Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] "The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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Queen Victoria and the Bible.

An African Prince once sent costly gifts to Queen Victoria, requesting her in return to tell him the secret of England's greatness. The Queen gave the Ambassador a beautifully bound copy of the Bible, and said, "Tell him that this is the secret of England's greatness."

Rich gifts were borne from o'er the wave,
Where Afric's summer smiles;
A treasure rare the monarch gave,
The Queen of Britain's isles.

He saw the stately palace walls
With pictured beauty rare,
And stood within the royal halls
A wondering stranger there.

"Oh, tell me how our wealth may change
To splendors such as these,
And I will bear the secret strange
To lands beyond the seas.

"Our skies are fair—our mountain streams
In golden ripples flow;
Oh, bright the crystal current gleams
Where diamonds flash below!

"The sea breeze wins a breath of balm
In summer's sultry hours
When sweeping o'er the fragrant palm,
Or floating 'mid the flowers—

"The cocoa shadows where we rest—
The acacia and the vine—
Oh, why is not our land as blest
As this fair realm of thine?"

She counted not her armies o'er,
Who, proud her rule to own,
The English flag in triumph bore
To honor and renown;

Nor her proud ships whose spreading sails
Swept ocean's farthest foam,
While Southern winds and northern gales
Were wafting treasures home:—

She had a volume richly bound
Its golden clasps between,
And thought not of the wealth around
That shone for England's Queen.

"Take this; those precious leaves unfold,
And find what gems are there;
There's wealth beyond the purest gold
Within its pages fair.

"Tis this makes blest our English homes,
Where peace and quiet reign;
This is the star to him who roams
Upon the land or main.

"This is the secret of our fame;
To praise the King of Kings—
Adoring his most holy name,
Our land its homage brings.

"Tis he that gives the wealth we win,
His word that makes us free—
Our life and blessings it hath been—
Thus may it be to thee."

POSTING A LETTER.

BY EMERSON BENNET.

Through the introduction of a mutual friend, I became acquainted with a gentleman whom it suits my purpose to call Henry St. Clair. He was a man of means and elegant leisure was fond of literature and the fine arts and had his country seat upon the bank of one of our most beautiful and romantic rivers. While strolling through his delightful grounds, and admiring a hundred different objects he said to me:

'And who would suppose the foundation of all this was laid in the simple act of posting a letter?'

I looked at him inquiringly.

'Did it ever occur to you,' he went on, 'that if at the beginning a stone had been dropped into the fountain or source of a mighty river the stream might have been so changed as to have flown through other valleys and been the pride and glory of another region? So it is with the fortunes of man. A trifle sometimes changes everything, and shapes a career for good or evil. Much of the happiness or misery of life we owe to some little event of no greater moment than the dropping of a stone into the fountain. My own is case in point. Sit down here, in this little arbor, and I will tell you the brief story.

'My father,' pursued Henery St. Clair, 'died poor, and left my mother with three small children, to struggle along in a trouble some world. I was the eldest and I was nine. My mother laboured hard, and was not unfrequently stinted herself, to give me education and as soon as I was old enough comprehend how much she sacrificed for me, I resolved to assist her in whatever way I could. At thirteen I got a situation as office-boy, which paid me a small stipend, and I improved all my leisure time in study. I was naturally a good penman, and by adding a knowledge of book-keeping and sharply watching for all the chances, I obtained, during the course of a couple of years, the place of an assistant accountant in a large mercantile house.

"'My son,' said my delighted mother, when I had hurried home and told her the news, you seem now to have reached the high-road prosperity, and I hope and pray that you may never leave it. Be diligent, be truthful, be honest, and remember that whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well; always study to please, not only your employers, but all with whom you may come in contact; and when you can do any one a favour, without trespassing upon your duties, never fail to do it: thus will you faithfully serve those who hire you, and raise yourself up many friends.

'I thought her council good, and I made it my rules of action. For two years everything went well, and then my employers failed, and I was thrown out of business. But I did not long remain idle. Through the influence of a gentleman whose friendship I had secured by following the advice of my mother, I next obtained a clerkship in the city Post office. There I remained for seven years—until in fact I left it to go into business for myself. The cause of my leaving it is the little story I set out to relate.

'I had been in the Post Office about three years, when one day, as I was standing at one of the general delivery windows, a stout rustic-looking man— red, heated, and excited —came rushing up, letter in hand, and catching his breath between the words, exclaimed;

"'Will you be kind enough to tell me what time the mail closes that is to go out in the packet Albion?"

'It is closed already, said I, glancing at the time; you are to late by half an hour.

'The man turned deadly pale, and looked as if he was about to faint.'

'Gracious Heaven!' he ejaculated, leaning against the wall for support; 'I have ridden fifty miles since sunset last night, to post this letter, and I am too late at last.'

'Is it of great importance?' I inquired, in a sympathetic tone.

