Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number.

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE] GODERICH, C. W., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1864. [VOL. XVII.—NO. 7

IN THE BOX.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

(Continued.)

'And do you mean to say, sir,' observed Mr. Robert Rooster, addressing himself directly his cousin had finished his narrative, to Mr. Crasket, 'that our aunt Sarah was anything to blame in the matter, although she had got a five-pound note in her possession, which very nearly brought her into trouble?'

'No, sir,' said Mr Crasket graciously; 'I must say that she was entirely innocent; and I will add, that there is certainly some species of similarity between her case and that of Frederic Upton's.'

The iron merchant spoke with tolerable firmness, but I perceived that his eye wandered in the direction of the supercargo, whose glance, in his turn, was riveted upon Mr. Crasket's hat.

'Come,' said I, 'this is well, Mr. Crasket. Let us wake our three friends, and having agreed upon our verdict, come into court—for it is nine o'clock, and the judge will be here immediately—with our *Not Guilty*.'

The iron merchant still hesitated.

'It has a very broad, stiff brim,' remarked the supercargo reflectively.

'I think upon the whole, I shall not be justified in holding out any longer,' observed Mr Crasket rising.

He looked as battered and demolished as Fort Sumter after the ten thousand attentions of the ironclads; nor had he succumbed until after sixteen hours of story-shelling.

While the iron merchant was yet speaking, a tremendous cheer rang round the courthouse, and was repeated again and again.

'They are cheering the judges,' said I; 'I feel as if I could cheer them myself. Come, let us go in.'

THE VERDICT.

The about-to-be-enfranchised eleven obeyed me cheerfully, and we trooped in all together, and took our places in the hateful Box. The counsel for the defence was speaking as we entered, and the judge replied: 'I am very sorry, Brother Silkins, but it cannot be helped; the case is closed, and the jury have come to their decision.'

The eyes of the vast assemblage were turned towards us with an interest much more intense than I had expected; they had been before as demonstrative in the prisoner's favour as they had dared to be, but it was clear that something had occurred in our absence to increase tenfold the popular desire for an acquittal.

Upton was standing in the dock, no longer passive and unmoved, but with a flushed and joyful face, as though he confidently expected to be released from his degrading position. Close to the dock stood Mary Underedge, bathed in tears, but still with an expression of serenity and satisfaction quite different from that which she had worn on the previous day, when conveyed half fainting from the witness-box. By her side, and with her hand clasped in his, as if to reassure her, stood a young gentleman which I had not seen before. The only troubled countenance was that of Richard Underedge, Mary's father; I saw him plainly, for crowded as the place was the people had withdrawn from him a little, such was their animosity against him, so that he stood alone; but even he looked confident, and saddened rather by some sorrow which had passed away, than with the shadow of impending calamity. It was evident that as an acquittal was looked for everywhere—except by the judge upon the bench. He seemed to me to regard us with particular seriousness and gravity, as though we were but too likely to have come to an erroneous decision.

'Are you all agreed upon your verdict?'

'We are,' replied I firmly, but not daring to look at Crasket, for fear he should make some cantankerous opposition even at the very last.

'Is the prisoner at the bar 'Guilty' or 'Not' Guilty?'

The silence was so deep that I heard a bluebottle fly buzzing in the glass cupola of the court-house.

'Not Guilty,' returned I.

An uproarious cheer burst forth from the vast assemblage, and continued loud and long, in spite of the efforts of the ushers, and being carried along the passages and the courts without, themselves crowded with people, was taken up by the multitude in the street, who were unable to obtain admittance.

'My lud, may it please your lordship, observed Serjeant Silkins, as soon a silence was restored, 'now that the jury have arrived at their decision, there can be no possible objection why the evidence of Mr. Francis Morris'——

'We can now receive no *evidence*, Brother Silkins, as you are well aware,' interrupted the judge smiling; but any statement which may render the innocence of your client more clear, than even the verdict to which we hope just listened has done, may certainly, in the interests of justice, be made. If Mr. Francis Morris can explain Upton's possession of the note in question, he will even yet not have arrived in this court too late, since the accused will leave the dock not only free, as now, but without the slightest imputation upon his character.'

A handsome young fellow, bronzed and travel stained, the same whom I had seen by the side of Mary Underedge, at once entered the witness-box.

'I can explain this unfortunate matter, my lord,' said he, 'in a very few words. It is perfectly true that the note in question was paid by me upon my father's account to Richard Underedge; and that he entered its number, as well as those of several others, in his memorandum-book at the time. Upon his leaving the room, however—as he will remember to have done—for the purpose of getting a receipt-stamp, I substituted five sovereigns for that note, but omitted—very carelessly I own—to mention that I had done so. The reason for the substitution was this: I owed Frederick Upton the exact sum in question; and as he happened to be from home on some business of his master which would detain him some days, and as I myself was starting for America the next morning, it was more convenient to leave him a five-pound note in an envelope than the gold.'

