

rain poured down, causing as much consternation as would a snow-storm in Havana; the fragile roofs confessed themselves vanquished by their unexpected enemy. The water rushed uninterruptedly through the fragile defences; the accumulated filth of centuries was filtered through on the velvet carpets, the silken curtains and the ornate furniture of the old palaces. The church bell tolled out the plegaria, or the prayer to heaven for a cessation of the dire invasion; the people begged the elements to change their attack; even an earthquake would have been hailed as a relief to such an affliction. But the heavens seemed pitiless. About one o'clock in the morning the deluge ceased, and then the miserable inhabitants of the city found that there was no rest, no comfort for them in their dripping beds. The damage is two fold. The public health has been seriously endangered. Physicians say that colds and coughs are unprecedentedly general, and no place in the world is more fatal for lung sufferers than Lima. The injury to household goods is stupendous. Many walls were undermined and fell to the ground, burying all beneath the debris. All, fortunately, does not imply a loss of life. In one establishment alone, that of one of the most wealthy bankers of the city, thirty thousand dollars' worth of sumptuous furniture was utterly ruined. The palace of Justice, where the supreme and superior courts hold their sittings, was converted into a lake. The great library was drenched from the top to the bottom shelves. Many inestimable volumes of manuscript relating to the early history of Peru are now but masses of worthless pulp. The streets were intransitable.

A Leap Into the Rapids.

The Montreal Gazette has an account of a suicide committed a few days ago by a passenger who leaped from a steamer into the "Rapids" in the River St. Lawrence. The passenger was standing on deck, a little apart from the rest and seemingly engaged, like them in watching the current. Suddenly he drew himself up to his full length, threw his arms aloft, and, raising a loud cry sprang forward into the water. He sank like lead, but soon emerged again and made a struggle, whether spasmodic or otherwise for his life. Those who were nearest to him immediately rushed forward to the side of the steamer over which he had gone, and gave the alarm. It took only a moment to decide that there was no means of rescuing the unfortunate man. None of the boats could be lowered, because none could live in such a tide. Neither could the steamer herself render any assistance, because being so near the rapids, it was not safe for her to slow her engines, or to execute any lateral movement. The poor man had therefore to be left to his fate; and he went down in sight of all the passengers. He rose to the surface a second time, only to remain a moment, and sank to appear no more. The man was a cabin passenger, of very gentlemanly appearance, and supposed to hail from Cleveland, Ohio. He was tall, of dark complexion, and well dressed.

His satchel, the only article belonging to him, on being opened, was found to contain half a dozen shirts, some socks, handkerchiefs and other effects, but nothing whatever to lead to his identification. It was surmised by some that he was intoxicated, but the more general belief is that he was laboring under mental aberration.

Attacked by Sharks.

On the 28th ult., while a party of fishermen were hauling their nets at the mouth of Chester River, in Chesapeake Bay, twenty miles from Baltimore, they were attacked by several sharks. They made all haste to reach their boats, but before one of them, James Green, could reach it, he was seized by a shark and one leg so nearly bitten through that it hung to his body by shreds of flesh and bone. His companions rowed towards him and tore him from the mouth of the savage fish in an almost dying condition. He was brought to the city and his leg amputated; but it is scarcely possible that he can live.

The San Francisco "Commercial Herald" says that there are 25,000 Angora goats in California from half-blood to near five eighths, and that in a few years there will be 1,000,000.



HARBOR GRACE, AUG. 27, 1873.

In consequence of prevailing high winds and scarcity of bait little has been done with the fish in this neighborhood during the past week. The fishery about Bonavista continues good, and by recent advices from Trinity, we are happy to learn that an improvement in the fishery has lately been experienced in that quarter.

The children of the Wesleyan Sunday School held their annual picnic at Alexandra Park on Saturday. The day was delightfully fine, and, thanks to the ample preparations made by the superintendent and teachers, the children—numbering about two hundred and fifty—were enabled to enjoy themselves to their entire satisfaction.

