

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, April 19th.

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR NORTHWEST TERRITORY.—A civil engineer, named Hatch, of New York, in a recent report upon the advisability of enlarging the Erie Canal, gives a brief description of the yet unoccupied regions of the Northwest in British America—chiefly known as the valleys of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan—remarkable not only for the mildness and salubrity of their climate, but the fertility of their soil. That many thousands of square miles of land, thus favored, exist in British America, is the geographical fact least known to the world. But it is shown on the best authority that in the interior of the continent the summer climate of West Point, in the State of New York, prevails at a latitude at least as far north as the northern extremity of Newfoundland, and regions having an habitable climate extend to a considerable distance yet further north. So great are the capabilities of these regions that Mr Hatch boldly makes the startling, but not incredible assertion, that, within the lifetime of men who are now living, the trade of New York with these regions alone will exceed the present trade with the whole of that region of the United States now commonly known as the Northwest.

BIG BEND ITEMS.—We clip the following items from the Walla Walla Statesman:—"Late advices are to the effect that great excitement prevails in Colville Valley in relation to the mining discoveries on Forty-nine Creek, and that the settlers are abandoning their claims and rushing wildly to the new gold fields. So great is the excitement that very many of the farmers have neglected to put in their spring crops, and dropping every thing else have struck a bee line for the mines. Owing to this fact it is believed that the crops in the valley will prove a failure this season, and that Walla Walla will be called upon to furnish the supplies for that section of country. It is more than probable that in this way we shall find a market for our surplus products, and if our Colville neighbors prefer to dig gold rather than raise bread and meat, we shall not lose by the operation.....Capt Len White, of the steamer Forty-nine, passed up a few days since on his way to Colville. Capt W. informed us that he expected to have his boat in readiness to make the first trip of the season about the middle of April."

NEW KIND OF GAS.—The building of the Pacific Union Mills, at San Francisco, are lighted by means of gas made on the premises by a new patent process. This gas, which is known as Ensley's Economical Gas, was invented in the United States and patented in 1866. It is made from grease, b. nes, waste from woolen mills, tannery clippings, etc., in connection with firewood, the result being a gas that needs no purifying process and gives a most brilliant flame. The gas made by this process is claimed to be the cheapest known, and parties in San Francisco interested in the patent right state their willingness to supply consumers with it at a cost not to exceed \$1.50 per 1000 feet.

A GENERAL IN DISGRACE.—An official announcement in connection with a race appears in the last number of the "Sheet Calendar" to the following effect: "The Stewards of the Jockey Club, having investigated the case of Soiled Dove, have come to the conclusion that General A. Shirley and Mr J. Arnold were accomplices in entering and running that mare as a two-year-old, whereas they were fully aware that she was a three-year-old. The Stewards of the Jockey Club therefore warn General A. Shirley and Mr J. Arnold, of Rugby, of Newmarket Heath. (Signed) Dangan, Thos. F. Grove, C. B. Jarrett."

A GLUT OF PETROLEUM.—The American papers, referring to the statistics of the production of the oil regions during the past year, express a hope that science may soon do something to bring petroleum into use for purposes in addition to those of illumination. The yield of 1866 was so far in excess of the demand that it is calculated the present year commenced with a surplus on hand in the various markets of the world of 732,000 barrels of refined, "which will have to be consumed before the production of 1867 can be brought forward."

TEST CASE.—A manufacturer has been summoned for purchasing two empty kegs, bearing the trade mark of G. J. Stuart & Co., brewers. It has been a standing complaint here for years that bottles, kegs, &c., belonging to our manufacturers and bearing their trade marks, are systematically sold and shipped away to San Francisco. The summons in this case is issued to test the right of parties to sell kegs and bottles that may fall into their possession.

HEAVY GALE.—About one o'clock yesterday morning a severe gale from the southeast commenced and continued without intermission until sunrise, when the wind drew round to the southwest and continued to cut strange capers during the entire day. We heard of no damage on land, save the prostrating of telegraph wires and fences, but we fear for the safety of ships that chanced to be in the vicinity of the Straits.

THE FLOUR MILL.—Gowen & Laumeister's grist mill will be prepared to grind the first barrel of flour on Wednesday or Thursday next. There being no wheat on the Island, the proprietors have sent to California for a quantity, which will arrive on the next steamer. A great deal of land has been sowed with wheat this spring, in anticipation of a large local demand for the supply of the grist mill.

