

ministry. They knew he was not to be depended on on any question. They knew, especially the *North American*, his high handed and selfish course in the County of York road job, wherein the public moneys worth £70,000, and which remain yet to be paid for, were sold by his influence on credit to his friend Beattie; the money being used now no doubt in building up the *Leader* paper. Yet the latter and Rolph and Cameron picked him, Hincks, out of the late ministry as their favorite!! The same Hincks is now turning tail on his tools. McDougal in due time, he has kicked overboard, as he deserved to be, promoting in his place his quondam friend Bates and the *Leader*, the front of the road job; and Rolph and Cameron are sulkily abiding their time in the ministry, as second stars, whilst Hincks and his French allies and railroad speculators are enjoying the real power. Is there a sensible man in Canada who does not see this? The Clergy Reserve measure is to be sacrificed, buried, to please Lower Canadians, and thus is exploded the interests of the grand political combination of 1850; founded in corruption, so it is ended, or will end assuredly. The *Norfolk Messenger* will find that the article that speaks of the *North American*, also says we have no confidence in him. It will find also ultimately, that the last two years have completely ruined the reputation of Dr. Rolph as a political man in Canada.

Agricultural.

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.

The sun shines bright in my old Kentucky home,
 'Tis summer—the darkies are gay;
 The corn tops' ripe, the meadows are in bloom,
 While the birds make music all the day
 The young folks roll on the little cabin floor
 All merry—so gay and so bright,
 Bye and bye hard times come knocking at the door,
 Then my old Kentucky home good night.

CHORUS.

Weep no more my lady, weep no more to day,
 We'll sing one song for my old Kentucky home,
 For my old Kentucky home far away.

They hunt no more for the Possum or the Coon,
 By the meadow—the hill, or the shore;
 They sing no more by the glimmer of the moon,
 On the bench at the old cabin door;
 The day goes by like a shadow on the heart,
 All sorrow—where once was delight,
 The time has come when the darkies have to part,
 Then my old Kentucky home good night
 Weep no more my lady, &c.

The head must bow, and the back must bend,
 Wherever the darkies may go,
 A few more days and the trouble all will end,
 In the field where the sugar canes grow.
 A few more days to tote the heavy load—
 No matter 'twill never be light;
 A few more days to tote on the road,
 Then my old Kentucky home good night,
 Weep no more my lady, &c.

THE WEATHER.—On Tuesday morning last the ground was again covered with near two inches of snow, which had fallen during the night. About daylight the snow was partially melted off by a warm rain, which continued during the day. Wednesday cloudy but dry—wind blowing strong from the north-west—snow all gone and the ground quite wet—a good deal of rain fell yesterday. The weather in Quebec has been very cold and boisterous lately. Weather on Thursday cool but fair, wind west. Friday and Saturday were warm and fair—wind easterly on Friday, southwest on Saturday. Weather continues very dry. Some snow on the ground north of the Ridges. The farmers are now ploughing for spring crops in many places, also taking in their turnip, carrot, and corn crops. The weather is very favorable for fall ploughing. A very large portion of the wheat has been shipped this fall. A large quantity of wheat in ground—it looks well. For several nights past the moon has shone cautiously. On Saturday evening the air was very mild, the flies were about as usual. On Friday evening as the sun set we saw immense numbers of flies flitting in the sun. On Sunday morning the weather changed and it rained for several hours—wind west and high during the day. Cattle so far feed in the fields. Monday cool but pleasant—no wind.

CAUGHT A TARTAR.—A person named Trambley, while fishing in the Rideau this week, saw a Kingfisher dart down into the water in pursuit of its prey. Instead, however of rising again with a fish, it was observed to have been fastened to something that appeared to impede its flight. Upon further examination it was found that the bird had thrust its bill into the shell of a living clam, which closed suddenly, held him fast as in a trap, until he was himself captured. This frequently happens on the sea shore, where large bivalve shells will close upon birds who thrust their bills into them rather too inquisitively. If any one doubts the power of the fresh water clam of our rivers to perform the above feat, let him just thrust his little finger into one while open. The result, although perhaps not very agreeable, will be perfectly convincing in itself.—*Bytown Citizen.*

SALT YOUR CABBAGE.—We printed sometime ago this recommendation and do so again that it may not be forgotten, that in boiling cabbage whole, if some common salt be put in the water, when washing cabbage or greens, preparatory to cooking them, the snails, bugs, worms, etc., will come out and sink to the bottom, so that they need not be boiled with the vegetables. It is a very good plan, and one that is well known to the old folks.