'Then why did not the accused person at once explain from whom, and in what manner he had received this note?' inquired the judge. 'What was the reason of your unfortunate and stubborn silence, Frederick Upton?'

But Frederick Upton had left the dock immediately after the verdict which set him free, nor in spite of the very energetic efforts of the ushers, did he again make his appearance in the court house of Dimbiebury.

Years after the above trial, this ex-foreman, being given to the fine arts, was enticed into an exhibition of paintings in Piccadilly, advertised as scenes from the Far West. They were not good; but while I was investigating one of them rather narrowly, a hand was lightly laid upon my shoulder, and, behold, a charming woman was courtesying to me in a very pleasant fashion, while a young man, upon whose arm she rested, was pulling at a piece of hair upon his forehead, in token of grateful amity.

'You are Mary Underedge, are you not, my good girl?' said I.

'No sir; I am Mary Upton; and this is my husband, Frederick, who has so much to thank you for in the matter of that trial at Dimbiebury. Mr. Sunnyside told us—when we went to be photographed together—that, but for you, that dreadful Mr. Crasket would have sent my dear Fred to prison.

'I am glad he did not,' said I. 'But do you know that your dear Fred almost deserved to go for not revealing what he knew about that five-pound note. Why, on earth, did he not tell all about it?'

'Because, sir,' answered the young wife, proudly, 'he had promised that he never would. Mr. Francis Morris did not want to be brought up to be a lawyer like his father, but to be a painter instead, and he used to paint a great deal upon the sly. Whenever he finished a picture, he liked to have a pretty frame for it, and he employed my husband to carve it for him. 'Only,' said he, 'never you mention that you do these things for me to any human being. If my father came to know of it at present, he would be exceedingly angry. Some day or another, when I shall have made a great success, it will be different, and I e will be proud enough of his son the painter.' And that is why my husband would not clear himself at the trial. It was very hard upon him sir, was it not? But I will say Mr. Francis has done all he can to make it up to us since. These are all pictures painted from sketches taken in that very tour of his in America.'

'Then your patron is famous now, and his father lets him follow his chosen calling, does he?'

'Well, sir, the fact is, Mr. Morris the elder is dead.

'Ah, then, the young man does as he likes, of course. But these paintings of his *are* very beautiful, Mrs. Upton, are they not?'

'I dare say they may be, sir; I am sure I hope they are, for Mr. Francis sake; but oh, sir, did you ever see anything so lovely as my dear Frederick's *frames*"

POSTCRIPT.

It will scarcely be expected—notwithstanding what is expected of a British jury man—that this ex-Foreman should narrate the his tories of his eleven companions subsequent to their escape from the Box at Dunblebury.—Let it be imagined (with the exception, we will hope, of Crasket) they all lived very happily afterwards,' which by comparison with their existence in the jury room, it is very probable they did. I am not in a position to say more, for, to tell the truth we have rather shunned each other's company since the occasion in question. There are some who consider Solitary Confinement to be the severest of punishments; these have never tried the effect of Enforced Companionship. However, no man need ever be a jurryman again; the recipe for this exemption has just been confided to me by Mr. Sunnyside; in the strictest confidence, it is true, but I shall do my duty to the public at all hazards. I print the gentleman's letter *in extenso*.

Private.

DEAR MR. EX-FOREMAN,—Knowing how deeply you feel upon the question of service in the jury-box, I write these few lines to let you know how it may be avoided for your whole lifetime. No sooner had I removed to town—where you will be glad to hear I am doing a very good business, principally in heads and shoulders [*vignettes*]—than I found myself summoned to attend upon an Old Bailey jury. This was bad enough of itself; but since Crasket now resides at his London establishment, there was just a possibility that I might meet *him* again, under similar circumstances. This, of course, was not to be endured. Therefore applied to Mr. Ferret, in Skinner Street, Scrowhill—a locality singularly consonant with his character—for redress under this grievance.

'Don't want to serve this session, eh?' quoth this very sharp practitioner. 'Very natural, very right; then you shall not serve.'

'But I shall be fined twenty pounds,' said I, 'shall I not?'

'Twenty fiddle-sticks!' responded Ferret. 'Give me five pounds down, and I will engage that you shall never be called upon to serve again as long as you live.'

I instantly gave him the money.

As the time drew on for the sessions, however, I began to feel certain qualms of conscience; and becoming rather curious to see what measures would be taken for my exemption, I attended at the Old Bailey on the appointed day, concealing myself very completely, however, in a dark corner of the court. The names of the jurors were soon commenced with; and I experienced very unpleasant emotions when 'Henry Sunnyside, Camera Villas, Kentish Town,' was called out in a very impressive voice, and a pause ensued. The call was repeated; and then a man who actually stood next to me, stepped forwards and addressed the court. 'I thought he was about to denounce me, there and then, although, indeed, it turned out that he knew me no more than I knew him. He was a very respectable-looking person, in deep black, with the air of one who was suffering under some recent heavy affliction.