MALICIOUS INJURY TO PROPERTY.—An old French Canadian appeared yesterday before the Magistrate to answer a summons of having burned a shed belonging to an estate for which Mr Timmerman is agent. The old man excused the act by saying that the premises were vacant, and he supposed the shed was ownerless. He was remanded for further examination.

FROM NANAIMO.—The Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clark, came in from Nanaimo yesterday evening with 12 passengers and a small quantity of produce from Cowichan. The Russian steamer Alexandra II. sailed for Sitka with coal at the same time the Douglas left for this place. Capt. Brown, of the Glamara, came down.

GOOD FRIDAY.—By a singular coincidence the anniversary of the Crucifixion of our Saviour and the Festival of the Jewish Passover both occur to-day. The holiday will therefore be general. There will be divine service at the Catholic and Episcopal churches, and at the Synagogue in the evening.

THE LAST NEW THING IN DINNERS.—A Turin journal states that there is a family in that city, consisting of five persons, who for the last year have lived upon cats' flesh. The eldest boy, twelve years old, does the hunting and provides for the household. The feline race is gradually disappearing from the neighborhood.

DRAGGED.—The steamer Cariboo dragged her anchors at an early hour yesterday morning, and went "bobbing around" the harbor for a resting place, which she nearly found on the rocks of Hospital Point. The derelict was finally secured and brought alongside of Nathan's wharf.

LIME.—The schooner Matilda, Gilbert, brought over 333 barrels of lime from the Orca Island lime kiln, on Wednesday, in transit for Portland by the Fidelity. She will return to Orca and fetch across another cargo for the same destination.

OUTSIDE.—A large ship was observed outside the harbor last evening signalling for a pilot. She is in ballast, and is supposed to be the Astara, from Aden, in the Red Sea, consigned to Capt Stamp, and chartered to convey a cargo of spare iron from Barrard Inlet to England.

AUSTRALIAN INTERCOLONIAL EXHIBITION.—The exhibition at Melbourne was visited by 93,056 persons in its first month. This number is equal to nearly a sixth of the entire population of Victoria.

PRINCE ARTHUR.—Prince Arthur has passed a highly satisfactory examination before the Council of Military Education, and will join the Royal Military Academy in February.

THE NEW WORLD WILL SAIL FOR PUGET SOUND at six o'clock this morning and will return tomorrow evening. The number of participants will be large.

NO PAPER.—In order to afford our employees an opportunity to engage in the religious exercises of to-day, no paper will appear to-morrow.

THE STEAMERS.—H. M. S. Sparrowhawk and the C. S. N. Co.'s steamer California will both be due here on Sunday. A double mail should be brought by the Sparrowhawk.

A PART OF THE CEMETERY FENCE WAS BLOWN DOWN ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Napoleon's Cabinet—Personal and Official Intrigues and Rivalries.

Correspondence of the London Times.
PARIS, January 23d.—On the 12th of November, 1830, Marie de Medicis, seconded by Gaston d'Orleans, advised Louis XIII, who was then recovering from a long illness, to dismiss his Minister, Cardinal Richelieu d'Orleans brother of the King. Louis could not resist the earnest entreaties of two such near relatives, and a promise was made that his wishes were wrong from him. Richelieu heard from his spies about the royal household of the danger he was threatened with. Not a moment did he lose. He hastened to Versailles, where the King then was, demanded an audience and obtained it, and in half an hour not only regained the confidence of his master, but obtained from him that his adversaries should be placed at the royal ordinance which was to have disgraced the Ministers to resign as the *Journee des Dupes*. They call it so because every one of the parties concerned expected a result different from what it has been.

For a long time past it appears that Walewski, President of the Legislative body, has made up his mind that certain friends of his own might be advantageously substituted in the Department of State and Finance for Roubier, who was and is at the head of the one, and Fould at the head of the other. Walewski's ideal of a Finance Minister is Magné, who probably agrees with him; and in the condition we all remember, and made the changes in it which we all know. Walewski's ideal of a ministerial orator and minister without portfolio, is Emile Olivier—certainly a man of fair abilities and of liberal tendencies; but far above all Walewski's ideal of a Minister of State is Walewski himself. All the influence which he possessed, and it is not inconsiderable, is said to have been brought to bear, directly or indirectly, in effecting this combination, on the success of which, by the aid of another high person in the Home Department whose oratorical gifts were more potential than his. In the meantime, the Emperor was maturing in silence and secrecy, his plan of reform—quite the same as that which has been published, but very nearly so. The Cabinet Council that was to meet on Wednesday was postponed, in consequence of the Court ball, to Thursday, and on that day, before any other business was entered upon, he quietly drew from his pocket a sheet of paper, read to his Ministers a draught of his project, informed them that as he had definitely made up his mind upon it, he would not then trouble them for any observations, and requested them to proceed forthwith to the ordinary business of the day. The Ministers received the gracious communication with respect, not without surprise, but they said nothing.

