles. Paul not Peter was honored above the other apostles, both as a writer of Holy Scriptures, and in the abundance of labor as a preacher of the Gospel. Popes shun the light of the one and the fatigues of the other! In all this, again, we ask where is Peter's primacy? If he received this honor from his Master, we do not find him like his pretended successors claiming it, much less cursing all to eternal death who believed that he was on an equality with his brethren in the apostleship. But if Christ placed him higher than the others, he ought to have claimed it as his right to be acknowledged as higher; and the rest were bound to submit. But finding nothing of this either on his part or theirs, and not supposing that the twelve could have disobeyed their Lord, the only possible supposition is that Peter was no prince among the apostles. This, the Roman Hierarchy seem to know, for the Scriptures are carefully kept from the laity; experience, we suppose, having taught them, that the readers of that ancient Book generally, reject the primacy of Peter with other popish dogmas.

Rightly to understand the words of our Saviour to Peter in Matt. 16: 18, we must see and appreciate the mental and moral position of the apostle when addressed. Peter's confession is very comprehensive: "Thou art *the* Christ, the son of the Living God." Christ or Messiah, means anointed, and as applied by Peter to Jesus is intended to indicate that he believes Him to be the Prophet, Priest and King of the church, the Hope of Israel and the Saviour. Peter declares that he is the son of God, thus admitting that Christ is also divine, one in nature with God, for such is the significance of the phrase "son of God;" so that while others are doubting who Jesus was, Peter, under the guidance of God, rightly interprets the works and claims of Jesus, and rises to a correct appreciation of Him, as at once human and divine, as possessed of two distinct natures in one person, and so qualified not only to redeem his church but to teach and rule over it. Peter places himself in a line with all believers in former ages and sees Christ all his strength, all his righteousness. Thus he discerns and recognizes Christ to be the sure Foundation, a Stone, tried and precious, laid in Zion by God's own hands, to bear unaided the whole spiritual superstructure reared thereon, and rests on it with a firm grasp. Peter sinks himself that Christ may be exalted, and he throws all confidence away from self to find a sure support and resting place in Christ. When he is weak then is he strong. His mind being so impressed could not misinterpret Christ's words, could not allow him at least to make such an application of them as would virtually throw him off Christ back upon himself and cause him in substance to recall his own confession; and much less could we suppose that a correct interpretation of Christ's words would demand such a condition. But now with a heart glowing with love to Jesus, feeling, as no doubt he did feel, what he expresses in his first epistle, to you who believe he is precious, and that when others were tossed in the troubled waters of doubt and perplexity, he reposed with unruffled confidence on the Rock of Ages,—when he who to him was all his salvation, spoke and said "On this rock I will build my church," what could Peter understand, but that rock upon which he, as a living stone, was himself built?—How natural! What buoyed up Peter, would buoy up others; what he felt to be to him a foundation, Christ would give to all who, like him, *believed*, to rest upon the same—Christ, the Son of the living God. The language of Christ would make Peter feel that Christ read his heart, knew what was in him, when he mentioned *this* rock, and would induce him, instead of turning to himself, to rest more tranquilly on Christ. For, moreover, the conversation did not turn upon what Peter's name implied, or what this apostle would be; but the principal and all-absorbing point presented in an authoritative manner to the apostles, was, whom do ye say that I am? What Jesus was, then, must have occupied and filled, for the time, every mind and heart—the prominent object, standing out from all others with a special and commanding clearness, to the contemplation of every apostolic eye—so much so, that the bare mention of Peter's name would not withdraw the rapt attention from it. This fact would lead the apostles to *expect* an answer from Christ in the same direction, and therefore that expectation, unless checked by distinct qualification otherwise, would induce them, without hesitation, to refer "*this* rock" to the object under discussion, and so distinctly prominent. How often do we find examples of this in common conversation, and in the best writers. When all parties clearly understand the principal subject, it is not repeated in name, but all necessary conditions are satisfied by a reference, in relative words. Indeed, the statement "Thou art Peter," preceding the words "this rock," would be calculated to turn the thoughts still to Christ, denoting, as they do, a strong and fearless professor, the same calls up thoughts of faith, makes us think of one strong in the Lord, of one who receives all from him in whom he believes, of one in whom *Christ is all*,—an idea, therefore, aiding a correct interpretation of the words to Peter's confession. The words "this rock" themselves being expressed in the feminine gender, as grammarians say, would be still farther auxiliary to the same end, and prevent an application like that made by Rome. We believe that Dr Jacobus has given the correct view, when he interprets the words "this rock" as this *doctrine*—this confession of faith—as the foundation truth on which the church is built. We append his judicious remarks. "It (the passage) could not refer to Peter, personally or officially, for in no sense could he be the foundation to build upon—a *founder*, even, is not the *foundation*. Yet the *allusion* is to Peter, and the sense is—UPON THIS DOCTRINE, CONFESSED AND PREACHED, will I build my church—alluding to Peter's prominent part in preaching the gospel to Jews and Gentiles, and gathering a visible Christian church. This corresponds precisely with the great apostolic commission, "Go ye into all the world and *preach the gospel* to every creature;" and the promise annexed here, 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,' agrees entirely with Christ's parting promise. 'Lo, I am with you always,' and 'all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.' As to Peter's work, this initiates the part he should have in Providence, and not in any primacy or prerogative among the apostles. He first planted the church among the Jews, after Christ's resurrection, by his *preaching* at Pentecost, where three thousands were gathered in; and he carried the gospel to the Gentiles and founded the Gentile church. It does strike us as a strange medley of figures, to refer to Peter first as a foundation, and then as the keeper of the keys, and all this in one short sentence. Let us farther remark, that Peter, as if to prevent the Romish error on this point, was permitted frequently to fall into the gravest errors, both of judgment and of practice, and was frequently rebuked with great severity by Christ himself. "That he alone of the eleven went so far as to deny his Master, and continued under the reproach of that apostacy until the risen Saviour condescended to *restore* him" (John xxi. 15–17)—a passage which Rome also, not viewing in its proper connection and bearing, as just indicated, also sadly perverts. And finally let us remark that, so far from Popes being the successors of Peter, it is somewhat striking that this apostle testifies against the principal errors of popery. He protests against lording it over God's inheritance, in 1 Peter, v. 3, 4; "against a separate priesthood, 1 Pet. ii. 5–9; against assumption over the civil magistrate, ver. 13–17; against the love of silver and gold and shameful gain, Acts iii. 6, 1 Pet. v. 2; against unbecoming marks of honor and slipper kissing, Acts x. 25, 26; against infallibility, as is clearly implied in Acts 10. 34; against celibacy, 1 Cor. ix. 5; against all righteousness by works, in harmony with Paul, Acts xv. 10, 11 and 1 Pet. i. 13."