'Mr. Sunnyside is unable to attend, sir,' observed he in a tone broken by emotion.

'Why not?' asked the official sharply.—'What is his excuse?'

'He is dead, sir,' responded my unknown friend with a half sob.

'Poor fellow. Scratch him out then,' was the humane reply.

The shock that this caused me at the time, my dear ex-Foreman, was rather severe; but it will be nothing, of course, to one who knows what is coming. *Verbum sap.*—Yours ever,

HARRY SUNNYSIDE.

THE END.

EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE.—Last fall Mr. Wm Templer, of Ancaster township, was in possession of a fat pig, weighing 200 lbs. About the first of November, or latter part of October, he had occasion to close up or connect two stacks of straw, and soon after missed his pig, and though diligent search was made, was unable to get a trace of it and eventually became convinced the animal had been stolen. On the 1st of March, Mr. Templer proceeded to detach or remove the stacks of straw, and on doing so, extraordinary as it may seem, discovered his lost pig, pent up between the straw stacks alive—but as may be supposed, very much diminished in bulk. Though it was excessively weak when brought out, and at first refused to eat, by careful attendance the animal soon partook of food; and is now gradually recovering from the effects of its four months entombment. These particulars, communicated to us by a gentleman conversant with the facts are correct, and can be authenticated by numerous respectable farmers living in the neighborhood of Copetown.—*Hamilton Times.*

☞ A story is current in London which may possibly be true, although we very much doubt it. It is to the effect that at the recent banquet given by the Guards at Windsor, at which the Prince of Wales was a guest, His Royal Highness proposed a toast invoking precisely the same doom, in the North Sea, on the Germans who are in Holstein and the Schleswig which befel the Egyptians in the Red Sea when pursuing the Children of Israel. It is added "that the officers of the Guards drank the toast amidst plaudits worthy the emphatic manner in which the youthful proposer submitted it to the company."

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GODERICH, C. W., MARCH 11, 1864.

DINNER AT KINCARDINE TO WM. SUTTON, Esq.

Reported for the Huron Signal.

A Public Dinner was given on Tuesday the 2nd inst., at Walker's Hotel, Kincardine, to William Sutton, Esquire, the Reeve of the Village of Kincardine, as a recognition on the part of his friends of their appreciation of his services as Reeve for some years past, and of the uniform and active support he has always given to all measures for the benefit of the county.

About eighty sat down to a table furnished with all the substantials, and as many of the delicacies as a country so new could furnish. Among the company we recognized most of the prominent men of the village, and some of the leading men of the county.

After the good cheer had been discussed and the cloth removed, the loyalty of the company was sufficiently demonstrated by drinking with all the honors the healths of Her Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Prince of Wales' heir. The guest of the evening was then toasted, he replied in a brief, feeling, and modest speech. Mr. Johnson, the Reeve of Huron, when in reply to the toast of 'The invited guests,' made a short, pointed, and remarkably characteristic speech. Messrs. C. R. Barker, Legear, Lang, and other gentlemen spoke in reply to the traditional toasts usual at such festive gatherings, but decidedly the speech of the evening was that of Mr. William Gunn, the Reeve of the Township of Bruce in reply to the toast of the "Agricultural Interests of the County of Bruce."

Mr. Gunn, in rising to respond, said he thought this duty should have devolved upon some one more practically conversant with the actual routine of agricultural life. However, he professed to know something of matters deeply affecting the interests of every farmer in the County of Bruce.—Before proceeding, however, he would state that although not in the habit of attending public celebrations he had made it a point to accept of the invitation to attend this dinner. He did so out of respect to the promoters of the feast, from a desire to encourage the spirit which prompted those gentlemen, namely, a desire to honor those who, in responsible capacities faithfully served their constituents. No class of men, perhaps, had been better abused, or more ungratefully treated than the Reeves of the County of Bruce. This is the first instance since the settlement of the County in which a public demonstration has been got up in honor of a Reeve. Let us hope that the spirit may spread, and whether we are invited to dinners or not, the knowledge that our exertions on behalf of the interests of our constituents are appreciated by them, will lighten our cause, and encourage us in the discharge of the arduous duties devolving upon us.