On Saturday the Council of Ministers met again, and the Emperor having settled in his own mind what to do with them, they were allowed to have their say. The Emperor was present and took part in the conference. There can be no indelicacy in alluding to this illustrious lady, who is, to all intents and purposes, a political personage. Her Majesty has ever and over again presided at Cabinet Councils; she almost always takes a share in the proceedings, and sometimes signs decrees and ordinances. In the present instance it is related that Her Majesty was pleased to express herself not over satisfied with the concessions granted by the Emperor, as they gave rather too much latitude to the opposition. Chasseloup Laubat (Marine) took some more liberal views, and perhaps said some exceptions to the project. There is some uncertainty as to how Marshal Randon expressed himself on this particular subject, though there was none as to what he thought of the project for the organization of the army. Lavalette, strange to say, took rather a liberal view, though he might not completely disapprove the plan. Fould did not conceal his opinion that it could hardly be looked upon as serious. He would cordially support any well considered serious measure that would enlarge the circle of public liberty, and at the same time maintain the proper authority of the Executive, but he did not think that the one in question had that character.

After hearing with his wonted serenity and patience all the Ministers had to say, his Majesty was pleased to notify his Ministers that he had made up his mind, "in invitation" was at once accepted. It was considered as a mere formality, though perhaps a superfluous one, as they all expected to be reinstated in their posts. How far their expectations have been realized you already know. Those who have planned a new combination are, it appears, more disappointed than any one. Walewski is, alas, not the Minister of State. Roubier keeps his place; Magné is not Finance Minister; Olivier is not Minister of anything, and is not the Government organ in the Chamber; Chasseloup Laubat has since said that he by no means regrets the loss of office, as he is pretty well tired of it; and his colleague of the War Department protests he is quite of the same mind. I have already alluded to the Emperor's letter to Fould. It is courteous, kind and friendly, but is said to betray some embarrassment. Roubier's appointment to the Finance is thought to be only temporary, out of regard to the late Minister; and there may yet be called to the post before long. M. de Parigny heard all about this too late to change the Emperor's resolution, or at least to try to change it. He would prefer some other combination and some other plan of reform. What that is I cannot say; but the probability is that any plan that brought him back to office and restored him to absolute sway over Prefects, Sub-Prefects and guards chambrées would suit him. From all this you may judge how far Saturday last deserves the designation of a *Journee des Dupes*. One of the retired Ministers remarked, somewhat bitterly, on Sunday that his colleague who remained took care on leaving office to provide themselves with their *contramarche*—the ticket given to persons who leave a theatre during the acts, and which enables them to return.

As for the benefit resulting from the decree on Sunday, public opinion is very nearly the same as I have in previous letters described it. It is a compound which may do much good or may do little; but there is one great fact which they do approve and that they disapprove seem to ignore, namely that it is one supreme will that still directs the destinies of the nation.

It is currently rumored that Hon. Mr Sanders is about to resign and return to England. Certain it is that all his effects are advertised for sale at Yale next week.

DURING THE LATE GALES on the English and Irish coasts one hundred and eleven lives were saved by the life boats at different stations. At ten other stations life-boats put off, but were unable to contend with the storm. An Irish paper says:—