We have received a letter from Rev. James Waddell, who states that he had seen the two youngest of Mr Geddie's children, as he passed through Pictou on his way home from this Island, and that their health appeared not to have suffered from the rigors of a Nova Scotian winter. The two eldest sisters were well and happy with their relatives at Antigonish. The youngest, Hellen, who is with her parents on Aneiteum, is in her third year since September last. He further states that parties on this Island had pledged themselves to prepare webs of cloth to meet the offers of Messrs. M'Donald and Dixon to dress them for the Mission with which Rev. Mr Geddie is connected.

The Rev. George M. Grant, Missionary, of the Church of Scotland, arrived here yesterday morning in the *Westmorland* from Pictou, and immediately proceeded to Georgetown, where he is expected to preach on Sabbath first. We understand that he will only remain a few weeks on the Island.

A Juvenile Missionary Meeting will be held (D. V.) at the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening next, when some Dissolving Views (painted and photographic) will be exhibited. Price of admission, Children 2d; Adults 9d. Doors open a quarter before 8 o'clock.

May 9. 1861

James M'Callum acknowledges the receipt of the sum of £56 0s 4d, from the Prince Town Congregation, to be appropriated as follows, viz:—

Foreign Mission	30l	0	0
Bible Society,	12	0	4
Domestic Mission,	5	0	0
Seminary in Nova Scotia	5	0	0
Promoting Christianity amongst Jews	4	0	0
	56	0	4

Brackley Point, May 3, 1861.

