SUMMARY OF NEWS,

BY CUNARD STEAMER.

From Liverpool, December 9th.

CONFERENCE ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The so-called "National Conference" on the Eastern Question assembled in St. James Hall, London, on Dec. 8th. The Duke of Westminster presided at the morning, and the Earl of Shaftesbury at the afternoon sitting, and there were present several members of Parliament, and more than a thousand delegates from all parts of Great Britain. Letters of apology for non-attendance, and expressing decided opinions in favour of the holding of the Conference, were read from the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Lowe, and Dr. Pusey. In opening the proceedings the Duke of Westminster vindicated the course of those who were taking part in the Conference, urged that their opinions were entitled to the respectful consideration of the Government, and expressed his own view as being that we ought cordially to co-operate with Russia in securing the proper government of the Christian subjects of Turkey, and that we ought to let the Turks understand clearly that they must no longer look for the support of Great Britain to maintain their incurably bad and effete domination. Speeches strongly upholding these propositions were made by Sir George Campbell, the Rev. W. Denton, Mr. Anthony Trollope, the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. H. Richard, M. P.; the Hon. E. Ashley, M. P.; Dr. Allin, Sergeant Simon, M. P.; Lord Shaftesbury, Canon Liddon, Lord Wavensey, Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, M. P.; Lord A. Russell, M. P.; Mr. E. A. Freeman, Mr. Fawcett, M. P.; the Marquis of Allesbury, and others. At the afternoon sitting of the Conference, Mr. Gladstone, speaking to a resolution for the formation of an association to guide and correct public opinion on the Eastern Question, delivered a speech of nearly two hours' duration. He said that meeting would convince every one that the feeling which prompted the excitement of three months ago, had passed away, and that the traditional policy of this country with regard to Turkey must be discussed. He cordially concurred in the necessity of strengthening the hands of Lord Salisbury, whose appointment, he admitted, was beneficial, but it was necessary to let him know that he represented something else besides diplomacy when he went to Constantinople. He quoted Bismarck of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons and elsewhere to show that they were opposed to the feeling of the country, and expressed the opinion that, until very recently, the Prime Minister, and not the Cabinet in general, had directed our Eastern policy. Referring to the Guildhall speech, he said it amounted to this, that we were bound by the Treaty of Paris, and that the Porte was entitled to appeal to it. But he (Mr. Gladstone) contended that the Porte had broken that treaty itself, and was no longer entitled to profit by it. While the territorial integrity of Turkey, under new conditions, might be advantageous, its independence was another matter. He objected to the word "independent," if it meant that in respect of the provisions the Turkish Empire ought to be independent. The Prime Minister's allusion to the contingency of a war, in which this country might be engaged, would have a more important effect in Constantinople than in Russia, for the Porte in relying on the aid of England was living in a fool's paradise. Coming to the question of what should be done, Mr. Gladstone had no desire to see a wholesale punishment of the perpetrators of the Bulgarian atrocities, and would only call for such vengeance as was demanded by common decency. In his conviction Turkish supremacy in Bulgaria should cease. Foreign intervention would do good, if regarded as strictly provisional. The true method of watching Russia was to become a competitor for the affections of the Christian population. That was his specific, and it amounted to this:—"Let us do exactly the opposite of everything that has been done by the British Government hitherto."

At the close of Mr. Gladstone's speech, the resolution establishing an association was enthusiastically adopted.

The *Standard*, *Telegraph*, and *Globe* ridicule the Conference, and condemn it as unnecessary and, at the present juncture, highly impolitic.

The *Times* admits "the Conference can have no practical result; it is a gathering defined, though a good many people would tell us that the same might be predicted of the contemporary Conference which meets at Constantinople. But it is not the less a most significant fact that at such a crisis, and after so long a period of controversy, a great movement should manifest itself in the direction which this Conference indicates. It may tell the public little that is new; it may draw up no efficient scheme for Russian or Bulgarian self-government, but as a demonstration of opinion it is remarkable and powerful. It shows the deliberate judgment of a most influential class. In spite of continuous appeals to national jealousy, in spite of the authority of the Government and of the compact party which has hitherto followed it, in spite of international traditions supported by great names past and present, a body of men representing the most cultivated as well as the most sober-minded and conscientious sections of the community, have associated themselves to protest against an alliance with the Turkish Government, accept the publication of the list of 'conveners' it will still have been successful."

THE NEW DISCOVERY IN IRON MANUFACTURE.