REMARKS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF CANADIAN SERPENTS.

BLENHEIM, October 28th, 1853.

In the *Gem* of the 25th October, I see a question propounded to your readers, "do snakes lay eggs or not?" And as you would be happy to get information on the matter, I undertake to answer. I have no hesitation in saying, that the account given by the *Globe*, England, is unquestionably true; as I have seen something similar. I was once upon a sand knoll, and saw a number of eggs turned from the warm sand. Having the curiosity to know what they were, I broke a few of them; in one I found a young serpent, in another a young tortoise, and some, which laid deeper in the sand, had not yet given any appearance of an organization inside the egg. The difference between the tortoise and serpents eggs, is only distinguishable when the animal is begun in the egg. At another time I saw a serpent receiving her young from the sand, where they had been hatched; which was a very curious incident. The old serpent by an instinct seemed to be led to the place at her appointed time; and the young were led by an instinct still more surprising, to enter the mouth of the parent, where they were protected from danger, and no doubt received adopted nourishment. At another time I was standing by the side of an old log barn, and I saw a garter snake, of monstrous size, crawl under the old ruins, and began to prepare itself in as comfortable a place possible in order to receive the warmth of the sun; and soon the young began to crawl from her mouth. I think the number that I counted was 13. I observed them using a sort of diversion while they were out of the old one, but as soon as they saw me, the old snake gave a sort of sign, which circumstance was soon followed by as many as possible making their way back into the old serpent. But I did not give them sufficient time for all to make their escape. These are a few of the facts with which I am acquainted, all of which are facts about the garter species so common in Canada.

Yours,
 JOHN CLINTON.

We thank our correspondent for his information, which we doubt not is perfectly correct. The wonderful instinct he alludes to has often been remarked. The tortoise, it is well known, deposits its eggs in the warm sand, near the beach of the sea, lakes, or rivers. At the appointed time the animal will return with unerring truth, as to time and place, to lead away and protect its young. The salmon of the sea leaves its briny depths and enters distant creeks, thousands of miles away, to deposit the eggs in some warm nook, where the summer sun warms them into life. This instinct is as extraordinary as that which leads the swallow back in the spring, over continents and oceans, to his nest of the previous summer, or which starts from the cold and inanimate clod the beautiful plant or flower into life and beauty. These are mysteries of creation, which would almost incline one to believe that the hand of God secretly moves all things. Creation rises from the lower to the higher by links. The serpent is next to the fish—the reptile, of the lizard and crocodile tribe, comes next, including the tortoise species. Beneath the fish we see the clam or shell-fish animals. We believe that all these grades are propagated by the action of heat on eggs laid, in which is incipient life. There may be exceptions, the whale being one, and other large sea animals. There may be some species of the larger kind of tropical snakes that do not lay eggs.—[Editor.]

EPITOME OF NEWS, DOMESTIC & FOREIGN.

