

BELGIUM'S INDEPENDENCE.—In the House of Commons on the 12th Mr. Lewis asked what course the Government would take if the independence of Belgium was imperilled in consequence of her rejection of Prussia's demands. Mr. Disraeli replied that there had been great misrepresentation and exaggeration in the matter. The Prussian note to Belgium was not a menace; it was only a remonstrance. He believed the question was concluded. Germany had shown her cordiality for England by communicating to her the correspondence. In conclusion, Mr. Disraeli declared that were Belgium's neutrality really threatened, Her Majesty's Government were prepared to do their duty to the sovereign, and would not fear to meet Parliament.

A CALAMITY UTILIZED.—The Government of India during the late fearful famine caused by the drought of 1873, for the sake of relieving the suffering people, undertook a system of public works, the laborers being paid in food from the Government depots. In this way a railway of fifty three miles was built from the Ganges to Dumbahar, by which food was transported into the famine district 525 miles of communication were established: over 4,000 miles of public road were constructed, giving subsistence to 1,730,000 persons; 50,000 bullock carts and 15,000 pack bullocks were employed in transporting food; and over 4,000,000 bags of rice were imported and distributed. At one time 4,500,000 persons received relief, and the entire cost of the relief operations to the Indian Government is estimated at £8,000,000.

If Garibaldi's plan for the draining and proper irrigation of the Campagna prove successful, he will have achieved one of his grandest victories. The Campagna is the name applied to an immense tract of land surrounding Rome in all directions. In spring even the most barren portions of the Argo Romane, or Campagna, smile in the beauty of flowers, and of the green grass and foliage, but towards the middle of June the grain is all harvested the grass is parched up, the lakes have become swamps, and the swamps are covered with slime and emit their poisonous exhalations. It is virtually a vast desert, which might become, under scientific drainage, etc., a healthy and fertile country, affording homes and employment to thousands of people.

The Secretary for Ireland replying to a question in the House of Commons on 13th, said all classes of Irishmen including the members of the Government will give the American rifle team a cordial greeting.



CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Ottawa, 6th April, 1875.

NOTICE is hereby given that His Excellency, the Governor-General, by an Order in Council bearing date the 3rd inst., and under the authority vested in him by the 4th section of the 31st Victoria, Cap. 6, has been pleased to order and direct that the following article be transferred to the list of goods, which may be imported into Canada free of duty, viz:—

“Ground Gypsum for agricultural purposes.”
By command,

J. JOHNSON,
Commissioner of Customs.

April 15, 1875.

16-3

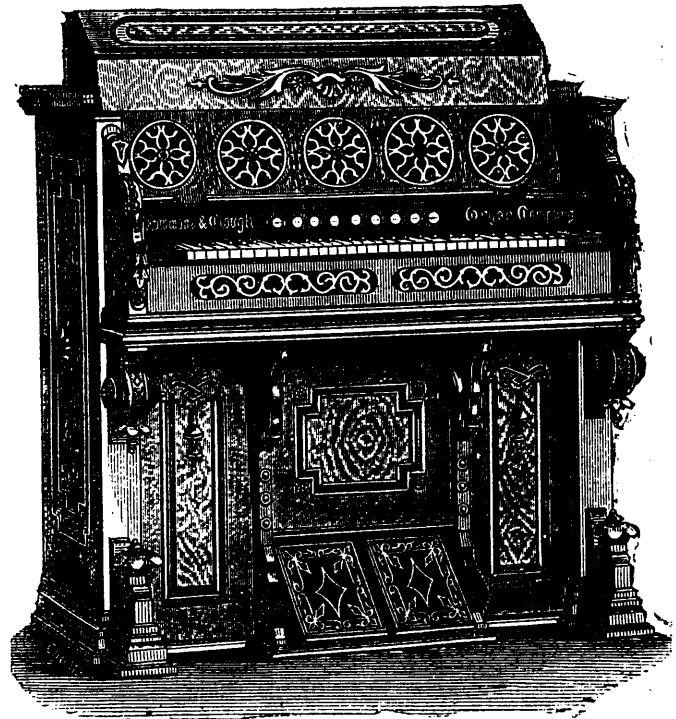
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