

Brief Sketch of the Principal Events on this Continent During the Year 1862.

We present below a short account of the leading events in America for the past year. The war now raging on this continent has been regarded with the most eager interest in every part of the globe; and the incidents of the contest constitute a great part of the history of the year. Happily, we, in Canada, have been peaceful and prosperous, and while there is nothing very striking on our own national records, there is this lesson to be learnt from the calamities of our neighbors—First, to be deeply thankful for our condition; Second, to avoid carefully the perpetuation of any such deplorable error as has brought chastisement on those who, but a short time ago, were advancing to greatness with a rapidity that astonished the world.

JANUARY.

1st. Mason and Slidell transferred from Fort Warren to a British war-steamer. 12th. Reported loss of the British man-of-war, "Conqueror," 101 guns; all hands saved. 16th. Defeat in the Provincial election, stated by the *Globe* to be \$20,000. 17th. The Ohio Legislature authorized suspension of specie payments. 20th. Reported defeat of the Confederate Army in Kentucky, and death of General Zollicoffer. 26th. Stated that England's expense in the Mason and Slidell affair, amounted to £2,000,000. 29th. Arrival of steamer with news of publication in *Regatta* of Sweden and Russia despatches on the "Trent" affair; danger of war averted. During this month there were large arrivals of troops and munitions of war, transferred the former chiefly to this city.

FEBRUARY.

2nd. Federal authorities determine to treat rebel prisoners as prisoners of war. 6th. Accounts from England of an awful Colliery explosion at Hartley. 7th. Federal capture Fort Henry, Tenn. 10th. Capture of Roanoke by Burnside. 16th. Fort Donelson, Tenn., taken by the Federals; Confederates evacuated Bowling Green. 25th. Reported surrender of Nashville to the Federals.

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6th. Message from President Lincoln, suggesting pecuniary compensation for the abolition of slavery. 8th. The Merrimack sinks the Cumberland, and captures the Congress; combat between the Merrimack and Monitor. 10th. Confederates evacuate Manassas. 12th. Account of Confederate defeat at Pea Ridge. 13th. Confederate victory reported near the Rio Grande. 14th. Accounts of the capture of Newbern, N. C., by Burnside. 20th. Canadian Parliament convened. 23rd. Battle between Jackson and Shields, Winchester, Va. 26th. Reported blowing up of a barracks, at Orizaba, Mexico, and 1,300 persons killed.

7th. Surrender of Island No. 10 to the Federals. 8th. News received at Chicago of the battle of Pittsburg Landing, fought on the 4th and 5th. The Federals claiming victory. 11th. The Merrimack and Monitor capture several small vessels. 15th. Reported unconditional surrender of Fort Pulaski to the Federals. 10th. President Lincoln announces his consent to emancipation in the District of Columbia. 19th. The river opposite this city free of ice. 22nd. Washington advises the capture of Fredericksburg, Va., by the Federals. 26th. New Orleans stated to have surrendered.

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1st. Arrival in Montreal of the Governor General, announced in New York that James Island was ordered to be evacuated by the Federals on 27th June; President Lincoln calls for 300,000 more troops. 4th. Gen. McClellan addresses the army, stating Confederates were every time repulsed. 13th. Federals defeated at Murfreesboro, 16th. Gen. Halleck appointed Commander-in-Chief. 15th. Confederate ran "Arkansas" the gauntlet of the Federal fleet, and anchored below Vicksburg. 22nd. Military order directing the seizure of property in all the Southern States, useful to the rebels. 24th. Repulse of the Federal gubnats at Vicksburg.

AUGUST.

1st. Confederates open fire on McClellan's lines, Harrison's Landing; Federals reply and silence the guns. 4th. President Lincoln calls for 300,000 more men for nine months' service. 6th. Breckenridge repulsed at Baton Rouge. 7th. News of the destruction by fire on the 21st of July of steamer "Golden Gate," 150 passengers and \$1,114,000. 10th. Confederate ran "Arkansas" blown up. 9th. Federals checked by Jackson at Cedar Mountain. 11th. Independence, Mo., taken by Confederates. 15th. Report of defeat of Federals at Cumberland Gap on the 7th. 16th. Harpers Landing evacuated by Federals. 20th. Charleston, Tenn., cannon, etc., surrendered to guerrillas. 21st. Accounts of the massacre of over 500 whites by the Minn. Pop's papers and plan of campaign. 27th. Federals abandon line of Rappahannock. 28th. Accounts of humane capture of stores by Confederates at Manassas. 29th. Second battle of Bull Run. Federals repulsed. 26th. Continued fighting at Bull Run; panic among McDowell's troops, Federals forced back to Centerville.

SEPTEMBER.

1st. Centerville evacuated by the Federals.