'Yes! yes!' he gasped, glancing at me imploringly, and seemed to catch a ray of hope. Oh, could you——'

'Quick!' I interrupted; 'give me the letter! the mail has not yet gone! prehaps there may be time.

'I almost snatched it from his trembling hand, and darted away with it. I had some trouble in getting it into the proper letter-bag but as a personal favour to me it was done, though another minute would have been too late. The man was waiting for me when I returned, and I shall never forget his eager inquiring look, so full of hope and fear.

'Your letter is mailed,' I said; 'it will go if not already gone.'

'Thank you! God bless you!' he exclaimed with considerable emotion, tears filling his eyes. 'Your name sir, if you please!' he added, reaching in his hand and grasping mine with a fervor there was no mistaking.

'Never mind the name,' I returned, with a light laugh. 'It was only a trifling act, and if it has served you in any way your are welcome to it.'

'Please give me your name,' he rejoined; 'I would like to no it.'

'I wrote it down on a card and handed it to him.

'He read it, took out his pocket-book and put it away carefully; and then, as he again shook my hand at parting said;

'I shall not forget you, Mr. St. Clair.—Not one in thousand would have put himself to so much trouble for a stranger, without any hope of reward. This is a selfish world, sir—a very selfish world—as I have found to my cost. Good bye, sir! I will not take up your time any longer. You have done me a greater favour than you dream of, and I never forget a favour. It may some day be in my power to serve you, and then I shall remember you. Once more, good bye, sir, and God bless you!'

'He walked rapidly away and I never saw him again. I only thought over the matter, to wonder what that letter contained to make its going out in the next English packet (there were no steamships running regularly then as now) of such vital importance, and then it gradually passed out of my mind, and took its place among the thousand trifling incidents that are forgotton.

'The salery of my Post Office clerkship gave me a comfortable living, and when my younger brother had secured a place we managed to put my mother at ease in mind and body. I had been over six years engaged in postal affairs, when one day, to my great surprise, I received a letter dated London, which contained these words:

'If you will send your address and a card, with your name written on it as you were accustomed to write it three or four years ago, you will hear of something to your advantage.'

'This was signed by a name I had never heard of before, with a full superscription for the return letter. Filled with surprise, and all kinds of speculations and conjectures concerning wealthy deceased relatives far removed, of whom I had never had any knowledge, I lost no time in complying with the mysterious request in every particular, and the next packet carried my missive in safety across the great waters. When sufficient time had elapsed for a reply to reach me I became very anxious, and I looke l for the arrival of every English packet with an eagerness little short of an uninsured merchant expecting a valuable cargo.

'Weeks and months passed away, and no news arrived. Then I came to the conclusion that my hand writing had not proved me to be the person required, and that I should never hear any more of the matter—more especially as my mother assured me she had never heard of our having any relatives in Europe—though such a thing might be, as our family, as well as nearly every other in this country, was of European descent, and of course had had ancesters, a parent stem with branches.

'Meantime a friend of mine, a very ingenious person, who had recently patented an invention of great prospective value, came to me and asked me I had any money to invest in a profitable speculation.

'Unfortunately,' said I, 'I have not—it takes all my salary to live in a respectable manner.'

'I am sorry he rejoined, for I would rather have you for a partner than any I know of. There is a fortune in my invention—I know it—but it will take some capital, (from three to five thousand dollars,) to get it properly before the public; and as I have not the means myself, I must unite with some one who has.'

'He then laid before me his plans, and so satisfied me of the success of all his schemes, that I was quite depressed at the fact that I could not join him. Although I really had no prospect of raising the money, I begged him to wait a few days and let me make the trial, which he willingly consented to do. I called upon three different parties, and stated the case, but received only the ordinary regrets that they could not just then accommodate me. One had the amount, he said, lying idle only the week before, but had already invested it in real estate. Another had just agreed to put that amount into the business of a friend, and of course could not break his promise. The third had nothing at his command, and of course expressed more regret than the others. I say of course, because such is the world. Men are generally sorry and sympathetic in the adverse ratio of their power to assist.

'In the meantime my friend had found a man ready to advance the capital and become his partner, in case I should fail to do so; and believing my efforts to be hopeless, after the third refusal, I went round to his office with a sad heart, to tell him not to wait any longer for me. He was not in, and I did not see him that day; and before another day dawned I received my long-looked-for letter.

I opened it with an eager, trembling hand, hoping it might contain some good news, on which to build a future hope. Judge of my surprise and delight, on finding an enclosed draft for £1000, payable to my order. Could it be real and genuine? were not my senses deceiving me? To come, too, just at the moment when, as I believed, five thousand dollars would secure me a fortune, made it seem more like magic than reality.

'With an almost swimming brain, I read the letter accompanying it. The writer began by calling me his dear friend, but warned me I should find the name of a stranger attached to the epistle.

