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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

FROM BERMUDA.—We have received papers from Bermuda to the 5th inst. A robbery of about \$2000 was committed in the dwelling house of Mr. John Fox, at Hamilton on the 2d, while the inmates were at Church. Two colored boys had been arrested on suspicion of being the robbers.

The ship channel leading into St. Georges harbour has been deepened so as to contain nineteen feet water at low tide.

FROM JAMAICA.—The Royal Mail West India Steamer *Irent*, arrived yesterday from Jamaica, the Gulf of Mexico, and Nassau. We are in possession of Jamaica Papers to the 21st June. The only intelligence that requires some notice here is a counterpart of the deplorable tidings we have been receiving thence for several months past. Trade continues depressed, and the state of Agriculture is retrogressive. Super-added to those difficulties is the threatening of an insolvent Treasury: a sum of money not less than 14000L. would be required to meet the public expenses for the quarter ending 30th June, but there was no money in hand. Under a law of the Colony, the Commissioners of Public Accounts have authority, in case of an emergency, to raise money by loan certificates to the extent of 20,000L.;—that body, however, at a meeting held for the purpose of considering whether the necessary sum of 14,000L. should be so raised, decided not to exercise their power, because of the large addition which would thereby be made to the public debt. They passed a resolution desiring the Governor to call the Legislature together forthwith, in order that the financial affairs of the country might be considered. The Governor replied, that if he should call the Legislature, he would not state for any specific object, but in the usual way, for public business generally. Thus matters stood at the last date: a bankrupt Treasury staring the whole community in the face.—*Bermudian*.

The Montreal Pilot says that the Government of Canada are about to issue some debentures in amounts of five pounds, and two pounds ten shillings each, payable one year after date with interest. In order to give currency to this paper, it will be received in payment of all public dues; and as the amount issued will be very limited, it is not likely to fall below par. If they are presented at the Custom House, they will be received as "other" Bank notes, at the value on their face, without interest.

OUTRAGE AT SOUTH READING.—The Boston papers give the following particulars an outrage which occurred at South Reading:—

The Sunday School attached to the Catholic (St. Mary's) Church, Endicott street, held their annual picnic on Wednesday, at Hancock's Grove, South Reading. But, says the Courier, it resulted in anything but pleasure to those who attended it, though through no fault of the Society under whose management it was got up. It seems that some Irishmen employed on the Boston and Maine Railroad, in South Reading, after quarrelling among themselves, went to the Grove, and made some disturbance among the picnic party, the managers of which, seeing that the labourers were intoxicated, requested them to leave the ground, which they refused to do. An attempt was made to drive them off, which resulted in a general fight, in which the aggressors suffered most. Several were brought to the city in the evening with broken heads, and others, wounded, were left at South Reading. Clubs and stones were freely used by the assailants, and the Rev. Mr. Flood was knocked down while endeavouring to make peace. One woman was severely, and it was thought dangerously, wounded. Mr. George Crowley had one of his hands badly cut with a knife, while attempting to ward off a blow.

DREADFUL FIRE AND EARTHQUAKE AT SANTIAGO, CHILE.—The N. Y. Sun publishes the following:—Santiago, the capital of Chili, was visited by another destructive fire on the night of the 12th of April. It commenced on the western side of the Plaza de la Independencia. The flames spread with great rapidity, and soon enveloped a row of beautiful build-

ings called *palaces*, ornamented with elegant pillars, &c. The loss of goods alone is estimated at half a million of dollars.

Several lives are said to have been lost.

While the fire was raging, a strong shock of an earthquake occurred. This added greatly to the general alarm; and this was further increased by a second fire, which broke out in another part of the city.

It is stated as a remarkable fact, that in the city of Santiago, with a population of about 100,000 inhabitants, there were only two fire-engines.

NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

The common use of the terms prosperity and adversity is frequently not only incorrect, but precisely the reverse of the truth. A country or people is said to be prosperous, for instance, when trade and commerce are brisk, or in other words, when almost every kind of commodity is selling quickly, and at good prices; and it is said to be in adversity, or even verging on ruin, when there is very little business doing, and that at low rates. In the first case, however, it is evident that the people, generally, are consuming largely and at high prices, and as a natural consequence, exhausting their means rapidly, or what is more probable, running in debt deeply; whilst in the latter it is equally evident that the people are consuming but sparingly, and that at low prices. If, then, the productive industry of the country is going on in an equal degree at both periods, it is quite plain that the people, as a whole, must be accumulating rapidly in the season of so-called adversity, and exhausting their resources as rapidly in a season of so-called prosperity. But it is probable that productive industry is greater in times of depression than in times of good trade and high prices. There is less travelling and jaunting about, for instance; less time as well as less money is spent in amusements, and the rage for entering into business, which converts many a professor into a counter or office-lounger, is checked, or more properly speaking, the current sets the other way, i. e., towards useful industry. The process of accumulation in a time of depression is thus twofold; first, the diminution of consumption, and second, the increase of production.