24. Confederates within 30 miles of Cincinnati. 3rd. Report of destruction of Baton Rouge by the Federals; suspension of business at Cincinnati. 4th. Union army concentrated in the works around Washington; McClellan again in command. 5th. Confederates cross to Maryland. 11th. Confederates reported marching on Philadelphia. 14th. Report of a Federal defeat at Fayette, Kentucky, on the 10th. 15th. Federals capture the Hagerstown heights, Maryland; news of the capture of Harper's Ferry by Confederates on the 13th. 16th. Battle of Antietam Creek; Federals claim victory. 17th. Surrender of Munfreesboro to Confederates. 18. Confederates recrossing the Potomac into Virginia. 22nd. President Lincoln issued a proclamation giving freedom to slaves under certain circumstances. 29th. Maryland thanks the Federals for expelling the Confederates.

On the 4th the Confederates were repulsed in an attack upon Corinth; they were also worsted in a subsequent minor action in that vicinity. 8th. Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, Confederates claiming victory. 10th. Stuart's cavalry made a raid into Pennsylvania. 15th. Report of several vessels destroyed by the Alabama. 21st. Federal capture of Pocahontas, S. C. 30th. Advance of Gen. Burnside in command of the army of the Potomac, to form a junction with Siegel.

OCTOBER.

4th. Election in New York State goes in favour of the Democrats by a large majority. 9th. The Brooklyn R. C. Orphan Asylum burned. Two children burned to death. 15th. Wales retains his majority. 14th. Great fire in Montreal. 15th. Burning of the Rossin House, Toronto. Two lives lost. News reaches New York that the entire coast of Texas is in possession of the Federals. The army of the Potomac breaks up from Washington for Fredericksburg. 26th. The Confederates attack the Federals at Newbern without success. 28th. Battle at Cold Hill Ark. The Confederates said to retire.

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1st. Meeting of Congress. President's Message. He recommends a general abolition of slavery by the action of the several States; the Federal government to grant compensation. 7th. Close of Navigation on the Welland Canal. A whole brigade of Federals near Nashville. Another battle in Arkansas between Hindman, Confederate, and Herndon, Union, Federals. 13th. Claim the victory. Steamer "Alabama" captured by the "Alabama." One hundred and twenty marines found on board her are paroled and the ship ransomed for \$225,000. 11th. The army under Burnside crosses the Rappahannock on pontoons. Unsuccessful attempt of the Federals to storm the heights in rear of Fredericksburg. The loss 10,000 in killed wounded and missing. 13th. Canadian Custom House reports for eleven months show an increase of imports to the extent of \$5,500,000; but this was wholly in free goods, of which the increase was \$6,000,000. The duties collected was \$50,000 less on the first eleven of 1862 than on the first eleven months of 1861. 15th. Federal evacuate Fredericksburg, crossing the river on the pontoons. Gen. Banks arrives at New Orleans and takes command in place of Butler. 21st. Close of the ministerial crisis at Washington. All the ministers retained their places. It is announced that Attorney General Bates has decided that Free Blacks born in the United States are citizens; a decision contrary to the *Chief Justice* of the Supreme Court in the celebrated Dred Scott case. 23rd. Address of the President to the army of the Potomac. Thanks them for their services and devotion, and says the attempt upon the Fredericksburg heights was not an error nor the failure of the army. 24th. Stuart makes another raid on Damrics, captures several batteries and many troops. 27th. Mr. Jeff. Davis issues a proclamation denouncing retaliation on the "abolitionists." He orders Butler to be hung if caught, and also all officers who shall be found in company with negroes. 31st. River opposite the city almost free of ice.

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Capture of the California Steamship, the Alabama, \$12,000 in Treasure, Several Federal Officers and 130 U. S. Marines Captured.

Panama, Dec. 15. The steamship *Ariel* reached Aspinwall on Friday night, the 20th instant, having been overtaken by the Alabama on the 14th. Report of a Federal defeat at Fayette, Kentucky, on the 10th. 15th. Federals capture the Hagerstown heights, Maryland; news of the capture of Harper's Ferry by Confederates on the 13th. 16th. Battle of Antietam Creek; Federals claim victory. 17th. Surrender of Munfreesboro to Confederates. 18. Confederates recrossing the Potomac into Virginia. 22nd. President Lincoln issued a proclamation giving freedom to slaves under certain circumstances. 29th. Maryland thanks the Federals for expelling the Confederates.