Yesterday the children of the Episcopal Sunday Schools were treated by their teachers and friends to an evening's enjoyment at Mr. Thomas Godden's farm. The affair was highly interesting to the children and heartily appreciated by all present.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[FOR THE HARBOR GRACE STAR.]

Temperance.

It is not that there is any extraordinary tendency in this community to indulge in intoxicating liquors that induces the writer to expatiate on the evils accruing from intemperate habits, and hold up the magnanimous cause of Total Abstinence. No! in fact our people are as a class daily improving in habits of industry and sobriety; therefore, my present aim is merely to advance a few words to such as have not yet denounced forever the accursed inn in liquid form, that deprives man alike of reason and of life.

It is a sad and melancholy fact that there yet exists an amount of drunkenness by no means enviable, therefore it is the duty of all true Christians to battle with the hydra-headed monster in whatever shape he assumes, and feeling that the cause is just, union in the crusade cannot but in the end bring about a glorious victory.

Much credit may be ascribed to temperance societies for their successful and untiring efforts in ameliorating the condition of society, and it is very gratifying to witness the rapidity with which a new and noble structure is being raised in our town to the interest and furtherance of Total Abstinence. Oh! that I had moral suasion enough, an invincible something that would rescue from the mighty grasp of surreptitious and seductive alcohol hundreds of our youth prior to their becoming enamoured of its soul-destroying influences, before misery, shame, or remorse attach to the rising generation of our race.

It has been, and often is, very lucidly made apparent that the greater number of crimes committed are attributable either directly or indirectly to the use of strong drink. Some there are who say it is not the use but the abuse of strong drink that leads to crime. That logic is unreasonable; an imbecile argument, for where there is no use there cannot be abuse. It is therefore apparent that to abuse, there must first be a use, a use leading to abuse, an abuse leading to every species of crime.

What young man can say, "I will never abuse?" Yet it is an invariable assertion made by the beginner. Alas! how soon in nearly every case does the stinging element gain the mastery, and if moral courage is not strong enough to rescue from the certain abyss of misery before him, he is swept away, and joins the throng whose deglutitions are made matter of boating instead of shame.

It therefore particularly behoves the young to studiously avoid contact with this deplorable essence of hell—for in no other way than a white berth from it, and assistance from Almighty God, obtainable by prayer, can any one be said to build upon a rock.

It were needless to dwell upon or enumerate the miseries attendant on either the use or abuse of alcohol, these being, alas! but too well known and apparent to all.

In conclusion, let us hope that the Temperance Societies amongst us, aided by Christian friends, may be the instruments, under Divine Providence, of rescuing thousands from eternal ruin. God speed them in their noble, just and philanthropic cause. Let no man rail at them—no man can. Let those who are now, so to say, in a state of alcoholic fluidity assume a quality of firmness, compatible with a power able to resist, denounce, and openly condemn the intoxicating cup, and happiness will ever be their experience.

CONSCIENCE.

Aug. 25, 1873.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

Sirs,—In accordance with the promise made in my first communication, I have carefully watched the progress of events connected with the Committee appointed on the occasion of the big picnic in Alexandra Park. Nothing, however, has yet transpired to lead to the belief that the Committee has succeeded in obtaining the desired information. It will, doubtless, be gratifying to some of your readers to learn that arrangements have been effected for the holding of an "indignation meeting" in the above named Park, on the first favourable evening. I have not only received an invitation to be present, but also a copy of the programme made out for the occasion. The meeting will be presided over by Miss A., who will open the proceedings with a speech commendatory of the recent conduct of certain masculine members of the community in opposing the efforts of the ladies to make marriage compulsory. Speeches will also be delivered by several other ladies; after which a vote of thanks will be given to the Standard's correspondent "Old Quill"—who will ever after be known by the ladies as the "Knight of the Sorrowsful Figure!" The "Old Quill" will then advance to the front and enumerate the numerous deeds of daring performed by him in defence of the ladies—how he has been exposed to "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," maltreated, despised, exiled, "tossed in a blanket," &c., ad infinitum; and all for the sake of the ladies. The "fair creatures" will weep rivers of tears, and promise the sufferer that his name shall be handed down to posterity as the "Don Quixote" of the nineteenth century. They will then present him with a package of "Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powder," and request him to take a small quantity whenever afflicted with *caecoths scribendi*, with the assurance that it is strongly recommended for *donkeys* as well as horses. After which the meeting will be brought to a close.