In the vegetable world trees make vigorous shoots for the first half of the summer season, and then stop, although the weather is warmer, and all the other influences equally genial. Why is this? They had accumulated a large amount of vegetable capital, if we may be allowed the expression, in the latter half of the previous summer, and now they have expended it, and must pause until they harden their shoots, and gather a new stock of strength for the succeeding spring. But the latter half of the summer, when the tree appears to grow none, is just as necessary and useful to it as the first half, when it has a great outward show of increase.

In like manner, in times when money is abundant, an enterprising people, such as that of Canada, build houses, barns, &c., as individuals, and construct roads, canals, bridges, railroads, &c., as communities, and thereby, as well as in the other ways previously indicated, exhaust their means; but when the times of money scarcity come, do these public and private improvements all disappear? Not at all. They remain as useful as ever, and if they helped us into the difficulty, they do not a little to help us out of it. This capital, therefore, is not lost, and the incomparably greater capital represented by the cultivated land of the Province, with the fences, drains, and other improvements thereupon, is increasing as rapidly or more rapidly than at any former period. Taking the whole subject into view, then, there cannot, we think, be a doubt, that if, as a people, we have made somewhat too vigorous a shoot hitherto, the depression we are passing through is just what is required to harden and strengthen them, and not only so, but to accumulate a new stock of means whereby to push forth an additional and most

vigorous growth at no distant period.

We do not deny that many individuals are losing capital rapidly in these hard times; our argument is, that the country, as a whole, is producing more, and spending less, and therefore accumulating capital. The diminished price which we obtain in times of depression for the surplus or exported produce of the country, would seem to tell against this argument, but it is probably counterbalanced by the diminished prices of imported goods, and, therefore, all things considered, we see no cause for gloom.—*Montreal Witness*.

CURIOUS FACTS IN NATURAL HISTORY.

The rattlesnake finds a superior foe in the deer and the black snake. Whenever a buck discovers a rattlesnake in a situation which invites attack, he loses no time in preparing for battle. He makes up to within ten or twelve feet of the snake—then leaps forward and aims to sever the body of the snake with his sharp bifurcated hoofs.—The first onset is commonly successful, but if otherwise, the buck repeats the trial, until he cuts the snake in twain.—The rapidity and fatality of his skillful manoeuvre, leave but a slight chance for its victim either to escape or inject his poison into his more alert antagonist. The black snake is also more than an equal competitor against the rattlesnake. Such is the celerity of motion, not only in running but in entwining itself round its victim, that the rattlesnake has no way of escaping from its fatal embrace.—When the black and rattlesnakes are about to meet for battle, the former darts forward at the height of his speed, and strikes at the neck of the latter with unerring certainty, leaving a foot or two of the upper part of his own body at liberty. In an instant he encircles him within five or six folds; he then stops and looks the strangled and gasping foe in the face, to ascertain the effect produced upon his corseted body. If he shows signs of life the coils are multiplied and the screws tightened—the operator all the while narrowly watching the countenance of the he pless victim. Thus the two remain thirty or forty minutes—the executioner then blackens one coil, noticing at the same time whether any signs of life appear; if so, the coil is resumed, and retained until the incarcerated wretch is completely dead. The moccasins snake is destroyed in the same way.

Influence of Forests on the Distribution of Rain and Hail.

In every instance, and in every country of the globe, where the forests have been cleared a diminution of the fall of rain or snow has been the result; and these regions annually suffer more or less, from tempests or storms of hail. In some parts of Europe it is well known that insurance companies against hail demand for certain districts, a higher premium than in others, on this account.

The evidence of Humboldt, Von Buch, Daniel and others, is powerful on this subject, and it should be particularly impressed on the attention of the reader how important the existence of wooded spots become to the agriculturist. "By feeling the trees that cover the tops and sides of the mountains," say Humboldt, "men in every climate, prepare at once for two calamities for the future generations—the want of fuel and the scarcity of water. Trees, by the nature of their perspiration, and the radiation from their leaves, in a cloudless sky surround themselves with an atmosphere constantly cool and moist. Hence all large forests tend to attract the clouds formed by the condensation of the moisture which rises from the earth, and thereby produce an abundance of rain.

NEW YORK, JULY 20.—FATAL COLLISION.—The steam ferry-boat *Catharine* was run into by a schooner this afternoon. A child was instantly killed by the collision, and its nurse mortally wounded. Three persons were knocked overboard, only one of whom was recovered. The upper work of the boat was destroyed.