"A sad proof of the disastrous character of the wrecks which have covered the Wexford banks and coasts with the shivered timbers of fine ships and with heaps of merchandise, mingled in wild confusion, is presented by the fact that an appeal will be made to the judge of assize at the March sessions, to relieve the county from the incessant and ever-increasing charge for burying the drowned. They come in wails and strays of poor humanity, on the surge of angry waves, or heaved up by the grand ground swells, or they are found driven into clefts or rocks by the solitary fisherman, or the waters roll a way and leave these tokens of their wrath upon the beach, twined around with sea-weed. Some are found headless or limbless; some scarcely recognizable as men; some seem as if softly sleeping, and as if they had struggled bravely against the storm and sea. They are of all ages—the grey, hard-featured seaman, the young girl returning home from school, the man of business in the prime of life. They are of all countries—Lascars, Americans, Italians, Frenchmen, Portuguese, and Englishmen, come to rest together, without distinction of nationality, on Irish soil. They are distinguished by their hair, by the cast of features, and which alone suffered no injury. Few come to claim or to inquire for these strangers. They have been missed from every home, and then when the day of their return had long since passed, the ship in which they sailed is inquired for, and at last it is known that the men are dead.—There is no use in searching further. They are dead, and all is over. They have been buried by kindly but foreign hands. One grave is like another grave, and why disturb them as they sleep in the old churchyard over which the sea-spray falls in tears? They come from all sorts of ships, the rough built wherry, oared by the captain and manned by a crew of three; the screw-steamer, which hissed and foamed through the storm, as its equal, the grand East India-man, looming in the mist like an old cathedral, on whose triple towers the moonbeams fall. Such an one was lost on Tuesday last. A full rigged ship, with all sail set, and her decks crowded with men as those of a privateer, was seen driven before the wind, sinking and falling with the wind. The mariners were full of hope and courage; those on shore knew they were rushing to death! Above the noise of the storm was heard the crash of the ship against the rocks, cleft right in twain, the ship parted on either side; for one moment a dark mass of men moved in the white foam, and then ship and crew had disappeared. Who can tell any of her crew among the mingled dead? Some may not be found for weeks, months, or years—some never, until even the sea mist yield to the conquerer of the 'last enemy'."

THE OPEN POLAR SEA.—A FRENCH EXPEDITION—A French journal has an interesting account of a French project to reach the Open Polar Sea—a task accomplished in part by Doctor Hayes. The proposed French expedition is the conception of M. Gustave Lambert, member of the French Geographical Society, and professor of hydrography. M. Lambert is not a closet-philosopher. He has already made a preliminary reconnaissance of the Arctic Basin. By special authorization from the Marine Bureau he took passage, in 1864, on a Havre whaler, and on the 12th of July the vessel passed through Behring's Straits, with the wind abeam and the weather all that could be wished. Taking a northern course, the explorers sailed along the coast for about ten miles from Cape East, the most eastern point of Asia. Opposite and above the island of Diomed, which divides the Straits, they could indistinctly see Cape Prine de Gallis, the most western point of this continent. M. Lambert spent three months in this region and thought out his plan. He agrees with Dr Peterman in fully believing in the existence of an open Polar Sea, as the only hypothesis which can explain the existence of great currents, running from north to south in very high latitudes. He differs from him in thinking the route by the west coast of Nova Zembla less practicable than that between the 165th and 180th meridians. This last meridian passes directly by the Cape North of Captain Cook. His preference for this route is founded upon the appearance of the currents and of the icebergs. He says that it may be possible to penetrate the sea by this route one year, and impossible the next! Let him once get his vessel over the pole, and he will be happy to test the merits of Dr Peterman's route on the return voyage.

M. Lambert appeals at once to the pride and the cupidity of French capitalists. Hitherto but one Frenchman, M. Bellot, has distinguished himself in Arctic exploration, and he was connected with an English expedition! The whales, thinks M. Lambert, steadily pursued northward have taken refuge in the Polar Sea as an impracticable citadel. "Our route," he says, "with elegant play of fancy, "is staked out by these monsters of the deep."

VICTORIA RIFLE CORPS.—Position Drill, Tuesday and Friday, at 8 p.m., James Bay. By order, J. GORDON VINTZ, Lieut. and Adj.

By Electric
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Eastern Star
CHICAGO, April 13.—A patch says that a movement to organize an expedition to visit Iowa. Application has been made of a Government vessel to of naval officers. Parties arrangement as being nearly

Mexico.
NEW YORK, April 13.—advices that a battle occurred on April 2d. No doubt engagement resulted in a draw. The contest was very stoutly fought, but the loss was heavy. The Imperial chief had in offering \$15 each to any will join them, and \$5 each arms. This is probably in for deserters from the Liberals.

Europe.
LONDON, April 12.—Parliament is adjourned to Easter holidays. During the debate on the House of Commons, the stone offered an amendment at five pounds. After a amendment was rejected, taining a majority of 21.

Luxembourg.—The pecuniary affairs of the Grand Duchy of France.

Oregon.
PORTLAND, April 12.—The sail at 6 p.m. to-morrow for

California.
SAN FRANCISCO, April 13.—cash and blind maker, employe

San Francisco.—April 10.—of the Executive Committee of Relief Fund telegraphed yes

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