We thankfully acknowledge the receipt from the publisher, James Barnes, Halifax, of a copy of a pamphlet entitled "*Narrative of Events issuing in the Institution of the Free Church of Scotland in separation from the State.* By the Rev. Andrew King, A. M., S T. P. Presbyterian College, Lower Provinces of British North America." This is a Lecture written in 1843, and was one of a Course on the Disruption, delivered by ministers of the Free Church in Glasgow, during the winter of that and the following year. It gives a brief, but comprehensive outline of the great movement in Scotland, denominated by Dr. Buchanan, "The Ten Years Conflict;" and gives a pretty clear idea of the principal events treated of in his elaborate work of that name.

Death of Bishop Onderdonk.—The decease of the Rev Benjamin Treadwell Onderdonk, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of the Diocese of New York, took place in that city on Tuesday morning, in the 70th year of his age. Bishop Onderdonk has long been in failing health, and his ailments—doubtless aggravated by the excitement attendant upon the discussion relative to his restoration—at length took the form of water on the heart from which disease he expired. By this event the Right Rev. Dr Potter becomes Bishop of the Diocese, having been elected Provisional Bishop with right of succession. Bishop Onderdonk succeeded Bishop Horbart, in 1830. In January, 1845 in consequence of charges preferred against him, the Bench of Bishops suspended him indefinitely; and two years ago a strong effort was made to get him restored to the full exercise of his episcopal functions, but it was unsuccessful. The last sixteen years of his life he past in the strictest retirement, supported with an allowance from the Bishop's Fund.—*N. B. Paper.*

School Examination.—An examination of the Bog School, taught by Miss Harvie, was held on the 7th inst., in the presence of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Dundas. Many Ladies were present; also the Chief Justice, Captains Orlebar and Hancock, and some Clergymen. Captains Orlebar and Hancock took part in the examination. The principal part of the instruction communicated to the pupils taught in this school is Scriptural, as their opportunities for receiving instruction of this kind elsewhere is rather unfavorable. The readiness with which the pupils answered questions requiring a considerable amount of Scriptural knowledge, spoke well of their diligence, and of the efficiency of the Teacher. Several pieces were sung, and sung well, at different stages in the examination. At its close, buns and oranges were dispensed to the pupils with a bountiful hand, and by them cheerfully received. Just before they were dismissed a piece of money was given to each of the scholars, for which they were indebted to the wonted generosity of Mrs Dundas. If school-rooms in town and country were more frequently visited by those who should take a greater interest in the elevation of our race, than is always manifested, it would have a beneficial effect both upon teachers and taught; and their presence there would not unfrequently, be like the breaking in of light on a dark place.—Com.

[For the Protestant.]

"I fear Brother we do not sufficiently feel the want of the Blessings for which we ask."

So spoke one having the care of a section of the Church devolving upon him, and in whom heart the desire to promote the cause will of his God preponderated to an exceedingly happy and creditable extent.

We do not suppose our worthy subject of remark was influenced by any other motive than a pure desire for the spiritual progress of the party addressed, but we feel conscious that even if the remark seemed applicable to the Brother who had but just related his experience, a different mode of giving counsel would have a decidedly more beneficial effect than we fear such a mode of procedure can generally lay claim to.

The Brother to whom the remark was directed was naturally of a diffident, and yet sentimental cast of mind; one, if we may judge from appearance and general deportment, that would much rather bury his feelings in his own bosom than submit them for the investigation of any party, and yet in this man's opinion when given on a subject in which he is the principal actor, and in the treating of which none will impute to him deception; we say it is his opinion that will rank high in the estimation of others when considered with respect to its veracity.

In this case the effort to express the ideas seemed greater than heretofore, and to one judging of Religion as seen in the visible expression of countenance, or as evinced by the amount of enthusiasm displayed in speaking, the confession would not be favorable. But such a mode of coming to conclusions indicates neither an intimate knowledge of the variety of character, or a responsive regard for the feelings of parties addressed; and it is to this part of the subject we at present invite attention, for from a subsequent interview with the party admonished we feel convinced the remark was not at all applicable, and it is simply to show the necessity of a good practical discrimination of the truth before any counsel is tendered that we pen this. Man is a sensitive being and as such requires from his fellow man that reciprocal regard for his feelings which is tendered him in like manner to another. When this regard is slighted either inadvertently or otherwise, the effects produced are seen in the amount of reserve or confusion which the meaning slight has given rise to.

