

Secular Department.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

The following is the first telegraphic dispatch received concerning the operations of the Spanish expedition in Morocco.

Casablanca, Nov. 19.—The General-in-chief of the 1st corps (Zabala), in a telegram dated 8 a. m. this day, from the camp of Sualto at Ceuta, states as follows:—I have been informed that the 1st corps, on throwing up its trenches, operations have been delayed, because the state of the sea prevented the troops from landing with all the dispatch I had expected. I have reconnoitred all the heights that command the city, and am collecting one of them to be fortified. During the short fire by the Moors we had one man wounded. The Moors have not appeared in force; we have only seen a few groups, which retired as our sharpshooters advanced. This is all I have the honor to report at present, and I communicate it to your Excellency that Her Majesty may be informed of it.

Madrid, Nov. 19.—The 1st corps of the Spanish army, which is now in the hands of the Moors, has been ordered to retreat to the heights of Sualto, where it will be re-embarked on the 20th inst.

Madrid, Nov. 20.—Yesterday more than 4000 Moors attacked for the third time the redoubt before Sualto, and were repulsed. Their defeat was complete. The Spanish troops showed great bravery during this engagement. The expeditionary corps of Ceuta is now in the Straits; few regiments have disembarked at Ceuta.

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British and For. American News.

NOVA SCOTIA.

We had a very severe storm on Wednesday night last, of snow, hail, and rain, and throughout the night it blew a hurricane, the wind being from Eastward, doing considerable damage to vessels at the wharves.

Hulby's vessel, laden with fish, from St. Margaret's Bay, sank alongside of Bonnet's Wharf. Stafford's vessel, from Margaret's Bay, was much injured by a schooner which dragged from her anchorage and coming in contact with her. A schooner was sunk at Oakey's Wharf. Sir Owen Belle, from Pictou, was wrecked off Herring Cove but fortunately the crew were saved. A schooner, from Pictou, was wrecked on the coast of P. E. Island, laden with produce, was sunk off the same place, and, sad to relate, every soul on board met with a watery grave.

A vessel of about 35 to 40 tons was cast away on the shore of the Bay, at the entrance of the Port—all hands appeared to be lost. Portions of the wreck and three bodies had been picked up on the shore. The schooner *Rival* was totally wrecked on McNab's Island.

During the gale on Wednesday night last, the schooner *Matthew's* vessel, laden with fish, was wrecked on the western shore, having met with severe disaster from the fury of the storm and violence of the sea.

It is stated that at least thirty lives were lost at the entrance of this harbor on Wednesday night last. This is the greatest sacrifice of life that has occurred in this vicinity for many years. In the winter 1790 the schooner *Le Trillou*, 44, Capt. Baker went on shore at Thrump Cap, but was wrecked on Herring Cove, when upwards of three hundred souls perished. In the fall of 1830, the schooner *Brothers* was wrecked near Herring Cove, and some thirty people were engulfed in a watery grave. Since that period, up to the present date, we have no disaster to report.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

We regret to report that the residence of the Rev. P. Conroy, Rector of Carleton, was totally destroyed by fire about 8 o'clock last evening. By the strenuous exertions of the Carleton fire police and others, the furniture and effects were saved.

Now that there is much talk about raising Rifle Companies, &c., it may not be amiss to inform our citizens who have not heard of it, that there is a Volunteer Company now formed in this city, numbering some fifty active young men, who during the past summer have been under the military training of Mr. Mount of this city, formerly of the Royal Artillery.

We notice with pleasure that Mr. Mount has been promoted to the office of Adjutant with the rank of Captain in the New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery, for we do not know a man whose capacity for military drill equals his. We learn that arms have been received by the Government, and will shortly be placed in the hands of this Company. They expect to procure a new drill manual, and we hope to see in a short time that in New Brunswick the watchword—'Riflemen first'—has been answered with as much enthusiasm as this cry has been answered in Great Britain, and that Mr. Mount will soon have a thousand, rather than fifty to educate.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the colored citizens of St. John N. B. was held on Tuesday the 19th inst., to sympathize with the late John Brown. Prayer was offered, and resolutions adopted.

The Court Journal says the promise made by her Majesty to the Canadian depositions was to the effect, that either the Prince of Wales or Prince Alfred should visit the great North American province next summer.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Buenos Ayres, Oct. 20, 1859.—A trial of strength has at length occurred between the Confederacy and Buenos Ayres. The first occurred two weeks ago in a cannonade that was made upon the island of Rosario by the fleet of Buenos Ayres. It was managed that only two or three guns were dismounted, and little or no damage was done in return to the fleet. The next occurred at the Island of Martin Garcia, on October 14. The fleet of Uruguay had long remained inactive at Montevideo, and declined making an attempt to pass the batteries on that island, which commanded the channel of the Rio Plata.