'You may remember, however, the writer went on, 'that somewhere about four years ago, a person came to the post office where you were then a clerk, and inquired of you what time the mail closed that was to go out in the next English packet; that you told him he was already half an hour too late; that you pitied his distress at this announcement, and offered to get his letter posted if possible. You succeeded, and received his tearful thanks, and, at his urgent request, wrote your name for him on a card. I hope you remember all this, because the writer is that individual, and desires to live in your memory, as you ever will in his.

'Now, kind friend,' the epistle proceeded, 'let me tell you of the importance of that letter, and its value to me. I had a rich, unmarried Uncle, who was in a deep decline. He had been told I was dead, and had wilted his vast possessions to other relatives. I heard of this, as it were by accident, and that he was about to sail for the East Indies, never to return. A letter by the next packet might possibly reach him in England. I wrote it and rode fifty miles to mail it; but it would have been too late only for your kindness. It did reach him, however, on the eve of his departure, and caused an important alteration in his will, for I was the only son of a favorite sister. He sailed for India, but died on the passage; and if my letter had missed that packet, he would never have received it. The difference to me would have been a fortune. I was poor then—I am rich now. Will you accept this trifle—not as a reward but a token of friendship—from one who has ever been, and ever will be, grateful. That single minute of time, which you so kindly improved, made the difference of a world to me; and if it is ever in my power to change your fortune for the better, I am yours to command. I would have sent this remembrance sooner, but there has been some litigation, and I have only recently come into possession of my legacy. You will, of course, pardon my having sent for your address and card, to prevent the possibility of a mistake; and my absence in India on the return of your letter, must be my apology for my long delay in communicating with you since.'

'This was the substance of a letter that made the difference of a world to me—for I now had the means of entering into partnership with my friend—and that resulted as you see, in a fortune, and as much happiness as can be found in this sphere of existence. It would be difficult to calculate the changes effected and the persons made happy by that simple posting of a letter; and if we go down to posterity, and consider the destinies altered by that one trifling thing, we shall perceive how great, under Providence, becomes the smallest deed of our lives. It may be the stone in the fountain.'

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., AUG. 28, 1863.

THE GRAND TRUNK AND THE GOVERNMENT.

On Wednesday last Hon. George Brown asked for explanations with regard to certain charges preferred through the columns of the Montreal *Gazette* against three members of the Ministry, viz: Mr. J. S. Macdonald, Mr. Dorion and Mr. Holton. Those gentleman are accused of having virtually offered the Grand Trunk $150 per mile for postal service on condition that the Company would use its influence in favor of the Government in the recent elections at Montreal. The authority given by the *Gazette* for the proposed substantiation of their charges, was Hon. James Ferrier and Mr. C. J. Brydges, those gentleman having kindly given for publication a series of letters and telegrams, which prove, in our opinion, that the Grand Trunk endeavored to inveigle the Government into an increased postal rate, under a promise of *neutrality*, if not of actual support, rather than that advances were made by the Government with a view to bribery. In their explanations concerning these overtures, the gentlemen impeached showed that important telegrams had been suppressed, and denied in warm and indignant terms that the charge was supported by a tittle of evidence, or that a scrap of writing from either of them could be produced to substantiate it. On the contrary they asserted that it was all a scheme concocted between the Grand Trunk men and their old masters, by which, if possible, to break down the present Ministry and bring back the happy-go-lucky "old set." First the Grand Trunk authorities threatened that if the Ministry, as reconstructed, did not at once accede to their demands and at once settle the long-pending disputes with regard to postal service, the Company would use its influence against it. Then, seeing that this course only elicited merited contempt, and that Members of the Government refused to sell themselves in such a nefarious manner, the proposition was so modified as to provide for *neutrality*. Yes, "If the Government were prepared to settle with them at $150 per mile, with a contract for three years from June 2nd, 1863, and dating back to the date of Sydney Smith's report *Mr. Brydges* would be perfectly neutral in the Montreal West election, but he would not undertake to do more than be neutral." The dispatch containing these important words was received from Mr. Brydges, on the day pointed out above, by Mr. James Ferrier and by him forwarded to Hon. J. S. Macdonald. *In the statement published in the Gazette this telegram was dishonestly suppressed.* And this was the neutrality boasted of by the virtuous Grand Trunk people—a neutrality to be purchased at so much per mile! This proposal was likewise refused, Mr. Holton declaring that "the fee simple of the Grand Trunk and *twenty* seats in the House would not induce him to depart from the determination he had previously come to on the subject." What was the upshot of the whole correspondence? Did the Ministry basely bow down before the Grand Trunk influence, and consent to such dictation? No. The offer was spurned, and the consequence was that the whole of the influence wielded by the Company was used in the Montreal West Election *against* the Ministerial candidate, Mr. Young, who, but for such interference, would have been elected.—The secret of the whole charge lies in this, that the Grand Trunk Railway Company knows which set of men is most likely to advance its peculiar interests. It has reason to fear that the present Ministry, with its ideas of economy, cannot be twisted and turned as it would desire, and that its only hope of a return to the good old times is the return to power of the good old Ministry; hence the present *ex parte* statements and cooked-up charges against the Ministry, as represented in the persons of Messrs. J. S. Macdonald, Holton and Dorion. That the Toronto *Leader* should raise the cry of "corruption" is not at all surprising. The evil disposed always desire to bring others down to their own level. We would gladly reproduce the letters, &c, alluded to above, and the whole of the debate on the subject, did our limited space admit of it, but must content ourselves with publishing the premier's speech, as reported in the *Mercury*:

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said his two hon. friends had given pretty full and satisfactory explanations, and it only remained for him to make a few observations touching the part he was said to have taken in the affair. It was well known that the Government of hon. gentlemen opposite agreed to an arbitration which was afterwards broken up as illegal; but he (Mr. Macdonald) certainly had a strong conviction that arbitration was a fair way of settling the question, and a Bill was introduced by the late Postmaster General to obtain the sanction of the Legislature for that purpose. That Bill was received with disfavor, and it was suggested that it should be withdrawn, and that the Government should exercise the authority vested in them by dealing with the Grand Trunk in a spirit of liberality. It was determined at last by the Government to ask their supporters what amount they would be prepared to sanction for the settlement of the question by Order in Council—to give a margin within which they might arrange a rate. Several members of the House were spoken to—the present Attorney General East among others—and they named various sums from $110 to $150. In all the representations that were made at this time, it was clearly understood that it was the intention of the Government to have the side service and the railway mail clerks in the arrangements. These several services were to have been included within the proposed margin. He defied the Grand Trunk to say that he (Mr. Macdonald) ever agreed to give the $150. They tried to commit him to that sum—to put it on paper—but he invariably refused. It was impossible that he should have made such a promise.—He was in utter ignorance of the result of the investigations and enquiries into the subject by the Postmaster General, and he was unable to say what rate would be a fair compensation. Well, the Arbitration Bill was withdrawn. About that time, the hon. gentlemen opposite fulfilled the promise they had continued to make of giving "fair play" to the Government by moving against them a vote of want of confidence. (Laughter.) The promise had previously been made that the Grand Trunk postal question was to be settled as soon as possible. But when the hint was given that the Government were to be turned out of their places, he told Mr. Brydges that a matter involving such serious consequences to the country could not then be dealt with. The Government were defeated, and when his (Mr. Macdonald's) present colleagues from Lower Canada were invited to join the Administration it was stated among other things that at the earliest opportunity this question was to be taken up, and dealt with by the Government. Shortly afterwards he (Mr. Macdonald) was present at the nomination for Montreal Centre, and the interruptions with which his hon. friend (Mr. Holton's) remarks were received by the Grand Trunk *employees* shewed that the Company were working against the Government. After the speeches were over he (Mr. Macdonald) certainly felt indignant, because he had been given to understand that the Grand Trunk were to be neutral. He never asked the Grand Trunk to be on the side of the Government. If they stood aside and gave the Government fairplay with the people it was all they wanted or expected. (Hear, hear.) After what he had seen he sent for Ferrier to the Club. Mr. Ferrier denied any knowledge of interference on the part of the Grand Trunk *employees*, and said that if he (Mr. Macdonald) gave him the names of those who had interfered, he would take care that it did not happen again. His (Mr. Macdonald's) hon. friends had stated the substance of what had taken place at that interview except on one point. He had been told that Mr. John Young—who had lately returned from England, and knowing the feeling there on the subject,—thought that the Government should grant a liberal allowance to the Grand Trunk for postal payment. He (Mr. Macdonald) did not fail, therefore, to tell that it was of importance to the Government to have such a man as Mr. Young in Parliament to assist them in giving effect to the conclusions they might arrive at on this subject, and to give that as a reason why the Grand Trunk should not oppose Mr. Young as they were threatening to do. He (Mr. Macdonald) wished, of course, that Mr. Young should be returned, and that Mr. Ferrier should do all he could to prevent Grand Trunk interference against him. Mr. Ferrier agreed with him (Mr. Macdonald) that Mr. Young's return would be a great advantage. The Government were prepared to deal with the Grand Trunk in a spirit of greater liberality than their own friends when they were in the Government, and he certainly did think that they were entitled to fair play in return. The Grand Trunk had given their influence against them, but in spite of that, the Government has agreed to increase the postal payments from $70 to $100 per mile, exclusive of the side service, which cost about $16,000 or $18,000 per annum, and the railway mail clerks' salaries, amounting to about $20,000 per annum additional; or, if their services had been included, raising the payments to something approaching to $150 per mile per annum.—(Hear, hear.) He might further state that on Friday last he (Mr. Macdonald) received a telegram, containing the substance of what appeared in that morning's *Gazette*, in which the Government were charged with corruption, and that on reading it to Mr. Ferrier at his (Mr. Macdonald's) office, that gentleman declared it to be unfair and untrue. (Hear, hear.) And not only that, so anxious was he (Mr. Macdonald) to refute the statements which had been made, that he took Mr. Ferrier into the room of his hon. colleague (Mr. Dorion) and asked him if the Government had ever offered to pay $150 a mile. Mr Ferrier replied that they had not and said he would see to the statement being promptly contradicted in the *Gazette*. (Hear, hear.) So far from that, however, the endeavor was made to fasten upon the Government a promise which they had never made in consideration of the Grand Trunk giving them its support at the elections. He (Mr. Macdonald) would say nothing of the way in which the question had been brought up at the present stage of their difficulties. That had been characterized in fitting terms by his hon. friends who had preceded him. All he would say was this—that if the people of this country—in view of the evident intention to assert its power on the floor of the House as it had done before—were not alarmed at the consequences, they must be dead to the danger which threatened them. The question to be determined was, whether because the Government refused to pay the Grand Trunk large sums beyond what it was believed that it was honestly entitled to, it would be supported in raising a clamor for the special purpose of getting those back to the Treasury Benches by whom its extravagant demands would be met. If the hon. gentlemen opposite returned to power through the influence of the Grand Trunk, a corresponding reward would be given to the Grand Trunk in return. And not alone to the Grand Trunk. For there were other railways, such as the Great Western, the Prescott and Ottawa, all of which had a deep interest in large payments being made for postal service. By the railway interest, the Government were maligned day by day because they refused to yield to the nefarious demands to give them more than they were entitled to. (Hear, hear.) The country ought to know that the Government protested against the attempts which came from that quarter, and that though private letters had been exhibited to them from the Grand Trunk showing what hon. gentlemen opposite were prepared to give, they had resisted all such overtures. (Hear, hear.) He repeated that he had always been ready to deal with the Grand Trunk in a fair and liberal manner, and one of the best evidences of that was the support he gave to their Bill of last Session, though at that time he was not aware what was now claimed by the Grand Trunk advocates, that a portion of the Bill was so worded as to get rid of the liabilities of the Grand Trunk to the Province. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Macdonald) was not concerned at anything which had been said or written, for nothing that he had done in the House or out of it was such as he need be ashamed of. The attempt which had been witnessed showed this at all events, that the people of the Province could not be too wary or guarded in protecting the exchequer from the inroads which were being made upon it from year to year. (Hear, hear.) He had now stated all he at present considered it necessary to enlience; but if there was any point which he had left untouched, he would be happy to enter into further explanations.—(Hear, hear.)

