Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

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

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Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., DEC. 2, 1864.

SHERMAN.

General Sherman and his probable fortunes are, just now, fruitful themes for speculation. The step he has taken in leaving his base of supplies and striking out boldly into an enemy's country where he must depend upon *chance* for forage and upon the presumed weakness of the enemy for safety, is one attended by extraordinary dangers. Seldom, indeed, in the history of wars has such a manœuvre been crowned with success, and when the genius of a Napoleon could not save one of the finest armies in the world from destruction, under circumstances somewhat similar, we think the Federalists may well tremble for the fate of General Sherman. If he contrives to bring his two columns out safely at Savannah or Charleston, he will have accomplished *the* feat of the war; but, should he be stopped and defeated, both of which are very possible contingencies, the disaster will be a most appaling one. It may be that the idea of burning Atlanta and setting out thus on a march through an enemy's country was a brilliant conception, and yet, as a contemporary very aptly suggests, it may be worth while to enquire whether Sherman undertook the task because of its apparent feasibility or simply because it was forced upon him as a *necessity*. His position before Atlanta was a critical one. With a long line of communication to keep open against the vigorous operations of Hood and Beauregard, he must have felt seriously embarrassed. Stand still he could not, and to fall back upon Chattanooga might have cost him more than half his army. The only alternative was the desperate one of marching through the State of Georgia for the ocean, depending upon the country for the necessary supplies, and he was, we think, *forced* into adopting it in preference to running the gauntlet Northward. It is now several weeks since Atlanta was destroyed, and it is only fair to presume that we will soon hear of Gen. Sherman's success or destruction. All that we know for certain of his doings is that he captured the little town of Milledgeville. Macon and Augusta he is said to have avoided, because they were found to be thoroughly fortified. The people of Georgia are fairly aroused, and it will be astonishing, indeed, if the sagacious Beauregard suffers the opportunity of bagging the federal army to escape him. The telegrams will be watched for the next four or five days with intense interest. Great issues depend upon the success or defeat of Sherman.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

DEAR SIR:—It was with feelings of pleasure, I assure you, that I perused your article on "Confederation," in your weekly issue of the 24th. But it was only what I expected. I was sure that the *Signal*, which had manfully and consistently advocated the right of the "Southern Confederacy" to their independence, and had honestly searched after and told the truth concerning the struggle going on between North and South, even when contrary to the example and influence of some of the leading Reform Journals of the Province, would not, even at the dictation of those journals, the *Globe* in particular, lend its aid in the attempt to cram down our throats, all at once, a new constitution—a constitution concocted by a few men in a few weeks—a political existence chalked out for them, which the people of Canada had till very recently scarcely ever thought of, and which they yet know very little about.

I am, sir, like yourself, and every other lover of our common country, in favor of some change in our political relations, which will insure to us justice and fair-play, that is, as you remarked, if we have not to pay too dear for our whistle. Any reasonable change within the bounds of our circumstances will be welcome. But can we afford, in present circumstances, to go into this proposed scheme in its present shape? This is the question of questions, and it ought to be taken up, discussed, and disposed of at the outset. For instance, can the people of this far west County of Huron afford it? At present, a farmer owning 100 acres of improved land here pays yearly some $20 of direct taxes; and I suppose if he has a family, his indirect taxes will amount to $20 more. How much more will he have to pay when his share of putting the country into a proper state of defence, building the Intercolonial Railroad, opening up a road to the North West, and paying for four or five Legislators instead of one, is added to it? Perhaps the *Globe* people, who are exceedingly subtle and trenchant in their replies to objections urged against the proposed change, will be able to answer satisfactorily this one also.

And here I would like to say a few words about this same *Globe* of Toronto. It is perhaps bad manners, and not consistent with the etiquette of newspapers, for one editor to admit into his columns anything like criticism of the sentiments of another, but the *Globe* is so intimately associated with the proposed Confederation that you cannot discuss the scheme without coming in contact with it.

You will readily believe me, I think, that it is more in sorrow than otherwise, that I at this time dissent from the *Globe*, when I tell you that I have followed its lead in Canadian Politics for eighteen years. Sometimes I thought that we went too fast and too far; still, upon the whole, I thought we were lovers of our country more than ourselves. I had implicit faith in the *Globe* when it said that Cartier and Co. were corrupt and inefficient, and unfit to govern this Province—that the confederation of all the Provinces might be a possible thing, but that it was far off in the future—that the building of the Intercolonial was further in the distance still,—would scarcely ever pay, and was not necessary, or even essential, to confederation. And more over, the *Globe* was great on opening up a road to, and annexing to Canada, the great North West. 'It should be done at once;' I said amen to that. I appreciated the scorn with which it treated the foolish aristocrats of Britain for clamoring against us for not arming and preparing for war. Why should we? How could we? There was nobody attacking us, and we were not in circumstances to raise and maintain an army. But times changed. The Hon. George Brown joined Cartier & Co. in a coalition government—'jumped over the walls and joined the enemy,' said some—'threw himself into the breach to save his country,' said I, to soothe my conscience, although I have been in doubt about it ever since, and who can blame me for still doubting? Mr. Brown told the people of Toronto, the other day, that the conference had agreed to put the country into a complete state of defence. They had agreed to build immediately the unprofitable Railroad through what used to be "a wild and barren country," and hear it ye denizens of the North West—ye people dwelling on the banks of the Red River and Saskatchewan, a road will be made to you when the finances will admit—an event likely to happen if the plan of the delegates is carried out—when the United States pays the last dollar of their debt. The *Globe* had no word of censure for the delegates for locking out the newspaper men of Quebec, and, in my opinion, it has studiously endeavored to mystify and exalt into an undue importance the work of the delegates. And now, it apparently wants the people to swallow the whole thing as soon as possible without knowledge or consideration.

