

suspended lamp, the meat which was to entice your appetite, or charm away your sufferings. And that meat! Those cubic inches of steak, heated over and over again to succeeding lots of passengers, until no trace of their original juiciness remained, those awful little dishes, containing about three sections of a potato, arranged, as if to display in a concise form the more advanced stages of the potato disease; those warm, yellow squares of Indian meal-cake, whose appearance and taste so strongly resembled brown Windsor soap, that one expected every moment to see the assembled company produce their razors, and attack their neglected beards. The tea and coffee—Scylla and Charybdis, for you were allowed your choice of evils—and the horrible accompaniment to every meal, served up in Yankee fashion—eggs, in almost a raw state, beat up in a tumbler, as if for a pudding, by travellers of both sexes, and then, impregnated with pepper, and swallowed whole. Who can give a just description of the horrors of the scene?

This is not only very well told, but possesses the merit of being perfectly true, and reminds us strongly of a recent trip in the Emperor. As the author in his preface alludes to himself, as speaking "truly, even though lamely, of the scenes he has studied," we must receive the description of "Our miserable little island" (St. Helens, Montreal,) as an exercise in extravagance—it can scarcely have been meant to give a real idea of the place, though as a caricature, carried rather to extreme, it may pass muster tolerably well. Of the "Comic adventures in the Woods," we will say nothing, except that they appear to us, a little silly, and not calculated to do credit to the writers common sense. Having got over the preliminary playfulness, (its a pity it is generally so elephantine) we now come to the useful. Having shown us what he cannot do, the author in Chapter XV on the "Trade, and Education of our North American Colonies," and in Chap. XVI on the "Defences of Canada," shows us what he can do. He can amass information, digest it, and present it to the public in plain concise language, showing that he is capable of appreciating the bearing of the different facts upon one another. On the educational branch of the subject, he has bestowed a good deal of attention, and his conclusions are logical and forcibly laid before us. In noticing the lilliputian proportions of our educational efforts, he goes straight to the root of the matter, when he remarks:

"Another evil is the prevalence of a biting sectarianism, which has a blighting influence on academical institutions. In a small community, it does not pay to have each denomination insisting on its own schools and colleges. The energy, and the means which, if united, would support a good and liberal university, are frittered away among a number of mushroom institutions, often lifeless in themselves, and incapable of imparting proper mental life to their students."

He points his argument by a reference to Nova Scotia, where the Government educational grant, instead of being applied to a single Provincial University, is split up to support, a Presbyterian, a Dissenting, a Roman Catholic, and an Episcopalian College. "Centralisation," he well observes, "in the higher walks of education, is a sine qua non, if any great success is to be expected." He throws out one suggestion, which, if adopted, would supply a marked want, and give a great impetus to the education of the Province. Let some arrangement be made, he says, by which "a distinguished student, on the expiry of his provincial curriculum, should procure a scholarship at Oxford or Cambridge, or failing that, receive some assistance during a stay at any eminent home university." As a brief resume of the difficulties and means of Canadian defences, the chapter on that subject merits a good deal of praise, not of course as a book of reference, but as containing a considerable amount of general information. We do not remember having seen stated anywhere else, the great natural aptitude of our North American Colonists for discipline and organization, as evinced in the very high perfection of the fire Companies. To the fact that Mr. Duncan is new to his work, may be attributed his general defects in style: these are not radical, but rather forced, adopted we sincerely trust, "for this occasion only." In a future work, we hope to see him settling down to the collar, without so much kicking over the traces at starting.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

A well informed Paris journal states that "the map of Gaul and the map of France are just now objects of the greatest interest in Paris literary circles. The Emperor's *Life of Cæsar* has for some time past given rise to discussion as to the two frontiers of both; that discussion has now assumed a definite shape. M. Theophile Lavalle, Professor of History and Literature at the Military School of St. Crs, has published a book under the title of *Frontieres de la France*. He traces France through the periods of the artificial frontier—the "frontier of iron," of Vauban; the "natural limit" of the republic; the passing of the natural frontier by Napoleon; and the failure of the "iron frontier" in 1814. The communication concludes—"If coming events cast their shadows before, it may be just possible to trace it

now on the natural frontier of Ancient Gaul to the East."

