

Summary of News.

BY THE R. M. STEAMER.

The R. M. Steamer Canada arrived at this port on the morning of the 26th inst., after a very rough passage.

The great subject engrossing the attention of the British public, is the Revolution in France; and as our readers will naturally feel an interest in that event, we have furnished them below with accounts of the real state of affairs in that country. As long as the military are faithful to Louis Napoleon, and he is upheld by Russia and Austria and other despotic Governments, the Dictator may defy the opposition of the various hostile parties in France; and rest secure in his present usurped position. He has, however, a very difficult game to play, and will require to have all his eyes open, and manifest a rare combination of prudence, moderation, and energy. The results of this movement are yet to be developed. We look with no ordinary interest to its influence on the religious liberties of the French, and other inhabitants of continental States. Our cherished conviction is, that God will sooner or later over-rule that event, as well as others, to the furtherance of the Gospel, and the deliverance of the European nations from the galling yoke of popish error and superstition. He is wise in counsel, and wonderful in working.

PROGRESS OF AFFAIRS IN FRANCE.—It was hardly to be expected, that the French nation would passively submit to the audacity of a blow which, at one rude shock, has shattered the whole fabric of their recently formed Constitution, and brought them beneath the government of brute force alone. It could scarcely be supposed that a people so famed for their gallantry, and so ardent in their aspirations after liberty, would quietly permit themselves to be gyved and fettered by a man of yesterday, and ruled by no other law or weapon, than the sole will of a self-constituted Dictator, and the brutal violence of a coarse and pampered soldiery.

But the people of France not only applauded the stroke, but were infinitely delighted and pleased with it!—At least so said the Dictator, and so it was echoed by the subservient organs of the press, which alone have been allowed to speak since this bold game has been on foot.—Nevertheless, the truth begins to eke out; and it is now pretty plain that the French people are not so well pleased as the Dictator would desire the world to believe.

Day by day we hear of fresh arrests in Paris and in every principal town. Day by day we find the iron hand of martial law extending itself to different departments of the country. Day by day we are told of violent outbreaks amongst the depraved and lawless portions of the community, and the commencement of excesses at which the heart already shudders.

Serious troubles, it appears, have broken out at Clamecy, in the department of the Nièvre. A mob from the country, to the number of 5,000 or 6,000, entered the town. The sub-prefecture was pillaged and sacked. Three gendarmes were massacred, and the insurgents deliberated amongst themselves whether they should not torture their victims before they killed them.

At Nancy an attempted insurrection was quelled by the troops of the line, but shots were fired at the gendarmerie and their commander was wounded in the shoulder. The department's of the Var and the Lower Alps are reported to be in a state of insurrection—martial law is proclaimed against them and also against the Nièvre. At Brignolles the Socialists are masters of the town, and have driven the authorities out of it. They have liberated the prisoners and named a new municipal council. The commune of Cuer was for several hours in the possession of the Socialists, and the brigadier commanding the gendarmes was murdered. At Burjanton they obtained possession of the Government depot of powder. The gendarmes of Vidauban are blockaded in their barracks and threatened with death. The mayor of Larrotte has been arrested by the Socialists and put into prison. The commune of Bedaude is in the hands of the Socialists, who have organized a committee of public safety. The whole of the right bank of the Durance is in open revolt. The peasantry on the mountains of the Alps have risen and are well armed. At Focclquier the Socialists shot the Sous-Prefet, and committed acts of the deepest atrocity. At Toulouse a conflict has taken place, between the students and the troops, in which upwards of thirty, on each side, were killed, and many more wounded. In a conflict at Auch (Gars), the General, commanding the troops, has been severely wounded. Serious disturbances have taken place at Beziers. From Avignon it is announced that the Legitimists of that city have come to an understanding with the Red Republicans to act conjointly against the Government. Three hundred peasantry

have taken possession of St. Maximin, established themselves in the Hotel de Ville, and named a furious Socialist Mayor.

This is but a very imperfect sketch of what is passing in the departments. Meantime, in Paris, the stupor occasioned by the suddenness of the coup d'etat is wearing away, and a sentiment of distrust and apprehension is creeping into the minds of the inhabitants. The ferocity of the soldiery, and the indiscriminate slaughter committed by them, has produced a sensation of the deepest disgust. If we be not greatly mistaken, the tide of popular opinion is setting strongly against Louis Napoleon; but, with a gagged press, this opinion cannot, as yet, find a public expression.

