

NEWS PER MAIL.

The month of April, despite the mildness proverbially ascribed to it, has been a stormy one in history. The 1st is the birthday of Prince Bismarck, and the anniversary of General Sheridan's victory at Five Forks, which virtually decided the fate of Richmond. The general assault upon Lee's lines before that city took place on the 2nd, and its occupation by the Union armies on the 3rd. The last named day has another and not inferior distinction as the birth day of Washington Irving. Sir Henry Havelock, the hero of Lucknow, was born on the 5th. The 6th witnessed one of the bloodiest struggles of modern times—the famous storming of Badajoz, where 50 per cent. of the British attacking force perished in the assault. On the same day the French terrorist, Danton, was sent to the guillotine by his former friend, Robespierre. Dr. W. E. Channing was born on the 7th. The 9th is the birthday of Lord Bacon, the anniversary of Lee's surrender to General Grant, and that of Admiral Rodney's famous sea fight with the French Count de Grasse, which, renewed three days later, ended in the capture of the fleet. On the 10th occurred Wellington's victory at London (1848). Fort Pulask, was taken on the 11th; Fort Sumter bombarded on the 12th. The 14th, already memorable for the defeat and death of Warwick, "the kingmaker," at Barnet during the Wars of the Roses, as acquired a wider and sadder renown from the murder of President Lincoln. On the 15th Gustavus Adolphus defeated Count Tilly. On the 16th the Russian Nihilist Karakozoff made his abortive attempt to shoot the present Czar (1866), and Garibaldi landed in Sicily. The 18th witnessed the execution of Tania Topce, the most prominent actor in the Sepoy mutiny of 1857. The 19th is doubly famous for the battles Lexington and Concord, and for the death of Byron. The unjust condemnation by Louis the XV. of the heroic Count Lally, the last and bravest defender of the French power in India marks the 22nd, which has the additional distinction of the birth of Emanuel Kant "the king of German metaphysicians." The 23rd, by a singular coincidence, has the two-fold renown of being the birthday and the death-day of Shakespeare. On the 26th John Wilkes Booth, the murderer of Lincoln, was overtaken and killed by the Union Cavalry, and General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered the Confederate Army South Carolina. The 28th is the birthday of Russia's greatest military engineer, General Todleben; the 29th that of the Czar.

Messrs. Laird Brothers undocked yesterday, from their No. 5 Graving Dock H. M. S. Hotspur, which has been in their hands for some time past undergoing very extensive alterations and overhaul. The Hotspur, which is a twin-screw armoured-clad ram, of about 4500 tons displacement and 3,500 indicated horse-power, was built by contract of the Clyde in 1870, and had some novel features in her construction, being fitted with a fixed tower or turret, with 8-inch armour, containing one 600-pounder gun, worked on a revolving turntable. The principal alterations which have been made are the substitution for the fixed tower of a revolving turret of the latest construction, protected with compound steel armour plates, equal in resisting power to about 12 inches of iron, and carrying two guns of equal size to the one originally carried. The breastwork has been enlarged to give increased accommodation for the crew, and an armoured pilot tower has been added. Appliances for working the Whitehead torpedoes and fittings for torpedo boats are provided. New boilers have been fitted and the machinery generally overhauled. A raised deck has been erected amidships and extended forward to carry up the ventilation to a safe height above the deck, and many improvements have been made in the general fittings of the hull. Staff Commander Roe and Mr. Barnes, overseer, superintended the undocking on behalf of the Admiralty, and the ship was towed into the Alfred Dock, and thence to Messrs. Laird's yard in the West Float where she will be completed for sea. Messrs. Laird, have also in hand for the Admiralty a powerful twin-screw tug, designed as an improvement on the Stormcock, built by them some two years ago, which has been so successful as to have led to the adoption of this system in more than one vessel in which the main features of the Stormcock have been followed.

The only survivor on the Peruvian side of the sea fight in which the Huascar was captured has arrived in Paris. As a matter of course he has been interviewed by a reporter of the interprising Figaro. He is described as a young man of ruddy complexion with a small dark moustache and looking about 33 years of age. His forehead and whole face are disfigured by small wounds caused by the bursting of a percussion shell which exploded on the deck of the Huascar within a few feet of him. The sight of one of his eyes is temporarily gone from the same cause, and the object of his visit to Paris is to see what the great oculists of the French capital can do for him. Lieutenant Meliton Carbajal is for the moment one of the lions of Paris, as he well deserves to be; for rarely in the annals of naval warfare has there been a more heroic episode than that from which he escaped with life by a miracle.

