Miscellaneous.

SPIRIT DRINKING.—The London *Times* is preaching temperance. The world does move. Hear what the "leading" newspaper of England says of the use of intoxicating liquors:—

"It is a peculiarity of spirit drinking that money spent upon it is, at best thrown away, and in general far worse than thrown away. It neither supplies the natural wants of man nor offers an adequate substitute for them. Indeed it is far too favorable a view of the subject to treat the money spent on it as if it were cast into the sea. A great portion of the harvest of Sweden and of many other countaries, is applied to a purpose compared with which it would have been better that the corn had never grown, or that it had mildewed in the ear. Nothing, so rapid to increase the wealth of nations and the morality of society, could be desired as the utter annihilation of the manufacture of ardent spirits, constituting as they do, an infinite waste and an unmixed evil."

Good doctrines that for all countries and times.

TOO KIND.—When reflecting on the impressive kindness of the Canadians to us—a kindness which they insist upon our availing ourselves of whether we will or no,—we were struck with the strength of the following scrap of Dorsetshire poetry:—

"When I wer' still a bwoy, and mother's pride,
A bigger bwoy spoke up to me so kind like—
"If you do like, I'l treat ye wi' a ride
In these wheel-barrow here." Zo I were blind-like
To what 'e had a worken in his mindelike
An' mounted vor a passenger inside;
An' comen to a puddle perty wide,
He tipp'd me in a grinnen back behind-like;
Zo when a man do come to me too thick-like,
An' sheak my hand, where once'e pass'd me by,
An' tell me he would do me this or that,
I can't help thinken o' the big bwoy's trick-like,
An' then for all I can but wag my hat,
An' thank 'en, I do vee'l a little shy."

THE BELFAST RIOTS.—One of the magistrates of Belfast ascertained that in the riot of last August no less than 316 persons were more or less injured; 11 died; 98 persons had gunshot wounds, and considering the irregular and desultory character of the firearms and the probably badness of the ammunition, it may be assumed that a very small portion of the shots told, and that many hundreds must have been fired by fellow-townsmen and neighbors on each other. One person died of mania caused by fright—a case which serves to show how much mental agony and terror there must have been. The loss arising from the stoppage of mills, disturbance of trade and suspension of business has been estimated at about £50,000. The Attorney-General has withdrawn the remainder of the Belfast riots charges on the 25th, as it was useless to proceed with them. He said that, "viewing the results in the cases latterly tried, he did not think it would conduce to the administration of justice to proceed with those remaning." He therefore withdrew all of them except two charges of murder, assenting however to these prisoners being held to bail till next assizes.

Major-General Philip Sheridan is only thirty-three years of age.

A proposition is on foot for celebrating the completion of fifty years of peace between England and France.

The papers favoring Confederation are not very modest in their descriptions of the receptions of the Canadian delegates. They tell us it was the greatest procession save that which honored the Prince of Wales, that had been seen here; that *thousands* of the most wealthy and influential citizens escorted the delegates, in the procession. That there were thousands in the streets is true, but how many were in favor or against Confederation, it would be hard to tell. Those following in the procession, after the Societies could scarcely be counted by hundreds. We say this advisedly, as we saw the procession at several points. In Mr. Galt's speech he said he accepted the demonstration as the "unanimous" expression of the people of Halifax; as the hon gentleman had his own reporter, he will make the most of that speech in England, incorrect as it was.—HX. *Sun.*

A circular has been received by the St. John (N.B.) Chamber of Commerce from the Board of Trade in Detroit, Michigan, having reference to the appointment of delegates to attend a convention. It is proposed to hold three during the approaching summer, for the consideration of the following subject:—

"Commerce, Finances, Communications of Transit from the West to the Seaboard, Reciprocal Trade between the United States and the British Provinces, and such other business as may come before the Convention, not of a purely local or political character." Delegates are also invited "from the several Boards of Trade, in the loyal States, and British Provinces."

The *Morning News* says the Chamber of Commerce will hold a meeting and take action on the proposition.

