British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

The Spring and Summer months will witness a large exodus of gold-seekers from Canada to British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Indeed some of them are already on their way. Sixteen persons have obtained passports, in this city to go through the States on their way to British Columbia, during the last month. Some of them are among the best settlers in the country. The inducements to seek a fortune in the far north-western colonies of the Empire are doubtless great; but many of the enthusiastic young men who are going there need not be disappointed if they do not fully realize their expectations. Of course they make up their minds to rough it. Mining is no easy life anywhere; and certainly the hardships which a gold hunter in British Columbia and Vancouver Islandhas to undergo are of no ordinary kind. Many persons have been so fortunate as to become wealthy in the shortest possible time; but rich as the gold-fields of British Columbia undoubtedly are, the number of people who became rich in a short period of time is small compared with the great number who have more than make a livelihood. We do not wish to discourage those who have determined on seeking a fortune in the gold fields of the North-west, but we desire to impress upon them the hardships they may expect to encounter, and to be prepared to meet with reverses as well as successes.

Any information about those places at the present time is eagerly sought for. We have before us two numbers of the *British Colonist*, published at Victoria, V. I., of the 14th and 24th of December last. We do not find many particulars in reference to the yield of the diggings, mainly because little is done in the winter. But there are in these papers some matters which are of interest. For Cariboo country is that which seems to be attracting the greatest notice. A large immigration into this country in the spring is anticipated; and the Government had determined on borrowing, on debentures, a sum of £100,000 to meet the expenses of opening trunk lines through the interior; and had issued notices for tenders for the construction of roads to all parts of the Cariboo country from the main line from Lillooet to the Forks of the Quesnelle. In this county there are rich summer diggings; and it was expected that before another season closed the area of the diggings would be extended to Peace river—which is said to be richer than even Cariboo—and to the northern branches of Notch river, where coarse gold is known to exist. "Next spring says the *Colonist*, "our miners will rush to these famous localities.—Along the elevated, auriferous ranges of the Sierra Nevada where the snow falls to as great a depth as in Cariboo, the chief mining season is in the summer." During the winter the greater part of the miners go to Sacremento or San Francisco. Many of the miners cannotafford this luxury, however; and the *Colonist* calls upon the Government to make efforts to provide winter work for this class, "either by the offer of rewards or otherwise, to encourage the discovery of deep hill digging, in the Cariboo country—diggings into which the miners may run tunnels in winter, from which they could heap up the pay-dirt till the thaws of the spring enable them to wash it." Our cotemporary sees little difficulty in the way; none of a climateric nature, since in the Southern District of British Columbia the weather is so mild that snow lays on the ground only for a short period.

British Columbia is mainly dependent for its immigration to its auriferous wealth. Unlike either Australia or California it is not a pastoral or agricultural country. Even less—so little attention has been given to agriculture—that it is little better than a wilderness. Before the gold excitement commenced in 1858, the white men and Indians who formed a "local habitation" in the country, lived by hunting and the chase. All other articles of [illegible] from abroad. And in the search for gold, that one class of persons have turned their attention to agricultural pursuits. The total value of agricultural produce raised in the colony last year did not exceed in value $20,000—whilst, it is estimated $500,000 had been spent for food for men and animals. The *Colonist* advocates a change in this respect. The colony will have to pay off the indebtedness created by her imports from the products of the mines and agriculture. The exchangeable commodity, it holds, will be mineral wealth; and agricultural produce should be largely consumed in creating that kind of exchange. "Such," says, our cotemporary, "is evidently her true industrial policy at the present time. No other policy can create permanent wealth.—Fabulously rich gold fields may for a time build up cities, construct roads, and fill our ports with shipping and commerce, while dependent on our neighbors for food. But to be really prosperous, really powerful and wealthy, agriculture has to feed the whole population, and to feed them agriculture has to be encouraged and developed as the basis of the high road to moral and intellectual excellence, to wealth itself." It thinks there is a good field for the agriculturists. We should say so from the prices at which certain articles of produce are quoted:—Vegetables 8 cents ⅌ lb.; hay 1½; barley and oats, 30 ⅌ lb. If carried into the mines 50 miles, say to the Forks of Quesnelle, vegetables are worth 25 cents ⅌ lb.; barley and oats, 50 cents; butter, $1.50; bacon 75 cents. These prices would pay as well as moderate diggings in the gold fields.

The *Colonist* complains of the little attention paid to the interests of the colony in Downing Street. Our cotemporary must not grieve too much on that account. So long as they are left to manage their own affairs without much interference from officials at home, there is not much ground for complaint. And they appear to enjoy most of the privileges of self-government. Our cotemporary urges on the Government to send a lecturer to the old world to make known the advantages which the colony possesses for industrious emigrants. It thinks $5,000 a year spent on a good man of this sort would be amply repaid. The subject of a union of British Columbia and Vancouver Island is suggested, though little has been done in that way as yet.