Yours, &c.,

AN AMATEUR QUILL DRIVER.
Aug. 26.

Latest Despatches.

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Gladstone presided at a musical festival at Mald yesterday.

The American yacht "Fanshine" is at Cows, from New York—19 days out. She experienced two heavy gales, and was hove to two days.

The Manchester Ironmasters anticipate a strike.

Cholera in Bosnia. Three more petrolists have been condemned to death at Seville.

The Carlists force amounts to 25 strong battalions.

A cable is being laid between Lisbon and Rio.

OTTAWA, 21.—Royal Commission in session this morning; no names of witnesses or other information yet transpired.

The Halifax "Express" is of opinion that the evidence of corruption on the part of Lord Dufferin's Cabinet may be briefly disposed of. It is simply microscopic in its nature. Besides the ravings of the opposition it consists only of the charges of that man of Chicago whose name has become a by-word of disgrace; who betrayed his partner and sold his private correspondence.

NEWS ITEMS.

WHO IS REUTER.—Reuter, now Baron Reuter, is one of the mysteries as well as one of the great successes of the day. He is a small Hebrew, about fifth-eight, but no one knows anything of his early history. Some fourteen years ago he haunted newspaper offices. His sole object was to benefit the press.

"No, I assure you upon my word of honour,"—here he laid his hand on the breast and a low bow—"I greatly admire ze London press. It iz ze vun great press of ze vorlt. I vant no money. Just put my name. Just zay ze despatch comes from Mr. Reuter. I shall be entirely satisfied." The persuasive notes were listened to. They produced their effect. Telegraphing was expensive, and newspaper profits were small. The despatches were used for probably a month. Then another visit. The post was in and the shrewd little man was safe.

"Were ze little despatches of gute? Zey were! I am delighted." I care far nutting but to please ze press. Should he continue them? He should be happy and in the meantime it was a waste of good money for the — or — to be paying for despatches from their own correspondents. Why throw money so away? So the special telegrams were stopped. Another month, and this time there is more of confidence in the eye of the little man. He knows his — like to make an arrangement for one year? They see what his despatches are worth. They must see what a saving was made. The other papers were all accepting an annual engagement, etc. Ultimately the engagement was made. Then the country papers came into it—not merely the daily papers, but also the weekly papers who concluded with him for one day's despatches. The whole press in a short space of time became, as far as its foreign news is concerned, "Reuterized."

The terms of his full subscription have been raised from £600 to £1,200 yearly. Private subscribers, exchanges, townhalls, statesmen, foreign ministers, and a host now subscribe to Reuter. He has coined money. Reuter's despatches constitute an accomplished fact. Their originator is now a baron. He married a lady of some beauty. He has the best opera box; his horses are the wonder of the row; he has a own house, a sea-side house, and a country-house. His manner is that of a band despot. He smiles with a sort of patronizing smile, as though he were keeping his greatness back.

EARTHQUAKE AT SOUTHPORT.—A distant shock of earthquake was felt at Southport on Wednesday evening at about a quarter-past ten o'clock. It caused considerable commotion, the first impression being that an explosion had occurred in some of the collieries in the neighbourhood of Skebmersdale, the sound of the first shock apparently coming from that direction. The descriptions of the shock are various. Some persons represent it as resembling the sound of a heavy weight falling on the floor and shaking the house. To others it seemed like the violently shutting of a door in the adjoining house. There were four shocks altogether, the first being much the loudest. A long interval elapsed between the others. Although the hour was late, many of the inhabitants left their houses to ascertain the cause. There was an absence of any undulatory motion similar to that

which accompanied the heavy shocks which visited the same neighbourhood, in common with others in the district, about two years since. On that occasion the kitchenware was removed from the shelves.