A similar circular has been received in this city and can be seen at the Merchant's Exchange Reading Room. We trust our merchants will take some action on it at once.—*Hx. Sun.*

In a prison in Paris the juvenile vagrants and young thieves are organized on a military plan, the well behaved being raised to the rank of corporals and sergeants. They are also taught a trade, and recently the study of music has been introduced.

Booth, President Lincoln's assassin, is said to have frequently used the following quotation from Richard III: "The daring youth who fired the Ephesian dome outlives in fame the pious youth who reared it."

COLONIAL ITEMS.

FROM NEWFOUNDLAND.—The steamer *Merlin* arrived yesterday from Newfouneland, but brings no news of importance. The seal fishery still promises well. In the aggregate 31,152 had been caught, of which the *Osprey* brought 5,500. Packs of starving dogs continue to destroy sheep, horses and cows, and in several instances attack human beings. One little girl was torn to peices by the brutes, and a man nearly destroyed on the highway. A law has been passed for the destruction of all dogs found at large.

The Seal Fishery at Newfoundland promises well this season. Reports from the ice are highly favorable.

The St John "Telegraph" says that the Chief Justice of New Brunswick has resigned his office.

All the Ministrial candidates in New Brunswick have been returned without opposition. The legislature met on the 27th ult.

The Miramichi *Gleaner* gives the following account of the Examination of the Students of St. Michael's Academy, at Chatham. Since our fellow townsman has been elevated to the Episcopacy, he has been indefatigable in providing for the Educational wants—male and female—of his diocese; and we are glad to find that Dr. Rodgers' efforts are meeting with unbounded success:

The Semi-annual examination of the Students attending this Institution took place on Thursday last the 20th inst., in presence of his Lordship the Right Revd. Dr. Rogers, Bishop of Chatham. C. Hutchinson, Esq., Hon J. M. Johnston, W. Wilkinson, Esq., Hon. P. Mitchell, R. Sutton, the Trustees of the Schools for the parish, and several other gentlemen interested in the advancement of education and the welfare of the rising generation.

There were classes in the following branches of education, viz.—Reading, Writing, Grammar, Writing from Dictation, Mental Arthmetic, Greek, Latin, French, Ancient and Modern History, Philosophy, Geography with the use of Globes, Geometry, Mensuration and Algebra. The manner in which the Students were tested in all the different classes fully proved to all present that they had been completely and efficiently initiated in the knowledge of the principles of the several languages taught there, and the more advanced Students showed that they also were thoroughly conversed in the Writings of the most difficult Greek and Latin Historians.

Problems in Geometry, Mensuration, use of the Globes, and in Simple Quadratic and Equations, prescribed by some of the Visitors were promptly and satisfactoraly solved. The examination throughout, reflected great credit on the perseverig industry and attention of both Teachers and Pupils, and they are, therefore, well deserving the encouragement and countenance of all well wishers in the community.

We congratulate his Lordship on the efficient condition of this excellent Seminary, and on the gratifying result of his unvaried exertions for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the young of his flock. This very interesting examination was concluded by a select number of the young men singing "God save the Queen," accompanied by the Melodeon.