THE LATEST SENSATION.

The *Leader* is determined to have the Province invaded. It has now discovered on *extremely* credible authority that certain persons in Canada have been carrying on a treasonable correspondence with the U. S. authorities with a view to handing us unlucky Canucks over to the tender mercies of Uncle Samuel. Mr. Archibald, the British Consul at New York, is said to have seen this correspondence, and singularly enough, the *Leader* says he has transmitted the "facts" of the case to the home authorities instead of communicating them to His Excellency the Governor Gen. of Canada or the Ministry of the day. The whole story bears a scaly look. It is coming the McGee invasion on a small scale, and has the same object in view, namely, the downfall of the Ministry. "But what," says the loyal and sagacious *Leader*, "can be expected from a Government that thinks no armament is the best armament." Verily, the opposition gentlemen are moving the political elements to compass the defeat of their enemies. Can the end be said to sanctify the means? What an end! And what wretched means!!

Charleston.—At latest accounts Sumpter was still flying the Confederate flag. The fort was badly shattered, but was holding out bravely. When taken by the Confederates at the commencement of the war, its resistance was of the schoolboy description. Non-combatants are leaving Cnarleston, and preparations going on for a Saragossan strife—street by street, inch by inch, and battle to the knife.

THE "WESTMINISTER REVIEW."—The July number (American edition) is received from the publishers. Its contents are "The growth of Christianity," "The Rival races," "Mr. Mill on utilitarianism," "Gamesters and gaming-houses," "Saint Simon and his disciples," "The Naturalist on the River Amazon" "M. Louis Blanc's history of the French revolution" "Poland" "Lancashire" and "Cotemporary Literature."

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—September, 1863.—*Boston; Ticknor & Fields.*—The contents of this number are of the usual character. An enumeration of them will be sufficient:—The Puritan Minister, by Thomas Wentworth Higginson; Thoreau's Flute, by Louisa M. Alcott; Mr. Martin's Disappointments; Robert and Clara Schumann, by M. D. Conway; The Freedmen at Port Royal, by Elwa d L. Pierce; No and Yes, by Theodore Tilton; The Mother Safe; The Tertiary Age and its Characteristic Animals, by Louis Agassiz; The New Sangreal, by Rose Terry; Thomas DeQuincy, by Henry M. Alden; Mrs. Lewis, Part I., by Mrs. Thomas Hopkinson; Lyrics of the Streets, VI. Play, by Julia Ward Howe; Interesting Manuscripts of Edmund Burke, by Chas. Sumner; Harvard's Heroes, by Walter Mitchell; Who is Roebuck? Reviews and Literary Notices.