The Steamship Virginius.

LATEST ADVENTURE OF THE BLOCK-ADE RUNNER IN CUBAN WATERS.

KINGSTON, Jam., July 18, 1873.

It had been known that the steamship Virginius was lying in the port of Colon, closely watched by a Spanish steamer of war, and that Spanish steamer as closely watched by the United States steamer Kansas; that the Spaniard had threatened to sink the Virginius if she attempted to leave this port, and the American promised to do as much for the Spaniard if he molested the Virginius in any way. After listening to much "tall talk" from the Spanish commander, whose craft was moored alongside the Virginius, Rafael Quesada, who commanded the latter, caused anchor to be weighed, and steamed out of port, amid the repeated cheers of the populace, who thronged the sea shore to witness the upshot of the movement. But the commander of the Bazan calmly walked up and down the deck and watched the Virginius clear out of sight as he cooled his face by means of a palmetto fan. He made no effort to pursue her, although he knew full well she was stored with Remingtons and needle-guns and all else that would be serviceable to a people engaged fighting for liberty, as the Cubans now are against the Spaniards.

The steamer which brought this news to Kingston had hardly settled at her mooring when the Virginius herself arrived. The Spanish Consul immediately telegraphs the important news to Cuba, and is apprised that a Spanish gunboat would shortly be despatched to Kingston. In due course the Cheruco arrived and, as if to repeat the farce that had been played at Colon, dropped close alongside the Virginius. It is said some threats were used, which, having been reported, called forth a despatch from the United States Consul, followed up by a caution from the British Commodore, in consequence of which the Cheruco put to sea yesterday afternoon.

The intention, it is said, is to intercept the Virginius and prevent her landing her store of arms and ammunition on the Cuban coast. But in this the Spaniards have pretermitted their opportunity, the Virginius having already eluded their vigilance and made good her intention of landing the expedition—the fourth successful one directed by the able young General, Rafael Quesada. It appears that on leaving Colon she proceeded direct to the coast of Cuba, where she arrived on the 6th of July. It was at dusk on Saturday evening, and the insurgent outposts being present to give the assurance that all was clear, the business of landing commenced at once and was kept up with spirit all through the night. By daylight on Sunday morning all was complete and the steamer cleared out for Jamaica, having put the insurgents in possession of the munitions of war, besides a large quantity of medicines, clothing, &c.

So favorable were the chances of the expedition that General Quesada had time to communicate with his compatriots on shore, and even receive letters from his brother and other friends of the cause who are now in New York. These letters, as well as an important correspondence belonging to the Spaniards, which fell into the hands of the insurgents after a recent engagement and which it has been decided to publish, will be forwarded to New York by the Claribel to-day.

An interview with General Quesada showed him to be a young man of considerable intelligence and of unmistakable courage and enterprise.

The first detachment of the army of occupation in France arrived at Berlin on the 6th inst., and met with a popular ovation at the railway station. We also hear from Berlin that a crisis produced by over-speculation is prevailing at Posen, and that four great banking houses have failed. One banker has committed suicide, another has been sent to a lunatic asylum, and it is expected that more than one hundred persons will be financially ruined. There appears to be no doubt of the presence of cholera in Berlin.—It is stated that twenty-five cases of cholera, with twenty-three deaths, have been reported during the last few days to the Board of Health, but these numbers, it is thought, may be overstated.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN'S

ENTERED.

- Aug. 19.—Ranger, (s.s.) Jones, Greenock—J & W Stewart.
- 20.—Lady Mary, Deroy, Oporto—Harvey & Co.
- Lavinia, McKenzie, Liverpool—J & W Stewart.
- Charles Tupper, Wilkie, Boston—Clift, Wood & Co.
- Swell, Lanzer, Figueira—W & G Rendell.
- Ida, Elliott, Oporto—Capt. Walters.
- Una, Oats, Figueira—Bowring Bros.