

was vigorously replied to by the enemy. Their balls and shells struck the houses in front of which the battery was stationed several times, and raked the woods in the rear for nearly a mile. Some rifled cannon. After a cannonade of about an hour a retreat was of their shot were picked up, and proved to be from Hotchkiss' rifled cannon. After a cannonade of about an hour a retreat was ordered, and our entire force fell back to Centreville. Our loss was considerable, probably about one hundred killed and wounded. Our troops fought under great disadvantage. For not one rebel ventured out of the woods during the action. The affair was not an attack, but merely a reconnaissance to discover the position and strength of the enemy. Gen. McDowell did not reach Bull's Run until after the fight was concluded and the forces had fallen back to Centreville. He moved forward to within a mile and a half of the scene of the engagement and encamped for the night.

The Woodstock Journal. Thursday, August 1, 1861.

THE LABORER AND HIS WAGES.

One of the most significant and cheering facts which it comes within the province of the public writer to notice is that of the sure, though gradual, improvement in the condition and circumstances of the laboring classes. We cannot see it in this country, because this country is new and young, and its industry and its laboring population have not yet reached that well-ascertained condition which the industry and the laboring classes of older countries occupy. But in Great Britain we have a thousand years of experience to which our study of the history of labor and wages can be directed; and in that history we can trace the gradual amelioration and elevation of the condition of the men and women whose lot it is to labor with their hands. Some of the results of such investigations are presented in the article annexed to these remarks, which we find in a recent number of the Scientific American. There is much more in these remarks than is apparent at the first glance. It is not only that the wages of labor have increased, and that the prices of many of the necessities of life have rather decreased. It is not only that these changes have created a corresponding change in the physical condition of the workman. The results have been felt in his mental as well as moral improvement. The laborer has been enabled to replace much of the mere animal strength and vigor by mental exertion and growth. He can now live with less physical exertion than ever before; and consequently, the pressure of want being further removed, opportunity is given for that culture and improvement of the intellect which elevate men in the mental and social scale. These facts show us how much the discoveries in natural science and the improvements in mechanics and in the useful arts have done for the race, and give us a dim premonition how much more they may do in the future. If there are any who fancy that the chief result to individuals of the wonderful material advancement of the last few centuries has been to increase the advantages of the wealthy, and to exaggerate their fortunes and their comforts and luxuries, at the expense of, or without a corresponding benefit to, the lower classes, the facts which the annexed article presents ought to be sufficient to open their eyes. In the improvement of the condition of poor as well as rich we have an illustration and a proof of that peculiarity of the inductive philosophy which drew from Lord Bacon the noble eulogium upon its great expounder:—"The beneficence of his philosophy resembles the beneficence of the common Father, whose sun rises upon the evil and the good, and whose rain descends upon the just and the unjust."

WAGES OF THE POORER BRITISH CLASSES.—Under this head the London Mechanics' Magazine states that the working men of Great Britain are deeply indebted to the Statistical Society, which has published elaborate papers on the wages of agricultural laborers, mechanics and artisans, thus affording information respecting the improvements in the condition of the working classes.

Exactly 200 years ago, the justices in some of the English courts fixed the weekly wages of agricultural laborers at 7s. per week in summer, and 6s. in winter. The pay of mechanics at that time was the same as those laborers. In 1824 the average wages of agricultural laborers in nineteen counties of England had risen to 9s. 4d. per week; in 1837, to 10. 4d. (English); and in 1860, to 11s. 6d. In two centuries, the wages of the worst paid class of labor has nearly doubled in England, while machinery has increased in a ten-fold ratio. Those who have so unintelligently

complained that an increase of machinery robbed the workmen of employment, and thus greatly injured them, have but to look at such statistics for the most complete confutation of their crude reasonings.

During the past two centuries, the wages of most of the mechanical operatives in Great Britain have increased fourfold. Mechanics that received only 5s. or 7s. per week in 1660, now receive from 24s. to 40s. per week. In 1800, the wages of a good mason was 16s. per week; now it is 33s. The increase of wages during the past 30 years has been about 20 per cent. In Manchester, the chief seat of the cotton manufacture, the increase has been from 13 to 25 per cent. The wages of engine tenders in 1839, were 24s. per week; now they are 30s. The wages of piecer boys have advanced from 8s. to 10s. The young men and boys engaged as silk-spinners, who received 7s. and 6d. in 1839, now get 10s. A shilling is about 24 cents of our money.

These are some of the statistics presented, but they do not convey a correct idea of the real increase in the rewards of labor and the comforts obtained by the working classes, for, with such a great increase of remuneration, there has been a general decrease in the hours of labor and a very great decline in the price of most necessities of life. In cotton manufactories there has been a decrease in the hours of labor amounting to about one day in the week, and other mechanics about half a day weekly. The reduction of the hours of labor, it is stated, has not been brought about by the agency of strikes.

