

to-day, the Colonel Lamb. They say she is very fast, I cannot but regret that the whole of this pretty fleet of steamers is so soon to leave our port for their old quarters at Nassau and Bermuda. This of course they will do when the fever, already abating, shall have died out completely in those ports. Being now an Alderman, I thought fit to stroll out this evening to see if any disturbance was going on. Wife did not respond to the proposal, but the call of duty must be obeyed, so went out. B—whom I met at the Club, told me that some ill-conditioned men of the Galatea had originated the row, by endeavouring to pay off some imagined grudge of last year upon the military police. This may or may not be true, certain it is however, that some sailor or sailors were brought before the Magistrates for a breach of the peace, and unlawful use of the knife. I was much struck this evening, by the conduct of our fine police when on duty. Their powers of "moving on" small boys, seems very great. As an Alderman, I am proud of our city police force. The naval piquets appeared to me small, compared to those furnished by the garrison. Wife and the girls insist on being photographed. So promise to take them to Parish on Friday.

Thursday, Oct. 6th.—To the flower and fruit show with my family. Was particularly struck with the small number of visitors present. Can it be that people won't pay a shilling to see nothing? Or can it be that our towns-people are indifferent to the progress of Agriculture in the Province? Think that the latter must be the cause of the scanty attendance, for the show of fruit and vegetables though small, was very good. The duties of the judges must be very light, competition being but limited. Everything seemed to have won a prize, and wife wished she had sent a rotten pumpkin—just for the honor of the thing. Thought some of the prize specimens would figure well at any show in the world, whilst others would not win a prize in the desert of Sahara. Amongst the former remarked, the Apples from Windsor and Kentville, Duchess D'Angouleme Pears (which reminded me of the Channel Islands) and some very fine Ribston Pippin Apples. As this latter fruit is said to be dying out in England, are glad to see it *redivivus* here. Some of the grapes exhibited were a disgrace, not so much to their growers, as to those who allowed them to be shown in public. And yet I see they talk seriously of growing the vine on a large scale in Canada. Some hot-house grapes I admired much. The vegetables were all a credit to the country, except the celloery, which seemed to aim at length without breadth. Fancy that the hurried growth has something to do with this. Celloery in Europe is a much later vegetable. Turnips and Swedes very fine. Wife said she thought the merits of the Squash family must puzzle the judges more than any other. Thought as too, but drew her from the spot, for fear of further reference to the one we had left unexhibited at home. During the show a funeral passed outside the gardens. The band ceased playing, and I remembered that to-day, one of our oldest and most respected citizens was carried to the grave. Mr. Black belonged to a class of men who, if we did not take care, will soon become even scarcer than they now are amongst us.

Friday, Oct. 7th.—Was delighted to see last night in the Reporter, that some steps have been taken to improve the dwellings of our poor. The names of the men on the Committee, are a guarantee that whatever money may be entrusted to them will not be squandered, and the cause they have taken up recommends itself to all those who like myself are charitably inclined. Took the girls to be photographed at Mr. Parish's gallery. Eudocia insisted on being taken in a riding habit. As she never possessed or mounted a horse in her life, I suggested that such a costume was unsuited to the occasion. "Oh no!" she had borrowed the habit from Miss F—, and would be done in it. Natty on the contrary wanted to be taken as a nun. This of course I could not allow, as the girl before her disappointment by E, was the gayest of our party. Postponed the whole business, for I could hardly venture in the street with a habited girl on one arm, and a false nun on the other. Wife sided with Natty, and said that though Eudocia's idea of the riding habit was vulgar in the extreme, some allowance should be made for Anastasia whose lacerated heart (fiddlesticks) could ill bear opposition. In great wrath to the Club, and late to bed.

Extracts.

RUSSIAN DESIGNS ON AUSTRALIA.