From private sources we are informed that doubts are entertained as to the certainty of the Dictator's election to the Presidency; but as the returns will be made by functionaries who are entirely at his command, and as the voting papers are to be publicly burnt at the moment that the return in each district is made up, so that no trace may be left behind, there can be little doubt that, somehow or other, it will be made to appear that the "Ayes" greatly predominate over the "Noes," and that Louis Napoleon will succeed in ascending the next step in the ladder of his ambition.—Eng. Paper.

No less than four more Departments had been placed in a state of siege; but serious disturbances were few and of limited extent. The total number of arrests is stated at 1,800.

The vote of the army, as far as reported, was 65,000 in favour of Louis Napoleon, to 3,500 against him.

It is said that several officers of two or three legions of the National Guard of Paris have tendered their resignations.

M. Thiers having been released was again arrested and sent to the Russian frontier.

The Minister of War has addressed a despatch to the Generals of Corps. He orders that any person resisting shall be at once shot.

In the Nièvre the Socialists, during a short ascendancy, had burned Registers and Archives, and destroyed much property.

Girardin has resigned the Editorship of La Presse. It is said he is about to proceed to the United States.

Several Legions of the National Guard were disarmed for exhibiting dissatisfaction.

Many of the Members of the Mountain have fled the country.

A letter from Jerome Bonaparte to the President, advising moderation and appeal to the people, has been published.

A letter from Rome of the 30th ult., states that the ecclesiastical authorities were making all the money they could by farming the Custom House and the Lottery, and by exacting the tax on industry.

The Council General of GENOA has just contributed 15,000 £. towards the erection of a monument to Columbus, which is to be erected in that city.

The Dublin Evening Mail says: "The SPANISH Government have, we are informed, conceded a grant of two hundred and fifty square miles of country on the banks of the Guadalquivir, in the provinces of Andalusia and Estremadura, containing more than 160,000 acres of land of the richest quality, to be colonised by Irish settlers, under the following conditions:—Exemption from taxation for 25 years. Admission of their furniture, clothing and agricultural implements free of duty. Privilege of felling timber for building in the royal forests. Power to appoint their own municipal authorities. The district in question having been depopulated by the expulsion of the Moors has never since been fully occupied."

Advices from the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE to Nov. 4, state that a severe chastisement had been inflicted upon the enemy by the force under the command of General Somerset. The Caffres in Fish River, Bush District, had been repulsed in several skirmishes. In the Water Klooff the enemy was beaten back after several hours hard fighting, and their camp destroyed. The British loss amounted to 40 killed and wounded. The number of Caffres killed is estimated at from 400 to 500.

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

ILLEGAL MINING.—A proclamation appears in the Royal Gazette of Wednesday last, which states, it has been represented to the Lieutenant Governor that sundry persons throughout the Coal districts are digging and mining coals without licence from the Crown; and as such mining is contrary to law, and in violation of the Civil List Act all persons are strictly enjoined to desist from the same under penalty of prosecution and seizure of the coals raised. All persons who have mined coals prior to the proclamation are forthwith to report the same, in order that the government may deal therewith.—New Brunswick, 27th.

MR. WISHART'S LECTURE.—The Rev. Mr. Wishart delivered another of his course of lectures last evening—the subject being "The Influence of the Past."

After some prefatory matter, the lecturer went on to adduce the following principles in connection with his subject:—First, that where the civilization of a race is small, antiquity lies near to it. Second, that the tendency of the mind is to make of the past something very different from the present. Third, that the past is the region to which the mind of youth is more prone to repair than the mind of riper years. Fourth, the most practical minds do not evince a strong tendency in this direction. Fifth, it is a curious circumstance that the past often draws near to us in proportion as we recede from it in point of time. Sixth, it is perhaps worthy of remark, that the fondness of mankind for romantic composition, has led to much recent examination on the records of history. Seventh, the professional antiquarian is often an eccentric personage. Eighth, the past is much made use of in order to regulate the opinions of present times. The concluding topic turned on the fact that in new countries there is not much to attract the mind toward the past.—St. John, N. B. Courier.