I will not, at present, attempt to discuss any of the details agreed to; but it is evident that the scheme, as a whole, will be altogether too expensive to commence with. Some of its principal advocates tell us that fewer members might have done the Federal business, 'but,' say they, we had to multiply them to conciliate the politicians, or they would not assist us to carry the measure. Do evil, that good may come out of it.' Strange doctrine this for the nineteenth century, an old theory of the Jesuits, which I thought had been dead long ago, and never expected to see it resuscitated again, especially at the birth of a Nation. By a parity of reasoning, we will have a crowd in the Local Legislative Assembly and Council. What with Township Councillors, County Councilors, Local Assembly men, Local Legislative Councilmen, and the 82 and 21 for the Federal Assembly and Council, with all the other men necessary to keep such a machine running, about every twentieth man in Upper Canada will be an office-holder. Where will it all end?

The scheme that will prove to be a success and a blessing to Upper Canada must be one that will employ no more men in any branch of the Government than is absolutely necessary. Perhaps we can dispense with our County Councils, and hand over their work to the Local Legislature. This, with a Federal head that would spend as little as possible in the way of arming and defence, and let Railroad making alone for some time and give us perfect control over our Local affairs, for I am not sure about that Veto. I say, bring forward some plan, not so grand and imposing as the famous 72 resolutions, but one better suited to our wants and circumstances.—Let it be generally understood, and few intelligent minds in Canada, I opine, will be found opposing it.

You did not tell us in your quiet, cautious article on "Confederation," of the 18th, the plan you preferred for getting the voice of the people; but I infer that you are in favor of a direct vote, or by conventions. Either way will be conducive to the spreading of information—will excite discussion, and tend towards the getting of a fair and intelligent expression of opinion.

In the meantime, Mr Editor, go on in the path you have started upon; speak out and plead for time for the people to be informed, and make up their minds concerning so momentous a matter as the making of a constitution for a nation. Do not be daunted or deterred by those who tell you that if you stop to discuss this or that you will postpone, and if you postpone, you will likely ruin the whole affair. Such reasoning is flimsy and childish. We are not Turks or Russians, but free and enlightened Britons. Let us do our work in a manner that we will not be ashamed of it when it is done. Any scheme or plan that cannot wait to be fully and freely discussed—that will not stand the strongest blasts of criticism, is unworthy to become any part or portion of the foundations of a great nation.

Should you think fit to give this a place in your valuable columns, and it be the means, in any degree, of stirring up a spirit of enquiry amongst the mass of your readers, it will fully repay me for writing, and you for publishing, this perhaps rather lengthy and rambling letter. I am, &c.,

UPPER CANADIAN.

County of Huron, Nov. 28th, 1864.

THE LATE MISSIONARY MEETING

To the Editor of the 'Huron Signal.'

DEAR SIR,—It is seldom that I find fault with anything in your well conducted journal, although I read it constantly. Not being one of those who are always picking holes in your editorial coat, you will bear with me when I point out a few spots that I saw upon it lately, which I think would need a little brushing. I refer now to your notice of the late Missionary Meeting and your strictures on public speaking in connexion with it. Whilst reading what you wrote I wondered *very* much that you gave it *any* notice, or that when writing a line or two upon it you did not act on the old principle of 'the dead and the absent nothing but good.' Now, sir, your remarks on that meeting appear to me to show a want of *good taste*—a want of *discernment*—and, to say the least, they were *untimely*. I have not the least doubt, Mr. Editor, but that you are, as every Christian man ought to be, interested more or less in the great missionary enterprise, but it certainly seems a want of *good taste* in you even to appear to insinuate that any of the gentlemen on the platform that evening was less interested in the cause of Missions than yourself. Why, sir, there is scarcely one of them that has not set aside more or less of ease, wealth and comfort, and in some cases ventured their lives also to battle on this important field.