The agricultural interests of Bruce are in rather a depressed condition at present. The repeated failures in the crops for the last three years lean very heavy upon the settlers of this county, many of whom entered the county in straitened circumstances. Let us hope that Providence has better times in store for the County of Bruce, for upon their prosperity hangs all other prosperity in the county—when the farmer suffers all other interests suffer—when he prospers we all prosper. It is to be regretted that anything in the shape of antagonism should exist between the farmers in the rear settlements and the people of the villagers on the Lake Shore. This should not be; both are mutually necessary to each other. The farmer finds a market, and the highest prices for his produce on the Lake Shore. The Villager supplies him with cash for his wheat and other produce, which he receives, stores and ships for the parties advancing the money, and supplies him with those articles necessary for the comforts and conveniencies of himself and family—should the settler run short, the village storekeeper opens an account with him, and furnishes him with all necessaries, depending upon next year's crop for payment. In fact the Lake shore villagers are mere agents between the large wheat-dealer, and the manufacturer, on the one hand, and the farmer on the other. Competition is so active now adays that there is no room for extortion on either hand.—Every mouth that is added to the village population is a benefit to the farmer, because he must find food for it;—every step taken to improve the facilities of trade and commerce, and to lighten the expenses on grain and merchandize benefits the farmer, because these improvements lessen the prices of merchandize and increase the prices of produce. The prices of wheat, this winter, on the Lake shore, have been nearer Goderich prices than ever they were before. For the last five or six years previously the average price paid along this coast was fully five cents a bushel less than Goderich prices. Why? Simply because we have no Harbors in which vessels can lay in safety while shipping or discharging cargo. The consequence is that freight and insurance are high—and out of whose pockets does the loss come? Does it come out of the pocket of the villagers or out of the pocket of the wheat dealer? No, it comes out of the pocket of the farmer, and the farmers of Bruce for the last four years at least, have been losing $25,000 or $30,000 a year in this way. The want of harbor facilities increases the prices of all kinds of merchandize which the farmer consumes.—Does this additional cost come out of the pockets of the village storekeeper or the rich manufacturer or wholesale merchant? No, it comes out of the pocket of the farmer, and it this way the farmers of Bruce lose $25,000 or $30,000 a year more. This must be plain to every man who considers the matter. The merest schoolboy can easily comprehend this. The farmer, then, is interested, most deeply interested, in whatever tends to raise the prices of produce and lessen the prices of merchandize—and this can only be done by the improvement of our harbors—or rather, by the construction of harbors along our coast. We have a few landing piers along the coast, but no harbors. Next to abundant harvests, stands the necessity for constructing harbors. We have petitioned Parliament and Government year after year for Harbor Improvements; so far, in vain.—We cannot obtain the expenditure of one dollar on this extensive coast. In 1859 this County was a wilderness. In 1860, the population was 27,494. Number of acres cleared 89,500—value of Farming lands $7,265,825; value of Village property in land, $500,000; live Stock, $624,485; Farming Implements, $130,125; Mills, Manufactories, and other business not otherwise enumerated, $680,000. The value of the crop and products of the County in Produce in 1860 was $1,030,690.—The whole representing a solid addition to the wealth of the Province of $10,131,125. Besides this we contribute to the Government for land and village lots $1,446,000; and pay annually to the revenue of the Province in the shape of duty on goods consumed in the County probably $30,000 or $40,000 more.

Great inducements are held out in the old country for immigration to Canada. A large portion of our people were immigrants direct from home. What has Government done for them? What has it done for the County? I do not mean any particular administration; coalition, conservative or grit, all are alike indifferent to our wants and necessities. Indifferent of improvements on this coast, not only of local, but of Provincial importance. True in 1856 some $80,000 was expended in constructing landing piers on the coast. And why this cruel indifference? Why are the rights and just claims to the paternal recognition and aid of the government of 50,000 people so cruelly trifled with, and ignored? It can only be as Mr. Dickson says, because "*we are too far West.*" And if we are too far West on this peninsula, how will it fare with the unfortunate settlers, who it is contemplated are to fill up the great Northwest Territory? If we, here within 200 miles of Toronto are so completely neglected, how will it be with those who may settle 1000 miles West and North of us?—Does any administration imagine that with the late of Bruce, and the Eastern shore of Lake Huron to be peopled before their eyes, any body of men can be entrapped into settlement in the distant Northwest? Never while the Government of the United States offers such inducements to settle on the the Western prairies. Even our own young men, the very bone and and sinew of the country—the men whose valuable services may yet be eagerly sought for, are rapidly leaving the country, sick and disgusted with the treatment their fathers have received at the hands of the Government of Canada. The true policy to be observed in settling the North West, is to improve the coast of Lake Huron by the construction of Harbours, and the establishment of a Marine Commerce on its waters. Settlement will then extend itself, and settlers will feel that they shall have means of communication with the civilized world. The County of Bruce and the Manitoulin Island, when settled, would then form a basis for the further extension of settlement in a North West direction.

