



# The Volunteer Review

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Col. Fletcher, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General, accompanied by Lady Harriet Fletcher and family, left Ottawa on the 24th for Portland for passage to England in the *Polynesian*.

A special cable telegram to the *Toronto Globe* says—"It is stated that a Brigade of Artillery and one regiment of the line, and probably the 14th Hussars, will be sent to Canada to drill the volunteer militia."

A meeting of the Canada Central Railway Board of Directors was held in Ottawa on the 23rd inst., when the contract with the Government for the extension of that line from Douglass to the eastern end of Lake Nipissing was signed.

We regret to learn of the destruction, on the morning of the 24th, of the Kingston Court House. At about half-past 11 o'clock a fire was discovered in the west end of the Court House. The alarm was immediately sounded and the firemen were promptly on the spot, but the very high wind which prevailed all morning, frustrated all their exertions. The flames were rapidly carried the entire length of the building, and so rapidly did the destroying element do its work, that at noon there was nothing left of that once magnificent and costly structure, but the outside walls. The loss is computed at \$80,000, and the amount of insurance at \$15,000.

A Montreal telegram says: The papers say that navigation will not be open before the 10th of May. The canals are solid in many places, and the ice on the St. Lawrence is unusually thick and firm. A flood is considered almost a certainty. The Customs authorities are preparing for it, removing goods from the cellars.

A hog, weighing 900 lbs, and measuring 11 feet from his snout to his tail, was sold in Cobourg on the 24th inst.

*Herapath's Railway Journal* of the 6th inst., says: "We are glad to be enabled to announce that the war of rates between the Grand Trunk and Great Western of Canada Companies is at an end, and virtually an arrangement has been concluded under which equal rates will be charged by both companies at the seven competing points. This sensible arrangement will of course be beneficial to both parties. It takes effect at once."

The Legislative assembly of Nova Scotia has passed a resolution in favour of the Eastern Railway extension without a division. The resolution allots 300,000 acres of Crown land in Cape Breton, and the minerals contained in half that land, and a subsidy of \$50,000 per mile.

The funeral of John Mitchell took place on the 23rd at Newry, Ireland. His remains were placed in the Church yard, notwithstanding that exciting placards had been distributed. Over 10,000 people attended the funeral.

Sir M. H. Beach introduced in the British House of Commons, on the 3rd inst., a bill continuing, with modifications, the provisions of the Peace Preservation and other repressive acts in Ireland, stating that the powers conferred by those acts would be, as they had hitherto been, exercised with the greatest moderation. Lord Hartington accepted the measure on the responsibility of the Government. - Mr. Shaw and other Irish members did not resist the introduction of the bill, but promised the strongest opposition in its future stages.

In a letter written to a correspondent in Dublin, Mr. Bright expresses his opinion that, Irish independence being impossible, the agitation in its favour is wicked and unwise, while the House Rule movement he regards as equally impracticable and still more absurd.

On the 3rd instant the British House of Commons rejected, by a vote of 194 to 151, the "Universities Degrees to Women" bill, the object of which was to give the Scotch universities power to admit female students to degrees, and to remove the stamp of illegality which the decisions of the law courts has cast upon the former proceedings of the University of Edinburgh in this respect.

Dean Stanley and sixty clergymen of the Church of England were on the platform at Messrs. Moody and Sankey's revival meeting in London on the evening of the 23rd.

Mr. J. P. Smyth has given notice in the British House of Commons that on an early day he will ask leave to introduce a bill to repeal the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland.

The bill for the amendment of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act, passed its second reading on the 22nd inst., in the House of Commons, by a majority of five votes only.

News from China to the 17th Feb.: The Hong Kong and Shanghai bank is reported to have lost upwards of one million dollars during 1874.—The Chinese pirates are becoming very active off the coast of Shanghai.—An insurrection broke out in Tien Tar, Kiang Po, in which 10,000 farmers were engaged. The outbreak was in consequence of an increased tax on rice. A body of 5,000 troops failed to subdue, and the increased tax was removed.—On January 22nd a mob attacked the laborers on the telegraph line from Foo Choo to Amoy at the town of Kwang Fas, and destroyed the poles, interrupting the work.

The late Chief Justice Green, of Rhode Island, has bequeathed \$75,000 to the Methodist Episcopal Sunday schools in the State.

A cable telegram from Yokohama, Japan, of 26th ult., says: There was a great fire in Osaka on the 7th February. Twelve hundred buildings were destroyed, including temples and schools. Several lives were lost. There was an alarming fire in Yokohama on the 6th of February, and in Yeddo they are of nightly occurrence.

The purpose of the Japanese Government to restore coast fortifications, communicated through the associated press in a despatch in November last, has just been officially announced. As usual remonstrances have been made by the foreigners, but without effect. All important points hereafter are to be made ready for defense. Houses were destroyed, and the foreign settlement was endangered, but escaped serious injury.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that Gen. Cabrera has organized a staff of twenty Spanish officers, for the purpose of communicating with the Carlists and obtaining adhesion to his programme. The members of the staff enter Spain every day. There is no doubt that the premature publication of Cabrera's first manifesto declaring for Alfonso has greatly marred the success of the movement. It is rumored that Mendini has deserted Don Carlos and arrived in Bayonne; also that Liznaga has been arrested on suspicion of treason.

A conspiracy, for the assassination of General Cabrera, who recently abandoned the Carlist cause, has been frustrated.

Don Carlos has issued a decree calling into military service all males in the Navarrese Provinces over 18 years of age.

Minister Buffet on the 24th in an address to the staff of officials of the Department of the Interior, dwelt with emphasis on the fact that the present ministry is essentially Conservative.

The *Pekin Gazette* states that the King of Barmah offers to send a tribute in acknowledgment of the Chinese supremacy. This ceremony was discontinued two centuries ago.

The Duchess de Medina-Celi is said to possess a pearl necklace which is a family heirloom. It is composed of twelve or fourteen strings of large and beautiful pearls, and is valued at \$400,000. When she wears it, the upper string fits around her throat, while the lower falls below her waist.

The movement for the higher education of women is making rapid progress in Italy. The Princess Margaret of Italy has placed herself at the head of it, and attends every week a reunion in Rome for its encouragement. Her example has been followed by many Italian ladies of rank.