Your strictures show a want of *discernment*. Now, it is evident that when a meeting commences at about eight o'clock in the evening, and there are six or seven ministers expected to speak, except they intend keeping the people until midnight they *must* speak short. Again one member of the deputation is always expected to make the principal speech, therefore the local ministers ought to display their good sense and judgment in making way as gracefully as possible for the speaker of the evening. This was well attended to in the late meeting—all the ministers spoke short and to the point. Of course the writer does not pretend to have all the discernment in the world and yet *he* could see in their short addresses not "elaborate excuses divided into heads and profusely illustrated with stale anecdotes," but points that had a direct tendency to advance the cause which they advocated. Few as were the minutes occupied and cheerful as were the introductions, the "discerning public" could see that—the grace of Christian liberality—the evils of bigotry—the greatness of the missionary enterprise—the necessity of doing more for Christ—consecrating all to Christ, &c. &c., were affectionately urged upon them by the different speakers.

What we regret is not a "discerning public" but a want of *discernment* in the reporter. But, sir, your strictures were, to say the least, *untimely*. If you intended writing on 'stale anecdotes' and 'elaborate excuses,' why not give us an article on these alone at some time or other, you that wrote a short time ago so well, on "dulness," and almost the "mud" feel about half as adhesive as it usually does, could write well on a subject so much loftier than either. Or as it appears that "you did not wish your remarks to apply to this meeting in particular," why not wait until you had attended one that would have suited you in every respect. A meeting to which your remarks would be pertinent might occur, but in our opinion of the late one they were untimely.

Now, sir, no man is more against excuses, either in the pulpit or on the platform, whether they are under one head or five, than the writer. But still he does not like to see a meeting that gave tolerable satisfaction to the audience and materially assisted the cause of Mission, sent off over the counties as a scapegoat bearing upon its comparatively guiltless head the sins of others.

I remain, dear Mr. Editor,

Yours truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

REMARKS.—We publish the above as a proof of our great good nature, and not at all because we think our notice of that Missionary Meeting was of such a venomous nature as our reverend correspondent attempts to make out. If, unfortunately, the cap fits the worthy gentleman, as regards the meeting, he has certainly redeemed himself in the very nice little sermon he writes for our special edification. What a lively sense he seems to have of what is *tasteful, discerning* and *timely* on the part of a newspaper reporter, and how telling is his application! If any one, hereafter, sees in our columns a notice of the kind in which *each* orator is not said to have uttered a sublime address, marked for its lofty tone, its keen wit and brilliant satire, it will be because our reporter is incorrigibly bent upon speaking his mind freely. Our correspondent wonders that we gave *any* notice of the meeting at all. Why so? It certainly appears to us that the gratuitous assumption is not altogether in the *good taste* we are alleged to have departed from. Our habit is to exercise the right of criticism freely, without abusing hospitality or indulging in personalities, and as long as we make no violent attack upon any person, we think it would be as well for gentlemen so sensitive as our reverend and respected correspondent to remember that there is a rugged public opinion abroad, the utterances of which through the press may be listened to with profit. In the naughty paragraph alluded to, we spoke well of the meeting and of most of the speeches delivered, and if we spoke in general terms of the ridiculous excuses sometimes made use of at such gatherings, it was because we knew that few occasions of the kind were not marred through this means. Why, at a political meeting, where the sterner side of human nature is turned out, such an exhibition would be set down as arrant *twaddle*, and the unlucky manufacturer of excuses would be hissed from the platform. Far be it from us to hint that *our* zeal in the cause of *Canadian* or foreign missions is greater than that of those whose special duty it is to preach to the heathen, but as a member of the great Public, we flatter ourselves that we know what an *excuse for a speech* is when we hear it.—With all due deference to our reverend critic, who states so emphatically that all the ministers—including himself, of course,—spoke "short and *to the point*," we think he would have materially advanced the interests of *good taste* by allowing an intelligent audience to form its own opinion of the timeliness or pertinency of our harmless and certainly well-meant remarks.

HEAVY REVENUE STAMPS.—A mortgage deed was left at the Registry office in this city yesterday, on which were United States revenue stamps to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars. It was the mortgage of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad, to secure the payment of the company's bonds of April 1, 1851, which, by a vote of the stockholders at the last annual meeting, have been renewed. The renewed bonds, for which this mortgage is given, amount to £100,000 sterling, and are dated October 1, 1864, payable at the office of the company in London in five years from date, or, at the election of the company at any time thereafter not exceeding twenty years from this date, with interest at the rate of three per ct. half-yearly. This mortgage is subject to the prior mortgage given to the city of Portland.—[Portland (Me.) Press.