The clothing of the working classes has been reduced in price in a far greater proportion than their wages have been advanced. The female factory operatives and domestic servants now dress in silks and the finest qualities of woolen and cotton fabrics. One century ago, only coarse woolen apparel was worn by them; silks and fine cottons were unknown below the nobility and the wealthy merchants.

In short, there has been a most gratifying improvement in the condition of the producing classes of Great Britain, and this improvement is still going on, and, strange as it may seem, this progress seems to go forward as if it had joined hands with all the new improvements and useful applications in machinery. Reasoning from such data, the conclusion is inevitable that those mechanics who invest improvements in mechanism not only benefit themselves individually, but, at the same time, raise their fellow-workers one step higher with every new and useful invention."

THE NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The agony is over; after four weeks constant angling Tilley, Smith & Co., have fished up three men to fill the vacant places of the Government.

We may say at once of one of those selected, Mr. Hatheway, that so far as ability to fill his situation,—Chief Commissioner-ship of Public Works,—goes, he is unexceptionable. He is a shrewd, clever, energetic man, and a vast improvement upon the man to whom he succeeds.

But what there is in Messrs. McMillan and W. E. Perley, that they should be made cabinet ministers, we cannot understand. Certainly two months ago the notion of either of them being ever elected to a seat in the Executive would have been laughed at. The sole cause to which they owe their appointment, is, no doubt, the necessities of Tilley, Smith & Co., who not being able to induce to cast in their lot with them, the men whom they would have preferred, and who would have been no discredit to the Government, were obliged to take what they could get. But all parties must regret to see the administration of the country falling into the hands of third and fourth rate men. Every change in the Liberal ministry is a step downwards. Smith, the obstructionist, succeeds in the Attorney Generalship Fisher, to whom the Province owes more for constitutional progress than any other two men now in the House. Brown, whose practical talent, shrewdness, and business activity have made him a name which will not be soon forgotten in New Brunswick, gives way to McMillan, of whom scarcely a dozen men, except politicians, outside of his own County, ever before heard. And instead of John M. Johnson, one of the most acute intellects and most brilliant minds in New Brunswick, we have William E. Perley! There is satisfaction to be found, however, in one fact: the Executive can't, sink much lower, or grow much worse.

This patching up of the Government will not, we think, mend its position with respect to the Liberal party. If Mr. Hatheway had not been taken in he might have been found in opposition; but Messrs. McMillan and Perley were too deeply sunk in the mire of Smasher's fatuity to ever struggle out. "The Government, we take it, will still be found in a minority.

The Government as now filled up gives the seven River Counties (including Charlotte) two representatives to five from the six Northern Counties.

BATTLE OF BULL'S RUN.

The week that has elapsed since the first brief telegram respecting the defeat of the Federal army at Bull's Run reached us, has brought us day by day additional accounts of the details of the battle, the panic, and its cause. Although much is yet to be cleared up, sufficient has been ascertained to enable us to speak with some degree of confidence as to the general outlines of the contest, and as to some of the details. The attack seems to have taken place in an uneven and wooded country, in which the Southern army had thrown up a series of fortified works, well supplied with artillery. If we understand it aright, three columns of Northern troops were set in motion against this fortified position of the enemy. The Federalists appear to have made the attack in good style, and with much intrepidity; and the Southerners, although in a strongly fortified position, and in much excess of numbers, were driven back from point to point. The victory was no doubt won; and had an officer of experience and ability been in the place of Gen. McDowell the unfortunate and most disgraceful retreat, or rather stampede, which ended the eventful day, would never have occurred. The great mistake seems to have been in pressing forward the gallant, but necessarily inexperienced, militia of the North against the superior position and superior, and constantly increasing, force of the South, to an extent which they were not able to bear, and that, too, without the proper support of a fresh and powerful reserve. Had General McDowell been content with one half the day's work which it seems he proposed to himself, his troops might have spent the night on the ground which they had won, and on a second day, have carried their victorious arms over the remainder of the enemy's position. A good commander would have been more than satisfied to have accomplished so much with raw levies. Of the spirit and determination with which the better disciplined and officered of the Northern troops fought there cannot be a doubt. But too much was asked from them, and after having routed the enemy from battery after battery, from wood after wood, and post after post, much cut up, oppressed with fatigue, and probably not very well led, they were called on to face the fresh troops of Gen. Johnston, in greatly superior numbers. They had to give way, and the retrograde movement seems to have created a panic in the teamsters of the baggage train, which soon communicated itself to the soldiers themselves. It is difficult to get at the exact circumstances of this panic, or the extent to which it affected the army. But that it was deep and wide-spread, and that it affected officers as well as men, there can be no doubt. The enemy, badly beaten in the previous conflict, do not seem to have made any attempt at a pursuit; in fact it appears that they did not know that the flight had taken place. Probably the unevenness of the country, and the extent to which it is covered with wood, prevented them from observing the facts.