A writer in a San Francisco paper, who dates his letter at the Cariboo mines, November 12, 1861, gives some interesting particulars in reference to that country. The distance of the mines from Victoria is 500 miles. No one should attempt to go there, he says, unless he has $100 in his pocket, when leaving San Francisco, which place he should not attempt to start from before the first of May. The mines can only be worked four months in the year. One claim on the Cariboo mines turned out, the week before the writer penned his notes, $150,000; but from $70 to $250 a day was the general produce. A company on Williams Creek cleaned up 375 ounces a day; and the "Abbot claim" on the same creek yielded $42,000 in three months.

Another writer in the same paper is very enthusiastic in his description of a new digging in the Nez Perces country. Salmon river is the favorite locality. It is 100 miles from Oro Fino "city"—a place of seventy five buildings. The reports from this place, he says, are fabulous. The return is from $1 to $40 to the pan of dirt. The writer states that he knows a large number of persons who have made from one to ten thousand dollars during the past season. That much he declares, can be made on the Salmon river in a month. In consequence of the great depth of snow on the ground it is impossible to go prospecting in this river before the first of June. A "postscript" to the letter gives the latest particulars. A man just arrived from the "Salmon" reported to that the miners there were making from $25 to $50 a day with pans only. Shovels were $50 a piece, and rockers were not to be had.

There is little reason to doubt the truth of the statements made by these correspondents. Persons interested in encouraging immigration to these north-western colonies might be suspected of coloring the picture a little too highly; but these statements are so entirely in harmony with those of many other persons who have written about the gold mines in British Columbia and Vancouver Island, that we see no reason to question their correctness. They are certainly encouraging; and if people go to these countries not over-confident, possessed of a fair degree of go-a-head-itiveness, and of a determination not to be overcome by rather serious difficulties, they may succeed. The question of route appears to be that which is causing the greatest amount of perplexity. Until the advantages of the northern route can be shown, people will very naturally go by way of San Francisco. The committee which is to meet to-morrow evening will doubtless make a report on this point. It is, at any rate, the most important matter they can turn their attention to. The question of expense is a serious one; and if it can be shown that the route by Fort Garry is practicable, as it appears to be generally admitted it would be cheaper, the subject is deserving of the closest examination. We invite correspondence in reference to the matter from persons who have a knowledge of the two routes.—*Leader.*

Fight for the Championship of England.

MACE DECLARED THE VICTOR AFTER FORTY TWO ROUNDS.

(From the London Globe, Jan. 28.)

The above fight took place yesterday morning at Godstone, in Surrey, about thirty miles from London.

The fight began at seven minutes past nine o'clock, and after fighting one hour and eight minutes, during which time forty two rounds were fought, King was unable to come up to the call of time, and Mace was declared the victor.

The betting at the commencement was two to one on Mace, but in the course of the encounter the odds varied to similar offers upon King.

The punishment delivered up to a certain time was tolerably equal, King having slightly the best of it, until the 41 round, when they closed and fell, and King's head coming in contact with the ground, which rendered him insensible, the sponge was thrown up in 1 m. of his defeat.

The fight took place amid a steady fall of rain, but the attendance was very large, the aristocracy being very powerfully represented.

The Hartley Catastrophe.

(From the Liverpool Courier, Dec. 29.)

The disaster at New Hartley has been greater even than we anticipated. Two hundred and nineteen men and boys have been drawn no dead out of the depths of the earth. In an instant one hundred and three wives were made widows, and two hundred and fifty seven children, looking for father's return, became orphans. "Daddie'll come na mair to his bairns." There are aged parents whose whole support has been taken away—sisters who have no brother left. Four hundred and seven living creatures are in want of the meat that perishes! Heaven knows, through no fault of their own.

The men formed a sober and industrious community. The earnestness of the Methodist preachers had a great effect upon their characters. There was no public house in the village or near it. The accident was caused by no negligence; no miner opened the door of his lamp, or kindled a light in fire damp places. They had all, too truly, finished their work, and were coming up to light and life, when death came upon them.

Our gracious and loved Queen has set an example worthy of imitation. No words of course were they which fell from her lips—"My heart bleeds for the poor women." So recently bereaved herself, she could feel for the bereaved. Love, she knew, is not limited by rank, and the poorest mourns for the loss as deeply as the greatest. Her Majesty, the moment she heard the fatal result, sent £200 to aid the sufferers. We, too, should join in this work of mercy. We know that the £17,000 required will be made up, but let it not be made up without a general contribution from all. We would suggest that the church devoted to the memory of Sunday the poor fell into the alms box as the widow's mite into the treasury. It is unnecessary to say more. Language cannot add to the terrible nature of the calamity, and he who is not struck to the very heart by it could not be influenced by words of ours.

The Cost of the Defensive Measures in Canada.

[From the London Observer.]