Capital and Labour hears that Mr. Isaac Lowthian Bell, M. P., has recently had interviews with some eminent engineers respecting the recent experiments he has been making and the rails he has produced from Cleveland iron. In a short time some details on that subject will be made public.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

From the Board of Trade returns just issued, we find that the total value of the imports for November was £32,414,372, as compared with £31,110,726 and £28,347,798 respectively in the corresponding months of 1875 and 1874. The total for the eleven months of the year was £344,298,746, being about two and a half millions sterling in excess of the total of 1875 down to the end of November, and three and three-quarter millions more than in the corresponding period of 1874. The exports of British and Irish produce for the month amounted in value to £16,910,927, as against £15,356,689 in November, 1875, and a slightly larger amount in the corresponding month of 1874. For the eleven months of the present year the total was £183,306,326, comparing against £200,144,827 and £221,096,059 in the corresponding periods of 1875 and 1874.

SINGULAR ATTEMPT AT MURDER.

A respectable woman, named Bayley, living at Chatham, was in bed with her elder daughter, her husband being employed on board one of her Majesty's ships, when she was awoke by a man's hand on her throat, and the strong odour of a drug at her nostrils. In the scuffle that followed the drug was spilled, the young woman scratched the man's face, and the assailant escaped. It was subsequently discovered that he was a druggist, named Christian, who had been lodging in the house, and paying his addresses to the elder daughter. He was apprehended in London, and admitted that he intended to kill Mrs. Bayley, into whose beer he had, the night before, poured some prussic acid, and she had rejected the beer because it smelt so unpleasantly. His motive was revenge, because she had rejected him as her daughter's suitor. Christian was taken before the magistrate at Woolwich, and remanded.

THE EXTRADITION TREATY WITH AMERICA.

The *Daily News* observes:—"The announcement which we are enabled to make that her Majesty's Government have assented to the American interpretation of the Extradition Treaty between this country and the United States will be received with satisfaction. According to the contention of Lord Derby in the correspondence on the subject which was laid before Parliament last session, a criminal surrendered for one offence could not be tried for any other offence until he had had the opportunity of returning to the country from which he had been given by. This position was maintained by the Foreign Secretary and the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords. It contradicted the positive assertion made by Lord Hammond when Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as to the English understanding of the treaty under various Ministries; it was in opposition to the distinct statements of Lord Russell and Lord Kimberley, made when they were Secretaries of State; it was in contradiction to the principles laid down and the decisions given in courts of law of England, of the United States, and of Canada; and it was in antagonism with the general international practice. The error into which the Government fell arose from interpreting a treaty by an Act of Parliament passed subsequently to it, though afterwards, in the diplomatic correspondence and parliamentary discussion, they tried to find more plausible, though not really more solid reasons for their action. In the meantime, extradition was practically suspended, and such country was threatened with a deluge of rascality from the shores of the other."

THE CAT O' NINE TAILS.

The Birmingham *Gazette* makes an energetic protest against the "sentimental reproach and disgrace" of prison floggings reported from time to time in the papers. "At the Dublin Assizes," it says, "five labourers were sentenced to twenty-five lashes apiece with the cat, in addition to long terms of imprisonment, for crimes of violence. We are informed that the flogging apparatus employed was a movable one, and the Governor ordered the flogging to be administered in different wings of the prison, with the intent that all the prisoners confined in the gaol might hear the piercing shrieks of the man who were undergoing punishment. Three of the prisoners are described as howling dreadfully at the first stroke, and imploring for mercy in a manner which 'made the prison walls echo with their piteous wails.' The other two maintained silence until the fourth stroke was administered, 'when one of them gave utterance to such startling shrieks that almost staggered the officials, and he became incapable of speech at the eighteenth stroke, but had sufficient strength left to execrate after the first dozen stroker in each case, and brought blood freely. Two strong men administered the lash alternately.' The *Gazette* asks:—"Is not the mere narration of such a case in itself sufficient and disgraceful? Has any country, Abyssinia of the kind not excepted, enough in the newspapers, parliament and pulpit such barbarities, and they justly imply that our treatment is a civilized country are, compared to the proper checking and punishment of crime, and that it is necessary for us to resort to the expedients of Dahomey or keep our evil-disposed fellow-citizens in order."

DRUNKENNESS IN SCOTLAND.

The Scotsman publishes statistics showing that the number of persons arrested for drunkenness in Scotland during the year ended 30th June last was 64,320, of whom 31,146 were "drunk and incapable," and 23,184 "drunk and disorderly."

THE CLAIMANT.