The relation existing between a man and his God is decidedly a delicate subject, and when speaking of a man's Religion you speak of that which stands at all times connected the tenderest affinitude and respect, and should be borne in mind that although our Government may not be [illegible] to most, it does not a priori detract from [illegible] standing in the view of an all-wise God.

We remarked religion is a delicate subject, and as such must be approached with thought and care even by those whose experience may give them a considerable prestige in the estimation of parties addressed.

And we have reason to believe many really pious individuals have had their souls as it were marred by a premature or improper admonition or unguarded observation of those more advanced in the path of duty. Yes, how many have said I am in a strait betwixt two, for up to this I have endeavored to live wholly to God, but my brother tells me I do not feel sufficiently the need of that which I ask. Now I ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit at all times, my whole course of conduct is regulated by the precepts of God's Word, and my brother intimates there is a work for me even in the fitting of my heart for the operation of the Holy Spirit, while my Bible teaches me that the preparation of the heart alone cometh from God, and that if I ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and endeavor to put in practice its teachings all will be well.

That the fear evinced by our friend can too often be applied, we readily admit; but that the mode of expression in this case affected the advice given to an unwarrantable degree, we are seriously convinced, and it is simply to suggest the infusion of a greater degree of charity in our remarks, that we have thus expressed ourselves.

Lamont.

Secular Department.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

St. John's N. F., April 29.—Steamship Adriatic from Galway 23d, arrived at 2 p. m.

Steamship Africa from New York arrived at Liverpool on the 23d.

Madrid papers deny that the Spanish Government intends to reject the offer of the reincorporation of Saint Domingo with Spain.

The Provinces of Poland are divested of Russian troops, who are all concentrated at Warsaw.

In Paris rents had advanced to 66f. 50c. The Corn market was without alteration.

A writ of execution has been issued against the Great Eastern at the suit of Scott Russell for the satisfaction of his claims.

It is reported that the Conservatives are preparing to make a strong opposition to Mr. Gladstone's budget in hopes of creating a Ministerial crisis.

It is reported in Paris that Prince Napoleon is about to leave for London, to demand explanations from the Duke d'Aumale of the observations in his recent pamphlet injurious to the Prince's honor.

The Emperor's private secretary has also published a contradiction of the passage in the pamphlet affecting the character of the Emperor.

All the great houses in Marseilles have suspended. The liabilities in some cases are very heavy. The failures were caused by the Turkish Government not providing for its acceptances, and the refusal of the Bank of France to continue advances.

The important debate in the Italian Parliament, on the reorganization of the Southern army, was continued on the 20th. Count Cavour made various explanations, in the course of which he eulogized the Garibaldian Generals, but said the Government was conforming to the wishes of the friendly Powers. He was not willing to take the indication for Venice, and could not accept Garibaldi's proposition in favor of re-constructing the Southern army. In case of danger of war, however, the volunteers would be reorganized, and Garibaldi be requested to take the command.

Garibaldi said he was not satisfied with these declarations, as the prospects were alarming. He insisted, therefore, upon the reorganization of the Southern army.

The Chambers finally adopted, by a vote of 167 against 78, the following order, proposed by Ricasoli—"The Chambers having heard the declarations of the Ministry, are convinced that the Government will actively occupy itself with the armaments for defence which appertain to the Government alone." Passed to the orders of the day.

The reactionary movement had been completely suppressed.

Garibaldi was not expected to attend the sittings of the chambers for several days, owing to ill health.

Rolazzo, president of the chambers, was unable to preside.

Affairs of Warsaw were unaltered. Gortschakoff had issued a proclamation stating that assemblages for political discussion will not be tolerated, and that order can only be maintained by the civil officers with the assistance of the military.

The national prayer is prohibited in the churches of Warsaw under a threat of military interference.

The Cossacks fired the city of Cholm for the purpose of plundering it, but the flames were extinguished.

London Tuesday Morning.—The budget was debated in the House of Commons last night. The opposition denounced it generally, but proposed no amendments.