A great deal has been said about the cost of all those preparations which has been vastly exaggerated, not only in the first rude estimate in the papers by four or five millions, but even in the two millions, to which it was cut down by a more cautious attempt at correction. The fact is, that with the exception of a small addition to the artillery it has not been considered necessary to add to the very efficient state in which our army was found. The change of quarters will entail no additional cost. The charge for transport will necessarily be heavier, especially as it was done at the cheapest and most economic efficiency. The whole extra charge may set at £10 a man, which is a total of £200,000. The admiralty charges will be more considerable. Increased vigilance will be necessary on the work of course makes it more expensive. But it is done, and will not have to be done again. After the 31st of March the expenses will be capable of being sensibly reduced. There are no doubt some twenty first-class steamers of a moderate size, however, brought into a commission. These are all of the newest and best armed of our steam reserve, and were got ready in a few days. But it cannot have escaped notice that within the last two or three weeks the Admiralty have been able to pay off and put out of commission several ships that have arrived home from foreign stations some of them of the largest size; so that the only effect by the end of the financial year will be the substitution of a more efficient class of ships for others which have served their time. This has been costly no doubt. It was done in a hurry; but it would have to be done, and the gain is obvious, and will be cheerfully paid for. The good effects are felt in the Pacific, in the Atlantic, and elsewhere.

Arrival of Mason and Slidell in England.

From the Manchester Guardian, Jan. 30.

Messrs. Mason and Slidell arrived at Southampton yesterday in the La Plata. They embarked on board the British ship Rinaldo, at Boston, bound for Halifax, on the 2nd inst. Owing to a furious gale the Rinaldo could not make Halifax, and after trying ineffectually for four days to do so, she ran to Bermuda.

Here the English Admiral offered to send the commissioners home in her Majesty's ship Racer, or convey them to St. Thomas to catch the West India packet. The latter course was preferred.

They acknowledge having been treated in the most handsome manner on board the Rinaldo and at Bermuda by the British authorities.

They were received at Southampton by the officers of the Confederate steamer Nashville and other gentlemen. A large crowd gathered together in the dock to catch a glimpse of men who have caused such anxiety, but no demonstration was made on their landing.

They reached St. Thomas two hours before the La Plata left there for England.

They complain of bad treatment in Boston jail.

It is stated that the two commissioners went on at once to London, whence Mr. Slidell would proceed to Paris. According to another account Mr. Mason remained yesterday at Southampton.

(Southampton (Jan. 28) Correspondence of the London News.)

Messrs. Slidell and Mason, the Confederate Commissioners, who ought to have reached this port on Wednesday, the 25th November last in the La Plata, arrived here to-day in that very ship, exactly nine weeks afterwards. They embarked on board the British ship Rinaldo at Boston, bound for Halifax, on the 2nd inst. Owing to a furious gale the Rinaldo could not make Halifax, and, after trying ineffectually for four days to do so, she ran to Bermuda.

A large crowd gathered together in the dock to catch a glimpse of men who have caused this country so much money, and England and all Europe such anxiety. No demonstration was made on their landing.

Both Commissioners are fine, healthy looking men. Mr. Slidell is very much like the portraits of him in the illustrated papers.

The American Paragraph in Napoleon's Speech.

From the London Times, Jan. 28.

America has her paragraph, and it contains something more like a threat than any other portion of this address. The Emperor does not hesitate to confess that the civil war has serious compromised the commercial interests of France, and there is scarcely anything almost regretful in the tone in which he says he must confine himself to the utterance of wishes that these dissensions may soon be terminated.—But there is the somewhat stern limitation to this abstinence, "*so long as the rights of neutrals are respected.*" The phrase is more general than the occasion demanded. "So long as the neutral rights of France are respected" would have satisfied the necessity, but the more general expression would seem better adapted to the contingency of interposing to abate the international abuse of an ineffective blockade. This is the only phrase which breaks the tone of profound peace, for Mexico and Cochin China are only mentioned to be dismissed as unworthy of being considered as serious. We have little doubt that this faintly disguised impatience at the blockade of the Southern ports faithfully reflects the public feeling in France; but, on the other hand, there can be still less doubt that the Federal Government will be much more careful how they give cause of just anger to France than they were in offering offence to us.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 19, 1862.

☞ Single copies of this week's paper can be had at the office of publication. Price five cents.

THE DUTY OF REFORMERS.