Mr. Guildford Onslow writes to the Birmingham *Gazette*:—"I am in hopes, before a few days are passed, to convey to Sir Roger his glorious information that his have long been picked up by the Osprey is proved beyond a doubt, and that his release is a certainty; the details of which, for obvious reasons, I cannot for the present lay before the public."

NIAGARA FALLS.

"H. V." writes to the *Times* from America:—"I have read with much interest the letter of your American Correspondent, dated Niagara Falls, October 22, the more so as I also was this summer a victim of American enterprise when visiting the Niagara Falls. It is really incomprehensible that in a free country like the United States, where parks, museums, libraries, and other institutions for the recreation and instruction of the general public are always open to everybody without any charge, the visitor to the Falls of Niagara—the pride of America as my American guide-book calls them—should be allowed to be so heavily taxed by some private people. I have before me the bill of charges both of 'Prospect-park' and of 'Goat Island,' which may be of interest to your readers. Admission to the 'Prospect-park' is for the day 25 cents; for the season 75 cents; by inclined railway to the base of the Falls and return, 25 cents; ferry to Canada and return, 50 cents; visiting the 'Shadow of the Rock' (a promenade through the water spray below the water sheet of the American fall), for dresses and guides, 50 cents; carriage hire allowed by village ordinance, $2 per hour. Further on, 'Goat Island.'—Admission for the day, 50 cents; for the season, $1; for carriages, 25 cents; for a promenade to the 'Cave of the Winds,' below the water sheet on the Goat Island side of the American fall, $1.50; including dress and guide. I took a ferry ticket for the Canadian side at 'Prospect-park' at 50 cents, which permitted me to visit the park and go by inclined railway down to the base of the Falls, to cross the river by ferry, and to return the same way; for a walk under the American fall, including a swim in the Niagara, near the ferry-house, I paid 50 cents, and again on Goat Island 50 cents admission; together, $1.50, or 6s. for which I saw both falls from all sides, from below and from above, and think I saw about all that was to be seen. On the other hand, I had to pay rather high for some photographs, which I bought on the Canadian side, for four large views of the Falls $8, and for small ones 25 cents each, which would cost in London not half the price; and I found afterwards that in this respect Canadian people seem to value their photographs much higher than American ones do, for I could have bought the same views on the American side much cheaper. A negative (on glass) taken of me on the Canadian side, with the American fall in the background, was charged $2.50, and I am sorry to say only pieces of the same came over with me."

ITEMS.

The *Athenæum* states that to the next number of the *St. James' Magazine*, Mr. J. A. O'Shea will contribute a number of private letters from the Czar Nicholas to Princess Mamschoff and Gortschakoff. They were written on the eve of the Crimean War, and exhibit, it is said, strange ignorance on the part of the writer of the difficulties of the political situation.

The *Whitehall Review* understands that her Majesty has received be reade during a great part of the next season at Buckingham Palace, and that a series of entertainments on a very large scale will be given there both before and after Easter. Owing to the Eastern Question and other matters, people are likely to come early to town next year; and it is probable that the first week in February will see London nearly as full as ordinarily is at the beginning of June.

On the 18th inst. the appeal of the owners of the Franconia, which ran down the Strathclyde, was concluded before the Court of Appeal, their Lordships declaring that the Franconia was alone to blame, and dismissed the appeal with costs.

Sir Charles Reed has been re-elected Chairman of the School Board for London.

Captain Boyton has successfully completed the journey down the [illegible] Castel Nuovo to Ferr[illegible] 95 hours, without making [illegible] total voyage of 800 miles [illegible] Po. This is his last and greatest [illegible] in the life-saving dresses between [illegible]

Revelations of the strength of the recent storm in the north, it is mentioned that a block of concrete weighing 1,000 tons has been removed by the waves in the Wick new harbour works.

The expense entailed on the Corporation of Glasgow by the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales in that city was upwards of £9,000. A member of the council who asked for some explanation of "the honourable waste of money" met with no support.

BY CANADIAN STEAMER

From Liverpool, Dec. 14th.

THE REFORMS OF RUSSIA AND QUEEN VICTORIA.

The London correspondent of the Glasgow *Herald* writes:—"From a gentleman who has just returned from Russia I learn that the feeling alone in the highest circles is strongly opposed to hostilities with this country. It appears, however, that there is an influence at work which has not yet been taken into account here. The Czar is easily persuaded by his wife, and she has not forgiven the manner in which she was received, in England. Remarks were made at the time as to the way in which the Queen treated her Imperial guest; and the latter keenly felt what she considered to have been a slight. These two exalted personages have a personal distaste for each other, and this is a difficulty which baffles all diplomacy. The result has been to convert her Imperial Majesty into an enemy of the land which has become her daughter's second home. Hence it is that even when the Czar speaks smooth things there are many who doubt how far he is able to have his own way. For what was done in the case of Khiva the Empress is known to be chiefly responsible."