Lord John Russell said the proposed conference on the slave trade would not be held, because the American Government refused to take part in it.

New York, May 6.—Steamship "City of Baltimore" arrived this morning with advices three days later. Cotton was advancing, market closed firm. Breadstuffs were dull. Provisions steady. Consols unchanged.

A prospectus had been issued in Liverpool, having influential support, for the immediate establishment of lines of steamships to New Orleans, and to Charleston. The Charleston line to start the first steamer in July.

A French fleet has been ordered to be fitted out, to convoy back to France, the French troops now in Syria.

The commercial treaty between France and Belgium has been signed.

The Prince Napoleon has abandoned his design of seeking "satisfaction" from the Duke D'Aumale, for the offence arising out of the pamphlet lately published by the Duke, a family Council having decided that he should not do so.

The position of affairs at Warsaw is unchanged.

It is asserted that the Government of Hayti has requested a Spanish protectorate.

The Pope has resolved not to quit Rome. The Italian leaders have become reconciled. Greece has recognized the Kingdom of Italy.

British and For. American News.

United States.

Boston, May 3d.—Intelligence has just been received that North Carolina had seceded and joined the secessionists.

Yesterday afternoon a number of Kentucky regiments joined the Southern army.

Jefferson Davis the President of the Southern Confederacy, will command the Southern army.

For a short time vessels will be allowed to leave blockaded ports.

Ships having emigrants on board will not be permitted by the blockading fleet to enter Southern ports.

New York, May 3d.—The Steamer *Northern Light*, from Aspinwall, with nearly One Million in Gold, has arrived.

Mendoza, near Valparaiso, had been destroyed by an Earthquake. Eight Thousand Lives were lost.

The Steamship *United States*, from Glasgow for Montreal is ashore at Bird Rock, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and going to pieces. Nobody discovered on board.

Despatches from the South show great military activity among the rebels.

Troops are concentrating on various points in Virginia.

Twenty thousand Federal Troops are in Washington.

All travel south of Philadelphia is stopped by order of General Patterson.

Major Anderson passed through Philadelphia to-day, for Washington, and was greeted enthusiastically.

The Custom House to-day allow vessel clearances for Baltimore, without touching at Norfolk.

Boston, May 4, 1861.—The President has issued a Proclamation for 65,000 additional troops, and eighteen thousand sailors. Reported that Harper's Ferry will be retaken, and Richmond invested.

Federal troops are moving towards Baltimore.

It is alleged that a plot has been discovered to burn Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, by rebels emissaries. Rumored that conference of all Governors of rebel states is called to meet at Montgomery.

14 companies of Kentuckians have tendered their services to federal government, and 10 accepted.

In Western Virginia 20,000 men enrolled under the American flag.

Special session of Massachusetts Legislature will convene May 14.

Washington, May 6.—The New York Zouaves, and 6th Regiment of Massachusetts, started this morning for Alexandria, the Virginian military having withdrawn. In consequence, there are active military movements by the Federal Government on the banks of the Potomac.

Three thousand Pennsylvania troops have arrived; they marched through Baltimore quietly.

There are now 20,000 troops here.

Despatches from General Pillow to Colonel Stephens, have been intercepted; they give details of a contemplated attack on Cairo, Illinois. A reconnoissance to be made in the protective lines above the City, in order to immediate it. In the confusion, the Secessionists were to attack the Federal troops.

General Pillow, and other Confederate leaders, were at Memphis, with large numbers of Mississippi and Arkansas troops, and heavy guns.

There is great rejoicing in Maryland at the defeat of the public safety bill—a rank Secession movement.

It is stated that the President will demand the restoration of the Norfolk Navy Yards and of the Arsenal at Harper's Ferry.

New York, May 5.—The Steamer "Daniel Webster" has arrived; reports three Southern privateers cruising in the Gulf.

Washington, May 6.—Governor Letcher, of Virginia, has published his proclamation, declaring WAR against the Federal Government.

He sets forth that the Sovereignty of Virginia has been denied, and her soil is threatened with invasion. He directs the Commander of the Forces to take out a sufficient number of Volunteers necessary to meet the exigencies of the occasion.