In the present unsettled state of public affairs, when a new parliament is about to legislate for the country, the duty of the Reform party, politically considered, cannot be too clearly pointed out. In years gone by the Province has suffered for want of an harmonious organization of the progressive body of politicians;—sectarian institutions have been established and strengthened; class legislation has been promoted; the public debt has been frightfully augmented; a Double Shuffle Era has been inaugurated; and the various arts of wire pulling, log-rolling, lobbying, bribery, and departmental favoritism, have attained a perfection forgotten by the political aspirants of classical antiquity, and not revived by the Tudors or the Stuarts. Successive years of misgovernment have engendered public discontent; people are beginning at last to see that the country is on the road to ruin. Upon the Liberal party the issue of the struggle for good government depends. In almost every constituency in Canada Reformers are numerically in the ascendant. In the new House Reform largely predominates. What is wanted is unanimity. The Reformers of Upper and Lower Canada must co-operate. Let no imaginary wrong or sectional prejudice be suffered to interfere with a united and vigorous opposition to the present administration. Unaided by division in the ranks of the Liberals, the Coalition could not stand a single day. Condemned by the country, the subject of censure at home and mockery abroad, the miserable Ministry cannot survive the first ordeal of parliamentary criticism. But Reform members must stand true to their colours. There must be no flinching in the hour of trial, no treachery in the day of battle. The time will soon arrive to measure lances with the enemy, and the millions of people will regard the result with deep concern. The contest was nobly sustained at the polls last June; gallantly was victory after victory won in many a stronghold of Toryism in Canada. The scene has now changed to another theatre. The battle is now to be waged on the floor of Parliament.

We will not now re-open the discussion of the disputed question of leadership of the Opposition. Mr. Brown is no longer before the public—the great in the House is filled by another:—and to write a history of the proceedings of Parliament for the last ten years in our present case would be a profitless monopoly, productive of no good result.—We do not intend to say who should fill the place of Mr. Brown—we leave the selection in the hands of the party—but simply urge the settlement of the matter at an early day. In Lower Canada we presume the Hon. Mr. Sicotte will stand unrivalled in the chieftainship of his party. But who shall discharge the duties in respect to the Upper Canada wing of the party, remains to be solved by wiser heads than ours. We trust the selection will be a judicious one. The duty of Reform, as at the present juncture is obvious. John A. Macdonald & Co. must be turned out of office, and their places filled by more honest men. There is no lack of means by which this end "so devoutly to be wished," can be accomplished. At this very day the Opposition have a clear majority in the whole House of at least a dozen members. United and strong nothing can resist their progress.—But will Reform members prove true to the cause they have pledged their honors to uphold? Will the Camerons, the Morrisons, the Jacksons, the Crawfords, the Clarkes and Fergusons be proof against the tempting bribes of the members for Kingston? In other words, will these men who went to the polls with the cry of Representation by Population and no confidence in the Ministry on their lips, and who were elected to oppose the present administration—will the men entrusted with the representation of intelligence, wealth, manufactures, and education, prostitute their positions for individual advantages, and turn upon their constituents a look of conscious villainy and sneaking defiance? Will the Oppositionists of June become Ministerialists in March?

Macaulay says the National Assembly of France did some good. It pulled into pieces the fabric of French tyranny most effectually. The work of destruction was necessary. Before a new foundation could be laid, all the old rubbish must first be cleared away. In Canada there is work of demolition on hand. Before any reformation can be expected, the Ministry must be turned out. Undoubtedly the highest glory of the statesman is to construct, but he must build on a sure foundation. Every public department swarms with useless officials, paid at a ratio far beyond the value of their services. The country is ruled by favorites, but the system must be stopped.—Railway jobbery must be stopped. Land speculation must be stopped. Mixing politics and religion must be stopped, and stopped forever. But the policy of the Reform party must not be a greedy scramble for office.—The mere fact of changing the *personnel* of the administration—a change of men without a change of measures—will not effect the purpose intended. The effects of improvement must be guided by motives higher than those of selfishness, by aims more lofty than personal ambition or self aggrandisement.—Honesty of purpose and firmness in the exercise of party influence will produce a revolution in the political history of Canada. There is a broad basis to work upon,—the country is ripe for the introduction of a new system in the management of public affairs. The Reform party can afford to discountenance both faction and fanaticism. Oppose Ministerial measures if they are bad, and support them if they are good, do nothing for the sake of opposition. There is no need of jugglery;—the party can afford to be candid, straightforward and manly in debate, firm in its adherence to principles, and inflexible in its fidelity.

A certain amount of forbearance is necessary, and we trust that the coming session will be characterized by an entire absence of personal vituperation and vulgar insult. If John A. chooses to make a blackguard of himself, let him do it. If Solicitor General Morin takes a fancy to duelling, let him have rope enough—to Bull Run if he pleases. But among the Reform party we expect to see no such ruffianism. The day has happily passed when brute strength was considered an important element in the formation of national character. Politicians, like men of other professions, must conduct themselves in accordance with certain rules of etiquette and parliamentary precedent. But above all let there be the utmost unanimity among all ranks of the great Reform army of Canada. Union is said to be strength, and the apophthegm has been too often demonstrated to admit of doubt. The people of Huron and Bruce, and the people of every county in Upper Canada have grievances to be redressed, and a strict watch will be kept that their representatives make good their promises.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