☞ The Daily *Globe* of Thursday contains a large engraving representing the new *Globe* office, which is said to be the finest and best appointed building of the kind in America. Accompanying the picture is a full description of the interior of the building from cellar to garret.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY, December.—Contents:—The Highland Light, English Authors in Florance; A Tobacconalian Ode; Halcyon Days; on Translating the Divina Commedia; House and Home papers; on the Columbia River; Our last Day in Dixie; The Vanishers; Ice and Esquimaux; The progress of Sculpture; Bryant's Seventieth Birthday; Leaves from an Officer's Journal; England and America; We are a Nation. The publishers, Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, Boston, announce that the January number will begin the 15th volume of this Magazine, and that they have engaged the literary services of Mrs. H. B. Stowe, D. G. Campbell, Prof. *Goldwin Smith*, (no less,) Agassiz, Ludlow, Geo. A. Sala, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, and other first class writers—The volume promises to be a splendid one. Orders received at this office.

LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW.—We have received the October Number of the ever-welcome British Review from the publishers L. Scott & Co., of New York, with the following table of contents:—Cochin-China and Cambodia, Workmen's Benefit Societies, Rawdon Brown's Venetian State Papers, Smith's Dictionary of the Bible, Sanitary State of the Army in India, Life of Lockhart, Photography, Law Reform, Dr. Newman's Apologia.

Blackwood and all the Reviews may be subscribed for at the *Signal* office Book Store. No person who wishes to keep up with the intellectuality of the age can be without them.

OYSTER SUPPER.

On Wednesday evening last Messrs. Story & Davis, of this town, entertained a number of their personal friends at an Oyster Supper in the British Exchange. At the appointed hour about twenty-five gentlemen sat down to one of Tom. Dark's choicest spreads. The appetizing bivalves were disposed of in the most approved fashion, after which came toast, speech and song. The toast of the hosts of the evening was responded to by Messrs. Story and Davis in eloquent speeches, which we are sorry we have not space to report in full. Other gentlemen in responding to various toasts dwelt upon the fact that the gentlemen composing the firm are held in high esteem by all who know them socially or have had business transactions with them. During the course of the proceedings several good speeches were made, amongst which we hope we will be pardoned if we mention the neat, elegant little address delivered by a fine-looking young friend in response to "the ladies." A speech of the kind was all the more refreshing because young gentlemen are sometimes in the habit of skedaddling incontinently when the toast comes up. The company dispersed at an early hour, after having spent a most pleasant evening.

STANLEY.

A very amusing affair took place last week. A man named William Brown, employed a butcher to kill a steer. They made the brute fast with ropes, so as to make sure that he could not escape, then the owner took his gun and went a few paces from him and fired, but to his great surprise the bullet struck him somewhere on the nose, and the enraged animal, like Samson, broke the ropes which were binding him, and finally made his escape to the woods, clearing fences and every obstacle that came in his way. The owner, not willing to lose him, or to be conquered, went in pursuit, but he soon left his pursuer so far behind that he lost sight of him altogether, and had to return without him. Next morning he again started, to try if possible to recover the lost prize, and after a search of three days found him on the next concession feeding with other cattle, but at so late an hour that he thought it better to leave him till morning. When morning came the steer was gone and has not been heard of since.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

The Times' special despatch from Washington says:—

"Hood's movements in Tennessee seem to reveal the intention of making his way into East Tennessee. The line on which he is moving would indicate an attempt to turn Nashville, on the east side, and make his way to form a junction with Breckenridge. It is believed he will then essay the capture of Knoxville, which will give him railroad communication via East Tennessee and the valley with Lynchburg and Richmond. The successful issue of Sherman's movement will have severed communication between the two Confederate armies, and Hood's present campaign seems to be directed towards securing such communication by the line mentioned. Hood's army in this case would be in a position to join Lee's should this move become advisable."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The subscriptions to the 7.30 loan during the past week amounted to three and a half millions.

Some of the recently exchanged prisoners have reached this city. They that when they arrived at Savannah from Millen they were kindly treated and furnished with the best food which could be procured, and that the people intimated that there were forces under Beauregard and Johnston at Macon and Augusta to oppose Sherman, but did not believe he would encounter them or that the military authorities would in time decide where to concentrate the forces they had. At Savannah there were only fifteen hundred men who would make a feeble resistance.

The Savannah Republican of the 24th contains contradictory statements as to Sherman's movements, particularly as to crossing the Ocoonee river. It says that the column operating on the Georgia road kept the western side and struck off in the direction of Macon, as though contemplating a junction with the forces in that vicinity.

It is stated that a strong force of cavalry is following Sherman, and that it is not impossible that Forrest may ere long hang like a wolf on his rear and flanks.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The Australasian took out $1,600,000 in gold to-day for Europe.

HALIFAX, Nov. 29.—The steamer Delta arrived here this morning with Bermuda dates to the 26th.

The blockade-runners Armstrong and Talisman had arrived, the former with 700 and the latter with 400 bales of cotton.

They report that the Chickamauga had arrived at Wilmington after a slight brush with the blockaders, and that the Tallahassee was safely in port and would leave in a few days with a cargo of cotton for Bermuda.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The Commercial's Washington special says:—"Provost's report of the capture of Macon is not believed, as Gen. Sherman had cut off all communication with that place, and the Confederates at Richmond could have no information of the matter. Gen. Sherman probably avoided Macon and Augusta, and is thought to be marching to the sea coast. The Confederates are doing all they can to impede his progress."