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE TURKISH TROOPS.

With a view to relieve the distress which at present prevails in the Turkish army, owing to want of winter clothing and tents, a meeting of noblemen and gentlemen has been convened at Stafford House, under the presidency of the Duke of Sutherland. Letters were read, and information given which tended to show that the Turkish soldiers at present encamped in the Balkan mountains are suffering severely from the rigours of the winter, and it was eventually resolved to form a committee, and appeal to the public for subscriptions. It was stated that Lord Blantyre had promised to give £1,000 in aid of the fund.

THE BISHOPRIC OF TRURO.

The Bishopric of Truro, just created, has been offered to and accepted by Dr. Benson, Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral, and formerly Head Master of Wellington College. Dr. Benson is one of her Majesty's chaplains, and Chancellor and Canon of Lincoln.

OLD TURKISH ARTILLERY.

The Turkish military authorities are removing the gigantic cannon with which the fortifications of the Dardanelles are armed, in order that they may be replaced by Krupp breech-loaders. These old guns, of which there were originally forty-two, are the largest cannon in the world, the bore of some of them being nearly thirty inches in diameter—thirteen inches larger than the gun made at Elswick for the Italian Government. They are supposed to be about three centuries old, and throw a huge stone shot. The last occasion on which they were used in active service was in 1807, when Admiral Duckworth forced the passage of the Dardanelles, but not without heavy loss. Readers of Baron Munchausen's adventures will remember his exploit of swimming across the Straits with one of these guns on his shoulder. It is stated that the Turkish Government has presented one of them to England.

MR. GLADSTONE ON ORANGEISM.

Deep offence has been given to the Orangemen of Ireland by the following passage from Mr. Gladstone's recent speech at St. James' Hall:—"The case of the Turk is this—and we can understand it by looking nearer home—we have first a difference of race: we have next a difference of religion; and that not all—perhaps it is not the chief part;—we have a difference of race and religion complicated with a third difference more important still—that of unrestrained political ascendancy. Now, depend upon it, when you combine these three influences, you put the ascendant class in a condition in which it is impossible for them to resist corruption and the abuse of corruption. We had something like it—and yet I am almost ashamed to call it like—but it bore a faint analogy, and I hope I shall not be understood to show it further—something like it in what was once the position of the Orangeman in Ireland. The Orangeman of Ireland had a certain amount of difference of race, and also had a certain amount in difference of religion, and he had political ascendancy very considerably, though regulated and restrained by law, and in that respect his case was totally different from that of the Turk, who is practically unrestrained by law. And yet in the case of Ireland, which a hundred years ago we all look back upon with shame, we admit that it was intolerable. Indeed, there are many of us who would say that if at that time there had been any tolerably clear-handed power able to interfere and right the wrongs of Ireland it would have deserved the gratitude of mankind."

THE NEW SALUTING CODE.

The following has now been agreed to by the different maritime powers, and will come into force on July 1, 1877. The only salute which will in future be returned gun for gun are:—1. To the national flag on arrival at a foreign port. 2. To foreign flag officers commanders, when met with at sea or in harbour. The following salutes will no longer be returned:—1. To Royal personages, chiefs of States, or members of Royal families, whether on arrival at or departure from a port, or when visiting her Majesty's ships of war. 2. To diplomatic naval, military, or consular authorities, or to governors or officers administering a government. 3. To foreigners of high distinction on visiting her Majesty's ships. 4. Upon occasions of national festivals or private ceremonies.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN RAYMOND, M.P.

Sir John Raymond, M.P., for County Waterford has died at his residence in Waterford. He was born in 1826, and, having graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, he was called to the Irish bar in 1850. He was first elected for Waterford county, in the Liberal interest, in July, 1868, a seat which time he has continuously represented that constituency. In June and July, 1866, he was a junior Lord of the Treasury. In December, 1868, he succeeded his uncle, the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Esmonde, ninth baronet, in the title.

EMIGRATION RETURNS.