There only remained one further misery that could befall Russia, and this has now been supplied in the discovery of a gold field. Great excitement has been awakened throughout the Government of Archangelsk by the finding of extensive new gold-veins within a short distance of the town of Schenkursk. Measures have been taken by the Imperial authorities of the far northern province for working the auriferous districts this spring, and already applications have reached the powers that be at St. Petersburg from natives of Schenkursk for concessions and allotments, the land upon which gold has been discovered being a most exclusive appanage of certain members of the Imperial family. It is stated that the presence of gold in these regions, which are of a peculiarly sandy and sterile character, was first detected some years ago by a convict who had contrived to escape from Siberia, and who kept his precious secret until last year.

A Romance of the Peerage. George Essex Montifer, Lord Drummond, grandson and heir-apparent of the Earl of Perth, has (says the Quebec Mercury) gone back to Scotland. Seven or eight years ago, when he was only 16 years of age, he married his grandmother's maid, a buxom girl several years older than himself; and ran away with her to this country. He landed in New York without means, and hired himself as shipping clerk. He was wayward, and by his own foolishness got out of his position. He left the city and settled in Brookhaven, a fishing village on the south shore of Long Island. He lived there in a picturesque old farmhouse, supporting himself and his wife very comfortably by fishing and shooting. He remained in Brookhaven for several years. He lost utterly all his English and aristocratic characteristics, and in appearance, manners, and language, was like the fishermen who surrounded him. He had little education, and no taste for reading, and he seemed both contented with and fitted to the life he led. His neighbours knew him as "George," and the young generation found him a boon companion. About two years ago a son and heir was born to him. Last year he quitted his fishing, and, bringing his wife and child to this city, hired himself as a porter to a drygoods house. The wife of the young lord is a very good-looking girl, substantial in person, and looks as if she enjoyed good health. She is also comparatively uneducated, but she has read to a considerable extent, and is considerably more intelligent than his lordship. She talks Cockney English, and takes evident liberties with the letter H. The annual health of the parents seems to have descended to the child. When the young lord was a shipping clerk in the city, he was visited by Lord Walter Campbell, son of the Duke of Argyll, and brother of the Marquis of Lorne, who was a member of a New York business-house at the time, and who unsuccessfully tried to persuade the runaway to give up his wife and return to his people. It is understood a reconciliation has been effected between the earl and his grandson.

Pere Montsabre, the eminent French preacher, has enlisted much sympathy for the distressed Irish by a sermon which he preached recently before a fashionable congregation in Paris. The correspondent of an English contemporary says that a great effect was produced by the father's appeal. He told a touching story of a poor Irishwoman, who, in 1870, sold the vessel in which she had just cooked her dinner and sent the proceeds to the fund for the relief of the sick and wounded French soldiers.

The War Office intends to recognise the services performed by Brevet Major J. R. M. Chard, T. C., in the defence of Rorke's Drift, by providing him with a lucrative appointment on the staff of his department. This announcement will occasion general satisfaction, the conduct of the little band under the Major's command, on the night of January 22nd, being viewed by all classes as one of the few creditable incidents of the late most unfortunate campaign.

Two of the most remarkable Irish elections were those in Roscommon and Sligo. In the former county the O'Connell, a wealthy, generous, and intellectual local landed proprietor, was ousted by a comparative stranger, Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, formerly of the New York Herald, who had opened to travel from the United States in the same steamer as Mr. Parnell. Mr. O'Kelly, who will be a tone in the new O'Connell's tail is worthy of a better fate. He is a sturdy young gentleman of good manners and education, considerable pluck, and a large experience of the world. He has roamed on the plains with the United States troops, and enjoyed the happiness of having been arrested by the Spaniards as a suspected filibustero, and having escaped a firing-party by a "shave," in Cuba a few years ago. He is a nephew to John Lalor the sculptor, who is to be accredited with one of the groups at the base of the Albert Monument in Hyde Park. In Sligo, the Hon. King-Harman, whom all his neighbours freely admit to

be a 'very good sort,' has to give way to one Mr. Sexton, sub-editor on a Dublin weekly paper. As Mr. Sexton is an employe of Mr. A. M. Sullivan's brother, a new M. P. for Westmeath, and Mr. A. M. Sullivan publicly declared that he could not sit for the county as Mr. Philip Callan, it is likely Mr. Sexton will have gracefully to retire in Mr. A. M. Sullivan's favour.