Paris seems again to be the centre of political intrigue; the visit of so many crowned heads, so closely following the meeting at Carlsbad, would indicate the Emperor's intention of retaining by every means in his power, the leadership of the so-called "Party of Progress," on the Continent.

The action of the Germanic Confederation promises ere long to assume a new phase. The common object of the reduction of Denmark having been achieved, the inevitable internal disagreement ensues. The smaller powers, invited by Saxony, are arrayed against Austria and Prussia, previously offended at the division of the spoil proposed by the two greater powers. Judicious action at this crisis on the part of Austria, would restore to her the leadership of the Confederation.

NEWS FROM THE STATES.

From the resolutions passed by the Democratic Convention, at Chicago, it would appear that the supporters of Gen. McClellan, are pledged to no policy, either pacific or otherwise; they seem to say rather, "we will try and restore the Union, by peace if practicable, if not by war." This is in reality tantamount to a war policy, for all sensible men, know well that the South can only be brought back to the Union by conquest. We see, nevertheless, that in these resolutions a loop-hole is left by which the Democrats could justify to the nation, any change of policy, which circumstances and their own interests might, at a future period, render necessary. Having chosen for nomination, the most popular man in the States, the great party named, waits to see which way the cat will jump, during the next three months, and is well prepared to follow her.

The butchery, before Richmond, under Grant's auspices, has effectually annihilated any chance he may have had of the Presidency. Contrary to usage, the nominee of both the great parties are celebrated and well known men. The Republican party have, however, a dark man, not as yet brought prominently before the public. We should not be surprised to see him brought in eventually, as he fully answers to the description of the man required on such occasions, the great desideratum being total previous obscurity.

The Georgia, is now probably in New York. The fact of her capture by the Niagara, having given rise to much discussion in the English papers, leads us to infer that we are as yet, without information, as to many important facts connected with her seizure, for as far as our knowledge goes, that vessel was sold by the Confederate government, many months since, to English merchants, in which case, there can be no doubt whatever, as to the illegality of her capture.

Sherman in possession of Atlanta, and a portion of the Weldon road in the hands of Gen Grant's army, have not lowered gold in any great degree, which is probably on account of the consideration, that every Northern success, tends to prolong the war to an indefinite period. Another Southern hero has gone to his account. Gen. Morgan has fallen in battle, in Virginia. The loss of a General is a far great calamity to the South, than ten men of equal rank to the North; the former selects her Generals for their merits while the latter has, till lately, taken them at hap hazard from the multitude.

IMPORTANT TO VOLUNTEER.—Ensign Short writing from Wimbledon says—"with the Whitworth which I won, and you know that this was the object of my ambition, I made as you will have noticed, tolerably good practice for a shot unaccustomed to small bores. But for a provoking accident I believe I should have done much better—at least tied Wyatt if not beaten one or two points above him; in either of which cases not to speak of the £250, a corps that you got of would have been able to boast of the champion shot of Britain for the year 1864-5. Would you believe it, I was so foolish as to take soda-water and brandy instead of seltzer and brandy that forenoon along with my ham-sandwich! Any thing more imprudent I never heard of. Bitter beer is best, and will do either with a ham or beer Sandwich; but if you take soda-water, then the Sandwich must be of beef. A ham sandwich will do no harm if you have seltzer with it; but I defy the finest shot in the world to do his best after a ham sandwich along with soda. It stands to reason that he must be unsteady. I wish you would take a quiet opportunity of explaining this to the Colonel. He will see the force of it. *Macmillan's Magazine*."

HALIFAX CLUB.—We hope we have been misinformed in being told, that a well known member of this community has been excluded from the Halifax Club, by the influence of his brother practitioners on account of the novelty of his medical opinions. Such intolerance in the nineteenth century is scarcely credible.