

is in the State. This was almost to be expected, for it has long been a favorite argument among Southern preachers that slavery was not only permitted but enjoined by Scripture, in short that it was a sort of divine institution. In the meantime, the "war" in the States proceeds in a manner which puzzles everybody. The President has been inaugurated more than three months, the whole South according to the newspapers, has been blazing like a volcano, every section of the North has been sending forth troops by thousands, and yet no blow has been struck, worthy of the name. Were the telegraphs which have been loaded down the papers for the last two months to be published in a volume, it would certainly be the most unique the world ever saw, and as perfect an exemplification of *parum in multo* as could well be desired. All we can say in the meantime is, that the State of Virginia is occupied at many points by the opposing parties—the North is fortifying her lines and the South does not seem disposed to be aggressive. The truth is, so far as one may judge by appearances, the policy of the South is to act principally, if not entirely upon the defensive, and that of the North to exhaust their rebellious brethren by hemming them in on every side, cutting off their communications both by land and water. And this perhaps is at once the wisest and the most humane policy they could adopt, and if it should serve its purpose, it matters little about the ridiculous attitude occupied by a blustering press and people eager in pursuit of excitement. The pluck and endurance of the people of both sections in this unhappy struggle needs no artificial stimulant or spasmodic exhibition to give them reality. We fear there must under any circumstances be fighting, and a good deal of it, and every friend of humanity must rejoice, if by protracting the contest both parties may be so weakened that they may the more readily be inclined to listen to reason.

A most lamentable catastrophe is reported as having taken place at a city named Mendoza, in South America, which has been completely destroyed by an earthquake, and 8 to 15000 are represented as having perished in the ruins.

Spain, instead of losing ground in the West India waters appears to be making headway—having according to the latest accounts accepted the annexation of the finest division of the large island of Hayti. Had Brother Jonathan not had his hands more than full, we question very much if he would have quietly permitted the annexation of this island, and indeed we do not think it could well fall into worse hands than those of Spain.

Prince Alfred has been visiting the different West India Islands where he has of course been enthusiastically received, and is at present engaged in a flying tour through Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada.

The British Government have published a

Proclamation enjoining the strictest neutrality upon all British subjects, in the civil war now going on in the United States, at the same time recognizing the South as belligerents, and therefore entitled to all the rights of legalized warfare. Though warning every one against joining in any expedition on either side, there is evidently a feeling in the country and parliament not to recognise the dictum of the North that Privateering be treated as piracy, and should British subjects be so treated it would raise a feeling in England which it would be difficult to curb, not from any sympathy with the practice, but because the Americans refused during the Russian war, with not a little arrogance of manner, the propositions of Britain and France, that privateering be declared contrary to the law of nations. It is likely they will now have to take the consequence of their own short sighted and selfish policy.

Coming nearer home we have to record some very disgraceful election riots in the Island of Newfoundland, more particularly at St. Johns, Harbor Grace and Harbor Main, several lives have been lost, much property destroyed and the assistance of the military required to preserve the capital from being destroyed by a mob. At latest accounts peace and security had not been restored.

Turning to the continent of Europe, matters wear a most gloomy aspect. Poland is in an agitated and dangerous state, kept at bay by a hundred thousand bayonets. Rome is in as uncertain and unsettled a state as ever. To all appearances, the end must be, that the Pope must leave, though we wish we were able to say that along with this disposition to rid themselves of a useless incubus, the people were inclined to part with any portion of their blind and debasing superstition. So far as matters appear on the surface this is not yet the case, but the time will come.

The French army it is said is about to be withdrawn from Syria, and then what restraint will be placed upon the blood-thirsty Druses we know not.

In England there is not much of great importance to note. The two great parties of the State are almost evenly balanced in Parliament, but the Conservative feeling is largely predominant in the public mind, as evinced by the steady gains of that party. The paper duty has been abolished, and we observe also the contract has been withdrawn from the Galway Company, leaving the Curlew Company again in their glory.

In ecclesiastical matters the "Essays and Reviews" have not yet ceased to be spoken of, and the number of the Quarterly which reviewed them has gone through the unparalleled number of five editions.

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