In the 19th century the religion of Mahomet is found to be more liberal and enlightened than that of Christ as practiced by a Pope of Rome. . . . A large Protestant Book-Store has been opened in the centre of Constantinople. On its shelves are found copies of the Scriptures in twelve different languages, and thence have gone forth more than 10,000 copies of the Bible. Here is toleration at the fountain head of Islamism. . . . In Christian Rome a young Scotch lady is imprisoned by Roman despots for giving away as a present a Bible to an Italian farmer! Which of these religions is the better? . . . The House of Lords in England decided that a minority in a Parish cannot levy a parish rate. It will have the effect of preventing many rates from being levied. . . . From all accounts, Mr. Ross, of Belleville, is feathering a family nest with offices very finely. He seems to be a counterpart of Hincks on a small scale. . . . On the 7th inst., the people of Sarnia voted on the propriety of a bye-law prohibiting the granting of liquor licences; the result we have not heard. . . . The Quebec Gazette of the 2d inst. has a long leader on the character of Lord Elgin, caused by a laudatory notice of that Nobleman's administration in Canada. The conduct of Lord Elgin for two months towards the Quebec and Montreal people was very unjust and un-British. He fled from Canada to avoid trouble. Yet, upon the whole, no better British Governor ever governed a British colony than Lord Elgin. . . . Some excitement exists in Dublin, Ireland, on account of a Roman Catholic Priest refusing to swear on a protestant Bible. . . . Marshal Paskiewitch, the famous Russian General is to command the Russian troops against Turkey. He has 80,000 troops under him, and it is said the war will commence in the vicinity of the Black Sea on the confines of Georgia. This old General is the same who slaughtered the poor Poles in 1831. He is 75 years old. Lord Aberdeen, the British Premier, seems opposed to Turkey, but the people of England are for her. . . . The Patriarch of the Greek Church at Constantinople is dead; the appointment of a new one rests with the Sultan. . . . When the Emperor of Russia heard of the declaration of war by Turkey, he was exceedingly enraged and threatened to extirpate the Turks. . . . It seems the Earl of Enniskillen, Grand Master of the Orangemen of Ireland, has not declared in favor of Ogle R. Gowan, but the quarrel between Gowan and Benjamin is to be referred to the Grand Lodge which meets in November present. . . . It is supposed so long as the English and French fleets remain on the Black Sea, to assist Turkey, it is impossible for Russia to reach Constantinople, even if she should conquer the Turkish armies, which is very doubtful. . . . Late European news state that England and France have just come to the conclusion to send forthwith 40,000 soldiers to protect Constantinople and take Russia in the rear. . . . The Editor of the *Pembroke Review* is a Quebecer, writing interesting

the Government Department at Quebec. He tells some very hard things of Dr. Rolph's Department. A former editor of the *London Free Press* was taken to Quebec on a salary, and acted as a private Secretary to Dr. Rolph. Then he was translated to Berlin, where he edits the *Berlin Telegraph*. . . . Now we ask Upper Canadians, is this conduct according to Dr. Rolph's professions of 1849—of 1836? Is it consistent with retrenchment? Dr. Rolph's character was good in 1850, and the country expected much of him, but has been disappointed so far. . . . It is said the cases of sickness on the ship which visited Quebec lately, (said to have had cholera on board,) were not cholera, but resulted from filth and want of food.

Mr. Mitchell, the Irish Patriot, is now in California, having come thither from the Sandwich Islands. . . . Mr. O'Donohue, another of the Exiles, is in Placereno—he spoke there a few days ago. . . . Sonora city, in California, is burnt down—property worth a million and a half of dollars is destroyed. . . . Mr. S. Ward, (late of this city) coloured missionary to England, is lecturing on slavery and temperance very successfully in Leeds, England. . . . In Manchester, England, the temperance people have commenced a Maine Law agitation. . . . Mr. George Brown held very successful meetings in Goderich and Stratford, in both of which resolutions were passed condemning the Ministry, especially that Goderich, where a good deal of opposition was anticipated, and some of it shown in the person of Mr. IRA LEWIS, a toady of the Government. Mr. Robert Gibbons, Mayor of Goderich, and a sterling man, presided, and expressed himself opposed to the conduct of the Ministry. We pretend to be one of the oldest reformers of Canada (which our conduct and history will show) are no particular friend of Mr. Brown, nor are we factiously opposed to the Government, yet we have seen for a year past that they are unworthy of the confidence of all true reformers. We have opposed them from principle not from pique. Many old friends took umbrage at this at first, but they now begin to see as we have done. We say to our old friends (and we have hundreds in Canada) it is better for all to support principle than old leaders, if they prove recreant. There are other men in Canada who will take the place of those who act wrong, and men in Canada must be taught to do their duty. We only support Mr. Brown in doing what is right. He has acted nobly on the protestant question.