Canada.

The weather was intensely cold at Quebec.—15° below zero at 9 o'clock one morning week before last.

A little girl was frozen to death near Montreal. Father Chiniquy, the French Canadian Catholic Apostle of Temperance, intends locating in the Kankakee Valley, (Ill.) He will be joined in the spring by about 1,500 French families from Montreal and Quebec.

Mr. Wilson, the present Mayor of Montreal, is to be called to the Legislative Council of Canada, as a reward for his exertions in preserving the peace in the city over which he presided, at the last Elections.

RICHMOND RAILWAY.—We understand that the Directors have accepted the tender of Messrs. Rigney & Rutherford, of Montreal, for the works on the first division of the Road, viz, from Hadlow Cove to the River Chaudiere. The Contractors are under engagement to commence immediately—and the long and heavy embankments at the back of New Liverpool will be principally finished this winter. We learn further that the directors intend making monthly calls of £1 per share, for six months hence, to enable the work of construction to proceed as rapidly as possible this winter, and to be prepared for increased operations in the spring.—Quebec Mercury.

DESTRUCTION OF THE ARTILLERY BARRACKS AND ORDNANCE STORES AT QUEBEC BY FIRE!—QUEBEC, December 26.—The Royal Artillery Barracks and Ordnance Stores in Arsenal street, are burnt down. The fire was discovered about half past three o'clock this morning by the sentry at the lower gate of the Artillery barracks, and shortly afterwards the flames burst out from one of the men's rooms opposite the guard room. The fire originated between the roof of No. 9 and floor of No. 5, and there was no getting at it sufficiently soon to arrest its progress. The most the men living in the rooms could do was to endeavour to save their effects, in which they but partially succeeded. Captain Franklin's company are reported to have lost all besides what they had on their backs. Water could not be got—the well was dry—the thermometer 24° below-zero, and the engines were consequently useless. In this extremity, Col. Higgins ordered that part of the officers' quarters to be blown up, by which the further progress of the flames in that direction was arrested. But they communicated to the extensive Ordnance Stores in Arsenal street, which in a few minutes were hopelessly on fire. To save as much of the ordnance property as possible, a gap was made near the centre of the building by gunpowder, which it is hoped will arrest the progress of the flames. The loss must be heavy—some say over £200,000. The houses opposite suffered considerably by the concussion.

Postscript.—We learn that the Ordnance Building is now altogether on fire.

AMERICA.

United States.

RECIPROCIITY.—The Oswego Times says:—"Canadian lumber has become an article of prime necessity in the United States which we cannot do without, and on which the consumer's on this side of the line are now compelled to pay a duty of twenty per cent. The lumber of the United States is being fast exhausted, and forms but a small item in the vast amount consumed. Only about ten millions of American lumber have entered this port during the past season, mostly from the south shore of Lake Erie and the Detroit river, while the receipts from Canada exceed seventy millions."

THE AIR LINE RAILROAD.—The New Haven Courier replies to the Hartford Times upon the subject of the air line railroad, and affirms that the subscription of \$800,000 is good, and that more has been added to it. The Courier says that the subscription is headed by one man in Massachusetts for \$50,000, and by another in Providence for \$30,000.

A CRYSTAL PALACE IN NEW YORK.—A petition is about to be presented to the Common Council of New York for the use of Madison square for the erection of a Crystal Palace to accommodate the second Great World's Fair in 1852. Mr. Paxton has made the design—500 by 200 feet, two stories; and the contractors agree to have the structure completed in three months. Mr. Riddle, United States commissioner to the World's Fair, has the pledge of some seven hundred contributors of articles.

AN OLD SETTLER.—There was found in the town of Halifax, Mass., in July last, by Chipman Fuller, a land turtle over 137 years old; he was marked by Ebenezer Fuller in 1714; 50 years ago he was marked by Jacob Thompson. Ebenezer Fuller was the great grandfather of Chipman.—Plymouth Rock.

LOTTERIES IN DELAWARE.—The Chancellor of Delaware has sustained the injunction prohibiting the drawing of certain lotteries in that State. The case however is to be taken up to the Court of Appeals.—Baltimore Sun.

