

ly every circumstance of the case, and denying that under any aspect he could be considered as a spy.

In the meantime Washington having returned from his conference with the French officers, and having learned what had happened, reinforced West Point and appointed a board of officers to inquire into and report on the case of Major André. Those men only anxious to immolate some one to the thirst for blood of the young Republic, declared the prisoner to be a spy being within their lines in disguise and recommended his execution as such.

His death which he met with manly fortitude on the 2nd October, was a cold blooded murder for which there was no excuse; he was not a spy being carried inside the American lines by the General Officer commanding in full uniform, and when arrested he was at least 14 miles beyond their military jurisdiction—it was a clear case of kidnapping. He could not even be declared a prisoner of war by any civilized nation; and as he never saw the American forts or works his mission was altogether without military control. Washington acted a selfish, cold-blooded part, and is judiciously chargeable with the innocent blood shed on this occasion.

At the same time André placed himself in an equivocal position, and one unworthy of a man of his rank in the British army. While General H. Clinton, instead of sitting sapiently at New York, should have moved on West Point, and there can be no doubt from the temper of his troops that he might have succeeded in accomplishing by open force what he tried by base treason.

The whole of this melancholy transaction in which a brave, talented and meritorious officer was sacrificed to the stupidity of Clinton, and the unfeeling selfishness, combined with rancour, of Washington, reflects indelible disgrace on all the parties concerned, especially the latter, who would not listen to the prisoner's plea for a soldier's death, but had him hanged as a felon to gratify his paltry spite. Clinton allowed Congress to bully or trick him into an exchange of prisoners immediately afterwards, by which their own ranks were recruited with good troops, which they wanted, while they steadily refused to liberate the prisoners of Burgoyne's army, detained in direct contravention to the article of surrender, nor was he the man to compel those canting scoundrels to observe their own solemn engagements.

As those events closed the campaign of 1780, so they left Washington in full control of the Hudson, the French troops at Rhode Island, and Sir Henry Clinton in masterly inactivity and slothful enjoyment at New York.

During the year 1869 45,710 barrels of salt were shipped from Goderich by rail, and 14,856 by water.

A young man named John Hoey was frozen to death on the 10th inst., while journeying from Portage du Fort to Pembroke.

#### DOWNFALL OF SALNAVE: SKETCH OF HIS CAREER.

A French sloop of war has arrived at Charleston, S. C., direct from Port-au-Prince bringing intelligence of the shooting of ex-President Salnav, of Hayti, on the 10th inst., by the successful revolutionists. If the news be true, the ill-starred man has only shared the fate of nearly all Haytian leaders, and his dying moments were probably consoled by the thought that before many months his executioners would be shot by somebody else. Salnav was born in Hayti and was a man in the prime of life. He entered the army at an early age, and was rapidly promoted for distinguished services in the field. We believe that he took part in the invasion of San Domingo by Soulouque and retreated in good order with that distinguished warrior. Subsequently he aided Geffrard in overthrowing the empire whence Soulouque fled to Jamaica and in re-establishing the republic. For a while matters progressed favourably enough; but in an evil hour Geffrard's government slighted Salnav whose bosom yearned for liberty. To strike down tyranny he attempted the assassination of one of Geffrard's ministers and failed. He then fled to San Domingo, and while there organized a rebellion and was sentenced to death by court martial in Port au Prince. In May, 1865, he re-entered Hayti with a formidable army of 250 men, roused the people in the name of God and liberty, and established a provisional government. Geffrard advanced against him with the forces of the republic. Several bloody struggles took place in which a number of men were seriously bruised and a few killed. Finally the insurrection was suppressed, Salnav retiring again to San Domingo. Subsequently, however, he renewed the revolutionary movement and succeeded in ousting Geffrard, who prudently took refuge on a foreign war vessel. On assuming power Salnav issued a proclamation in which he declared amnesty to all Haytiens except Geffrard, whom he condemned to death, but who was never shot, for the very good reason that he kept out of Hayti. Of course it was not long before a revolution broke out against the new President who headed the Cacos, while the heroic Message Saget, Dominiqui, and other world renowned generals led piquets. The war lasted from June, 1867, until a few days ago. So long as Salnav was able to pay for the printing of his treasury notes, he held out bravely; but when it took \$5,000 in Haytian currency to pay a gold dollar he collapsed. Unfortunately for him the piquet leaders supply of coffee held out longer than his, and he fell. Of his private virtues we know nothing. He possessed a playful habit of shooting wealthy citizens and confiscating their property for the benefit of the nation. Take him all in all we shall not see his like again, except in the persons of the new rulers of Hayti.

#### THE IRISH LAND QUESTION.

The member for East Surry, Mr. Buxton, publishes a letter in the *Daily News*. in which he deals with the land question. The following is the concluding portion of Mr. Buxton's letter:—

"But, after all, the broad question is, shall we or shall we not, make a bold endeavour to tranquillise Ireland by a settlement of the land question? Is there any Liberal who would not answer 'Yes' and yet what possibility is there of settling it except by giving the tenant, not indeed fixity,

but *bona fide* security on his holding? It is impossible for any one who watches the tide of public feeling in Ireland to doubt that, sooner or later, such security must and will be given. Were the agitation on this subject a new thing there might be some hope of its subsiding; but it has lasted without intermission beyond living memory, and has now attained a strength and intensity far beyond that of any agitation which the present generation has seen. Already the tenantry of twenty-seven out of thirty-two counties in Ireland have declared their determined adhesion to the tenant-right movement. Many of the leading landlords have joined them. The whole Press of Ireland is on their side. No Irish member, as far as I am aware, has ventured to express his dissent.—Such an expression on the part virtually of the Irish nation cannot be trifled with; and although it cannot be expected that Parliament will grant the whole of their demand, yet that it must go a long way in that direction is certain—unless, indeed, Ireland is still to remain a prey to vehement and seditious discontent. Discontent, indeed is far too weak a word to use for the feelings with which the Irish people will receive any measure from the Liberal Government which does not give them in a plain, direct, straightforward way a large part, at any rate, of that which they demand—namely, to be set free from the landlord's power of arbitrary eviction. The plan of withholding legal sanction from any tenure which did not give the tenant security for a sufficient term of years would be thus plain, direct and straightforward. All others, though aiming at the same thing, do it by roundabout methods, and seem intended to cast dust in the eyes of either the landlord or the tenant."

The *Morning Post*, writing on the same topic, observes:—

"What the Government have to aim at in framing their Irish Land Bill is so to balance the rights of landlord and tenant as to make it the interest of both to pull together and labour for their mutual advantage. This principle is partly in operation already, though not under legal obligation. Wherever there are good landlords there are good tenants, and the relations that exist between them cannot be a bad basis for the legal settlement of the land question. But so long as it is in the power of landlords to turn scores of families out of their holdings we must not expect to see peace and contentment in Ireland.

A GIGANTIC MILITARY EXPERIMENT.—The Russian Government is making a very important experiment. The Oxus now flows into the Sea of Aral. It once flowed into the Caspian, its old bed being still visible enough to be a feature in maps. If it could be brought back the Russians would have an unbroken and impregnable water communication from the Baltic to the heart of Khiva, and with further improvements to Balkh would, in fact, be able to ship stores at Cronstadt for Central Asia, and send them without hindrance. The addition to their power would be enormous; for instance, they could send 10,000 riflemen almost to Afghanistan by water, and without any sound audible to the West, and their engineers think it can be secured. An energetic officer, with 1,800 men, is already on the south bank of the Caspian, the natives are reported "friendly," that is we suppose, quiet, and the Russian Government has the means through its penal regiments of employing forced labor on a great scale.