Messrs. Allen and Hatheway were, on Monday last, re-elected for York County, N. Brunswick, without opposition.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR,—I have to inform you that a most melancholy accident happened to Mr. Peter Doyle, of Lot 7, on Sunday night, the 16th inst. His dwelling house, and nearly everything in it, being burned. Mr. Doyle and his family, and Dr. O'Leary, of Cascumpec, who happened to be at Doyle's, all retired to rest early that night, being in bed at eight, p. m. Doyle and his wife slept in one room, and his mother and young son in another room off the kitchen; at the other side of the kitchen was the sitting-room, and in a bedroom off the sitting-room Dr. O'L. slept, and up stairs slept a niece of Mr. Doyle's, about 12 years old, and another quite small girl that Doyle took into his house. About 20 minutes to 11, p.m., Dr. O'L. awoke with a suffocating sensation, found his bed-room filled with smoke, and a roaring noise overhead, just above the plastering of the room. He jumped out of bed, took in his arms most of his clothes, opened the bed-room door, and saw the light beginning to glimmer through the smoke in the sitting-room, passed rapidly through the kitchen, and called Doyle and awoke him and his wife, and had to run to the kitchen to get the air, being nearly suffocated. Mr. Doyle got up immediately, ran up stairs, put his hand on the stove-pipe, found it quite cold, brought down the two little girls, who were nearly smothered, ran round the house, found a barrel, that had ashes in it, on fire, a hole burned in the house, and the wind—which was blowing a regular hurricane at the time, forcing the fire right into the house. Mr. Doyle sent his wife to rouse his brother James, who was his next neighbor, on one side, and Dr. O'L. roused Mr. Ramsay, who was his next neighbor, on the other. All efforts to save the house were in vain, and nothing could be saved in the sitting-room, bed-room Dr. O'Leary slept in, or up stairs; a few things in the bed-room off the kitchen that Doyle and his mother slept in, were saved, the fire not reaching them as soon as in the rest of the house. Before 11½, p.m., everything left in the house was burned to the ground. A great quantity of oats and wheat were burned on the loft, and potatoes in the cellar. Mr. Doyle's house was remarkably well supplied with bedding, bed-clothes, and wearing apparel; and in clothes, grain, furniture and house, he must have lost over four hundred pounds worth of property. Some of the wheat belonged to the Rev. Mr. King, of Cascumpec. Dr. O'Leary lost his waistcoat, hat, and muffler, and about £6 cash and some lavcrite in his waistcoat pockets. A granary, lately put up, would be lost only for the assistance of the neighbors, who also assembled next day and received to put up a new house for Mr. Doyle (who is very deservedly a popular character in the neighborhood, and at all times most hospitable.) They got the frame out on Monday, put it up and boarded it on Wednesday, and had it nearly shingled by Thursday evening. The barrel of ashes was in front of the sitting room, and the wind blowing a hurricane on it, is supposed to be the cause of the fire. Mr. Doyle says, however, his mother went out at six o'clock on Sunday evening, found the ashes in the barrel hot, and covered it with a board, and says no ashes was put in it; if so, spontaneous combustion probably took place in the ashes. The probability is, that if Dr. O'Leary had not awoke, all hands in the house would be burned, and there is a moral certainty that the two girls on the loft would be.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ISLANDER.

SIR;

I did not happen to see the report of Colonel Gray's speech on the Land Question, until it appeared in your paper of Friday last, copied from the *Protestant* of April 1st. I have no sort of objection to the discussion of my transactions with my tenants, in the House of Assemply or elsewhere, provided the terms are accurately stated; which has not been done by Col. Gray.

After correctly quoting *some* of the conditions of my agreements, that hon member proceed thus: "There are bonds entered into, I understand, by which, providing even the last instalment is not paid, the whole may be swept away." This is an entire mistake; there are no such bonds in existence. But there is a clause in the agreement which provides that in default of payment of any instalment or interest, beyond a certain time, the tenant making such default, forfeits the right of purchase; and any sums which he may have paid thereof, [illegible] Gray, "probably, therefore, it will be a paying speculation," is consequently without foundation. A little further on the same honorable member assumes that some of my tenants may owe £50 of arrears, prior to 1858. This also is a mistake, two only of my tenants owe between £20 and £25 up to 1864; others owe small sums under £20. A balance-sheet recently prepared shews that all the arrears due on my estate amount to something less than £500, or rather less than 18 months rent. Equally erroneous is it to assert that my tenants could have obtained more favorable terms under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill; most of them hold their farms at 1s. 6d., currency, per acre, which, at fifteen years purchase, would amount to £150, instead of £62 10s. per 100 acres.

I will only further observe, that if the eloquence or the sophistry of the supporters of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, could induce my tenants to adopt its provisions, in place of their present agreements, I should become several thousand pounds richer thereby; but, Sir, they "understand the question" far too well to dream of any such change.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient serv't,
R. P. HAYBORNE.

Marshfield, April 25, 1865.

The Herald.

Wednesday, May 3, 1865.

THE SITUATION.