STEAM LINE TO GALWAY.—The New York Express states that the projected line of steamers between that port and Ireland is being carried out by the original projectors. Their proposition for mail transit is now before congress.—lb.

MR. WAGSTAFF having completed his arrangements for the transatlantic communication between New York and Galway, has returned in the Pacific.—lb.

An Invention of Mr. George Wright, for manufacturing percussion caps, was so admired by the Turkish Sultan that he bought one and presented the inventor with a Zart, ornamented with thirty diamonds. Mr. Wright has just returned to Washington, from Constantinople.—lb.

THE KENT COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.—Rev. J. W. Pannel, the agent of this Society has lately visited 900 families in Kent county Md. He found 60 families with a Bible, 26 of whom could not read. One man, who was 64 years of age, never owned a bible; had not used spirituals in 17 years; and profane language for 17 years; and of his family, who could read, one son was religious.—lb.

John Shinn, an omnibus driver, of Camden, was recently married to a young lady, who has since come into possession of \$30,000, which was previously in litigation, with a fair prospect of its being secured by the opposing party to the suit.—lb.

BOXFORD, MASS.—The Congregational Journal contains an interesting sketch of the history of this ancient town, from which we take the following paragraph:—"It is a singular fact, that no physician or lawyer ever settled in the town; no citizen ever asked for a license to sell ardent spirits; no native of the town was ever sent to the State Prison; no one was ever convicted of an infamous crime."

CALIFORNIA.—The country generally was in a very prosperous condition, and the people were turning their attention to manufactures and agriculture, as well as mining, and daily assuming an increased permanency. The Alta Californian regrets to announce that accounts are still coming in, from different sections of the State, of outrages and murders. A large number of miners have been driven by the rains to seek winter quarters in the neighbourhood of Ophir, Placer County.

THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON ON FIRE!—WASHINGTON, 24th December, 10 A. M.—A fire was discovered in the Capitol at daylight this morning. The valuable Library is consumed, and the building is still in flames.

CONGRESS.—On the 17th inst., Mr. Walker gave notice of his intention to introduce a joint resolution as to the expediency of a declaration to Foreign Governments, that the United States hold it to be the right of every nation to dispose of its own affairs without foreign intervention; also requesting the President to negotiate a similar declaration by all other governments.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec 17.—We have advices from the city of Mexico to the 12th ult. A terrible storm had occurred at Mazatlan, doing immense damage to property, and causing the loss of many vessels and lives. Fourteen houses at San Blas, containing much valuable property, were consumed by fire on the 15th—loss \$75,000.

INTENSELY COLD WEATHER.—LOSING OF NAVIGATION.—Louisville, Dec. 16.—The weather is intensely cold, and navigation has closed both above and below the falls. The Belle Key, which left yesterday for New Orleans, returned to day, unable to proceed. The mail boat started for Cincinnati, but was compelled to return also on account of the great quantity of floating ice.

LATE FROM THE PLAINS.—DESTRUCTIVE SNOW STORMS.—St. Louis, Dec. 16.—Messrs. A. W. Reynolds & Co. arrived yesterday from Independence, en route to Washington city.—They bring no news of interest from Santa Fe. The weather on the plains had been intensely cold, and the party encountered continued snow storms, which proved very fatal to their animals. A number of fine animals were lost in the snow drifts.

POISONING A WHOLE SCHOOL.—It now turns out to be a fact that the pupils at the Utica Female Seminary were poisoned not long since by the cook of the institution, a widow, named Young, who took offence at some change in the hours of eating, and mixed tartar emetic with the food, from which about forty of the pupils became violently sick, though none ate a sufficient quantity to cause death. The culprit has left the institution, and has not been arrested.

SINKING OF A TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN.—It is stated that a few days ago a portion of Walden's Ridge sunk, with a noise resembling deep-toned thunder, leaving a huge gap in the timber that fringes the side of the ridge, extending about two miles in a parallel direction with the top. The gap in the dense timber appeared to be about sixty or a hundred feet in width, and the fissure in the earth reached to an unknown depth, in which trees of the largest size were torn up, and enormous rocks, which had probably lain concealed for ages, were rent from their primitive holdings, and laid bare. The foundation on which the mountain rests is supposed to have given away.