Plague of Locusts at Jaffa.

(From the Malta Times, July.)

The following are extracts from letters from a medical gentleman resident at Jaffa:

"Jaffa, June 20.

"In the month of April last we observed twice large dark clouds, resembling smoke, moving to and fro, as if swayed by the wind. One morning these clouds came down and proved to be locusts, so great in number that the whole land was covered with them. The grain at that time was full in ear and nearly ripe, but the locusts did not touch it, or any other vegetation. Soon after, however, it was observed that they buried themselves in the soil, and there deposited their innumerable eggs. The Arabs and peasants saw the approaching mischief, and went through the land in thousands digging for these eggs; they succeeded to a certain degree, and destroyed incredible numbers with water and fire, but all their efforts had little effect.

"About the middle of May small black creatures, at a distance resembling large ants, were observed accumulating in large heaps throughout the country and a few days after they had been thus seen they began to leap, and manifested the coming calamity and invasion of the fearful army, as described so emphatically in Joel 2. The people now began to sweep them together and bury or burn them in ditches dug for the purpose. But all to little or no effect, and as they grew a little larger the extent of their multitude began to be seen, and the coming catastrophe could not be mistaken. The roads were covered with them, all marching in regular lines, like armies of soldiers, with their leaders in front, and all the opposition of man to arrest their progress was in vain. They first consumed the plantations around Ramleh, Lydda, and all the smaller villages, near them, and then entering the towns and villages consumed the victuals, &c., in the markets and streets, by degrees forcing themselves into the houses and covering the walls outside as well as inside. It seems that everything which is moistened by their saliva is poisoned, for the cattle that feed on the remnants which are left all die. I myself saw fifty oxen dead in the villages of Delta, Daggon and Zaffarish, that had fed on the remnant of durrah (Indian corn) left by the locusts, and the night before last twenty more died from the same cause. About two weeks ago they were seen to a fearful extent all round Jaffa, but still without wings. The town for several days appeared forsaken, all shops were shut, all business suspended. Almost all the inhabitants had gone out to destroy and drive away the invading army; they made tremendous ditches, and buried and burned countless myriads, but, as before, all in vain, for the more they destroyed the more seemed to arise from hiding-places, and as they grew in size so they seemed to grow in multitude, and toward the east from here they covered the ground for miles and miles to a height of several inches. They change their color as they grow. First they are black, when about three weeks old they become green, two weeks more and they change again to yellow, with various strips of brown and different marks as of some unknown written language, and when in an erect position their appearance from a little distance is that of a well-armed horseman; in this stage, also, they unfold their wings by stripping off a thin membrane by means of their hind legs. However, their wings in this stage are still too small to enable them to fly; this latter stage lasts about fourteen days, at the end of which time they become perfect to the size of four inches, assuming a pink color below and green above, with various streaks and marks differing in color. In the first stages they remain stationary in and round the places of their nativity until they can fly, when they begin to invade the property and goods of man, till they have consumed all, executed the judgment of God, and then sometimes or always they depart at His command; but sometimes they have the order to remain and deposit the eggs again in preparation of another judgment in the next year, and sometimes years to come. At present they are here still in their third stage, which seems to be the period in which they develope their most destructive propensities. But, as their wings are still too small to enable them to fly and to visit the several hundred gardens within the cultivated part of the district of Jaffa, they have hitherto confined their destruction to the outer gardens, of which about fifty have been completely laid waste, every green leaf, vegetable, tree, and even the bark of young trees devoured, and these beautiful gardens look now like a birch-tree forest in winter. Our garden was one of the first attacked. For several days we saw the destructive host advancing; all our farm servants, as well as several hired laborers, were employed to keep them off, to drive them away, or bury them, but we found them as Joel described them, chapter II., verse 7, 'they shall not break their ranks.' Who can doubt the Word of God when we have these evidences before our eyes? True, our men broke their ranks for a moment but no sooner had they passed the men than they closed again, and marched forward through ditches and hedges, as if united by some mysterious power, causing them to open before man, and to close again as soon as they had passed him. On the 14th inst., they forced their way into the garden, defying all human efforts to prevent them, and in less than a day the whole garden to the extent of eight acres was covered with them, and the trees, to the number of three thousand, as well as every other green leaf, with the exception of the palm-trees and the prickly pear hedges were stripped. Our garden finished, they continued their march towards the town, devastating one garden after the other. But, independent of their devouring fury and power, they seem also to have a destructive propensity, without the desire to satisfy their greed. They do not eat the food—viz., the young oranges, but after they have consumed the leaves of a tree they do not leave it till they have stripped it of its fruit, which by one bite they cause to fall to the ground. Not satisfied with the gardens and the food necessary to man, they destroy his pleasure also. The pleasure-garden round our house, flowers, vineyards, and all the valuable trees from foreign parts, which I have had such trouble in rearing, are being consumed as fast as they can do it. Poisonous plants even do not escape them. They have also invaded our house; the walls outside are covered them; they do, indeed, climb the wall "like a mighty man" Joel 11., 7, and have penetrated into the most of our rooms, notwithstanding our continued efforts to keep them out by keeping every possible opening shut. Whether eating or drinking, reading or writing, or lying awake in bed, [for it is impossible to sleep,] one hears their noise from without, like the noise of armed hosts or of the running away of many waters, and within they keep dropping on and about you. At meals I am kept busy driving them away; while I drive half a dozen away from the bread, as many will jump into the sugar-basin, or even into my cup of tea, etc., and when undressing they leap out of our very clothes without our having known that they were there. News has just reached us from Nabolus; the olive trees in those mountains have all been stripped, and near the river Oudge the soil is so thickly covered with these creatures that many of the animals led there to drink refuse to pass on.