There is likely to be a considerable amount of destitution in this county during the present year, if Providence do not interfere in our behalf, in reference to the crops, and if Government still continue to neglect the improvement of the coast, hundreds—yes, thousands—of our active, energetic and enterprising settlers must unquestionably leave the county, abandon their homes, and look elsewhere, repugnant as the thought may be, for a better state of things. This I know to be the case, and it happens simply because "*we are too far West.*" Before we abandon the ship, however, let us all unite in a last appeal to the Government to consider our case, our position and circumstances. Let the farmers study this question, and being convinced that it is *their* question, let them, in each local municipality, combine in bringing all their influence to bear on our Representatives in Parliament, and through them on Parliament and the Government, in order that a trifle of justice may be dealt out to us. We ask no bribe;—we simply ask a share of what we contribute to the general revenue to be expended upon our coast in improvements that are absolutely necessary to our very existence. Politicians have made good use of the "80,000 Souls" of Huron and Bruce, when they suited their own purposes. Let the voice of those "80,000 Souls" be heard unanimously, and as one man, demanding as our inalienable right, in virtue of our isolated position, in virtue of our toils, our hardships and our sufferings, to a small share of our own contributions to the wealth of the Province, to be expended in public improvements essentially necessary to our very existence, as well as to general provincial interests. Mr. Gunn entered fully into the prominent questions of Gravel Roads, Railroad, and County Town, agreeing cordially with the views of Mr. Sutton, and scouting the idea so industriously circulated by some, that our Representatives in Parliament will fail to give any attention to the Petition of the Provisional Council asking for a Bill leaving the settlement of the County Town to the voice of the Ratepayers of the County. The majority in the Council is too emphatic, within a fraction of two to one, to be overlooked by our Representatives; and we entertain no manner of doubt but what they will be guided by that majority, which is in fact the majority of the people—the County Town question having been a prominent question at all the polls in January last.

During the delivery of his speech, Mr. Gunn was enthusiastically cheered, and his sentiments endorsed by the whole company present.

All the speakers of the evening touched more or less on the questions of Gravel Roads and Harbors, and being sensible men they all went heartily for the carrying out of these evidences of civilization.

In their speeches Mr. C. R. Barker and Gunn gave some very interesting and graphic particulars of their adventures, difficulties and privations as pioneers.

In the course of the evening the Kincardine Band discoursed some choice pieces, and Messrs. Courtney, Sellery, Mosely, Holmes, and other gentlemen regaled the company with some capital songs. The whole affair went off well. The company were enthusiastic, and whether we view it from a gastronomical, political, or musical point of view, was a decided success.

To smile, Sheridan says, at the jest which plants a thorn in another's breast, is to become a principal in mischief.

THE ALABAMA.—Private advices from Bombay express fears that the American ships Naples and Southern Rights, from that port, have been captured by the Alabama.

COUNTY COURT.

The only case of any importance that has been tried up to to-day was one of larceny. One Joseph McIntyre had three or four true bills found against him on a charge of larceny, he being the person who took up the collection on Tuesday evening last. He was found guilty and sentenced to three months' imprisonment altogether. A true bill has been found against several of the parties engaged in the Dungannon chirivari. The case was traversed to the assizes.

The Queen vs. Edward Hudson.—Body Raising. The prisoner pleaded guilty of having attempted to commit the offence, which took place near Ainleyville, County of Huron, a short time ago. The sentence was that the prisoner be imprisoned one month in the common gaol, and be fined £10.00.

PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY.

We, the Grand Jurors, would most respectfully present that we have visited the gaol and found everything in good order, the rooms clean and well kept. We found the prisoners all well satisfied with the treatment received from Mr. Robertson.

We found a young man by the name of McLay, who is to be tried for larceny, and would recommend in case of conviction a very slight sentence, as he is a young man, and this being his first offence.

We took particular notice of your proposed amendment of the Act in relation to magistrates' convictions and we believe if the proposed amendment was carried into law that a great deal of unnecessary expenses would be saved to parties.

We also had some cases before us which we think should have been settled by the convicting magistrates as being trivial and taking up the time of the Court, when in fact there was nothing in the cases worthy taking notice of.

We also beg to present that we feel well pleased that crime in these Counties is on the decrease and only hope that the Grand Jurors who succeed us may have as little to do as we have and less.

We also beg to present our thanks to the Bench and Crown Attorney for their courtesy and assistance.

ROBT. PARKE,
Foreman.

EXPRESS CHARGES.—We observe with pleasure that several of our Provincial contemporaries are warmly agitating for a change in the rates charged by Express Companies. It is high time some reduction was effected, as under the present system the rates are most exorbitantly high, so high indeed, that in many cases the carriage of small parcels of goods equals if not surpasses the first cost. If the Express Companies would satisfy themselves with a reasonable amount of remuneration their business would be doubled.

LATEST FROM QUEBEC.

The following synopsis of Quebec news is from the the telegraphic report of the Globe:

QUEBEC, March 9th.

The Assistant Commissionership of Public Works, vacated by the dismissal of Mr. Sam. Rice, has been offered to Mr. Page, who is the present Chief Engineer. He has not yet accepted it.

It is proposed that Mr. Trudeau, at present the Secretary of the Department, shall take Mr. Page's place, and that Mr. Braun shall succeed to the Secretaryship. By these changes an annual saving of from two to three thousand dollars will be effected, without impairing the efficiency of the service.

The Hon. Luther H. Holton left Quebec for Montreal this evening, to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law, Mr. Forbes, of Cincinnati, who is to be interred to morrow. The Finance Minister returns on Friday.