Tuesday, 5 p. m., May 7th.—The following despatches have just come to hand:

Boston, May 7th.—General B. F. Butler is fortifying his position at the Relay House. All trains for the South and West are searched by him.

Late accounts from Pensacola, report that the troops of the Confederacy are in a bad condition.

Senator Bayard, of the State of Delaware, has taken refuge at Philadelphia, fearing personal violence, on account of his secession proclivities. He was arrested, but released.

Washington May 7.—General Cooke who commands the military forces of Virginia, has issued his orders for the occupation of the banks of the Potomac, his own station being opposite the City of Washington, having military connection with the Commandant at Harper's Ferry, and at Fredericksburg, in Virginia. The General adds, that the Capital has never been threatened, as it is outside the limits of Virginia; and he concludes with a threat of open war, if a single Northern soldier sets foot in Virginia, or pollutes with his tread, "The Grave of Washington."

The Charleston *Courier* of last Saturday says, that the Collector of Customs is instructed by the Southern Confederacy to clear all vessels, until the will of the Southern Congress is known.

General Beauregard has left for Montgomery.

A messenger from General Butler's camp yesterday, states, that a powerful battery has been erected on the opposite bank of the River Patapsco, which can take his position effectually. General Butler is preparing to take it by assault.

Large number of Southern troops now concentrated in Virginia. The Federal Government is not yet quite ready to attack them.

The Unionists in the States of Kentucky and Maryland have offered troops to President Lincoln.

Accounts from Virginia state that the Rebels leaders are alarmed. [To be received with grains of allowance.—Ed. Col. Empire.]

It is stated that the Governors of the Slave States have been notified to repair to Montgomery, for conference with the Southern Government.

Commodore Stringham, U. S. N., has given notice of the blockade of all the Seaports of Virginia and North Carolina.

Troops were marched to-day from Washington towards Baltimore, the Federal Government having decided to occupy Baltimore as a military post.

General Harney has issued a letter addressed to the people of Missouri, stating their certain destruction if they join the Secessionists.

Boston, May 4th.—Half a million of dollars in specie passed through Annapolis to-day for Washington, for the payment of Government Officials and troops, all of whom are in arrear of pay, owing to the difficulty of getting specie from New York.

President Lincoln has called for nearly 70,000 additional troops and sailors. Ten thousand are ready to respond in this City.

New York, May 4.—Large seizure made of munitions of war intended for Secessionists.

Nothing new from the South, but the general opinion is that there will be a desperate work within ten days.

The Mails from the South to-day, bring information, that the military enthusiasm there cannot be equalled.—*Telegram to Col. Empire.*

Maine.—The Maine Legislature adjourned on the 25th ult., after passing an act to raise ten regiments of volunteers, and appropriating a million of dollars; an act to provide for a coast guard, and appropriating $300,000; an act making the entire militia of the State available by draft; a resolve authorizing a loan for $1,500,000, and an act authorizing the employment of females as nurses in the army.

General Scott.—A Boston paper says, "The veteran general, to whom the whole country now looks with such confidence for the successful defence of our government, will be seventy-five years old on the 12th of June. With him age has brought experience and judgment but not weakness. His gigantic frame is still apparently as vigorous and firm and his genius as bright, as when he won his laurels at Erie and Chippoway forty-seven years ago.

Explosion of an Oil Well.—*Tidioute, Pa.*, April 19, 1861.—On the Buchanan Farm, Warren Co., Pa., 17 miles from Tidioute, where a large number of oil wells have been sunk, within the past four months with great success, on Wednesday last, occurred one of the most frightful accidents that it has ever been the province of a newspaper to record. The telegraph has furnished a skeleton of the accident but the details have not yet been made public.

A well which had been drilled over two hundred feet by Hawley & Merrick, had struck oil, but the yield being less than expected, the pumping was abandoned, and drilling recommenced. Over one hundred feet further were drilled, when at half-past five on Wednesday evening, a sudden rush of oil through the five inch and a half tubing, threw out the drills and gushed up to the air forty feet above the surface of the ground. At the least computation it was throwing from seventy to one hundred barrels an hour. Above this mass of oil, the gas or hasshine rose in a cloud, for fifty or sixty feet. As soon as the oil commenced gushing forth, all the fires of the engines in the neighborhood were immediately extinguished. At about half past seven, as a large number of men and boys were around the well engaged in saving the oil, the gas from the well which had spread in every direction took fire from the engine of a well over four hundred rods distant, when in a second the whole air was in a flame, with a crash and a roar like discharges from a park of artillery.