An independent member is an admirable thing; in theory, but in practice dangerous both to himself and to his party. Look at the election for Berkshire. It has been well known for some time past that certain of the Liberal electors in that county have been by no means satisfied with the conduct of their member, Mr. John Walter, who on nearly all the great divisions of the last two Sessions marched into the lobby with the Government. This apparent trimming Mr. Walter vindicated on the score of his conscience, which, as it can make towards, can also unmake members of Parliament. At the eleventh hour a candidate starts up against the master of Beatwood—one R. Alder, who, if I am not mistaken, on a former election went to exert himself lustily in his rival's behalf. The result must have been something of a surprise to Mr. Walter, and may be, perhaps, something of a lesson. True he did not lose his seat; but he kept it only by 98 votes, his former agent polling 1696 against the 1794 which were all he could persuade the man who once swore by him to give him now. Had Mr. Walter stuck to his own party, it is not at all improbable, looking at the numbers, that he might have been returned at the head of the poll. Half-and-half is a good thing in pewter, but a bad thing in politics.

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of the establishment and of such a character as to justify the most sanguine anticipations of its future permanency and of the success of its business prospects. The HERALD being now we may say, established on a satisfactory basis, and its utility and advantage as an organ of public opinion being recognized and appreciated, we feel that we may with confidence appeal to its friends, patrons and subscribers, for a continuance, if not an increased amount of that favor, patronage and support to which it is so justly entitled at the hands of those, whose interest it has upon all occasions so zealously espoused, and whose public improvements and claims to legislative and governmental favor and consideration it has so warmly and persistently advocated and upheld.

The Future of the Country. Our readers are doubtless well acquainted with the true and familiar adage concerning the city of Amsterdam, that its foundation was laid on herring bones. Now, looking at the prominent position which the cod fishery has occupied in the past history of this colony as the staple industry of its people and chief source of its commercial wealth and colonial importance, may we not say of Newfoundland, with equal force and applicability, that its foundation rests upon a basis of "cod fish bones." Much as we boast however, of the great value and importance of our fisheries, which at present as in the past, are such an inexhaustible source of wealth, still when we come to look to the many requirements of our fastly increasing population and to the depreciation in foreign markets of our staple products, owing to increased competition, on the part of the subjects of other nations and various other causes, may we not naturally feel apprehensive, lest this most important industry may in the near future, fail to meet the growing wants of our people. That such a contingency is by no means improbable, we feel confidently assured, no person conversant with the trade and fisheries of this colony, for at least the past quarter of a century, will for one moment deny, more particularly when we consider, the marked increase which has taken place in the number of those engaged in its prosecution and the quantity of fish annually secured, which at the present day is very little, if anything greater than the annual amount prior to the period referred to. This is certainly a matter well worthy of the most serious and attentive consideration on the part of all having at heart, the future progress and advancement of this colony. Nay more if we wish to maintain that position, which notwithstanding the non-development of our natural resources hitherto enjoyed, as one of the most flourishing and prosperous amongst the colonies of Britain in this western hemisphere we should direct our attention to the opening up and encouragement of new sources of industry for the employment of our surplus population. We should not alone do everything in our power to foster and encourage the native industry of our people, but be ever mindful of the salutary maxim, that "the wealth of a country is its population," no means should be left untried to retain that industry in the country as a certain means of contributing to its future wealth and importance, instead of permitting it to drain therefrom, to the manifest injury of our colonial interests and the permanent benefit and advantage of other countries.