The Post's Washington special says: "Richmond papers of Monday are silent respecting Sherman's movements, but they show the Confederates to be in great trepidation. There is every reason to believe that Sherman is making his way triumphantly to the sea coast."

Sherman's Operations.

THE MARCH MORE LIKE A RETREAT THAN AN ADVANCE.

(From the Richmond Whig, Nov. 21.)

We do not understand precisely why it is that the Yankees go into ecstacies of delight and admiration over Sherman's movement in Georgia, unless it is that they consider themselves bound to applaud everything done or to be done by their military leaders. How else could they manifest their intense appreciation of their own "greatness?" How else can they make the world believe that they are really the greatest and smartest people in all creation? And being the greatest and smartest people of this or any other age, of course their generals must be the greatest and smartest known in history; their movements the most marvellous, their marches the most extraordinary, and their campaigns the most magnificent. It is therefore, a matter of principle with them to declare that Sherman's movement is the grandest, ablest and profoundest of this or any other war. But we must confess that we cannot see it as the Yankees see it. We do not for a moment underate its importance, or the audacity by which it is characterized. In this respect it certainly does differ from any previous movement of any other Yankee general. It is the first time that any Yankee commander has ventured to seperate himself from his base of operations and to plunge boldly into the very heart of a hostile country. Grant's dash at Pemberton's communications, and his march from Grand Gulf to Jackson, were similar in appearance; but in reality very different, since Grant immediately retraced his steps to the Mississippi, where he reopened communication with the co-operating fleet. Sherman's movement is certainly without example in this war. Indeed, it is without example in modern times, and is seemingly, an insolent disregard of all the principles of strategy as explained and practised by the masters of the military art. This fact, so far from justifying the extravagant rejoicings of the Yankees, should naturally inspire them with apprehension and alarm. Instead of coolly calculating the chances of success, and of taking into account the various elements of opposition that he may encounter, they announce that arrangements precluding the possibility of failure have been made. Already they see the Yankee prisoners at Andersonville, Millen and Florence liberated by their conquering brethern; already they behold Sherman, with his legions, entering Charleston and Savannah, after capturing and destroying Macon and Augusta; or sweeping unopposed through Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, and up to the very banks of the James, adding his triumphant forces to Grant's wearied divisions, and ending the war by the capture of Richmond and the whole "rebel" government, of the army of Northern Virginia and its formidable commander. Just such a programme has been sketched out over and over again for the Yankee armies by the imaginative editors and the credulous people of the North. But the progress of their armies towards the consummation of these remarkable projects has been hitherto retarded by the obstacles which reasoning people might have foreseen. These obstacles still exist, and will, we presume, prove as obstinate as ever. It is scarcely supposable that, in a campaign of thirty or sixty days, Sherman will accomplish more than has taken him and his predecessors nearly four years to effect; and this while deprived of all the immense advantages of open communications and unlimited transportation hitherto enjoyed. The fact, indeed, is that Sherman's march looks more like a retreat than advance; more like a defensive than an aggressive movement. It is clear that Hood's march upon his communications rendered his situation at Atlanta extremely uneasy, and, indeed, untenable; that he found it impossible to anticipate his adversary, or to baffle his designs, and that an abandonment of Atlanta thence became absolutely necessary. But to simply retire on Chattanooga, or, as it was probable would be the result, upon Nashville, would be to give up all that he and his predecessors had fought for since the capture of Fort Donelson, to acknowledge himself outgeneraled, and to confess that his advance into Georgia was a mistake and a failure. Political motives precluded this course. All that was left to do was just what he has done—to tempt the perils of a march through Georgia to the coast, to establish a new base of operations, to effect a successful movement of this kind, with its concomitant destruction of Confederate depots and stores, against the inevitable surrender of all the country lying between the Atlantic and the Tennessee. We think he is mistaken in his calculations and his expectations; but we are not insensible to the fact that a man of Sherman's undoubted ability and acuteness must have had such expectations and made such calculations. He would never have commenced his march from Atlanta had he not believed he could finally reach the coast in safety. He would never have violated so flagrantly the rules and principles of military science, had he not thought he could do so with impunity. He would never have exposed his army to destruction, had he not been convinced that there were many more chances for him than against him. We cannot say, therefore, that we feel an absolute conviction, although our hopes are strong, that Sherman will fail in achieving his final object. But no one knows better than Sherman knows, that even success in this undertaking will decide absolutely nothing as to the military aspects of the war—that, indeed, his very success would be just as much an abandonment of the country wrested from us south of Tennessee, as if he had retired with his whole army to confront Hood. In fact, the true military policy was to concentrate his forces in front of Hood, and to beat that general back again if possible; and this course he would certainly have adopted, had it not been rendered injudicious by the political reason before referred to. Such a move would have been too openly a defeat, too confessedly the consequence of a failure. It would have discouraged enlistments at the North, and perhaps put an end to the war.—On the other hand, if he succeed in his present design, he can make it appear that he has gained a great triumph; and although a few weeks would pissipate this impression, it may, in the meantime, enable Lincoln to recruit his armies and open the spring campaign with vastly increased forces. Sherman must find a new base or lose an army!