THE course which events have taken in connection with the important subject of Colonial Confederation is precisely that which we foresaw and pointed out in these articles. "Canada," in the words of Lord Stanley, "is the only vulnerable point in the British Empire," and any person who has paid the slightest attention to the London money market and to the utterances of British commoners and Lords, as well as to influential periodicals, might have reasonably anticipated the fate that would overtake any scheme of Colonial Union emanating from the larger Provinces, and the avowed object of which was the better security of these Provinces. Public opinion has, in view of our connection with the mother country, our geographical position, resources, &c., rightly construed that such an Union would be rather a source of weakness and oppression than of strength and prosperity to the Maritime Provinces. It is a fact, which we presume will not be denied, that Canadian bonds, bearing interest at 6 per cent, have sold in the London money market at a discount of from twenty to thirty-five per cent., whilst Nova Scotia bonds, bearing interest at only four per cent., have been in constant demand at from 90 to 100 or par. The reason of this is, we believe, to be found not so much in the large debt of Canada, and the extravagance of her politicians, which is notorious even in Europe, as in the greater importance of Nova Scotia as a British dependency and its comparative security from invasion or subjugation. There is no class in the world more lynx-eyed and shrewd than the English money-lenders, and hence it is they prefer investing their capital in bonds, which although bearing a low rate of interest, yet are secured in a Colony which, as a military and naval station, is of much importance to the British Crown, and is capable of an easy and successful defence, to bonds secured in a Colony, like Canada, which has been long considered by the Imperial Government and by competent military authorities as indefensible. We are well aware that there are many Englishmen who look upon Canada as the whole of the British North American possessions, and that this class view these Colonies as a source of expense and weakness to the mother country. We admit this truth in so far as it applies to Canada, but we do not admit its accuracy, nor do we believe that the ruling party in England admit its accuracy in reference to the Maritime Provinces. We felt thoroughly convinced of this truth from the inception of this question, and when those consistent exponents of public feeling and popular rights—the *Examiner* and *Islander*—smiled in contempt at the opposition of this wretched sandbank to the Great Scheme, and openly expressed the sentiment that force would and ought to be employed to compel this Colony to accept the terms of the Quebec Convention, we more than suspected they calculated without their host. When we view the rise and progress of Confederation, we cannot repress our admiration at the sagacity and tact of the Canadians, and our utter contempt—for no other word will express our feeling, however grating or presumptuous it may sound—at either the duplicity or the sheep-like innocence of the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces. They are at liberty to take either horn of the dilemma. The secret conclaves, the profound mystery attending the memorable seventeen days sitting of the Conference, and the grand result, in the famous Constitution which first came before the Colonies in a clandestine manner, appear now more like a dream than a reality. Every precaution that human foresight could suggest had been carefully adopted to render the scheme successful, and had the Imperial Government viewed Confederation as essential to the integrity of the British Empire, the fate of the Maritime Provinces was sealed beyond redemption long before this. It is true that the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces went to Quebec merely to consult as to the expediency of a Union of the British North American Provinces, and in no way invested with authority to bind the Colonies they represented, to any scheme of Union they might consider desirable, or indeed to agree to any scheme at all; but the want of power or authority on the part of the Delegates, was no guarantee of the independence and rights of the people, whose wishes at any stage of the proceeding were not consulted. Both the Canadians and the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces proceeded to work as in the matter of a formal treaty, binding on all parties, and which could not be altered in the slightest matter, even though the people were unanimously hostile. We have heard on the floors of our Legislature gentlemen of the Delegation pooh! pooh the charge that they had exceeded their powers, or that they intended their signatures and assent as binding without the ratification of the people. Their protestations are vain and worthless in the presence of the positive testimony of the Attorney General for Canada East, who, as a politician of some standing, has a character to maintain before British America and the Imperial Government. That gentleman recently said in his place in the Canadian Parliament, in reference to the Report of the Quebec Conference, that "the gentlemen who entered into it represented their Governments, and the Governments of all the Provinces were represented. It is therefore a *treaty* between these Provinces, which will hold good unless the Government (of Canada) is ousted by a vote of the House." Unfortunately for "Mossoo" Cartier, but fortunately for the people of the Lower Provinces, the Imperial Government is not partial to despotism, and does not regard the Report of the Conference in the light of a treaty; and if any doubt existed as to the views of the Imperial Government, on the question of Confederation, the reply of the Colonial Minister to the query of Lord Robert Cecil entirely removes it. Mr. Cardwell stated that although the British Government had expressed approval of the scheme for the Confederation of the British American Provinces, yet there was no intention to ask Parliament for compulsory powers to make all the Colonies join in the scheme whether they liked it or not. Exigencies of an imperative nature have sometimes led the Imperial Government to adopt compulsory measures towards British subjects; and, in all probability, had Confederation with Canada been regarded as essentially necessary to the defence of the Colonies, and the integrity of the Empire, compulsion, if necessary, would be exercised towards this Colony; but as a general rule, the utmost free-will compatible with loyalty is allowed the people. In this case the British Government exemplifies its usual liberal and generous policy, strengthened in such a course, no doubt, by the consideration that Confederation is but slightly calculated to perpetuate "British connection." For the independence, therefore, and the cheap form of Government which we at this moment enjoy, we thank the Parent State, and not the thirty-three gentlemen who prepared a complicated, expensive Constitution for these Provinces, and life-offices for themselves and thirty-nine of their friends who should be irresponsible to the people—the most cleverly-concocted conspiracy, we must say, that has yet been developed to us in the course of our reading. History will assign these gentlemen their proper positions, and many of them who expect to occupy the "highest places in the synagogue," may, perchance, keep company with Castlereagh and Arnold. Confederation, in our opinion—and we say it with uncovered head in the presence of the risible manifesto of the gallant Col. Gray, and the weighty opinions of the *Examiner* and the *Islander* to the contrary notwithstanding—was a clever plot to sever our connection, in the first place, with the mother country, and afterwards to sell us to the highest foreign-bidder. If the people of the Maritime Provinces are really desirous of perpetuating "British connection," of living under the British Constitution—the Constitution wrung by the Catholic Barons from the tyrant John—and under the mild sway of British rule, they will shun Confederation as they would the yellow fever or the plague, for they may rest assured that Canada—long looked upon with suspicion and coolness for her hostile tariffs and her apathy in the matter of defence—which is avowedly recognized as the weak spot, the only vulnerable point in the British Empire, will be cast adrift at the very earliest moment, consistent with honor, as we will more fully show in another article.

EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(Continued.)

WHEN the Liberals held the reins of power, the Conservatives were untiring in charging them with being extremely lavish in their expenditure of the people's money on the items of Public Printing and Stationery. Six or seven hundred pounds per annum for these items were then considered public plunder. Now, however it is considered perfectly just and right to pay £1,084 14s. 5d. per annum for printing and stationery. We do not say that the Liberals were not a little too liberal in their payments to the Printer and Stationer, but we do say that the Conservatives are still more extravagant in that respect. We need hardly say that the sum paid for printing and stationary last year, and which we have indicated above, is entirely too large, and is very much more than should have been appropriated to those purposes. The Government printer is not to be blamed for charging his highest rates for the work performed in his office, but the Government have no right, and are certainly not justifiable in paying him a sum higher than that for which the same service would be performed elsewhere. Of course no person is so foolish as to blame the stationers for disposing of their goods to the Government and receiving payment therefor. It is their legitimate trade, and we are not aware that their charges for goods sold to the Government are higher than those which they make to private individuals. The Government are highly culpable for purchasing more stationery than the public service of the Colony requires, and for appropriating to the use of individual members that which is paid for out of the public funds. Besides, it must be remembered that many items set down as stationery, and paid for as such, are not stationery at all, but other and very different things. For instance, suppose an honorable member of the Government, or a supporter of the Administration in the House of Assembly, wishes to obtain, during the Parliamentary session, or perhaps at any other time, for anything that is known to the contrary, a pair of nice, neat slippers, or any other article of a similar kind, his wants are at once supplied by the Government, who pay for the article or articles out of the public treasury. We are not aware how far the rule of setting down as public stationery aricles not used for writing purposes has been extended. We have not been informed that boots, hats, gloves and body garments for honorable members have been purchased, paid for, and termed "public stationery" by the Government. We should like to see the Government Dictionary, in order to ascertain whether the signification which honorable members attach to the word "stationery" is contained in that volume or not. We do not know of any dictionary that defines the word as meaning slippers, boots and strong drink. Perhaps they have such a work in Canada, and our Colonial Secretary may have brought a copy with him for the use of this Colony when he was on the Union Delegation in that Province last autumn.