After the debate on the Easter holidays, a paper was circulated among the members of the Assembly in favor of adjourning a fortnight at Easter. It was very largely signed, and undoubtedly an adjournment will take place from Wednesday, the 23rd March, to Wednesday, the 6th April.

O. S. Gildersleeve, Esq., late Mayor of Kingston, expired there suddenly to-day, from apoplexy.

Meehan, sentenced to death for the murder of Patrick Pearl, at Quebec, is to be executed on the 23rd, the Government having refused to commute his sentence.

The following is a synopsis of Mr. Bourassa's Interest Bill, which formed the subject of to-night's debate:—

Clause 1st. Existing contracts shall remain in force. 2nd. Banks shall have the same privileges and restrictions as under the present law. 3rd, Insurance Companies and corporations authorized to lend money to be allowed the same privileges as under the present law. 4th. Six per cent payable when there is no special bargain. 5th. Except as regards banks, lending corporations, &c., it shall not be lawful, after the passing of the Act, to stipulate for or to take a higher rate than 7 per cent. 6th. The penalty for violation of the law to be the forfeiture of all interest in excess of the rate permitted by law, and such forfeiture shall be to the benefit and use of the borrower. If such excess has been paid, it may be retained out of any principal sum then unpaid.

SHERIFF FORTUNE.

We learn that Sheriff Fortune has been removed from the Shrievalty of Northumberland and Durham, after a fair and impartial trial or examination, notwithstanding the assertions of the *Leader* to the contrary. No honest, straightforward Government could allow a public officer to retain his position on a tithe of the evidence adduced against Mr. Fortune. Peculation with him was not confined to a single instance wherein inadvertancy might be admitted, but was carried on systematically and for years back. Under the circumstances, his dismissal became an act of public justice. Mr. Robert N. Waddel has been appointed to the vacant office.

BLACKWOOD for February is to hand. Ebony seems to be in a splendid humor just now, for we have seldom seen a lighter or more sparkling number than the one before us. It is really a fine programme. For sale here.

RISE IN GOLD.—Gold rose in New York on Wednesday from 62⅞ to 68⅞, being within 4 per cent. of the highest figure touched since the outbreak of the war.—The rise is attributed to the failure of the Gold Bill. Gold must advance in proportion to the enormous issues of paper, the war expenses of the present year alone being estimated at $1000,000,000. In another year the national debt will be $1000,000,000!!

☞ Samuel Keefer, Esq., has been turned out of the office of Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, on the ground of general inefficiency.

☞ Five pirates were hung in London on the 22nd February. The affair created considerable sensation.

☞ Artemus Ward has got into a peck of trouble. The last heard of him he had been captured by a band of Indians after a severe fight, in which several of the redskins were slain.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

CINCINNATI, March 9.—A special despatch from Columbus to the Gazette says:—General Grant, on his way east, in conversation with a distinguished Ohio officer, expressed himself entirely satisfied with the situation of military affairs. He spoke in the highest terms of General Sherman's expedition, which had given the rebellion the severest blow since the capture of Vicksburg.

Gen. Sherman has destroyed forage and provision enough to subsist the confederate army from three to six months. In one place he destroyed over two million dollars worth of property. In other places he destroyed immense stores. He brought in large droves of cattle, several thousand head of mules, 8,000 negroes, and over 400 prisoners with but trifling loss in men and materials on our side.

In addition to this, by the destruction of very important railroad lines, Gen Sherman has released Gen McPherson's corps from doing guard duty along the Mississippi and restored them to active service.

CHATTANOOGA, March 6.—All quiet in front except an occasional change of shots between the advanced a cavalry pickets.

To-day a large confederate cavalry force appeared before Mckajack Gap and pressed our cavalry out.

Another despatch, dated Chattanooga the 7th inst., says the confederate cavalry have retired and our forces now hold Mcrajack Gap. It is not unlikely that the confederates may assume the offensive.

A large force of confederate cavalry attacked 93 men of the 3rd Tennessee at Panther Springs on the 5th inst. Our loss was 2 killed, 8 wounded and 22 captured. The confederate loss was 30 killed and wounded.

FORT MONROE, March 8.—The flag of truce steamer New York, arrived this evening from City Point with 700 Union prisoners, charged for an equal number of Confederate prisoners.

The Richmond *Sentinel* of the 8th instant has the following:—

MERIDIAN, March 6.—Sherman was at Canton last Wednesday. Our cavalry are fighting him on all sides. There was taken a large number of negroes. He leaves the country perfectly impoverished wherever he has been.

CHARLESTON, March 6.—305 shells have been fired at the city since our last report.—There is nothing else new.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The *Republican* has the following official despatch which was received last night:—

Fort Monroe, March 8.—To the Hon. E. M. Stanton.—The flag of truce boat is bringing over 48 officers and 600 privates delivered for exchange.

The Richmond papers give an account of Col. Dahlgren's death and Maj. Cook's capture. The paper also says that the Confederates have delivered all of Gen. Kilpatrick's officers whom they have captured to be placed in irons.