The returns of emigration for the month of November, 1876, show that there were shipped under the Act to the United States, 1,961; Canada, 94; of others, 1,124 were English, 24 Scotch, 178 Irish, and 868 foreigners. By ships not under the Act there sailed 3,429 passengers. Of these 954 were for the United States, 78 for Nova Scotia, Victoria 80, West Indies 5, East Indies 183, China 14, West Coast of Africa 57, South America 113. The nationalities were English, 1,539; Scotch, 44; Irish, 240; foreigners, 838; not described, 368.

A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP.

The British Consul at Nicolaieff, in reporting off the absence of cattle plague from that part of South Russia, observes:—"In the summer my attention was drawn to several cases of sudden baldness of bullocks, cows, and oxen, and the loss of hair remains among horses. A former servant of mine, prematurely bald, whose duty it was to trim my beard, had a habit of wiping his petroleum-besmeared hands hands in the scanty locks which remained to him, and after three months of lamp-trimming experience, his dirty habit procured for him a smooth, shiny floor head of black glass, which ever possessed before in his recollection. I subsequently tried the same remedy on my interior spaniels that had become suddenly bald, with wonderful success. My experience indeed, led me to suggest it to the owner of several black cattle and horses affected as above stated, and while it stayed the spread of the disease among animals in the same sheds and stables, it effected a quick and radical cure on the affected parts. The petroleum should be of the most refined American qualities, rubbed in vigorously and quickly with the palm of the hand, and applied at intervals of three days, six or seven times in all, except in the case of horses' tails and manes, when more applications may be requisite."

ROUMELIAN TURKEY.

The *Journal des Débats*, in a long article on the prospects of Russian success in a war with Turkey, says that the solution of the victory are exceedingly doubtful. After showing that the recruiting service is not yet in working order, the article questions whether the means of transport are adequate to the requirements of the army. Twenty thousand kilometres of railroad have been laid down, but these were constructed with the utmost economy, and the Journal doubts whether they would resist the wear and tear of army transport. The writer has lost a poor opinion of the Russian fleet, and has little faith in the revolving batteries lately invented by Admiral Popoff.

MURDER OF TWO POLICEMEN.

The murder of two policemen by, it is believed, poachers, is reported from Ringwood. On the 6th instant the dead bodies of Constable Shorter and Inspector Dewsetts were found lying fearfully mutilated on a turnpike road leading from the town, and about fifty yards from each other. Several men have been arrested on suspicion of having committed the crime.

LOUIS KOSSUTH ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

M. Louis Kossuth has written a letter on the Eastern question, which has created a great sensation at Pesth. He says that the policy pursued by Count Andrassy, whom he accuses of being a Russophile, and of looking favourably on the tendency of Russia for conquest. According to Kossuth, Austria and Hungary ought to have taken no steps for any occupation of Bulgaria by the Russians, who, if they set foot in Turkey, would ruin Hungary; Austria-Hungary, therefore, cannot and ought not to have an alliance with Russia on the Eastern question. All the Hungarian, without a single exception and without any party difference, are unanimous in defend Hungarian interests in the East at the moment of danger.

THE TICHBORNE CASE.

Mr. Edward Kerr, [illegible] Colchester, [illegible] recognition that [illegible] in the Claimant's case [illegible] not prepared to go so far as to [illegible] the Claimant, "I do not [illegible] mined evidence, which he thinks very strong, showing that the crew of the Bella and her passenger Sir Roger were taken off the Osprey and taken to Melbourne. Two witnesses testifying to this fact are now on their way to England, and Mr. Kerr has reason to think that something may come out of it.

The following is Mr. Kerzlake's communication to *Vanity Fair*:—

SIR,—I send you a summary of some new evidence, mostly documentary, in favour of the prisoner now in Dartmoor, who said commonly to be called "the Claimant."

Let me observe that I am by no means a partisan of this person—rather the contrary—for reasons which I need not now enter into. I have in no way meddled with the Tichborne case since the commencement of the prosecution, at first at Marylebone with the matter, even in conversation, unless where it is impossible from the nature of the thing to avoid it. But we one would be worthy to be called a man, certainly not to be called an Englishman, if he did not do his best (little though that might be) to "trip in the mouth man to get out of gaol, if it appeared the evidence obtained since the conviction offered a fair chance of this result. The short summary which I send can scarcely fail to interest many of your readers. It may conceivably lead to important results; on the other hand, it may possibly lead to nothing. No further comment on it is necessary.

E. K. KARSLAKE.

Lincoln's Inn, Dec. 7, 1876.

