

NEWS.

The accounts from Washington during the week, state that the American policy in the war with Mexico is to be changed; instead of seeking to carry their conquests further South they are to extend a chain of posts across the country, and keep what they have got or what they seem sure of getting, by armed occupation—and proceed to settle it as fast as they can. Should this policy prove successful, and it is more likely to do so than seeking farther conquests, the sales of lands will, doubtless, ultimately reimburse the United States, not only for their former claims upon Mexico, but for the expenses of the present war. But in what respect this aggression is more justifiable than that of the French at Tahiti, we are at a loss to discover.

The President's Message has reached us, and is, as usual, a long and laboured document. Mr. Polk enters at length into a justification of the Mexican war—recommends a farther loan of \$23,000,000, which he says may be diminished to \$19,000,000, by laying a duty on the principle free articles of import, such as tea and coffee, and a graduation and reduction of the price of public lands. Both of which measures he recommends. He announces his firm adherence to the last tariff, and is satisfied that it will work well, but says the sub-treasury law should be modified. The cheap postage plan works admirably. He also recommends the sale of the United States mineral lands, and the formation of Oregon into a territorial government.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

LOSS OF ONE HUNDRED LIVES BY THE BREAKING OF A BRIDGE.—Letters received at Vienna from Austrian Friuli, contain particulars of an unfortunate event that had recently occurred at Goritz. A large number of soldiers and citizens were crossing a bridge of boats for the purpose of assisting at a military review, when suddenly the bridge, which was inadequate to support the weight with which it was loaded, broke down, and a great many persons upon it, fell into the river. According to the most credible reports, 53 chasseurs and about forty citizens have perished in the waters of Isonzo.

The cholera has extended its ravages from Persia to Bagdad, in which city about one hundred victims to the disease were, by the last accounts, perishing daily.

Great distress prevails in the colony of the Capo of Good Hope, in consequence of the Caffre war.

A considerable force has been despatched by the French to Tahiti, with a view to complete the reduction of that island.

A FAMILY OF MUTES.—There is a singular family of mutes in Jeantown, Lochearron. They are orphans, seven lads and two girls, all deaf and dumb, and yet the most industrious people in the village. Strange to say, three of them have adopted a sea-faring life, and have a boat and net, in which they sail by themselves in pursuit of herrings round the whole coast. During the day the helmsman directs the others by signs, and at night he carries stones in his pocket which he throws at them,—one intimates a desire to stand by the halcyards, and two to reef.—*Witness.*

PROFIT FROM SILK WORMS.—A lady in Hampshire has amused herself with feeding silk worms. The silk produced is found to be superior to any imported. Her expenses have amounted to £66, and the value of the silk to £170.—*Devonshire Chronicle.*

The principal loss of lives caused by the wanton attack of the Americans on Tobacco, was among the women and children. A whole family was destroyed by the explosion of one shell.

The *New York Journal of Commerce* says, that a number of counterfeit half dollars are in circulation both in the States and Canada, of the beautiful federal devices, and lettered on the edge. The metal stands aqua fortis well, but is duller in sound, though nearly as hard as silver. They may be detected by a feeling and a look of greasiness.

CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURES.—It appears from recent statistics, that there are in the state of Connecticut, 130 cotton mills, 123 woollen mills, 37 paper mills, 187 tanneries, 6 carpet factories, 32 cloak factories, 323 coach and wagon factories, besides factories for the manufacture of sewing silk, pins, machinery, and Yankee notions of every description.

A WINDFALL.—Thomas Keaf, an Irishman, employed as a laboring hand on the Housatonic Railroad, last week received intelligence, in authentic shape, that he was the inheritor of an estate in the emerald isle, to the amount of £13,000, or \$60,000. After reading the letter, Thomas picked up his old coat, it is said, and gave it a sling as far as he could off the dock.

PROUS.—A Quebec paper advertises a trotting-match to come off "immediately after divine service!" Morals must be in a high state of cultivation in the British Provinces!—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

DREADFUL STEAM BOAT COLLISION: Loss of Life.—The steamer Sultana, about seven miles below Natchez, at two o'clock, a.m., on the 21st ultimo, unfortunately came in collision with the steamer Maria. The bow of the Sultana striking the Maria opposite her boilers, throwing them out of their place, and breaking the connection pipe, causing her to sink in some five minutes; the water coming up within some two feet of her cabin floor. It is believed that there were from twenty-five to thirty persons drowned or lost; mostly white hands belonging to the Maria, including the first clerk and the third engineer; there were eighteen or twenty severely scalded, the most of whom must die. None were injured on the Sultana.