Interesting Items.

☞ A soldier, while on duty at Quebec, quietly loaded his rifle and blew his brains out.

☞ An early dissolution of the English Parliament is expected.

☞ The Western Lakes are now some two feet lower than usual.

☞ A new and improved type-setting machine has been invented by a Salem, Mass., man.

☞ We see it hinted that the New York plots were got up by the Federal Government for the purpose of raising a feeling against the Confederates.

☞ A lad was killed in the County of Middlesex a few days ago under very painful circumstances. He was mounting a colt and had his foot in the stirrup, when it started off, dragging him on the ground until his head was ground out of all shape. His name was Cook.

☞ A gentleman picked up a 10ct piece in the streets of Toledo the other day. He did not faint, but came very near doing so.

☞ A boy died in Liverpool recently from the effects of chewing tobacco.

☞ Navigation on the Saginaw River has about closed for the season.

☞ At a fashionable New York Wedding recently the bridal presents amounted in value to $50,000.

☞ The official vote of New York City shows a majority for McClellan of 37,926.

☞ It is reported from Washington that the Dutch Gap Canal has sprung a leak, and become unmanageable.

☞ Mrs. Joshua R. Giddings died at Jefferson, Ashtabula county, Ohio, on the 15th inst.

☞ A man's body was found floating in the Toronto bay on Monday afternoon. R. Steckel was marked on a handkerchief which was in his pocket.

☞ The national debt incurred by the Federal States up to the present is calculated to amount to about $600,000,000. Almost all that money has been spent in making widows and orphans. How many wives and children would half of it have made happy.—[Punch.

☞ A New York soldier came home from the war last week with both his legs shot off, and $700 bounty in his pocket. His wife, who had taken a great dislike to the poor fellow on account of his crippled condition, stole his money and ran away with it.

☞ The London Post says arrangements are rapidly progressing by which the French flag may be withdrawn from Mexico, and the Emperor Maximilian left to govern his people with the aid of the native army and foreign contingent, which will amount to 10,000 or 12,000 men, composed of Belgians, Austrians and French.

☞ We understand that the Hon. John Rose has been appointed a Commissioner by Her Majesty, on behalf of the Imperial Government, under a recent treaty between Great Britain and the United States, by which certain matters in dispute (the San Juan difficulty, we believe, among others,) are to be settled by Commissioners, one to be named by each government, and the umpire in case of disagreement, by the King of Italy.

☞ The survey of the three townships on Manitoulin Island has been completed, and the returns have been received by the department. The townships are on the east side of the Island, communicating with lirule Current, Shegaundah, and Manitowaning Bay. The lands will speedily be put in the market.

COLLISION BETWEEN CONGRESSMEN.—At an early hour on Monday morning a collision occurred at the Ballard House, between Messrs. Wm G Swan and H S Foote, colleagues in Congress from the State of Tennessee, the difficulty originating, it it said, some remarks made by the latter in the House of Representatives on Monday, supposed to concern John Mitchell, Esq., of the *Examiner*. It appears that Mr. Swan was conducted to the family apartment of Mr Foote, by Mr H K Pollard, who did so to show him the apartment, not knowing that the relations existing between the two gentlemen (Foote and Swan) were of a bellicose description, and of course unprepared for so sudden an explosion as followed the opening of the door and the introduction of Mr Swan. Mr Foote invited Mr Pollard in, upon opening the door, when the latter informed him that his (Mr Foote's) colleague, was there and wished to speak to him. Mr Foote replied that he did not look upon Mr Swan as a gentleman, and could hold no communication with him. Mr Swan stepped forward and struck Mr Foote over the head with his cane, inflicting a severe blow. Further and more serious hostilities were about to be inaugurated, when Gen. Wickham and Mr. Thomas, Second Auditor of the State, happening to be near, interfered and put a stop to further fighting. On yesterday morning the city police were on the *qui vive* for Messrs. Foote, Swan, and Mitchell, warrants having been issued for their arrest, upon the supposition, it is said, that a duel was on the *tapis* between Messrs. Foote and Mitchell, in which Mr. Swan was implicated. The case will probably be before the Mayor this morning.—*Richmond Enquirer, Nov. 23.*

☞ The London *Prototype* learns that on Friday last, a charge of imbezzlement preferred against Mr. John Black, formerly a lumber merchant in Strathroy, and at present a member of the town council, was tried before John A. Scoon, Esq., J. P. The charge was made at the instance of Mr. Cowan, a lumber merchant doing business in Dereham, for whom Mr. Black has acted as agent for a number of years, until February last, when the business was handed over to Mr. Cowan. In the statement then made, Mr. Cowan accepted a number of debts appearing on the books as cash; but the parties presumed to be owing, when tendered their accounts, refused payment, alleging that they were already paid. The hearing of the case was postponed until Thursday.