(1) Some time since (after the conviction of the Claimant) Mr. Guildford Onslow inserted in various papers an advertisement offering a reward of £50 to any one who should produce a newspaper cutting, on account of any survivor from the Bella. A highly respectable Englishman, Mr. H. Abel (A.), living near Dieppe, in the East during the last trial. He returned home in the autumn of the year, and on it was informed of the advertisement. He then at once remembered that he some years ago fell in with a Spaniard named Ramon Ortezegui, a native of Bilbao (B), who was then serving in Dorangaya's (Spanish) army, and with whom A. became intimate. B told A that B, many years ago, was going from Rio to Havanna, from Rio to New Orleans, and thence to Spain, when he was wrecked not far from the coast of Brazil, and picked up and taken to Rio. There he met together with an English count; that he wrote a letter from Malbourne to his father, who dwelt at Toloza, in Guipuzcoa, relating what had happened; that this letter was sent by his father, to a Spanish newspaper and printed in it; and that a copy of the account referred to, cut out of the paper was sent to B, which he still had. A thereupon communicated by letter with B, and before long went in search of B. A found B, who handed over to A the printed account cut out of the newspaper. This is now in the possession of Baxter & Co., and I have read it. The translation which I give, made I presume, by A, is substantially the same as that which the following is a translation:—

"We have received the following letter from our co-religionist," Senor Alvarez Ortezegui, which we publish with much pleasure, as we might always be proud of such our brave sailors (*nuestros bizarros marineros*) in the hour of their dangers and troubles."

Zolly, A letter, of which the following is a translation:—

"*To the Editor of The Diario.*

"TOLOSA, Feb. 21, 1855.

"SIR—Permit me to direct your attention to the narrative which I received yesterday from my son, in which he shows that the dangers of the sea and winds are not enough, but that man himself seeks to multiply them by his avarice and his crimes.

"Begging you to accept the expression of, &c.,

"ALVAREZ ORTEZEGUI."

Zolly, A letter, of which the following is a translation:—

"U MEQUERE, Australia, Aug. 17, 1854.

"MY DEAR FATHER,—I wrote from Havannah in the latter days of December, in the ship Santa Cruz, for Rio Janeiro, I left again, April 24th, in the ship Bella, of Liverpool, commanded by Captain Birquet (*alo*), bound for New Orleans and New York, in order to take ship at New Orleans, whence I wanted to return to Havannah, and thence to Spain. But in the night of the second day, April 26th, or rather in the dawn of the 27th, we saw that the ship was half full of water. We were in the cabin drinking the wine and brandy which the captain had given us to keep his birthday (*festa*), but when we got on deck we found the captain, with his mate (*cabo*) and the pilot (who had been still on board, a thing that much astonished me) had abandoned us. There is no doubt that the three thieves (*ladrones*) had made their preparations to lose the ship before escaping themselves, whereupon we five got into the launch (*lancha*), after having fetched a passenger (some English or French count (*conde*), I am not certain which), who was ill in his berth; and after two days, thanks to Our Lady, we fell in with the ship Osprey, in which we arrived in Melbourne on the 29th of last month, where is now, in the land of gold, your affectionate son,

"RAMON ORTEZEGUI."

The Claimant, in an affidavit sworn by him on the 2nd July, 1867, in the Chancery suit (Tichborne v. Lushington) deposed much to the same effect as R.'s letter. There are some slight discrepancies in the two accounts, and one sardonic discrepancy, viz.:—According to B., the vessel was scuttled by the captain, mate, and pilot; according to the Claimant, the captain and officers went off in the long-boat at the same time when the Claimant and others went off in the second boat. It seems tolerably clear that no material a discrepancy as this would not have been intentionally introduced into a false statement by an imposter, although he might well have introduced slight discrepancies to enhance the plausibility of the narrative.

B. told A. that on R.'s arrival at Melbourne he went to one John Gray, a justice of the peace, who gave him a certificate to the effect that the bearer, Raymond (*sic*) Ortezegui, a Spanish subject, had been wrecked in the Bella, Captain Birkets, (*sic*) of Rio, and picked up by the Osprey, of New Jersey, Captain Nelson, and that he was worthy of assistance to Spain.

The Claimant, in his affidavit already referred to, spells Birkets "Birquet," as does B. in his letter, and as a foreigner would spell Raymond, "Raymond." A. told A. that he had this certificate, and had pledged B. to continue his search, and said that he would probably find it, and ultimately it was found. A copy of it (which I have seen) is now in the possession of Baxter & Co. A. has letters from B. the original, and will very shortly bring it to England.