So far as we can judge the loss on the Federal side is not so great as at one time supposed. In such a disorganization as took place in the flight—every man, in many of the regiments, having no notion beyond that of securing his own escape—the various battalions and companies must have been thoroughly separated, and it may be a week or two before all the stragglers will regain their colours. But as there was little pursuit the loss of life must have been mainly in the attack, and not in the flight. The killed will probably not be found to exceed one thousand.

The papers are, of course, running over with statements, censures, rumors, and so on. From these we gather that the attack was made against the wish and judgment of the veteran General Scott—and was probably urged on by outside pressure. Now, however, that experience has been bought so dearly, the management of the war will be left with those who understand it. The result will be an ultimate advantage to the North. It will open the eyes of the public to the fact that the art of war cannot be learned in a month; and that they have before them in the subjugation of the South a task far more grave, and serious than they have been wont to suppose. On the other hand the unfortunate repulse at Bull's Run will rather add to the determination than daunt the courage of the North.

The continued wetness of the weather seems to be having an injurious effect upon the potato crop. We hear that in some quarters the rust is advancing rapidly, whole fields being already blackened.

TOWN TALK AND COUNTRY TOPICS.

The weather during the past week has been variable. We have had not a few of those bright sunny days which are the delight of the haymaker, and we have had dull, cloudy days with rain. The season is on the whole, not so favorable as usual for securing the grass crop, the value of which depends so much more than any other upon its exemption from wetting. The river still continues high enough for steamboating, and we have had the Bonnie Doon, Gazelle and Tobique running, dividing among them about enough work to make a small business for one. We presume that not one of them is paying expenses.

The Rifle Company propose having a Pic-Nic somewhere in the vicinity of the town, about the 20th instant. On the same day they will fire for the gold medal presented for competition by Mayor Fisher.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Mr. McCoy requests us to state that the Grammar School re-opens on Monday next.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—Harper for August has been received from Mr. S. R. Miller, Fredericton. Godley for August has also come to hand.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.—The state of Europe may be regarded with anxiety, though rather with respect to the internal condition of certain portions, than as regards the chances of a general collision:—Fears as to the latter have indeed in a great measure subsided; and as European governments open their eyes to the enormous cost entailed upon some of them by wars from which they have recently emerged, disinclination to play the same costly game must increase. Still, the mill-stone of peace has not yet arrived.—Russia has not turned Warsaw down to contented submission. A fresh chasm been opened out between the Hungarian Diet and the Emperor of Austria, who has refused to receive the Address voted by the Diet, and has returned it with orders that a new and more respectful one should be presented to him. But for the immense military preparations of the Empire, it is probable that an immediate appeal to arms would follow this urgent dealing between a Sovereign and one of his States. As it is, one knows not how soon the Italians and the Austrians may again be at war; in which case, the Hungarians will undoubtedly become participants. The language of Baron Ricasoli is more determined than that of the late Count Cavour; and an allusion to the "natural legitimate boundaries" of the new Italian Kingdom can only point to Venice. Yet Italy is not tranquil. A reactionary spirit is actively at work in Naples securing means and encouragement from the ex-King Francis at Rome, while the long-standing and galling Roman question is still an open one, dependent mainly for its solution upon the will of one whose purposes may not be read.

And France, so rich, powerful, united and tranquil—she too is not without her causes of vexation. The Emperor has gone to Vichy, the watering place of Invalids, alarmists speak of his ill health. His dubious and threatening policy, which has caused Great Britain and other powers to expend such gigantic sums in naval and military preparations, has saddled upon his own Empire a deficit of thirteen millions of pounds sterling for the current year, and has increased the national consolidated debt one fourth since the proclamation of the Empire. Nor are the opponents of the Government without their small individual triumphs. In several of the Departments, at the election to the Councils General, the nominees of the Profets have been outvoted. In Paris the Duc de Broglie has skillfully parried a government prosecution for printing a so-called political pamphlet, by pleading that he was exempt from ordinary jurisdiction, in the quality of Knight Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. The law court was fain to admit the plea, and the laugh is against the Minister of the Interior.

EMIGRANTS.—The Scotch Emigrants that lately arrived by the Bark "Irvine" from Scotland, have all proceeded up river, and have been located upon the Crown Lands in Carleton County, known as Glassville, which were reserved for them. Of the 20,000 acres of land reserved for Mr. Glass, the whole of the first 10,000 acres have been taken up, and about three fourths of the second 10,000 have been applied for. We understand Mr. Glass is now in the City adjusting certain accounts of expenditure connected with his mission to Britain, with a view of having the same laid before the Government during its present session in Fredericton. Mr. Glass's expenses we believe, have been very heavy, amounting to at least £200, of which the sum of £75 only was defrayed by the Emigrants themselves. We are informed that at an early day Mr. Glass will address a series of letters to the public through some of our city journals, and will enter thoroughly into all matters connected with his Emigration mission, and will deal with the statements made by the Surveyor General respecting this subject before the Crown Land Investigation Committee last winter. The public had better defer its judgment in Mr. G.'s case until the whole facts have been published.