☞ Breadstuffs are still falling in Britain, owing to heavy arrivals and fine weather.

☞ It is announced that the Archduke Maximilian will accept the throne of Mexico.

☞ Lord Clyde, or Sir Colin Campbell, died at Chatham on the 14th. The British army has lost one of its brightest ornaments.

☞ The replies of the three Powers were all sent to St. Petersburg to be delivered on the 19th and forthwith published. Each Cabinet replied to the arguments addressed to itself, but terminated with an identical paragraph, testifying the unity of their views.

☞ A terrible fire occurred in Galt about a week ago. The following is a partial list of the property destroyed: "One store and contents lost $8000; one Axe factory, Stock and Machinery, $5,240; Insurance on the stock in the store, $2,400 in the Gore Mutual Insurance Company; on Finishing shop and Axe factory, $2000 in Western Insurance Co.; loss of Machinery in Woolen Factory, $1,000, covered by insurance; of Wool, $1,000, no insurance.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Stratton, otherwise known as Tom Thumb and lady, dined at Springfield on Monday, on their way from New York to Boston. Both were as petite and sprightly as ever, and the General reached up to the counter and paid his bill just like any other man, the Boston *Post* says.

AMERICAN NEWS SUMMARY.

NEW YORK, August 24.

A letter dated 17th from Morris Island to the *Herald*, states that the fire from our batteries still continued, and the masonry of Sumpter is gradually crumbling to ruins. The rebel flag was shot away twice on the 18th, but was replaced. A violent storm raged on the 18th and continued on the 19th. The land batteries however have got perfect range and are demolishing the wall.

Lieut. Webb, of the 40th Massachusetts, had his head taken off this morning and four men of his company were wounded by premature explosion of one of our own shells caused by poor ammunition.

The Richmond papers contain the following despatch:—

Charleston, August 18.

All day yesterday the bombardment was more furious than on any previous day.

The Ironsides, six monitors and six gunboats, with all the enemy's land batteries, opened on Wagner at daybreak, throwing 20 shells per minute at our works. This continued until 11 o'clock, when the fleet and land batteries turned their attention to Sumpter.

The Ironsides and six Monitors approached to within three-quarters of a mile of Sumpter, and battered vigorously against the south face. Sumpter replied vigorously from her barbette guns. The contest lasted about three quarters of an hour, when the fleet having been struck very often, stood out of range, with flags at half-mast. It is supposed that some high Yankee naval officer has been killed.

The enemy's land batteries of 200-pounder Parrot guns kept up a constant fire yesterday evening and all last night against Sumpter. The roar of cannon heard in the city was tremendous.

The casualties at Sumpter yesterday were 1 killed and 13 wounded; at Wagner, seven killed and 24 wounded; among the killed is Capt. Wampler, of Virginia, Chief Engineer at Wagner.

Charleston, Aug. 19.

The enemy's land batteries kept pounding away at Fort Sumpter throughout yesterday with their heavy Parrot guns.

There was comparatively little firing against Wagner, on which the enemy can make no impression.

Last night was dark and windy, and no firing took place, but at daylight this morning the enemy's Parrot guns re-opened on Sumpter, firing quite rapidly. This still continues. Our James Island batteries replied briskly.

Fort Monroe, August 22.

The steamer 'Maple Leaf' arrived this morning from off Charleston, and reports leaving Stino Islet on Thursday, at which time the guns of Sumpter were silenced and several breaches made in its walls. No doubt was entertained that the Confederates would soon surrounder Sumpter. At the same time our monitors were close under the guns of Wagner, and by the aid of our sharpshooters had nearly silenced the enemy.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Aug 25.—Cavalry pickets of the enemy called yesterday morning across the Rappahannock to those of our own that Fort Sumter had been taken by us. This is a confirmation of the news received *via* Fort Monroe by Richmond papers of yesterday's date.

A cavalry force under Fitz Hugh Lee crossed the Rappahannock yesterday morning near Corbin's neck, six miles below Fredericksburg, but were speedily routed by the brigade of Gen. Custis, with a loss in prisoners of three engineer officers, and a number of privates yet unspecified in killed and wounded, before re-crossing the river. Our loss was slight. No officers injured.

The positions of the Confederate army are now somewhat thus:—Ewell lies near Orange Courthouse, near Rapidan station; Longstreet stretched from United States ford to Fredricksburg, and pickets the Rapidan to Port Royal, Lee's headquarter's are about two miles beyond Orange Courthouse, on the Gordonsville road.

England and Japan.

HONG KONG, Thursday, May 14, 1863.