Nobody can deny that going to war has its disadvantages; on the other hand, it is also a rich mine of experience. America has been for the last four years making a very expensive experiment for the benefit, as Mr LINCOLN says, of "whom it may concern;" and, as nobody is exempt from the possibility of going to war, America may be said to have been labouring for the benefit of the whole human race. But that advantage which America has derived from the actual prosecution of hostilities, it has been our good fortune, in one instance at least, to obtain without any hostilities at all. It is generally supposed that we gained nothing from our contemplated intervention in

the affairs of Poland; but this, from information which has reached us, we now see to be an error. We did not, indeed, save Poland, nor gather any rich harvest of diplomatic laurels; but we have learnt what is the first thing we have to expect if we enter into actual hostilities with Russia.

We are in possession of information which comes to us in very authentic shape, that Russia fully expected the breaking out of war as the result of her correspondence with the English and French Governments last year, and she was resolved that this time at least she would do something better with her fleet than suffer it to be cooped up behind the defences of Cronstadt or sunk ingloriously in the harbour of Sebastopol. She had studied with much attention, and apparently no little profit, the tactics of the Confederates in the present Civil War. She had seen how much injury a very small force can inflict on a very large and flourishing commerce, and though she probably did not anticipate that she could gain, in spite of the navy of England, successes as decisive as those achieved by the Alabama and other Confederate cruisers, she still might very reasonably think that she could strike a blow which, though it might not succeed in crippling the commercial superiority of England, would nevertheless inflict great discredit on her arms and serious damage on her commerce. She well knew that after war had been declared her fleet could not hope long to keep the seas against such a force as England and France could bring against it. She had chosen a vulnerable point, and on that so soon as war was declared she was determined to make a swoop. For this purpose instructions had been issued to the Russian Admirals on the American and Californian coasts, directing them to leave their respective ports by different routes for a common place of rendezvous, to be ascertained in mid ocean by latitude and longitude. The fleet thus assembled was to hold itself in readiness, in the event of a war with England, to bear down on the Australian colonies, Melbourne was to be the first place attacked, then Hobart-town in Tasmania, then Adelaide, then Sydney, then New Zealand. The force that was to be assembled for the purpose was fully adequate to the service required of it. The ships that were to be detached from the New York station would have mustered 156 guns, and those from Japan and California would have carried altogether 43 guns; the number of seamen was 2,971, and there were 127 officers. The vessels were principally armed with 68-pounders, but the Admirals had orders to obtain from New York whatever rifled guns they might require. Of course there is nothing in this story, true as we believe it to be, to excite in the minds of the people of this country any sort of ill feeling against Russia. If England will go to war with powerful nations, she must expect that they will choose the weakest point they can find, whether the cause of the quarrel be an idea, a nationality, or a sentiment. The plan seems to have been skilfully conceived, and was, no doubt, far better than the old one of treating your fleet as something that is to be laid up in lavender, to be protected and taken care of instead of being employed for the purpose of injuring the enemy. If we had been foolish enough to be drawn into a war with Russia for such a chimæra as the regeneration of Poland we should not have had the slightest right to complain, though she had made us feel the evils of the conflict in the most sensitive place and in the severest manner.

We trust that this little disclosure will be a useful lesson in many ways. It ought to teach a certain portion of the public that the changes which have taken place in the art of war will not permit England, as heretofore, to indulge her taste for military glory and liberal Continental politics with the same impunity as she could in the glorious days before steam and rifled cannon had done so much to equalize the weak with the strong. If we inflict injuries, we must make up our minds also to receive them. Our commerce will not, we believe, be swept from the ocean, nor will our colonies be conquered from us; but we must expect a very serious rise in the rate of insurance, and admit at once our inability to defend at the same moment the coast of Africa, Australia, New Zealand, British Columbia, and Canada, against an enemy whom steam shall have rendered ubiquitous and invisible. This intelligence will no doubt be received with great interest in the Australian colonies. There is at this moment much ill feeling there with regard to the transportation question. A party is formed which proposes to send transported