Early in October, General Guido, Minister for the Confederation, went to Montevideo to give energy and direction to movements. Several officers of the fleet were changed, and one or more of the frigates were ordered to pass the batteries on that island, and they commenced nearly two hours in passing. Three small vessels, belonging to the Island, were nearly destroyed, while the damage done to the passing ships was light. Not one was disabled, and though the cable by which one was towed, was cut by a cannon ball, and though the vessel passed within ten yards of the batteries, there was not one disabled. Both parties studiously conceal the actual amount of damage, but one thing is certain, the Island proved but very little in the way of passing, and the moral effect is in favor of Uruguay is great.

The vanguard of the two armies met on the 17th, near the Arroyo Medio, and after a short skirmish the Buenos Ayres forces fell back. No decided advantage was gained, except that the moral effect of so many small affairs, about the same time, tells powerfully upon the troops concerned.

Gen. Lopez, the son of President Lopez of Paraguay, arrived here commissioned to offer the mediation of that Government. It was accepted, and high hopes of peace are already indulged. He applied to this Government to have a suspension of hostilities, which has been refused, though he urged it in a second note. Gen. Lopez is waited upon with great respect and makes a grand display of his sword. The election in progress indicates that there will be no difficulty in selecting a successor for Gen. Urquiza, whose term expires in November. The present Vice-President, Derqui, has thus far received nearly all the votes cast.

If the incursion of war were once really gone, this country would again flourish greatly. Even as it is, the amount of land sowed will be greatly increased this year, and the amount of wine sold for private fencing is almost incredible. Our house has even, this year, sold over 100 tons for that purpose.

THE PROTESTANT.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1859.

THE PRESENT POLICY OF OUR ISLAND ROMANISTS.

After the signal political defeats sustained last spring by the Romanists of P. E. Island and Nova Scotia, their leaders, lay and priestly, appeared to succumb to their fate. Time has enabled them to review their position. They have looked upon Newfoundland, where their ally, Dr. Mullock, is the virtual governor, and Sir A. Macnamara bears the name, and upon Canada, where a ministry dare not despise the whim of a Romanist ecclesiastic; and not a little mortification has resulted from a contrast with our own defeated and prostrate condition. Their determination have been to look upon the whippersnappers of priests and laymen, and Sir A. Macnamara bears the name, and upon Canada, where a ministry dare not despise the whim of a Romanist ecclesiastic; and not a little mortification has resulted from a contrast with our own defeated and prostrate condition.

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EDUCATION IN P. E. ISLAND.

No. II.

Common or Free Schools are the foundation of our Educational system. They are common, because intended for the whole population, without distinction of race or creed, sex or rank. They are free, because no charge for tuition is demanded; the incidental expenses of the school alone requiring a trifling assessment or small quarterly payment from the parents.

These schools are the part of an enlightened conviction on the part of our Legislature that the extension of education to all classes of the community and to every section of our land, would be productive of increasing and wisely directed industry, of sobriety, integrity and harmony, contentment and wealth; and that education in progress, which brings together the rising generation of every rank and condition, and the susceptible years of youth, would greatly tend to the rooting out of animosities and prejudices, and to the creation of a unity, or at least similarity of sentiment and aim highly beneficial to our future population—while its accessibility to all would open a door for the development of talent wherever it appeared, and all forth at length the united mental energies of the whole land for the general weal. If these hopes are to be realized the foundation on which they are based must be adapted in extent, form and material to the superstructure. The commodious public refectory must not be placed on a narrow and irregular foundation—the basement of unknown, soft sandstone will become the polished shaft, the national monument will be light and loosely constructed timber bear the massive walls of the fortress. If, then, our common schools are to fulfill their mission, they must not only be extended to all, but occupied by all; if they are to be the nurseries of industry, harmony and contentment, they must be models of neatness, punctuality and order; if the cultivators of integrity, loyalty or patriotism, a high and unquestionable morality must be inculcated in them; and if our rising population are to be elevated to at least an equality with this enlightened age, and if these schools are to afford opportunities for the ready detection and careful fostering of early genius or opening talents, they, as the only foundation on which the mass of our people must take their stand in the competition of the world, must not be circumscribed by the narrow limits of the mere outlines of an English education, too often obscurely and superficially laid down. How are these grand and noble ends sought to be attained? The government have divided our whole inhabited territory into school districts of limited extent, leaving the inhabitants in each to select some central or suitable site on which to erect a school building, the minimum dimensions of which were given. The erection was offered to the poorer districts for the services of a teacher. An unreasonably enormous sum of part of parents to have the schoolhouse in their own dwelling, has been the main source of contention. In many instances the site has been a subject of keen contention, terminating frequently in very dishonorable results. These unseemly contests still continue, and more than one have deprived a settlement of the services of a teacher. An unreasonably enormous sum of part of parents to have the schoolhouse in their own dwelling, has been the main source of contention. In many instances the site has been a subject of keen contention, terminating frequently in very dishonorable results. 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