Housing of Cattle.

On this subject Mr. Archibald McDonald thus writes to the Morning Post:—The constitution of cattle is often ruined by their being kept out in the fields during the inclement months of the winter. A cow should never be caught in a cold night, for a certain consequence is an immediate depreciation of the quantity of the milk, and an injury to the cow, and if suckling the calf, to that also.—But, I may be asked, is it not for their nature to be out at night? It was; but by the improvements in breeding (which have made them less hardy,) and the artificial grasses they eat it is no longer so. A highland cow eats the natural herbage of the hills, and knows for hours before a storm is coming, and will feed on for a considerable distance, till it reaches a place of shelter from the cold. Bring that same cow from its natural grass, feed it on oats, confine it in a field where it cannot obtain shelter, and it will soon be in a worse condition than when brought here. It must be housed at night, in a building completely enclosed and properly ventilated. I have noticed in many parts of the country that fattening bullocks (those stall-fed excepted) are never housed at night. This is a most improper plan. There should be a covered shed for those erected at one side of the field, closed at the back and ends but open in front, and divided into compartments for each bullock. Give at night to each a few handfuls of hay, and two ordinary sized turnips, sliced just previous to being given. I adopted this method with the worst half of some Highland bullocks, allowing the better half to lie out all night. At the end of five months those housed were pronounced by competent judges to be worth three pound per head more than the others. A steward to a noble lord writes to me: 'I adopted your plan with a part of my bullocks, and now at the end of one month, I consider those housed are worth £1 more than the others. In future, I shall take care to house all my cattle.' If the above remarks are true in reference to winter exposure in the climate of Great Britain, how much more applicable must they be to the more rigorous climate of Canada.

NO CATCHING HIM.

We have all heard and read of a reverend "Sonny Sam," and perhaps seen his likeness in the *dramatis personæ* of the world—Among the tales that have been current in my day of this latter personage was one which consigned him to a first-class carriage, on a very full railway train, in which there was a deficiency of room. All the seats were full, except the one opposite to his reverence, and to that, for his better comfort, he had consigned his holy legs. It so chanced that a gentleman, like a great many members of the House of Commons, in search of a place, looked in at the door of the carriage, and, addressing the Bishop, asked him if the seat opposite to him was was occupied. The divine replied that it was. The seat seeker closed the door, and had to travel in a second class carriage, there being no room in those of the first class. It seems that he entertained some suspicions as to the truth of the answer he had received, so when the train stopped he again came to the window and looked in. He beheld the ecclesiastic still maintaining his position. 'My lord,' he cried in great indignation, 'at least I expected the truth from you. You told me that the seat was taken!'

'I did not, sir,' was the somewhat Jesuitical reply. 'You asked me if that was *occupied*, and with much sincerity I replied in the affirmative. I regret if my adhering so strictly to facts should have caused you any discomfort.'

'It is of no use to attempt to catch *him* out,' grumbled the traveller as he retired; 'if I had told him that once I had been surprised at seeing him playing at Aunt Sally near my house, it being an occupation scarcely becoming his holy profession, he would have replied that his health required muscular exercise; that it was but a constitutional sally, and that for the moment he went into training to better his condition to do good. You can't get the better of him in anything.—*Grantley Berkley.*

Railway Travelling in the South.

A refugee, whose story the New York *World* tells, gives the following account of railway travelling in the South:

From Mobile to Richmond the trip is made in five or six days, if no accidents happen.—$250 will cover all expenses. We bought some peaches on the road at the rate of from three to four dollars a dozen. One of the distinctive features in past days was cotton fields, spreading out over hundreds of acres their masses of green glittering leaves, where upon myriads of bolls like so many flakes of snow were gently cradled by the passing breeze. No such sight now greeted our eyes. Cornfield after cornfield stretched over hill and plain. The corn crop is good throughout the South, and there is no fear of starvation. One car only is allowed for passengers, and blessed is the man who has a lady in charge, for he is admitted into that car. The baggage goes into the soldier's car, there to stand or sit on the floor, for they are nearly always overcrowded. There is so much travelling to the sake of visiting wounded soldiers or seeing relatives long absent, that ladies have to stand up for hours in the passenger car. Trains connect with a certain regularity not always to be depended upon.