It will soon be twelve months since the sword was unsheathed in South Carolina, and the rebellion which was to be crushed out in three months still exists in all its formidable proportions. The scene of military operations has been checkered by few events calculated to place the Generals of either party very high in the pages of revolutionary history. Vast bodies of men have been enrolled by both sides; millions have been spent in military preparations; the whole country has been one vast camp for months—regiments marching to their destined rendezvous—factories running night and day to manufacture army stores—merchant ships and craft of all dimensions chartered by the government for naval purposes—military arsenals resounding with the din and clang of hammers and machinery—and tons of gold spent in fitting out squadrons to capture strongholds on the Southern coasts. The country from the arena of contest has been made the common battle ground on which the cohorts of Lincoln and Jefferson Davis are marshalled in glittering and menacing array. Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and part of Virginia, have each in its turn been overrun by hordes of men destitute of any moral restraint, and bent on butchery and plunder. The corn fields of the Border States were trampled into a dunghill by cavalry and infantry. The popular cry of "on to Richmond," which reverberated from California to Maine last June culminated in the stampede at Bull Run, and henceforth that little rivulet trembling in silvery cascades over its rocky bottom far away in the woods and uncultivated hills of the Old Dominion rankles itself in the history of the New World with the Hydaspes, the Ister, the Rentones, Rhodanus of olden story. A defeat and a flight follow the battle—"the scene of blood" reaches Washington some four days after the disaster leaving the classic ground thirty miles behind them. A pause of public pulse followed the wonder produced by the first intelligence, but no more. "Richmond" cry was heard. The loud and angry recriminations indulged in by the Northern Press and endorsed by the people were followed into a still deeper cry of vengeance. The disgrace must be repaired, the lost honor regained, and the battalions of the Southern Confederacy swept into the sea. There has been some fighting since July; Missouri has had two or three engagements—such as they were—Kentucky one or two, and the Bull's Bluff catastrophe about makes up the component. The expeditions fitted out by the Federal government have hardly done enough to cover their promoters with laurels. Two forts at Hatteras Inlet succumbed to a superior force, and are now occupied by General Sherman. Six hours' bombardment by a powerful flotilla of gunboats and frigates crushed the forts Beauregard and Walker into a smoking heap of stone and timber, and led to the occupation of Beaufort Island, but not till its fierce defenders were blown to atoms by the storm of shell and cannister poured in by the fleet. Later dispatches furnishes us with the news of the fall of Fort Henry on the Cumberland River, and last week's mail brought us the additional intelligence that Roanoke Island had been wrested out of the grasp of the insurgents. But what real importance attaches to these successes? How long will it take at the same ratio of conquest, to subdue the South? It is a question of simple proportion, provided the moral courage of the Confederate proves to be of the true steel, and as yet there has been no evidence of reaction. If so many forts take so long to be captured, how many years will be required to subjugate the territory and fortifications of Secessia? We apprehend that, estimated by the progress which has been made in the way of conquest, national bankruptcy will stare M. Seward in the face before the stars and stripes wave over Texas and Mississippi. Internal dissension may weaken the energies of the South at resistance, foreign complications may arise to interfere with the domestic solution of the problem,—in which contingencies the war will not continue to be a hand-to-hand fight between the parts of the same republic. But if no outside interference occurs to paralyze the hand of hostility on the Potomac, and the work of reconquest is not accomplished with accelerated rapidity the Millenial morn will dawn before the authority of the Federal government is acknowledged in the thirty-four states and by thirty-one millions of people who once constituted the great and happy nation of the Western Hemisphere. It is difficult to imagine how the 650,000 men—which the Minister of Military affairs at Washington said were actually employed by the government to crush the insurrection—are really engaged. One is almost inclined to impeach the reliability of official statements, and doubt whether after all, such a large force exists in fact. What are they doing? According to all estimates McClellan has only 200,000 encamped on the Potomac. Where are the remaining 450,000 men trained to arms and ready to annihilate the world? Being somewhat mistrustful in our disposition, and disinclined to believe that governments can tell lies or rob anybody, we suppose Mr. Secretary Cameron told the truth in his report to Congress. But the truth appears to be the worst part of it, for if such an army exists there is there less excuse for the rebel forces to occupy the territory of the United States. But the rebellion does exist whether the fabulous grenadiers of Lincoln do or not. No decisive blow has been struck; no great victory has smiled on the Northern banners. The twenty millions still fight against eleven millions, and the eleven against the twenty, hundreds of millions of money have been expended, and for naught that appears to the contrary, millions of lives may be sacrificed before the legal expounders of Washington and Richmond agree in their interpretation of the Constitution.

The tremendous expense occasioned by the war renders it impossible that hostilities can be very long protracted. The resources of a nation however immense have a limit, and we always find that the relative productiveness of a country diminishes in proportion as taxation by war increases. War prostrates agricultural and manufacturing industry, paralyzes commerce, makes times hard and struggles plentiful. It is no extenuation of the burden that the war is one of justice or patriotism—when people have to pay taxes on everything they eat and wear they are little disposed to be philanthropic.