It is sometimes funny to hear our "great men" talk about opening a field in order to display the talent and enterprise of the young men of this Colony; nevertheless, when there is any work to be performed in the Colony, the "great men" composing the Government are not always very particular in giving the preference to "our young men." This was the case in the matter of the survey of a pond at Wood Islands, a short time ago. The Government sent to New Brunswick for a Mr. Whitman, a gentleman who is known in this Colony by the cognomen of "the spy," and got him to make the survey, and paid him for doing so the sum of £65 of the people's money. It is very well known that there are quite a number of young men in and around Belfast and Wood Islands quite competent to perform the service for which Mr. Whitman was paid, and that, too, for one quarter the sum which that gentleman received. But the Government brought Mr. Whitman here for another purpose besides that of surveying a pond or harbor at Wood Islands, namely, for the purpose of acting the part of "a spy" amongst the tenantry of this Colony. The survey of the harbor at Wood Islands was merely a nominal thing which was intended by the Government to save themselves from the odium which they well knew the importation of a spy would attach to them. But we understand Mr. Whitman received the sum of £150 for his services to the Government and the Proprietors in obtaining information detrimental to the interests of the tenantry, besides the £65 for the survey. Our Government are really very liberal towards themselves and their friends, but their patronage to our "young men" is exemplified in a rather peculiar way.

TEMPERANCE.—We beg to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column of a Lecture and Exhibition to be given in St. Andrew's Hall, on Friday night next, by Mr. G. W. Millner. The Exhibition is taken from Cruikshank's representation of the bottle, and, in its very simplicity, appeals more effectually to the reason and the heart than language, however eloquent it may be. We bespeak for Mr. Millner a full house.

WE received per mail, on Saturday last, a pamphlet of some 64 pages, comprising a speech on Confederation, delivered in the Canadian Parliament by Christopher Dunkin, Esq., member for Brome. We have read this speech with much interest, and we unhesitatingly pronounce it to be by far the ablest on this important subject that has yet come under our observation. Mr. Dunkin analyses the Report of the Quebec Convention with a constitutional knowledge, a matured judgment, and a literary acumen of no mean order, and points out the defects of that Report or Constitution in so clear a light, that he who runs may read. We shall bring this speech more prominently before our readers in a future No.

Late European Intelligence.

HALIFAX, April 23

The R. M. S. "Africa" arrived from Liverpool, via Queenstown, bringing papers to the 15th inst.

The news is unimportant.

The death of the Right Rev. Dr. Brown, R. C. Bishop of Kilmore is announced.

In the Corps Legislatif on Tuesday the discussion upon the Mexican question was resumed. It was contended by M. Rouher that there was no probability of a war between France and America in consequence of the establishment of the new empire of Mexico, but that it would be desirable to allow the French troops to remain in that country a few months longer till the empire was consolidated. The amendment of the Opposition for the withdrawal of the French army was negatived by 225 votes against 16.

The Confederate war steamer Shenandoah has been giving a good deal of trouble to the colonial authorities at Melbourne, in Australia. She appeared in those waters to prey on Federal commerce, after the manner of the Alabama, asked to be admitted to refit and take in coal, which was conceded, and then committed various acts, some of which were held by the Law Officers of the Governor to involve a breach of neutrality. Amongst the most prominent of these illegal acts may be mentioned the enlistment of four men, all of them British subjects, amongst the crew of the Shenandoah.