Sir Allan McNab has just returned from England. . . . The residence of J. Fennimore Cooper, recently turned into a Hotel, has been burnt down by an incendiary. . . . Mrs. Stowe, authoress of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, has been presented with a beautiful gold ring, made of pure African gold, by Dr. McGill, of Labena. . . . A testimonial of £2,000 is to be presented to Mrs. Stowe by friends of humanity in England. That is right—reward the good. . . . A survey of the Isthmus of Darien by a commission of American and British officers is to be immediately made, preparatory to the building of a canal. . . . The petition of the carters for an increase in their tariff has been agreed to by the Toronto Council; this equits towards an election in January. . . . Eight hundred dollars have been subscribed by the New York printers in aid of their fellow typos, who have suffered by the epidemic in New Orleans. . . . The Jews have just held a great meeting in New York called the feast of Tabernacles. It is estimated that there are about 30,000 Jews in New York. They own thirteen synagogues—one in Crosby street, one in Greene street, two in Henry street, one in Wooster, one in Norfolk, and one in Clinton street, two in Attorney street, two in Chrystie street, one in White street, one in the upper part of Broadway, besides two or more places of private meeting. The Crosby street congregation formerly worshipped at the corner of Mill and Beaver streets. . . . Corn and Tobacco crops in Kentucky have suffered severely from early frost. . . . The people of St. Louis have subscribed \$12,600 for a monument to Henry Clay. . . . Hon. Abbot Lawrence has donated \$500 to aid in the construction of a monument to the Pilgrims, on Plymouth Rock. . . . Elizabeth Clay, who shot her seducer at Cincinnati a few days ago, has been discharged, the Grand Jury having found no bill against her. . . . Lola Montez has sued for a separation from her present husband, P. P. Hull. . . . The lakes and the Mississippi are now united by the Chicago and Rock Island, Illinois, and Central, and the Chicago and Mississippi Railroads, enabling the traveller to pass from Chicago to St. Louis in twenty hours! . . . It is proposed to raise the sum of \$50,000 to defray the expense of a monument to the Pilgrims. It will be placed near the spot of their landing.

THE NIAGARA FALLS SHIP-CANAL.—We learn from the *New York Mirror* that active measures are being taken for carrying out this splendid scheme. Gen. C. B. Stuart, late engineer-in-chief of the U. S. Navy, is now engaged in the preliminary surveys, in connection with his associate, Mr. E. W. Serrel. The canal is designed to be of sufficient size to pass ships of a thousand tons burthen around the Falls; and when the object is accomplished, another great outlet will be opened for the commerce of the West.

AGENTS FOR 1853.

- C. W. Robinson, Woodstock—William Hill, North Williamsburgh
- John Q. Bond, Branford—John Tycer, Cumminsville—Robert Balmor, Oakville—J. H. Sanders, Wellington Square—John Bunton, Dundas—A. Diazold, Belleville—John Clinton, Perseverance Division, Blenheim—M. Shaver, Grafton—H. A. Graham, Central Trafalgar—J. B. Crowe, Pelham—J. Rapsidge, Chippewa—Robert Connor, Niagara—George Gilmore, Beamsville—George Davison, St. Vincent—Dr. Powell, Cobourg—James Clint, Cornwall—C. Leggo, Brockville—John Vert, Lambton—James Fraser, Bytown—Wm. Hargraff, Conabec—R. M. Stephens, Port Dorer—William McClellan, Middleton—William McCrory, Fergus—Wm. H. Carney, Owen Sound—Alonzo Sweet, Walpole—S. J. Lancaster, Lobo—John Murdock, Avlmer, Elgin—S. Newcombe, Vienna—J. Russell, North Gower—L. D. Marks, Burford—Charles Taylor, Port Sarala—C. J. Johnson, Otterville—J. W. Coulson, Guelph—George Graham, Richmond Hill—Faria Lawrence, Orangeville—D. D. Hay, Innisfil—Wm. Hamby, Nobleton—J. Downman, Alaska Division—E. B. Butler, Kienberg—James Shaw, Port Credit—Joshua Vanallan, Georgetown—Thomas Wilson, Markham Village—Mozam Jones, Stouffville—D. G. Wilson, Dechra's Creek—John Boyd, Oshawa—Elihu Hurd, Newtown—John Nott, Prince Albert—Rev. Mr. Clinch, Bowmanville—C. S. Powers, Newcastle—Robinson Rutherford, Peterboro—G. C. Choate, Warsaw—Wm. H. Fanning, Kempsville—Wm. Redner, Kingston—Dr. Thomas Aighton, Bath—Francis Fian, Scarborough—Josiah Parkins, Thorahill—Leonard Tuttle and W. H. Finney, Coburne—John Ballard, Montreal—Mr. Booth, Quebec—David McQuire, Weston—John Terry, Sharon—James Cooper, Sutton—Mr. Carter, Newland—A. Younie, Tyrone—G. W. Cook, Crowland