Nicolas Tertius Gotbach, who was called on behalf of the plaintiff in the civil action, stated, as to the sailors whom he says that he met on board the Conrad when at Melbourne in May, June, or July, 1854, that "none of them spoke English. There were foreigners among them. I talked to them a little time. It appears—from evidence which I will not now state in detail—that two of the sailors rescued from the Bella, besides B. spoke Spanish.

Mrs. Alexander Gray, wife of a gentleman residing at Dry Creek, in the Colony of Victoria, a lady of highly respectable connection, made a statutory declaration on January 17, 1872, which was as follows:—"That in the years 1847 and 1848 I was well acquainted with Roger Charles Tichborne (in England) that in the year 1850 I met in the said Colony of Victoria a man named Thomas Castro; that I recognized in the person called Thomas Castro the identical person I had known as Roger Charles Tichborne in England; that I told this man called Thomas Castro, otherwise Roger Charles Tichborne, that I knew the name of Castro to be an assumed or false name, when the said Thomas Castro owned that his right name was Roger Charles Tichborne, and for family reasons he intended to be known in Australia as Castro; that the said Thomas Castro had been wrecked in the Bella; and I know from observation that in the year 1855 the said Castro was not tattooed."

The Claimant's counsel, in his speech to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., shortly after it arrived in England, said that he passed by him in the hands of the Treasury.

From part of B's narrative A inferred that important conversations had taken place between B. and Raymond. A thereupon requested the authorities at Madrid to ascertain if there was any entry relating to B. in due course he received a reply from the authorities at Havannah to the authorities at Madrid to the effect that there was an entry at such and such a place, and that B. applied, but his story, which was accepted as true (probably on the faith of John Gray's statement) and that he received a passport and assistance (*asistiro*) to take him back to the Spanish dominions, while the actual passport might possibly have been, this entry being made in it.

I have read the original official copy of this telegram, delivered to A by the Government of Madrid. It is true, as A. states, sent for the original entry at Havannah.

It also told A that when he and the Count parted at Melbourne the Count gave him as a souvenir a little Moorish charm, which he wore round his neck. I am told by Mr. Onslow, who did not recollect, that Sir R. T.'s servant, Pierre Furon, of Havre, long since stated that Sir R. had this round his neck when he left Rio in 1853. (This amulet) is at present in my possession. It is like that of the Koran (I am told, for I do not know) and is about the size of a shilling.

In order to test B's truthfulness, A showed him the photograph of a person he had not spoken above a whisper in five years. Her, J. MALCOLM, of Wyhaing, N. Y., writes:—"Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil cured me of Bronchitis in one week." Sealers and dealers in medicine that do not give such complete satisfaction as this."

It is composed of six of the best oils that are known. Is as good for internal as for external use, and is believed to be immeasurably superior to anything ever made. Will save you much suffering and many dollars of expense. Is sold by one or more dealers in every place. Price 25 cents.

Prepared by E. N. THOMAS, PERLEY, N.Y. And NORTHROP & LYMAN, Toronto, Ont., Sole Agents for the Dominion.

NOTE.—*Eclectric*—Selected and Electrified.

A Favourite Cough Remedy.—For Colds, Sore Throat, Asthma, Catarrh, and other diseases of the bronchial tubes, no more useful article can be found than the well-known "*Brown's Bronchial Troches.*"

TO CONSUMPTIVES.—The advertiser, a retired physician, having providentially discovered, while a Medical Missionary in Southern Asia, a very simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrh, and all throat and lung affections—also a positive and radical specific for Nervous Debility, Premature Decay, and all Nervous Complaints, feels it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, he will cheerfully send (free of charge) to all who desire it, the recipe for preparing the full directions for successfully using this providentially discovered remedy. Persons desiring the benefit of the benefits of this discovery without cost, can do so by return mail, by addressing, with stamping to cover the cost of this notice, MARSHALL, 33 Niagara street, Buffalo, N.Y. 238-13

A Traveller of twenty-four years saw the sun for the first time the other day, and said, "By gum."

A rich merchant in San Francisco whipped his son unmercifully, and the son has begun a lawsuit to recover damages.

A Colorado woman has collected fifty bushels of snapping turtles, scalded and dried them for winter chicken feed.

TORONTO ITEMS.

On the 27th inst. Barber, [illegible] embezzlement by the Bank of Montreal was remanded until Jan. 3.

The theatrical attractions this week are, "The Fairy Queen" at the Grand, Mlle. Bonfanti as premiere danseuse, at the Grand, and "Undine" at the Royal.

A number of the friends of Mr. A. B. Campbell, the Secretary of the U. E. Club, on the evening of the 19th inst. presented him with a purse containing gold. The presentation address was delivered by Mr. William McBride.