By the way, a number of families from this city intend to locate themselves in Glassville; among them one or more elders of the Presbyterian Church of this Province.—Colonial Presbyterian.

ARRIVAL OF PRINCE NAPOLEON AT H. N. S.—The French Frigate Foude arrived at this port on Monday from Sidney. The Jerome Napoleon, with Prince Napoleon on board, arrived also on Monday from France, via Louisburg. The Prince visits Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave at Governor House in the afternoon.

On board the Jerome Napoleon is a little steam screw iron yacht, not much larger than a ship's long boat, of which the makes use, while lying in harbor. Yesterday steamed past the Market Wharf, on a large crowd had gathered to witness its movements. In the stern sheets, under the "tri-color" was Prince Napoleon's wife, Clothilde, daughter of the King of Sardinia, while quite a party of gentlemen, which we noticed General Trollope occupied the remainder of the space party landed at Queen's Wharf, where the and his wife stepped into General Trollope's carriage, and drove into the city.—Sun.

THE SEASON.—For nearly three weeks day passed without rain, and frequently it down in torrents. As it was wet on St. Sunday, many affirmed that the old saying was verified and that we would have rain for forty days. The thing looked very probable and some of the farmers who had their grain and others who were desirous of commencing hay-making, began to look as heavy and the clouds above—when on Wednesday a change. The clouds dispersed—the sun shone bright and warm—with a gentle breeze from the westward.—Thursday was the same, was yesterday. The grass in all directions being cut down, and field after field of it been made and carted to the barns in good condition. It will prove much better crop high lands than it was at one time anticipated. The weather is splendid for growing crops, gratifying to hear from all the colonies of the Continent, the United States, and from Europe that there is every prospect of an abundant vest the present season.—Mir. Gleaner.

Important Ministerial changes are rumored. Lord Herbert's ill health will cause him to resign his office at the head of the War Department. Some say that Sir George C. Lewis will resign his War office, and that he will be succeeded by home office by Sir George Grey. Another gives Lord Elgin the War office, another him to the Indian Board, preparatory to his assuming the Governor Generalship, as the successor of Lord Carnarvon. Mr. Cardwell, it is to have a step in promotion in consequence these changes; but all these statements are received with caution.

The Queen's visit to Ireland cannot fail to excite great interest in the neighboring colonies. The people of Dublin will have the first opportunity of making the acquaintance of the Queen, for it is stated that the Sovereign's retinue will remain a week at the Vice-Lodge, the guests of the present amiable and popular Lord Lieut. From Dublin the Royal will proceed to the seat of the Duke of Leinster and there remain another week, and during stay the Queen will visit daily the Camp of Carragh of Kildare, where the Prince of Wales is now learning the military steps in the war. Cork and Killarney will then be visited with a visit.—Amidst the beautiful scenery Kerry the Queen, who has not hitherto been familiar with that part of the Island, will enjoy the hospitalities of Colonel Herbert at Mackross of Lord Kenmare at his seat at the margin of the lakes. Both of these gentlemen, the former a Protestant and the latter a Roman Catholic are great land proprietors.

Madrid July 7.—The country is quiet. A French lithographed correspondent states that when the Emperor Alexander entered the theatre at Moscow, all the company quitted, as if they obeyed a preconcerted signal, added that the Emperor's aides-de-camp were saluted by the crowd.

The insurrection among the peasants is tending every day, and is assuming an alarming proportion. Hitherto the troops have acted out hesitation against the insurgents, but as to their fidelity are now beginning to be doubted.

MINERALS.—Some of the young men here "been prospecting" as the phrase is, in various directions up and down the river, and more one has returned with specimens of quartz very similar to that obtained at Tangier. Stone contains evidently some kind of metal, whether it be the "precious" kind we are not sufficiently skilled to determine. We understand there exists a very rich vein of Black at Tabusintac. Will any person in the land send us a specimen. Now is the time to hunt all kinds of minerals, clays and natural curiosities—they are all wanted for the Exhibition to come off next October at Sussex Vale—at London next year.—Miramichi Gleaner.

TANGIER GOLD DIGGINGS.—We observe their is a growing interest manifested in regard to the late reported discoveries. We have seen number of specimens which appear to be very rich. A large number of persons are preparing to start for the gold diggings on the morning of July 30th. Those going will have an opportunity of seeing the great regretta to come under patronage of the officers of the French and British fleets, now in Halifax harbour.—New Brunswick.