As soon as the gas took fire, the head of the jet of oil was in a furious blaze, and falling like water from a fountain over a space one hundred feet in diameter; each drop of oil came down a blazing globe of boiling oil. Instantly the ground was a flame, constantly increased and augmented by the falling oil. At once a scene of indescribable horror took place. Scores were thrown flat, and for a distance of twenty feet, and numbers horribly burned; rushing blazing from the hell of misfortune, shrieking and screaming in their anguish.

At the time of the explosion, everything in the neighborhood—sixty or seventy rods—took fire, and chanties, derricks, engine houses, dwellings, were at once envolved in flames. The boiler of Debb's well, 80 rods from the original flow, blew up with a tremendous explosion, killing instantly the engineer, Wesley Skinner, adding another intensity to the evening's horrors. At this time the whole air was on fire. The jet of oil rushing up forty feet was almost a pillar of livid flame, while the gas above it to the distance of a hundred feet, was flashing, exploding, dashing towards the heavens, and apparently licking the clouds with its furious tongues of heat. All this time, during this tremendous combustion, the sounds of the explosions and burnings were so tremendous and continuous, that they could be compared to nothing but the rushing of a hurricane or tornado through a forest. The heat of the fire was so intense that no one could approach within 150 feet without scorching their skin or garments. It was the most frightful and yet the grandest pyrotechnical display ever vouchsafed to a human being.

On Friday morning the oil was still rushing up, on fire, with that same regularity and speed, throwing, it was calculated, at least 100 barrels an hour, covering an immense space with flaming oil—a loss to the proprietors of the well of from $20,000 to $25,000 daily. No human power can extinguish the flames, and the oil must burn on until the well is exhausted. No pen can describe its fierceness—no tongue describe the magnitude of its horrors.—*Cor. of Buffalo Courier.*

Canada.

Toronto, May 4th.—It is reported that the Federal Government is enlisting recruits here.

It is reported the Governor General of Canada has sent requisition to home authorities for five Thousand Troops.

New Brunswick.

Escape of Criminals from the Penitentiary.—It is rumored that seven of the most desperate characters in the Penitentiary made a partially successful attempt to escape on Saturday. Among the recaptured are Stanford and Johnson Bean whose recent sentences of death were commuted to imprisonment for life; M'Carron, the villain who attempted to kill and rob Mr Welch at the Suspension Bridge a few years ago, Boyer and another, whose name has not transpired.

Young Slaven and M'Laughlin, the latter sentenced for robbery, effected their escape.

A rigid enquiry will, no doubt, be made into the circumstance to prevent such an occurrence in future.—*Col. Empire.*

Newfoundland.

Newfoundland is in a great state of excitement on account of the General Election. the Roman Catholic Bishop has come out strongly in favor of the late Government, though he denounced its members some time ago as Public Robbers. Bishop Field (Anglican) comes out equally strong in favor of the New Government. Protestants generally are at one in supporting the New Administration. Soldiers have to be quartered at Harbor Grace to keep down the rabble.

The Seal Fishery has so far proved good.

By Telegraph we learn that Election Riots have occurred at St. John's and Harbor Grace. Much property has been destroyed but no lives lost.—*Hz. Witness.*

West Indies.—We have advices from St Domingo ratifying the intelligence already published of the cession of the late re public to the Crown of Spain. Great excitement prevailed in Hayti in consequence of the action of Spain, and the Haytian government had protested against what is termed the invasion of Spain. It was feared that Spain would be demanding all territory acquired in conquest by the Haytiens from the Dominicans during the last fifteen years; and in that case the Haytiens will resist to the death.—*Hz. Journal*

The *Oxygenated Bitters*, are recommended by Physicians in their practice. A distinguished clergyman, who had taken six bottles, by direction of his physician, writes us that they have cured him of Dyspepsia, of twenty-five years standing. Try this remedy, Dyspeptics.