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THE CARBONEAR HERALD. "Honest Labor—our noblest heritage." CARBONEAR, MAY 20TH. To Subscribers of the Herald. With the present issue terminates the first volume, or yearly series of the CARBONEAR HERALD and OUTPORT TELEPHONE, the first number of which was issued from the press on the morning of Thursday the 22nd of May last, since which date, to the present time, true to the principles of its prospectus, it has never flagged in its sincere and zealous efforts for the promotion of the public interests, especially of the district of its location. Though brief the period which has elapsed since its establishment, the HERALD for reasons already referred to in a former issue, has necessarily undergone a change of proprietor, its founder and former proprietor however, still retaining the Editorial conduct and management of its columns. This change though of somewhat recent occurrence, has already been attended with results, the most satisfactory to the financial interests

of the establishment and of such a character as to justify the most sanguine anticipations of its future permanency and of the success of its business prospects. The HERALD being now we may say, established on a satisfactory basis, and its utility and advantage as an organ of public opinion being recognized and appreciated, we feel that we may with confidence appeal to its friends, patrons and subscribers, for a continuance, if not an increased amount of that favor, patronage and support to which it is so justly entitled at the hands of those, whose interest it has upon all occasions so zealously espoused, and whose public improvements and claims to legislative and governmental favor and consideration it has so warmly and persistently advocated and upheld.

Correspondence. To CORRESPONDENTS.—"Censor." Your letter contains a number of very course expressions. You labor under an amusing delusion. You think you know how to write an intelligible letter, but you can't. You don't know logic. You don't know English grammar, in fact you scarcely know that you don't know. As to that "block-head" passage, you happen to be right. "Block-heads" are educated there—in fact it seems that they have been particularly fortunate in educating block-heads. May I ask whether or not you may have been educated there also? We would inform "Poor Newfoundland" that the columns of the Herald are ever closed against all such com-

munications as the one from him regarding shooting, and we also would advise him to be more select in future both as regards subject and language. We will not hold ourselves accountable for the sentiments or opinions of correspondents. To the Editor of the Carbonear Herald. DEAR HERALD.—Among the fiddle-faddle that your Correspondents "A Citizen" and "Pikeaxe" &c., have been communicating to this enlightened community; not a word has been said about the carting of coals, sowing of potatoes, cutting and making hay, draining fields, &c., &c. From the talk of "Fair Play" in the Telegram there seems to be a good deal of "spunging" on the money and I think Mr. Chairman and gentlemen that if you don't have an eye out to business the bulk of your "precious coin" will soon disappear. Can you inform me, Mr. Editor, what is likely to be the price of "trout," "pike," &c., from the North West the ensuing season? It is likely that they will command the same price as the summer of 1878, viz., ten, shillings, or will they fall to seven shillings and sixpence? I think sir that one dollar would be FAIR PLAY. [Since that gentleman has manfully come out over his bona fide signature, we consider it only due to the Veteran Chairman that we should now give judgement in favor of the Defendant in the case of "Fair Play" vs. the Road Board. There will doubtless be a diversity of opinion in the matter, but taking, as we have, a deliberate and impartial view of the whole proceedings, the Plaintiff has evidently manifested his inability to substantiate his charges against Defendant. I cannot, therefore, see the utility of further agitation where there is not even the shadow of possibility of "Greek meeting Greek," and I would now recommend the advice of friend "Amicus" to all parties engaged in this paper war against the Road Board. There has been enough of it for the present, at least.—Pro. Herald.]

To the Editor of the Carbonear Herald. Mr. Editor,—I see by your paper of the 6th a letter signed "Poor laborer on Heart's Delight Road," what part of the work had you to do on the Heart's Delight Road, was it treading, cutting down trees in the orchard or looking for bird's nests. I have observed with great pleasure the work that is being done in fencing the Methodist Cemetery in this place. For some years it has been in anything but a creditable condition, but the people have arisen in their might, and have rolled away the stone of offence in connection with this part of the Methodist property. Through the liberality of the friends of this good work, nearly forty pounds have been contributed towards furnishing material, and the labor has been given freely by the people. Too much praise cannot be given to A. Penney, Esq., M.H.A., who has not only been the prime mover, but has kept to the work day after day to aid its completion. When finished it will be a credit to the community, and will show to all visitors of Carbonear, that the dust of our friends receives that care and attention it ought to have. It is painfully true that in the past in this country, cemeteries have had far too little care bestowed upon them, and it is a good thing that Carbonear is getting over this state of things. It is proposed to plaster the wall and whitewash the board fence, and also to plant some trees in the inclosure, so that it may be that the day will come ere long when "God's acre," shall be a place when the friends of the departed may go for solemn meditation, without having their feelings wounded by the intrusion of visitors that ought to be kept at a respectful distance. We congratulate our friends most heartily upon this accession to the value and appearance of their property. CARBONEAR.

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