Two millions a day will soon make the public debt of the United States as large as that of Great Britain, and too heavy to be borne by their vastly inferior means of payment. A man worth $50,000 can pay more than a man worth only $8,000 and the relative disproportion between Britain and the States is greater than is represented by fifty and eight. As to the ability of the South to continue to keep up a large army we know but little. Their Confederate bonds redeemable in Cotton may turn out to be worth something or nothing, just as the tide of fortune happens to turn, but we presume they are worth as much to day as the Treasury notes issued by the present Act of Congress.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF INTEMPERANCE.

Early on Friday morning last as Mr. Little of this town was passing through the village of Zetland, he discovered the body of a man lying in the street, about ten yards from the door of Mr. McCool's tavern. Calling to his assistance another man whom he saw lying in a shed a few yards off, they carried him into the tavern, and it was found that his hands were completely frozen, and colorless as chalk, also part of his breast and life was all but extinct, he survived but a few hours. Dr. McDougall was sent for on Saturday to hold an inquest. On his arrival he found that Mr. Irwin, of Belmore, and Dr. Reeves of Clinton, had each a jury empanelled, and were sitting on the case. Dr. McDougall did not stay to take part in the proceedings.

The deceased, John Slattery by name, was known to have an inordinate love of liquor and never let a chance slip to indulge his craving, and it seems that he had been drinking hard the day previous, and during the evening in company with others was, as usual very noisy and quarrelsome, whereupon some scuffling ensued, and he with another man were summarily ejected from the tavern.—Nothing more was seen of them till found as stated above by Mr. Little.

From what we can glean, the jury were to give in their verdict on Monday last, what decision was come to we have as yet been unable to learn. Dr. Garner made a *post-mortem* examination, and his testimony went to show that deceased had received several blows in the abdomen and in the region of the heart, any one of which was in itself sufficient to cause death.

Whether the verdict of the jury be that the deceased came to his death by being frozen in a state of helpless drunkenness, or that the immediate cause of his end is to be attributed to ill-treatment—his fate should be a warning to others who are prone to indulge unrestrainedly in intoxicating drinks. It is a miserable record which adds another victim to the evils of intemperance.

ASSESSMENT ROLLS.

We beg to intimate to the Township clerks throughout these Counties, that the Assessment Rolls will be ready for mailing to morrow; and they will oblige by dropping a line to this office, if, in any case enough should not have been sent.

Assessors Notices and other Municipal Blanks always on hand.

We request the attention of Farmers and others having horses to dispose of, to the Military advertisement in another column, to-day. We think it would be to their advantage to attend on Major Shervington at the Huron Hotel, on Friday the 28th instant between the hours of 11 & 3 o'clock.

We have received from the publishers—Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., New York—The Westminster Review for January. Its contents are "Law-in and for India." "The Dramatic Poetry of Oehlenschlager." "The Religious Heresies of the Working Classes." "Income Tax Reform." "Admiral Sir Charles Napier." "On Translating Homer." "Popular Education in Russia." "The American Belligerents: Rights of Neutrals." "The Late Prince Consort." "Contemporary Literature." Subscriptions taken at this office.

SUICIDE OF MR. ALEX. MACDONALD, TORONTO.—With feelings of the deepest sorrow, the *Globe* announces the melancholy death of Mr. Alex. Macdonald, Chancery Barrister, Toronto. There can be no doubt, that he died by his own hand; he was found in a lane in a pool of blood, his throat mortally severed, the razor firmly grasped in his hand. Mr. Macdonald, though comparatively a young man, enjoyed a large and lucrative practice long established. He is spoken of in very high terms. The Coroner's jury returned as their verdict that the deceased committed suicide while laboring under temporary insanity.

SPANISH DEFEAT IN MEXICO.—By way of San Francisco there comes a report that the Spanish army have sustained a defeat at the National Bridge, over the Rio Antigua, thirty miles above Vera Cruz. The battle is said to have continued for five hours. All parties in the country are united as one man, determined to prevent aggression upon their national soil. Such a combination was not calculated upon by the Allies, and the anticipated success will not be so easily won by the foreigners as was expected.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

☞ It is estimated that in nine years the population of Victoria, Australia, will be one million. In 1836 it was under two hundred.

☞ Mason and Slidell arrived at Southampton on the 29th. No demonstrations were made. On reaching London, Slidell left for Paris.

☞ Gordon, the Slave-Trader, who was to have been hanged last Friday in New York, has been respited by the President for two weeks.

☞ Ten new craters have appeared on Mount Vesuvius during the present eruption. English photographers are busy at work taking photographs of the volcano in its excited state.

☞ The Hamilton *Spectator* says that Mr. Brydges will not enter upon his duties in connection with the Grand Trunk till the 8th proximo.

☞ The Hon. P. M. Vankoughnet is expected to sail for Canada on the 1st proximo. It is believed he will carry with him the favorable reply of the British Government in the matter of the Intercolonial Railway.

☞ The County Council of Middlesex have sent a petition to the Legislature, praying that the Government do not assume the debts of the defaulting Municipalities, and that no more subsidies be given to the Grand Trunk Railway.