On Christmas night, while proceeding along Simcoe street, Mr. MacMahon, book-keeper for Mr. Gooding, was set upon by several roughs who stole his fur cap, forcibly ejected his watch, and took a large amount of money which he had on his person at the time.

Mr. John Douglas was on the 20th instant appointed Surveyor of the Port of Toronto, in the room and stead of Mr. T. C. Scott, deceased. Mr. Douglas has been in the service five and twenty years, and has held the chief clerkship for a number of years past.

At a supper given by the non-commissioned officers and men of the Toronto Field Battery, to their officer, a society with Along bell, etc., was presented to Maj. T. Mason, the Adjutant-Major, by Major Gray on behalf of the Battery. The society is very elegant one, and the gift was highly appreciated by the recipient.

On Tuesday, 20th instant, while one of the Gas Company's employees was engaged in laying down pipes on Front street, making a trench for a new service, a fellow-workman struck the main. A stream gushed out several inches in diameter, and overpowered the men in the trench, who was taken out by his comrades and conveyed home in a cab.

Rev. A. H. Baldwin, who has since his arrival in Toronto, taken a great interest in the Home for the Friendless, in the General Hospital, has presented that institution with a handsome copy of Prince de Joli's translation of the present proved an agreeable Christmas gift to all concerned. The Home for the Friendless which Rev. Mr. Baldwin holds regularly at the Hospital.

At the last meeting of the Board of School Trustees Mr. Hughes, the Inspector, presented his monthly report, which stated that the number of pupils for the month of November was 4,940, the average attendance 4,272, being 86.47 per cent., cases of tardiness, 2,422; cases of corporal punishment, 466. There were 7,119 less cases of tardiness than during the same month of last year.

After dark on the night of the 20th instant, Mr. Murphy, of Church street, was knocked down by two men, who robbed him of his watch and chain, and all the contents of his pockets. Murphy struggled with his assailants, thanks to the chance which led detective Burrows to be in the vicinity at the time, in handing his assailant over to the charge of the officer. The prisoners were named Jack O'Connor. He was lodged in No. 2 police station.

A boy on Sherbourne street, residing at 120 Bloor street, was suffering from neuralgia in the gums, on the 15th instant, and he gave a dose of laudanum which landanum predominated. But he took an overdose and fell into a state of stupefaction, from which he died. Efforts were saved. They flagellated him, they pinched him, and they did everything they could to awaken him; but they did not succeed till an hour and a half had elapsed. Of course when Mr. Stewart came, the unconscious his nervous system was very much shaken.

On Monday the 18th inst., the butchers of St. Andrew's Market started a poor kitchen under the direction of Mr. J. Firman, Mr. E. O. Hodgert is one of the prime movers and contributes liberally. The butchers of the Market Ward, in Toronto, have since the kitchen has been opened, kept it well supplied with meat. On Monday there were relieved 41 persons, on Tuesday 53, on Wednesday 19, and on Thursday 40. The kitchen is a great success. It is to be hoped that people in the vicinity who have enough and to spare of this world's goods will help to keep the supply of soup does not run out in future.

On the evening of the 22nd instant, Mr. Thomas Fox, of Sorauren, met with a serious accident happened to two ladies, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Robinson, of Spadina avenue. They were walking at the corner of Tyndall and King streets, when a runaway horse, with a vehicle attached, came down King street east, knocked both the ladies down, and the vehicle partly passed over them. They picked up and taken to the nearest residence, and Mr. Fox hurried for assistance. Mrs. Robinson, who fortunately happened to be hardy, rendered timely assistance. Mrs. Ross was injured in the right shoulder and Mrs. Robinson about the head. They were both taken home in a hack.

The night of Tuesday, the 19th inst., Benjamin Brooks and Fred Kaiser, who reside at 76 Richmond street, got into a quarrel, evidently from drink, in too vigorously celebrating Christmas. Brooks, it appears, got the worst of it, Kaiser several severe blows over the head with it, severely cutting his scalp. Brooks was taken to the station, where a surgeon sewed up the ugly gash of four inches in length. Kaiser was taken to the residence of his father, Mr. Kaiser, on Richmond street, where the wounds of the latter were dressed by Dr. Richmond, who reported the injuries of Kaiser as not very serious, but Brooks's wounds as somewhat more serious, nearly an inch in depth. Brooks and Kaiser are both Germans, and live in Toronto. The Bishop said last night Kaiser was in very bad condition.

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