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Mr. Buchanan to understand the subject of Settlement, he would require to spend a twelvemonth in the new settlements of Canada, for to trust to the special pleadings and rose-tinted Reports of Land Agents for information is absolutely folly. A few years ago a large number of Prussian Poles with families arrived in the Village of Renfrew and received plenty of work from the farmers in the neighborhood, and actually saved money, but, in a general way, the agriculturalists objected to have them living on their land, and consequently they were huddled in a group on the skirts of the village. However, in cases where land proprietors hold perhaps 1000 acres of land in different lots, the scheme might work; but among the average farmers it will not work. The following is another proposal from a Mr. Read, on the Opeongo Road, with regard to establishing a village. With regard to mechanics, his scheme would work well enough, but with laborers coming into the new settlement, they must either remain in old settlements or go at once on to land. However, the agitation of the subject will be beneficial, and may elicit some new ideas on this most important subject, from those whose field of observation is in the heart of the new settlements.

The "Herald."

To our numerous readers we beg to state, on entering the year 1863, that notwithstanding the rather gloomy prospect for newspaper enterprise, with which it has been ushered in, in reference to the scarcity of the dollars in circulation, the advance in the price of paper and the precedents taking place in our immediate neighborhood of curtailing the size of the sheet, we are determined to keep the now well known countenance of the "Herald" on as large a scale as it has been for some time past, and direct an increased supervision of the columns in a moral sense. During the past year 1862, we have the satisfaction of knowing that our efforts to render the "Herald" a welcome visitor at the domestic hearth or the public room have been duly appreciated, and we are determined that the name which it has for a long period obtained will be kept up, \$1 per year, strictly in advance.

For the last few days the weather has been of the most delightful description, so far as regards bright sun, balmy Southern breezes and slight frosts at night; but here the charms end, for the travelling business of the interior is comparatively at a stand still, and great inconvenience is experienced by farmers and those engaged in the lumber business. In every direction in this section of the country waggons and buggies are the order of the time; but as the old saying goes, "It is an ill wind that blows nobody good," for the same South wind which has incoincidentally witted away the snow from the fields, has afforded partial relief to cattle and sheep, which, in this season of scarcity of fodder, is a considerable saving to the farmers. However, should the present weather continue much longer, the lumbermen will find a difficulty of getting out their timber in time, although we have been informed that to the North of this and Westward, along the Ottawa River, there is at the present time, and has been for some time past, very good sleighing. At the present time the prospect of the season for both country merchants and farmers is very depressing. The prices offered for produce generally being a mere fraction compared to former years, except the article Oats, of which there is not much in this section of the country.

The Government have shown very commendable dispatch in forwarding the arms and accoutrements for the Carleton Place Rifle Company at so early a period, and from the appearance which the Company has presented on the several times, a very short time will suffice to bring them into such a state of discipline as to rival any county Company in the Province. The men are pretty much of a size, and, from the initiatory drill, promise well. The Rifles with which they are armed is the long Enfield, with a range of 900 yards, and cost the British Government about \$27 each. It is a beautiful instrument and finished in the best style of manufacture.

Emigration.

We have received a letter and two printed circulars from A. C. Buchanan, Esq., Chief Emigration Agent at Quebec, begging to draw our attention, and through the columns of this journal, the attention of the farming portion of the community, to the organization of a scheme for a better system of colonization. On this subject—one which ought to engage important notice—Mr. Buchanan says:— "The great drawback against which the head of a poor Emigrant family has now to shelter, where he can place his family, while he goes out to work for their support. From the general lack of such accommodation throughout the country, and the consequent difficulty of procuring it, the majority of our Farmers give preference to the employment of single men, much to the detriment of a class of laborers who have within them the elements of a sturdier success. To remove this objection, I venture to suggest that proprietors of 200 acres lots should set apart one cleared adjoining 10 uncleared acres of land; that they should build thereon a habitable log cabin, fit for the occupation of an Emigrant family, letting it to them for a term of years: the rent to be made payable in labor or in money, as might be agreed upon; or some such arrangement as the following might be made.—That the Emigrant should rent the lot for ten years, he giving one day's labor in the week, by way of payment, with the proviso that if within five years he clears and puts under crop five acres, no further rent will be required for the rest of the term; but should he fail to do so, then the bargain would be annulled. An arrangement of this sort would have the effect, if widely adopted, of securing immediate provision for the newly arrived Emigrant, and the Farmer affording this accommodation, would thereby acquire labor without paying money for it; at the same time improve his land, and attach, by kind treatment, to his interests, a family whose services or assistance might, in many instances, become of incalculable value to him."