RECIPROCITY MINING COMPANY, C. E.—The prospectus of this company, of which Mr. L. E. Chittenden, of New York, is President, Mr. Arthur Rankin, M. P. P., general superintendent, and a number of American gentlemen trustees, appears in the New York papers. The capital is $100,000, in shares of $50 each. The prospectus says:—"This company is formed for the purpose of purchasing, working, selling and leasing mining lands and rights in the British Provinces and neighboring localities. It is now the owner of nearly fifteen thousand acres of the richest gold lands of the Chaudiere gold district of Canada, which have been selected with the greatest care, and after abundant evidence of their richness in gold and other precious metals. They contain nearly 70 miles of river frontage upon streams admirably adapted to the most productive and economical mining. The company has organized after the most thorough examination of the lands and their value, and the trustees confidently believe their productiveness, which has been fully tested, prove them equal if not superior, to the riches places of California, both in gold bearing quartz lodes and alluvial deposits. They have on hand and on exhibition gold enough, recently mined upon their own property, to fully establish the value of their stock. This company is prepared to treat upon favorable terms with persons desiring to lease or purchase mining rights." Messrs. Fish & Hatch, 38 Wall street, New York, are agents for the company.

JEFF. DAVIS' MESSAGE ON SLAVERY.—The St. Louis *Republican*, in reviewing Jefferson Davis' message, thus remarks upon slavery: "We are more convinced than ever that, whatever else the war may accomplish, it will be the doom of slavery, or, at any rate, of slavery in the form in which it has hitherto existed in this country. Nevertheless the negro question will not be settled by our conflict. Some sort of subordination for the blacks will have to be adopted by the South, call it apprenticeship, or what you will. This conclusion is irresistible, for the fanatical doctrine of perfect freedom and equality will never stand the test of experience, and, for our part, we would not wish it."

☞ The United States Treasury Department has ordered that in future all exports of Flour and Mill Feed from Canada under the Reciprocity Treaty shall be accompanied by the affidavit of the miller who ground it, that the grain of which it was manufactured was wholly and exclusively the growth and production of Canada. This order will check much valuable trade between the two countries.

ONE OF LAMB'S BETS.—Lamb once construed a company with an anecdote of Coleridge, which without doubt he hatched in his hoax-loving brain. "I was," he said, "going from my house at Enfield to the East India House one morning, when I met Coleridge on his way to pay me a visit. He was brimful of some new idea, and, in spite of my informing him that time was precious, he drew me within the gate of an unoccupied garden by the roadside, and there, sheltered from observation by a hedge of evergreens, he took me by the button of my coat, and closing his eyes, commenced an eloquent discourse, waving his right hand gently as the musical words flowed in an unbroken strain from his lips. I listened entranced, but the striking clock recalled me to a sense of duty. I saw it was of no use to attempt to break away; so taking advantage of his absorption in his subject, and, with my pen-knife, quietly severing my button from my coat, I decamped: Five hours afterward, in passing the same garden, on my way home, I heard Coleridge's voice, and, on looking in, there he was, with closed eyes, the button in his fingers, and the right hand gracefully waving, just as when I left him. He had never missed me."

THE OLD COUNTRIES.—Crowded as England is with a hungry population, five per cent. of her soil is not under cultivation. Yet the proportion of cultivated land is higher in England than in any other country in Europe; in Russia less than one fifth of the soil is under cultivation; in Sweden only one-seventh; in Austria and Holland one-fifth: in Switzerland one fourth; in France fifty four hundredths. There is really no need of Emigration. In England, as appears by a parliamentary report, there are sixteen millions of acres, wholly unproductive, that might easily be made productive. The reason why these acres are permitted to lie unimproved is, that as soon as they are enclosed, and before they can be sufficiently reclaimed to produce a paying crop, they become subject to tithe and tax. Hence, only men of large capital dare undertake the task, and they prefer to invest their capital where the return is more speedy and more certain.

RUSSIAN INTRIGUES IN THE EAST.—The China *Mail* remarks that among other things worthy of note in the capture of Shimonoseki, is the fact that the best guns mounted upon the forts were all found to be of Russian manufacture. This shows that, as was the case in China, so it is in Japan—the Russians have carved out a way for themselves, quietly enough so far as we are aware, unless we except their usurpation of some land in one of the bays on the east coast, where they landed under pretence of erecting sheds for their sick, and, having hoisted the Russian flag, refused to leave the place after a sufficient interval had elapsed for any sick they brought on shore to have recruited. This was discovered by some of our men-of-war, who happened to be cruising about the coast. Russia is not likely to be scrupulous in carrying out an eastern policy in China and Japan. We can see that already. The only question is: Has she any relations with Japan, and if so, what are they?

THE NEW YORK PLOT.—The New York papers are filled with exciting reports concerning the plot to burn the hotels and other principal buildings of that city. From all accounts there appears to have been a concerted plan to burn the best part of the city, either the more easily to effect robberies or to inflict damage upon the North. The papers, of course, declare that it was the act of Confederates, and threaten all sorts of vengeance upon the heads of the perpetrators should they be caught.

POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED ON THE 1ST NOV.—Bois de l'Ail, township of St. Lawrence; Loyal, township of Greenock; Madrid, township of Sebastopol; North Bruce, township of Bruce; Old Montrose, township of Romney