☞ It is affirmed that the Kingston *News*, on authority to which it attaches the utmost reliance, that the Legislature will not be convened until the middle of March. The delay cannot but excite the utmost dissatisfaction with ministers who consult their own interests before the general welfare of the Province.

☞ General Russell left London on Friday morning by the early train on the London and Port Stanley Railway for Port Stanley, and afterwards returned to White's Station. It was supposed that he had gone over from the latter place to Port Bruce on a tour of inspection.

☞ The British Columbia *Colonist* says—We have, however, one serious drawback; that is, the scarcity of unmarried females. And for several years to come in all probability, the demand will be far greater than the supply. No sooner does an unmarried woman arrive than a host of admirers offer to make her happy for life.

☞ Great efforts have been made by President Benson to have Liberia represented in the international exhibition next May in England. Some very excellent native curiosities, as well as some superior Liberian productions, will be soon forwarded. James L. Sims, Esq., who was sent by the Government, has returned from the interior with a fine collection of native articles, which will be exhibited at Monrovia before they are sent to Europe.

☞ On Sunday the large car-factory of the Buffalo & Lake Huron Railroad at Brantford was destroyed by fire. The building was a wooden one, 400 feet long, 70 wide, and one story high. The Media lies lost all their tools amounting to about nineteen chests, and valued at from $1,000 to $1,400. Some $25,000 will be required to cover the total loss. One fireman had his leg severely injured, and Mr. Alex. Clement, son of the Mayor, had his hands frozen.

☞ There is a confusion of tongues in the Red River Settlement. A stranger visiting this country is struck with the variety of our dialects, no less than with the variety of race. For such a secluded, isolated community, with little or no intermingling of foreigners by immigration, one would naturally expect to find us characterized by uniformity in language, customs, manners, race, and so forth. How different is the actual case! As to language, we have English, French, Gaelic, Chippewa, and Cree; and we do not enumerate all, but only those spoken by a large section of the community.—*Nor Wester.*

☞ A pickpocket was recently arrested at a well-known place of amusement in London, and on his person were found watches, purses, snuff boxes, and—piecest of all—a box of bugs. What precise disposition could be made of such an omnifarious chirological possession was a question that puzzled everybody. Subsequent developments showed that this criminal prestidigitator, shrewd, adroitly and unperceived, placed on his insect treasures upon the shawl or coat of a lady or gentleman, and then request permission to remove the disagreeable customer. While thus diverting their attention, he would relieve them of their superfluous jewelery.

☞ Lord Elgin is forthwith to be on the wing for India. It is curious to observe how, in the course of Providence, services and honors are heaped on some men. The name of his lordship is inscribed on the historic page of Canada, where his doings will be read with pleasure by future generations. Twice he has proceeded to China as the representative of Her Britannic Majesty, where he completed a treaty which promises to be fraught with incalculable benefit both to commerce and religion. He now repairs to India to exercise viceregal sway over the greatest empire on the earth next to China. The appointment is one which will give public satisfaction.—The noble Earl has fairly established his claim to general confidence, and his experience eminently fits him for this most distinguished service.

☞ Only or two ago a Dr. Ines, correspondent of the *Herald*, was arrested and sent to Fort Warren. He was succeeded by the Chevalier Wikoff, who has also got himself into trouble. The *World's* correspondent says:—The House presented an amusing sight to day, when the Chevalier Wikoff was brought before the bar on charge of contempt of the House, and was subsequently placed in close custody for refusing to purge himself from such contempt. The members seemed desious of quickly disposing of this *Herald's* correspondent after the manner of Secretary Stanton. It is understood that Wikoff refuses to answer a question of the Judiciary Committee as to the mode by which he got news concerning the President's message, because it would compromise the President's family.

☞ The Richmond *Examiner* says the rowdyism now rife in that city has become intolerable. The mob is all powerful, and gross indecency are of momentary occurrence in the streets. The most orderly citizen and the most delicate lady are exposed to outrage and insult. No man's life, is secure even in broad daylight on the most public thoroughfares. A few nights since the gamblers had a "convention," at which fifty thousand dollars were voted and subscribed to as a fund to carry the next election for Mayor.

NEWS BY THE "ASIA."

MADRID, Feb. 2.—The *Sumpter* is still at Gibraltar.

Don Almonte, the Mexican Minister, has arrived at Trieste, and has been received by the Arch duke Maximilian. The Austrian *Gazette* mentions the re-appointment of the Arch duke Maximilian as Commodore of the Austrian navy, and contradicts the report respecting the scheme to place him on the throne of Mexico

PARIS, Feb. 2.—The *Independence Belge* asserts that the Southern Commissioners have informed the English Government that in return for the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, they would establish most absolute free trade for 50 years, abolish the external slave traffic, and emancipate all the blacks born after the recognition.

The offers however, will not determine Lord Palmerston to abandon the policy of neutrality.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The proposition of Mr. Gregory for the recognition of the South will be discussed soon after the opening of Parliament. An interesting or excited debate and a rejection of the blockade is expected.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 1.—Breadstuffs quiet and steady. Provisions quiet.