THE OUTRAGES AT NAUVOO.—Extract from a private letter to the editor of the *Tribune*, dated Illinois, Nov. 5, 1846:—Governor Ford is now at Nauvoo. That city and county is suffering under the effects of the lawless movements which have been carried on there for the last few years. I was there two days after the mob entered the city, and a more desolate-looking place was never seen. Out of probably 2500 houses, not more than 40 or 50 seemed to be occupied.

The *Boston Courier* states that three young gentlemen—Messrs. Potts, Collamore, and French—who were drowned by the wreck of the Atlantic, were all engaged in marriage to young ladies in New York. All were just opening in life with fair prospects and excellent characters, beloved and esteemed by all who knew them.

EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY.—There is a woman now living at Moscow, N. Y., who is 158 years old.

It is said that the sister of Potter, who was hanged at Connecticut for murder, desired that she might be executed in his place. The love of a sister is pure and holy.

A case is now pending in Mississippi in which an attempt is made to enforce the law of that State, which requires that a man shall pay the debts of each individual whom he kills in a duel.

SIGNALS.—A few days since, the transmission of messages upon the New York telegraph line was suspended for several hours, which, upon an inspection of the wires in the vicinity of the city, was found to have been caused by the following curious incident:—A large owl was found suspended from the wires, three miles above the inclined plane, with its talons entangled among them, the copper wire having been twisted round the iron cords of the western line. The owl was dead when discovered, and it is supposed that he had lighted upon the iron wire, and, while in that position, the other was blown against him, and a connexion being thus formed, he then received a shock of the fluid, which deprived him of life, or so crippled him, that in his flutings he became entangled in the wires. The removal of the defunct owl, and its suspension from the wires, enabled the renewal of the communications between the two cities.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

EGYPT.—The Nile had risen twenty-four feet, and made great ravages. Ibrahim and Abbas Pacha had gone into the province of Schartrie, where the flood had done great damage, the embankments being swept away. All the boats, both at Alexandria and Cairo, have been seized by government, to transport the materials necessary for repairing the embankments. The harvest of maize was entirely destroyed, and that of cotton much damaged. More than six villages were flooded, and if the waters did not subside, it was feared that Lower Egypt would be converted into one immense lake.

CHINA.—Intelligence from China comes down to the 25th July, but it is not important. A rather serious affray had occurred at Canton, between the Chinese and residents, in which some of the former lost their lives. The affair, however, by the prompt assistance rendered by the authorities, and especially by the Danish vessels in harbour, was soon put down. All the British troops have now been withdrawn from Chusan, and the Island has been given over in terms of the treaty.

PRODUCE PRICES CURRENT—MONTREAL, Dec. 12, 1846.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.		
ASHES, Pots, per cwt	22	0	a	22	6	PEASE,	4	6	a	0	0
Pearls,	22	0	a	22	6	BEER, Prime Mess,					
FLOUR, Canada Superfine, per brl.						per brl. 200lbs.	47	6	a	0	0
156 lbs.			Nominal			Prime,	42	6	a	00	0
Do. Fine,			Do.			Prime Mess, per tierce, 30 lbs.	00	0	a	0	0
Do. Sour,	00	0	a	00	0	PORT, Mess, per brl.					
Do. Middlings, ..			none			200lbs.	72	6	a	75	0
Indian Meal, 168lb.	15	0	a	00	0	Prime Mess,	55	0	a	60	0
Oatmeal, brl. 221lb.	25	0	a	00	0	Prime,	50	0	a	52	6
GRAIN, Wheat U.C.						Cargo,	40	0	a	00	0
Best, 60lbs. ...	5	0	a	5	3	BUTTER, per lb. ...	0	7	a	0	7 1/2
Do. L.C. per min.	0	0				CHEESE, Am. 100lb	30	0	a	40	0
BARLEY, Minot, ...	3	0	a	3	3	LARD, per lb.	0	5	a	0	6
OATS, " " " "			do.			TALLOW, per lb. ...	0	6	a	0	6 1/2

PROSPECTUS OF SECOND VOLUME

OF THE

MONTREAL WITNESS
WEEKLY REVIEW & FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Second Volume will begin on the first Monday of January next, and be conducted substantially as heretofore, viz., in five departments.

1. Original articles and Communications.
2. Review.
3. Editorial Department.
4. Miscellany.
5. News.

The aim being to furnish a literary and religious newspaper for general circulation, party politics and sectarian discussions will be, as heretofore, excluded.

Each number will be embellished with a wood cut.

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