The President of the United States this P.M. formally presented to Major General Grant his commission as Lieut-General. The ceremony took place in the cabinet chamber in the present of the entire cabinet.

What Britain Could do for the Danes.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* observes that should political events render it necessary to send an army to the assistance of the Danes, we could send out a most compact and efficient force. "Our troops as a body were never in better condition to take the field; and the locality is—as Lord Grey pointed out, so well suited to them, that it almost tempts one to wish for war. We have now in the United Kingdom, in addition to the household brigade and depots, seventeen regiments of cavlalry, fifty batteries, of artillery, ten troops of horse artillery, and 38 battalions of infantry. In the aggregate, the strength of the artillery may be roughly put down as 12,000 men, the cavalry 9,000, and the infantry 32,000, or 53,000 altogether. One half of this force placed beside the Danes would see the Austro-Prussian army on the south side of the Dannewirke for a period far outlasting the patience of their hot compatriots. The household troops at home number nearly 5,000 men, and after sending out 25,000 men of all arms, we should have a good reserve in them, in the 28,000 now forming regiments, and in the 152 regimental depots." The *United Service Gazette* has the following paragraph:—"We have been informed on good authority that the Secretary of State for War on Monday afternoon received instructions from the Privy Council to take a supplementary war credit of about two millions to meet expenses in case of hostilities between this country and Germany. The following corps have received orders to prepare to embark for Copenhagen, viz:—The 11th Hussars, at Richmond Barracks, Dublin; the 15th Hussars, at Newbridge; the 1st Battalion 10th Regiment, at Kilkenny the 1st battalion 11th Regiment, and the battalion 12th Regiment, at Dublin.

Soldiers in battle, it is said, nearly always shoot too high. That's the upshot of the matter.

LATEST EUROPEAN NEWS.

Determined Attitude of Denmark.

RUMORS OF CONFEDERATE RECOGNITION.

RUMORED APPROACHING ABDICATION OF THE QUEEN.

PORTLAND, March 9.—The steamship Nova Scotian, from Liverpool on the 25th and Londonderry on the 26th ult., arrived at 11:30 a. m.

Affairs at Schleswig unchanged.

Lord Palmerston had announced that orders were sent to the Cape of Good Hope to release the privateer Tuscaloosa, international law not justifying her detention.

Rumor says that Queen Victoria is about to abdicate and the Prince of Wales to ascend the throne of England as Edward VII.

It is said that England's proposal for a conference was made with the concurrence of France.

The London *Daily News* denounces the idea of a conference while unjust invasion and butchery in Schleswig is allowed to go on, and draws the conclusion that the conference will either draw England farther along the downward road and lead her to sanction the misdeeds of Austria and Prussia, or will bring her to a course in which she must once more choose between humiliation and war.

The Morning *Post* treats the matter in a similar spirit. It attacks the *Times* for writing up the scheme, and asserts that the Austro Prussian acceptance is only meant to neutralize England's possible action in consequence of the invasion of Jutland.

LONDON, March 26.—The Paris *Constitutional* relative to the proposed conference, says that France would gladly hope for success, but it is doubtful if Denmark and the German Confederation will accede.

The *Advertiser* states that not only has the channel squadron been recalled from Lisbon but the Admiral is under orders to proceed forthwith to the Baltic in order to be prepared not only for possible, but probable eventualities. The *Advertiser* further states that the government has resolved rather than Denmark proper shall suffer the loss of any territories, to employ the logic of our naval force to any extent which circumstances may render necessary.

The *Post* says the language of Lord Palmerston last night, in reference to peace between the two belligerents, is that it is a remote contingency, while war is a certainty.

The *Post's* city article says private advices from Paris, upon which we believe reliance can be placed, again allude to negociations now in progress preparatory to the recognition of the Confederate States by the French government, although any official acknowledgement of this fact would at this moment be thought premature and desirable.

It is estimated that 900 persons were killed by the explosion of a powder magazine at Morocco.

Liverpool, Feb. 26.—Breadstuffs dull and tend downward. Provisions steady and unchanged.

Sandy Hook, March 9, 10 a. m.—The Australasian, from Liverpool on the 27th via Queenston on the 28th, was signalled off this point about 9 o'clock this morning. Her dates are two days later.

The Australasian at this hour is ashore on the point of the Hook, but will come off at high water without damage.

Liverpool, Feb. 27th, Evening.—Political news unimportant.

Lord Palmerston made an explanation as to England's proposition for a conference on the Danish question. He said that the only basis could be the treaty of 1852. Denmark desired to postpone her answer for a short period from local considerations.

It is confirmed that France assents to a conference but it is not in a very earnest spirit.

Duke Augustenberg, in reply to important deputations from all parts of Schleswig, declared his intention never to surrender his rights.

The London *Times* considers that the main point has been gained in the assent of the Great Powers to a conference, and holds that it will produce satisfactory results.