BOMBAY, Jan. 13.—The exportation of saltpetre from India, except to British ports, is prohibited.

A large gold field has been discovered in Southern Mantillila.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

FORT MONRO, Feb. 14.

The propeller *Jersey Blue* arrived from Annapolis this morning with about 250 troops belonging to various regiments who were sick and left behind when the Burnside expedition sailed. The *Jersey Blue* will proceed as soon as the weather moderates.

The Richmond *Enquirer* says that 400 prisoners of war are expected to leave Richmond, for Newport News, in a day or two, in exchange for an equal number of Confederates released by the Federal Government, and who reached Norfolk on Tuesday.

The Editor of the Petersburg *Express* has received a letter from Suffolk, dated Thursday, which says Edenton and Hertford have both been captured. Five gunboats moved slowly to the wharf at Edenton, yesterday, at 9 o'clock, and landed their troops. Very soon afterwards fifteen more gunboats arrived.

The citizens raised the white flag. Between 3,000 and 4,000 troops landed at Edenton. The population of Edenton is about 2,000, and is distant from Suffolk about 50 miles. In the afternoon, two gunboats went up the Chowan River towards Winton, and several others towards the mouth of the Roanoke.

Two miles from FORT DONELSON, February 14.

The attack commenced at 7:30 yesterday morning by the land forces under Generals Grant, Smith, and McClellan. The fort is surrounded by high steep hills, heavily wooded and protected by two redoubts, trenches and rifle pits. The rebels gave battle from their entrenchments outside the fort, but they were driven in after a severe battle and considerable loss on both sides. Our troops shelled two of the rebel batteries outside of the fort. Our loss is probably about 45 killed and 150 to 200 wounded. 8,000 troops and four gunboats arrived last night.

The battle will be resumed to-day.

THE FIRST DAY'S BOMBARDMENT.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.

A special to the *Tribune*, dated Cumberland River, near Fort Donelson, 15th, A.M., says the firing commenced again at daybreak and continued at intervals all day long up to four o'clock. No movement or assault by the land forces had been made.

The night before last an attempt was made by the rebels to take Taylor's Battery of Light Artillery, but they were repulsed by two regiments and driven back beyond their intrenchments. Our loss in wounded is considerable, but not more than three or four are dangerously wounded.

Six gunboats commenced yesterday and commenced an attack on the Fort at 2 o'clock P.M. The firing was very rapid and severe and lasted one hour and twenty minutes. Our gunboats fell back. The Fort mounted 8 heavy guns, and twenty smaller ones. The gunboats had arrived at the canal on Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and commenced firing shot and shell upon the rebels, who were engaged in destroying the canal.

The Allies in Mexico.

The *Columbia* which arrived in New York on Thursday from Havannah, brings news from Vera Cruz to the 29th ult. at which date no battle had been fought. Consequently the reported defeat of the Spanish army is untrue. Gen. Miramon left Havannah for Vera Cruz on board an English mail steamer, arrived at the place on Jan. 24. By order of Commodore [illegible] he was at once arrested and taken on board H.B.M. frigate *Challenger*, for having violated his pledge not to leave Havannah. It was rumored that he was subsequently transferred to the *Japon* for attempting to effect his escape to the mainland. The affair had created much excitement among Miramon's partizans, who had been anxiously anticipating his arrival. The Commissioners representing the allied Powers, who left Vera Cruz for the City of Mexico on Jan. 14, returned on the 19th. Senor Zamacona, a Plenipotentiary commissioned by Juarez, accompanied them. The allied commission represent that they were everywhere received with cordiality. Juarez treated them with great consideration. He attempted to exact as a condition of future negotiations, that all of the allied forces which had been landed at Vera Cruz, with the exception of a guard of 20,000 men, should be re-embarked. This preliminary was at once declined, but as the Plenipotentiary of Juarez returned with the commission, it was taken for granted that negotiations would proceed. Where the conferences would take place is uncertain, although it was generally believed that Jalapa would be agreed upon. Juarez, it is said, had acknowledged that his Government had not fulfilled its obligations to foreigners, and expressed his willingness to extend any additional guarantees. The allied forces at Tejarion had advanced three leagues to Santa Fe, in order to be removed from the unhealthy localities where they had at first encamped, and measures were in progress to advance immediately upon the capital, should a disposition be manifested to resist the demands of the allies.

Speaking of the arrest of Miramon, the correspondent of the *Times* says:—

"It was said here that the imprisonment of General Miramon was made by agreement of the Plenipotentiaries of the three allied Powers; but I will take upon myself to say for certain, that the English Commodore has acted on his own account. What will be done with this person, whom the party headed by Gen. Marquez impatiently awaited? Some say Fort Donelson, having left the fort at 5 o'clock yesterday evening, bringing the military mail and despatches, and 150 of the wounded to the hospital at Paducah.

The fight commenced on Thursday, and