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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On Wednesday last a deputation, consisting of Major Macdonald, Mr. Fraser, M. P., and the Mayor of London, waited on the Minister of Militia to present a petition on behalf of the Corporation of London for the grant to the city of the military lands occupied by the old military barracks. The deputation was courteously received by the Minister of Militia, who promised that the matter should have the careful consideration of the Government, and that an answer would be transmitted by letter.

On Wednesday night last some party or parties at present unknown effected an entrance into the room occupied by Hon. Mr. Smith at the Russel House, and removed therefrom \$70 in cash and a silver watch. Mr. Smith was attending the session of the House at the time.

On Sunday Morning the 12th inst., the Caledonia Grist and Flouring Mills belonging to Messrs. McQuarrie, Woodburn & Munroe, were destroyed by fire, as well as 30,000 bushels of wheat that was stored in the buildings at the time of the fire. Loss about \$50,000. Insurance on grain \$19,000 on buildings \$10,000.

A meeting was held at Montreal on the 15th for the purpose petitioning the Legislature for a charter to construct a new bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal to be called the Royal Albert Bridge. There were 500 persons at the meeting, and the resolution which was moved by the Hon. John Young, and seconded by Alderman David was unanimously carried. The Mayor occupied the chair.

In the British House of Commons on Thursday last the Postmaster General announced that in future no contracts would be made for conveyance of mails to America, arrangements similar to those adopted by the United States having been made.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Rifle Association held at Toronto on Thursday last, it was decided that although Col. Brunel's canvas target would be an improvement on the old iron ones, yet the state of the Association finances would not permit of the substitution. For the same reason they were not to grant the usual bonuses to affiliated Associations during the coming year, but to give the Association badge only. It was announced that the Governor General had signified his intention of giving a silver and bronze medal for competition annually. The annual meeting of the Association was fixed for the 4th of August, when a large prize list will be offered, including one hundred dollars offered by Mr. E. O. Bickford.

Rubies have been found in the Saskatchewan; also pipe clay and soap in the banks.

The London Times says:—"In our eastern Empire we have accomplished a greater military feat than any of which ancient Rome could boast. The latter employed legions raised among one conquered nation to hold another in subjection. We have done more, for we have conquered and maintained our position in India to a great extent by means of natives of that very country. We have dared to organize an army out of the vanquished to keep the vanquished themselves submissive to the victor's yoke. In many cases, indeed, we have enrolled in our ranks beaten foemen on the very morrow of their defeat.

The Copenhagen Dagbladet publishes a report from the Captain of the Danish schooner "Lucinde," in which he states that on the 2nd of last month (January), about noon, and within 4 English miles of the fortress of Gibraltar, his ship was hailed by a boat, which, when it came alongside and had got a line on board, turned out to contain an armed crew of nine men, looking like thorough pirates. Some of the crew tried to get on board the schooner, but the Captain let go the line, when the crew of the boat began firing at the schooner, and it was later found that five balls had pierced the mainsail, one through the mainstay sail, and two more entered other parts of the ship. The Captain adds that the day was clear, and that it was impossible that the occurrence should not be witnessed from Gibraltar. This, it appears, is only one of the several attempts at piracy occurring lately in the Straits of Gibraltar within British jurisdiction complained of in the Scandinavian papers.

The Lord Mayor of London, on 23rd Feb., received telegrams from the Mayors of Wellington and Dunedin, New Zealand, congratulatory upon the completion of telegraphic communication between the colony and the mother country. In reply, the Lord Mayor telegraphed to the effect that he rejoiced at the successful laying of the cable, and trusted that the new communication thus afforded would tend to cement friendship and extend commerce between England and New Zealand.

The Great Eastern is reported to have encountered terrible weather and became waterlogged on the 3rd of March. The captain and his two sons died of privation. The captain and 13 men took to the boats, and soon suffered terribly from hunger. Three men died, and the survivors were forced to eat a portion of the remains of their comrades to prevent them from starving. On the 11th March they were picked up in the last stage of emaciation.

A severe storm prevailed in London, and almost generally around the coast, during Monday and Tuesday of last week. It was particularly violent on the coast about the west part of Lancashire. Many ships thereabouts have sought haven, after losing all their anchors. Much damage has been done to the farm buildings, produce, &c.

About Paris advices say Bercy, Neuilly, Canrebevier, Asnieres, Bellecourt, Point au Jour, Auteuil, Severas, St. Cloud, Suersnes and other suburbs of the city, were all more or less inundated. The suffering caused by the floods is very great. Marshal and Madame McMahon have each visited the separate districts and distributed relief personally. Madame McMahon has sent the Prefect of the Seine 5,000 francs for the relief of the sufferers. Public contributions are being made for the same object. All the large streams between Paris and the eastern frontier of France are over their banks, and the country for miles around is flooded. In Normandy the gale uprooted trees, overturned vehicles, and damaged houses. In Calvados considerable masses of rock were blown off the cliffs.

A London despatch says a private villa has been engaged for Queen Victoria at Baden during her sojourn there. She will travel *incognito*. It is stated she will assume the title of Countess Rosenan, after the late Prince Consort's favourite residence in Thuringia. It is not expected she will stay at Baden longer than a week, after which it is understood she will proceed to Cobourg and spend an equal time at the court of her brother-in-law, reigning the Duke. The Empress Augusta wishes to meet Queen Victoria at Cobourg. The Crown Prince and Princess Germany will also meet her there. The Emperor William proposes to visit her. Queen Victoria has particularly requested that no official reception be extended her anywhere on her journey. The 25th of March has been finally fixed as the day of departure from London.

The weather is hardly settled yet though it has greatly moderated. From all parts of the country came details of destruction by the gale. In London roofs and skylights and chimneys were blown about, and telegraph poles prostrated. At Twickenham a short distance up the Thames, a house was crushed by trees; near Staitness a steamer was wrecked, and at Chatham the Military School was partly destroyed. The rivers Chwell, Tone and others overflowed the country.

The Seine has risen 60 centimes higher than in 1872. It is thought however, that the maximum is now reached. The river Loire has risen 5½ metres. Several manufacturing factories on its banks are closed.