The subject which just now attracts the attention of the East, is the critical condition of affairs in Japan. In my last, your readers were furnished with an official statement of the ultimatum presented to the Japanese Government by Col. Neale, the British Charge d'Affaires. The 20 days' time given for a decision expired on the 26th of April, but upon application by the Japanese for an extension, the period was extended 15 days. The English seem to doubt their present capacity to carry their threats into effect, and Admiral Kuper has informed the foreign merchants at Yokohama, that it was doubtful whether they could be protected in the event of coercive movements being adopted.

At the latest accounts the Tycon was at Miaka with the Mikado and the principal Daimios of the Empire. There is said to be much difference of opinion among them as to the course to be adopted; but there is a large concourse of troops at Yedo, and the most active preparations are being made to resist. It is currently reported, and generally believed, that there has been some sharp correspondence between the American Minister, and the British *Charge d'Affaires* in reference to large importations of arms and ammunition, which American merchants were making at the present time. It is to be doubted whether any large importations have been made; but there is no question that all munitions of war have found a ready sale, and this it was not within the power of Mr. Pruyn to prevent. The correspondence of the British *Charge d'Affaires* and the British merchants at Yokohama would seem to show a change in the plans of Admiral Kuper.—Coercive operations are at first to be mainly confined to a blockade of Yedo, and the seizure of the Loo Choo Islands, belonging to Prince Satsuma.

There are rumors here that the aspect of affairs is more unfavorable even than the published reports would warrant. The Tycoon is said not to be indisposed for a struggle, although he doubts the capacity of the empire to sustain it. Leading Daimois declare that they have nothing to fear from isolation, which is what they desire, and that they are fully able to meet any body of soldiers which may land. There is no doubt but that they are, in every respect, more able to contest European valor than any other Asiatic nation. They are as yet untried, but their drill is thorough and their artillery practice is said to be excellent.—[Cor. of San Francisco Bulletin.

A SINGULAR SPECTACLE IN BATTLE.—At the battle of Stone River, while the men were lying behind a crest waiting, a brace of frantic wild turkeys, so paralyzed with fright that they were incapable of flying, ran between the lines and endeavoured to hide among the men. But the frenzy among the turkeys was not so touching as the exquisite fright of the birds and rabbits. When the roar of battle rushed through the cedar thickets, flocks of little birds fluttered and circled above the field in a state of utter bewilderment and scores of rabbits fled for protection to our men lying down in line on the left, nestling under their coats and creeping under their legs in a state of utter distraction. They hopped over the field like toads, and as perfectly tamed by fright as household pets. Many officers witnessed it, remarking it as one of the most curious spectacles ever seen upon a battle field.—*American Paper.*

A HUGE SWINDLING OPERATION—PROPERTY RECOVERED.—Recently a man named Joseph Greusel, called upon one of our best jewellers in this city, and upon fair representation was intrusted with the sale of a quantity of jewelry. Having procured the same he set about disposing of it, and after having accomplished so much, he again returned and reported his success to the proprietor of the establishment, who, judging doubtless from his apparently honest countenance, furnished him with a much greater amount this time.—The swind er then departed for Canada with the valuables in his possession, and forgot to return. After waiting a sufficient length of time for any honest man to make known the facts concerning the sales, the jeweller referred to began to suspect that everything was not right. The services of officer Ben Sparling was secured, who immediately went to work to regain, if possible, the property, the greater portion of which had been pawned or otherwise disposed of in her Majesty's dominions. Sparling, together with Sam Port, of Windsor, succeeded in ferreting out Greusel and arrested him at Belle River.—All the property, of which any trace could be had, was obtained and returned to the owner, consisting of the most valuable portion. It is supposed however that a large amount has been disposed of for cash or concealed, of which no account could be had.—Of course no papers could be issued over the river for the arrest of Greusel, consequently he had to be set at liberty. It is exceedingly fortunate that the jeweler obtained any of his property, and it should serve as a warning against trusting to the mere word of an entire stranger.—Detroit *Tribune.*

ANOTHER OUTRAGE IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—At Brighton, on Wednesday, John Finigan, an intelligent looking young man, was charged with assaulting persons in a railway carriage on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway. It appears that prisoner went to the Swiss Gardens, at Shoreham, the previous day, with a party from London, and left Shoreham by the half past ten train on his return journey to Brighton. In the same carriage was a Mr. Barrow, his wife and a gentleman. Shortly after leaving the Shoreham Station, the prisoner, who was sitting opposite the lady, commenced taking liberties with her, and of course her husband resented, and reprimanded the prisoner; whereupon Finigan took out a clasp knife and attempted to stab them both. A frightful struggle ensued between Finigan, Barrow, and the other gentleman, and ultimately the prisoner was got down on to the floor of the carriage and the knife wrested from his grasp. A passenger in another compartment of the carriage stated that his attention was attracted by loud cries of 'murder,' and a violent struggle; and looking out of one window into the next, he saw Finigan, who bore the appearance of being mad, held by the other passengers. They were all struggling violently, and the knife was glistening in the dim gleam of light thrown out by the carriage lamp. On arriving at the Brighton station the fact was communicated to the railway officials, and the prisoner was taken into custody. The magistrate observed that most probably the offence did not occur within the borough of Brighton, and therefore they doubted if they had any jurisdiction in the matter; and, after some conversation, it was determined that the prisoner should be remanded, for the attendance of some of the county magistrates.