When the fact became known, a warrant was procured to search the vessel for the men; but Capt. Waddell, commander of the war steamer, would not permit its execution, he at the same time declaring on his honor as a gentleman and an officer that the men were not on board of his vessel. In defiance however, of this declaration, the ship was narrowly watched by the police, and four men were found to be escaping from it, one of whom, a British subject, was seized and placed in prison, and he will be tried for a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act. This discovery induced the Governor to request Capt. Waddell to depart without loss of time, and the captain took the hint; but the affair has caused considerable stir in the Colony, where parties, as in England, are divided in their sympathies for North and South. During the cruise of the "Shenandoah," she captured and destroyed 9 vessels, ships, barks and schooners.

A movement has been originated in Madrid for the entire abolition of slavery in the Spanish Colonies.

The more detailed reports from New Zealand confirm the first account of the severe fighting at the opening of the campaign on the Western Coast between the Natives and the British Troops. The natives had erected a pah on a block of ground claimed by the government. A skirmish took place, in which a few men and some officers were lost. Next day the natives drove in the pickets of the 50th regiment, and surprised the camp. The fighting was desperate, the natives using their tomahawks with terrific force; but they were repulsed and driven into the bush. The surrender of Thompson, the Maori Chief, is confirmed—the only consoling scrap of intelligence to set against an otherwise distressing budget of news.

A Mexican letter received in Paris states as a positive fact that so small is the Emperor Maxmillian's confidence in the duration of his empire that he draws his pay from the Treasury "daily,"—not being willing to run the risk of even a week's arrears.

"Marshal Bazaine," says a Paris letter in the "Independence" "is about to return from Mexico. A decision to that effect was come to in a recent Council of Ministers, and orders in consequence will be sent out by the mail which leaves St. Nazaire on the 17th.

In reference to the conduct of Austria and Prussia in the question of the Duchies, the Paris correspondent of the "Morning Post" says that the French Government remains an inactive spectator of what is going on, and is not likely to be deceived by the cabinets at Berlin and Vienna. He asserts that the negotiations which may appear to be carried on between the German Powers are all a sham, as it is privately agreed upon that Austria should give way to Prussia.

The Royal Message read at the closing of the Danish Parliament is a gloomy document, and shows the suffering of the little kingdom by the war of last summer. The document spoke in melancholy terms of the non-settlement of the proposal of the modification of the Constitution and prayed that God would avert the dangers that threatened the "common Fatherland." But the popularity of the King is undiminished.—There were strong manifestations of loyalty in Flensburg on the anniversary of his Majesty's birth day.

There had been serious disturbances at Madrid. The Paris correspondent of the "Times" says, the disturbances at Madrid have been more serious than was at first stated.—On Monday evening the assemblage in the streets was suddenly dispersed by a a volley of musketry. The troops fired right and left. M. Navas, who was going to the Casino, was killed. Another gentleman, who was wounded, died in a few minutes. Some other persons having been killed and fifteen wounded, more or less seriously. There was no provocation on the part of the people. The cavalry charged through the streets and used their sabres. No proclamation had been issued to warn the public or forbid their moving about the streets as usual.

FALL OF RICHMOND.

The news of the above event arrived at too late an hour to admit of the newspapers generally commenting upon it.

The Advertiser says, the further circumstances and consequences of this heavy blow, and great discouragement to the Southern cause will be looked for with intense anxiety as the close of the war or the inauguration of a new wide-spread guerilla conflict of uncertain duration may spring from this disastrous event.

The "Daily News" says, the army of Virginia, so long deemed invincible, the hope, the centre, the citadal of the Confederacy, has been not only beaten but shattered. Mr. Davis's government is now vagrant and fugitive. Richmond, which received it and gave it for a time dignity which it could never have acquired while it remained among the cotton plantations, where it had its rise was set on fire by its departing guests. That the Confederate army fought with all its old tenacity, we cannot doubt; but has been broken by men who, as we have often been told, were the sweepings of the Northern cities. Mr. Davis began this war by declaring that he would carry it when good, for the torch awaited the Southern armies in densely populated cities, but the attempt to burn New York ended in nothing but an execution, while Mr. Davis set his borrowed capitol in flames and decamped. Other papers are silent.