With regard to the scheme above mooted it is our opinion that it would never work to any advantage, or be effective to any extent. For some years past a great many instances of the kind suggested by Mr. Buchanan could be pointed out in the County of Renfrew, in the old settlements, where married Emigrants have been employed by farmers, and who allowed them to live on the land; but we think that the majority of our farmers, holders of lots of 200 acres, who are in a way of being able to employ laborers, have generally all the land cleared which they require, and generally take considerable pains to preserve their forest for their future supply of firewood and fencing timber and other necessities. In those settlements where the settlers have only small clearances, in nine cases out of ten, they cannot afford to employ help and have generally a jealousy of allowing any other person on their land; the prejudices of ignorance and terror of legal quibbles, together with the ever-recurring land disputes, would throw a wet blanket on the scheme suggested by the Emigration Agent. To enable

Mr. Buchanan to understand the subject of Settlement, he would require to spend a twelvemonth in the new settlements of Canada, for to trust to the special pleadings and rose-tinted Reports of Land Agents for information is absolutely folly. A few years ago a large number of Prussian Poles with families arrived in the Village of Renfrew and received plenty of work from the farmers in the neighborhood, and actually saved money, but, in a general way, the agriculturalists objected to have them living on their land, and consequently they were huddled in a group on the skirts of the village. However, in cases where land proprietors hold perhaps 1000 acres of land in different lots, the scheme might work; but among the average farmers it will not work. The following is another proposal from a Mr. Read, on the Opeongo Road, with regard to establishing a village. With regard to mechanics, his scheme would work well enough, but with laborers coming into the new settlement, they must either remain in old settlements or go at once on to land. However, the agitation of the subject will be beneficial, and may elicit some new ideas on this most important subject, from those whose field of observation is in the heart of the new settlements.

Hopedale, Opeongo Road, Co. of Renfrew, G. W. Nov. 17, 1862.

Sir—In your issue of November 11th, I find that attention has been drawn in Paisley Scotland, to the circular which lately appeared in your paper from A. C. Buchanan, Chief Emigrant Agent at Quebec, recommending the adoption by landed proprietors and others of providing houses for emigrants on their arrival, &c. As you take a lively interest in furthering such information, you will, perhaps, do me the favor of giving publicity to this letter, and thereby confer an obligation on the intending settler, the proprietors and myself. The *Ariel's* passengers spoke in high terms of the courtesy shown them by Capt. Semmes. The *Ariel* was captured near the east end of Cuba. The only plunder secured by the Alabama was eight thousand dollars in "green backs," belonging to Wells, Fargo & Co. The Alabama last caught at Martinique. When leaving that port the United States war steamer San Jacinto aimed a gun at her, and simultaneously the fort in the harbour trained its guns on the San Jacinto. This is the statement of Capt. Semmes' Lieutenant. The Alabama claims a speed, under twenty-five pounds of steam, of 16 knots. She was overtaking the *Ariel* with only eleven pounds of steam.

The Rectory dispute at Kingston is assuming larger proportions, and several new actors have appeared on the theatre of events. Several pamphlets have been issued by the contestants, and both sides show considerable ability with very little Billingsgate. The quarrel is being carried on in the most gentlemanly style imaginable. One of the last Kingston papers contained little else in its columns, and must be an exciting local topic. All bodies are the better of an eruption now and then to clear out accumulated humors, and the Parish of St. George may come out of the cloud quite renovated.

Carleton Place Rifle Company.

According to notice given the members of this company assembled in front of the "Herald" office, on the morning of New Year's Day, in this village, and, after being dressed in the coats and accoutrements forwarded by Government from Quebec, were drilled by Robert Bell, Jr., Esq., nephew of Robert Bell, Esq., M. P. P. for the North Riding. The morning being unusually bright and the streets almost bare the exercises were particularly admired by several old veterans who were on the ground, and the men who composed the company, being, generally speaking, in the prime of youth, performed the evolutions with great credit. They paraded the streets several times, and from their manner of performing the drill, dictated by their youthful teacher for the time, have given great promise of future utility, should any unfortunate occasion arise.

New Conservative Association.

The universal dullness pervading the political coteries of Canada, has brought to the surface of the body politic an excrescence in the shape of a "Conservative Association of Upper Canada," having its fountain head in the City of Toronto, and the most amusing part of this new birth, under an obsolete and effete title, is that their platform, with very slight variation, is essentially that of the present Administration. Until this last eccentric eruption of the restless and ambitious spirits of Toronto, we have always supposed that the Conservative party proper, with all their lamentable failings and shortcomings, did not count among the articles of their creed that of plagiarism, or attempting to dress the last Reform bantling in the worn, unfashionable, and out-of-date habiliments of the "old Conservative"; but such is the case, and were the party who is now attempting to gather again once more the scattered and disjointed atoms of the old Conservative party into an opposition against the administration, to obtain power, they would fail to carry out the very platform they have placed before the Canadian people. Every set of political principles with which the Conservative leaders of Upper Canada have gone into power, have been ignored at the dictation of their Lower Canadian colleagues, and have proved the greatest trimer that ever took charge of the vessel of State. It is said that a certain lower region is paved with good intentions; so is this organization; but in all former combinations of the kind, they have never borne fruit, and the Province is in a too advanced state to take as gospel all the promises which may be advanced by this coterie of disappointed politicians—political charlatans has had its day, and the plain, practical common sense of the present Cabinet appeals to the reason of even the mass of the Conservative party themselves.