FEARFUL ACCIDENT BY LIGHTNING.—We regret to announce that a most shocking accident occurred about three miles East from Cleroville in this County, during the violent storm which prevailed in this section yesterday (Sunday the 23d) whereby an old gentleman named James Campbell, and his daughter, met a sudden and unexpected death, and two sons were so badly shocked that their recovery is regarded as somewhat doubtful. We are informed that at the time of the catastrophe the daughter was up stairs in one of the rooms engaged in shutting a window when the lightning entering the opening, instantly killing the unfortunate young woman, and descending through the floor, passed thro' a lower room, in which old Mr. Campbell and his two sons were sitting, struck the former, killing him, and giving such a violent shock to the sons that their life at latest accounts was despaired of. The scene of this sad affair is about 33 miles from this Town and not far from Lake Erie. Another report says that the father and sons were not dead when the messenger come to Chatham. We shall probably get the whole truth of the matter in a day or two, when it it materially differs from the above we shall publish it in our next issue.—Chatham *Planet.*

The "Zimmerman" Burnt.

TWO LIVES LOST.

(From the LEADER.)

We learn by telegraph from Clifton that the steamer Zimmerman, of the Toronto, Niagara and Lewiston route, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning at 3 o'clock, whilst lying at her dock at Niagara. All we have learned about the fire is that it broke out near the engine house. The hull is now aground. Two persons, we regret to say, have been lost—the second mate, named Sinclair, and the watchman Lawless. The remains of the latter have been found. The crew barely had time to escape with their lives. The fire broke out about two o'clock in the morning. It is supposed to have started in the fire hole when the crew were aroused by the alarm of the watchman. The fire was bursting up from below, and the whole boat so filled with smoke that the men could hardly get to the pumps before she was all in flames. The men scrambled to the wharf as best they could, several of whom were scorched in so doing. They had not time to save anything. The purser succeeded in getting a few papers out of his office. The watchman, Patrick Lowless, who was burnt, was seen at the pumps with the other men, but being an old man, it is supposed he got bewildered by the smoke and flames, and could not find his way out.—Duncan Sinclair, the second mate, it is thought, went down into the forecastle to get some things and perished there. His body has not been found; that of the watchman was found with his legs and arms burnt to a crisp. It is surmised that the unfortunate watchman was asleep, else he could have given the alarm sooner. The firemen and engineers turned out promptly and played on the boat, but with no effect. They let the boat loose, however, and slipped her down the current to a place below the wharf, where she now lies. Her hull is no use; she is a total loss. The engineer says the engine and boilers will be of no use; they have parted from the boat and sunk.

MALICIOUS ACTION.—On Thursday last some person entered the new Weslyan Church, in Elora, and broke the harmonium stopped the clock, and committed a number of other mischievous acts. The offender has not yet been discovered.

Town & Counties.

☞ See the advertisement of Mr. D. McAllister. His stock is all that is represented, as to quality and quantity.

☞ TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received a number of letters relative to the report of the proceedings at Hewick village, on the 12th of July last, which we cannot possibly find room for, and some of which we think it better to leave unpublished,—as an Orange discussion, if once started, would be interminable

KIPPEN CRADLING MATCH.

According to notice this match came off on the 19th inst., on the farm of Mr. Jas. Anderson, London Road. By one o'clock there was a gathering of over 200, many of the spectators being ladies. The secretary read out the rules of the Society. Tickets were drawn, and the reaping machines entered the field. At a given signal all started, every one trying to do the best he could. The work was done in splendid order. We took particular notice of the reaper owned by Mr. Alexander Thompson, made by Mr. Benjamin Bell, St George's, with light draught which did splendid work. McPherson, Glasgow & Co., Fingal, had a very fine machine. Glasgow, McPherson & Co., Clinton, had also a very good one. John Copeland had a very fine reaper, made by Watters & Co., Brantford. All the machines did splendid work. At 3 o'clock the cradlers were started to their work, and went at it in right good earnest; but the day being very warm the first class was not able to cut their acre in time, it being only one hour and two minutes. The second class made good work, their time being 2 hours to one acre. The boys also did good work; their time was one and a-half hours to half an acre. The prizes were awarded as follows:—Reaping Machines, first prize, Alex. Thompson, 2nd do McPherson, Glasgow & Co.; Cradlers, first class not done in time; 2nd class, first prize, Robert McMordie, 2nd do James Kyle, 3rd do William Cooper; 3rd class, boys under 18 years of age, first prize, Thomas Kyle, 2nd do John Cooper, 3rd do Andrew Blair. The judges were: James Torrence Esq., Goderich, Thomas Irland, Rodgerville, Robert Doig,