In the House of Commons last night Mr. Haliburton said that at the request of the Under Foreign Secretary he had postponed his enquiry as to the negociations with the United States relative to their forcible possession of the Island of San Juan, but he would not postpone the enquiry indefinitely.

Copenhagen, Feb. 26.—Both Houses of the Rigsraad to-day adopted almost unanimously an address to the King in favor of the energetic prosecution of the war, and the maintenance of the union with Schleswig.

WAR IN DENMARK.

(From Latest Sources.)

It appears from the lastest accounts that the position of the Danish army is by no means so desperate or its losses so severe as they were at first represented to be. The recent news presents in this respect, indeed, rather a singular contrast to that received some days ago, the discrepency between the early telegrams reporting the movements of the Danish army and the actual facts as now ascertained being so great as to throw very naturally some suspicion on the channel through which our earliest intelligence comes. As early as Tuesday week, for example, the Danish army was reported to be "in a state of complete dissolution," having been not only defeated at all points, but utterly routed and flying across the country in wild disorder. But it now appears that the victorious Prussians and Austrians, notwithstanding their immensely superior numbers, have remained more than a week Flensburg and the neighbourhood without attempting anything farther against the fragments of this annihilated army that still confronts them. Again, under the same date, it was reported, with equal confidence, that the Prussians "had carried the entrenchments before Duppel, held by a small Danish force," and had thrown forward their main body to Apenrade, in order to cut off the retreat of the Danes into Jutland." But, as the Prussians were at the same date in a sanguinary conflict with the Danish army at Bau, a strong position, two or three miles north of Flensburg, that covers the road to Duppel, it was difficult to imagine how they could have reached the latter place without first capturing the whole Danish army. By degrees, however, the real facts began to come out. Two days later it was found that Duppel, so far from having been carried by the Prussians, had not been attacked—had not even approached. The Austrians and Prussians were still in and around Flensburg, and according to the telegram, they had decided to bombard the entrenchments before Duppel, in place of assaulting them by storm. Curiously enough, however, another telegram of the same date, and from the very same place, brought word that the greater portion of the Danish troops had "escaped" to Alsen island; had "escaped," that is, from a fortified position so strong that the allies, with all the men and material at their command, had prudently resolved not to attempt forcing it by assault. It appears, however, that the Germans were in no great hurry even to bombard the deserted position. Meanwhile the story about the "escape" of the Danish army to Alsen seems in part at least to have effected its temporary purpose, some observers of events in this country having believed up to the present time in the abandonment of Duppel by the Danes. The explanation of these confused and contradictory accounts, systematically exaggerating the gains of the allies and the losses of their opponents, is to be found in the fact that all our earliest intelligence from the seat of war must, in the nature of the case, come to us exclusively from German sources. The overland communication is now entirely in the hands of the Germans, and if we are to have news every day, we must be content to accept whatever they may send us. The telegraphic advices received in Copenhagen state that "the German reports of the engagements near Oversee and Bilskaw," entirely misrepresent the facts. The Danes had only two regiments, reduced in strength, the numbers in all amounting to 3,000 men. No fighting took place in the streets of Flensburg.

THE DANISH RETREAT.

☞ The real history of the movements as ascertained may be soon told. The Danes, having commenced the retreat at midnight on Friday fortnight, after two engagements—one at Idstedt and another at Oversee—in the latter of which they inflicted severe loss on their opponents, were enabled to continue their retreat without any serious disorder to Flensburg. Here, having taken up a position in front of the town, they were attacked on the Sunday morning by the Prussians (who had come up during the night) on the left and the Austrians on the right, and after a long resistance retreated through Flensburg to a strong position near Bau, a few miles north of the town, covering the high roads leading to both Apenrade and Duppel. It was at this point, evidently, that the most serious engagement of the short campaign took place, the conflict being described even in the German telegrams as a "desperate" one. The Danish position was naturally a strong one, being steeply rising ground, with a wood on one side and a stream on the other. The allies attacked this position on the Monday morning, but were repulsed with heavy loss, the Austrians alone losing eleven hundred men. After the repulse of the allies the Danish army continued its retreat to Duppel, the whole of the infantry and artillery arriving there in safety, while the cavalry went northward to Jutland. The Danish army is now, therefore, behind the strong works at Duppel, having lost in killed, wounded and prisoners about 3,000 men. Duppel is a small peninsula, or tongue of land, opposite Sonderburg. It is a mile from sea to sea, and the whole distance is occupied by low hills, which have been converted into formidable works, defended with upwards of seventy pieces of powerful artillery. The Danish army will probably be able to hold this narrow line against greatly superior numbers, and so long as they hold it they will oblige an army of 80,000 Austrians and Prussians to remain in Schleswig. Meanwhile the Danish navy, which includes a number of formidable iron-clads and gunboats, and mounts upwards of a thousand guns, will sweep the seas of Prussian shipping, and probably blockade the Prussian ports of Memel, Dantzig and Stettin