"Such is the judgment of God upon this land. May He in his mercy soon withdraw his afflicting rod!"

Another letter of a later date says that, "They are nowise decreasing, rather the opposite. Every native inhabitant has been ordered by government to bring 15lb. weight of locusts daily, and those who do not are fined $1 sterling each time."

It says also,

"That in making his round of visits to his patients he was told that the cheeks of an infant had been eaten by these same animals."

The Norwich Bulletin says the most prominent article of traffic just now between that city and Nautucket, Mass., is houses. It is well known that Nantucket is dying with the death of the oil trade hence houses that were built there at a cost of from $3,000 to $5,000 are offered for sale at auction and knocked down at from $500 to $2000, when the purchaser rolls them on board a schooner and sends them to Norwich or New London, where they are re-erected and sold at a handsome advance over what he paid. Two houses thus transplanted have been put up on Boswell avenue in Norwich and more are said to be coming.

The Herald.

CARLETON PLACE.

Wednesday August 23, 1865.

Convinced that any news relating to the laying of the Atlantic cable, will be read with interest, we copy the following diary of Cyrus Field, from which it is evident that all the trouble concerning the cable has arisen from carelessness. In the two cases which were remedied, small pieces of wire were found stuck into the cable, and the third flaw was probably similar, though the cable broke before it was ascertained, on account of getting foul and chafing in the hawse pipe when they were recovering it to search for the flaw. It would appear, however, that with sufficient grappling tackle there will be no serious difficulty in recovering the end of the cable and continuing the process of laying it.

We think there is good reason to hope that the laying of the Atlantic cable will yet succeed. The following practical conclusions have been arrived by those engaged in various capacities in the expedition. That the steamship 'Great Eastern,' from her size and sea-going qualities, can carry and lay an Atlantic telegraph cable safely in any weather. That nothing has occurred to create the least doubt in the minds of the practical men engaged in the expedition, of the successful laying and working of the Atlantic telegraph cable; but, on the contrary their confidence in the undertaking has been largely increased by the experience thus obtained. That with the 'Great Eastern' and with stronger tackle, and improved picking up machinery, there is a possibility of recovering the end of the cable, and completing the line already two-thirds laid.

Aspy Bay, 17th.—The ships that were with the 'Great Eastern' are all in Newfoundland. The 'Great Eastern' has gone home to get more coal and stronger grappling gear. They grappled the cable successfully three times, but the grapple broke each time. All on board are sanguine of success. The ships will remain at Newfoundland till the 'Great Eastern returns. All are in high spirits. They actually underran and repaired a flaw in 2100 fathoms, and can repair the Atlantic cable at any time. They had it 1200 fathoms up when the grapple broke. The cable did not break in any case.

The following is from Cyrus W. Field's diary:—

S. S. 'Great Eastern,' Atlantic Ocean, north lat. 51.25, west long. 39, six o'clock, Friday p. m., 11th.—The 'Great Eastern' sailed from the Nore, Sheerness, on Saturday, July 15, at 12.30. On Monday, the 17th, she overhauled the 'Caroline,' which left London with the shore-end on board. She had been detained by bad weather. We took her in tow, and arrived off Valentia at 6:45 on Wednesday. As the weather was unfavorable, the "Caroline' went into Valentia harbor, and the 'Great Eastern' to Brook Haven, Bantry Bay, followed the day after by H. M. Steamers 'Terrible' and 'Sphinx.' The 27 miles of the heavy shore-end were successfully laid from the Carolina, towed by the Hawk, on Saturday, the 22nd. At 5 15 the next afternoon, the splice between the main cable and the shore end was completed, and the Great Eastern, Terrible, and Sphinx, steamed towards Newfoundland, while the Carolina and Hawk returned to Valentia. All went on in the most satisfactory manner until the 22nd. On Monday the 24th a partial loss of insultation suddenly showed itself. After this the speed of the ship was reduced, and the cable paid out slowly, while tests were applied to locate the fault, which was found to be in the water some miles astern of the Great Eastern. At 8:50 the cable was transferred to the picking up apparatus at the bow, and we began to haul in the cable. This operation was frequently suspended by wanting steam in the boiler attached to the picking up apparatus, and during the day a portable boiler was connected with the former. At 5:05 next a.m., the fault was brought on board, and found to have been caused by a piece of wire similar to that used in the manufacture of the cable at length having been forced between the outwires and through the gutta percha into the copper wire. 10½ miles of the cable were recovered, the fault cut out and a new splice made, the cable transferred to the paying-out machine at the stern; and at 4:10 on Tuesday the 25th, all was again in perfect order, and the fleet on its way to America, having been detained 37 hours and 50 minutes. At noon on Wednesday, the 20th, the Great Eastern was 178 miles from Valentia, and there had been paid out, including the 17 miles on the shore end, 199 miles of cable. Depth of water 1,750 fathoms. Tests very good. Thursday 27th. The ship ran in the last 24 hours 141 miles, and paid out 158 miles of cable: depth of water 2,160 fathoms. Test very good. July 28th: Distance made 153½ miles; cable paid out 174 miles; water 1,950 fathoms; tests very good. July 29th: distance run 160 miles; cable paid out 178 miles, depth of water, 1,900 fathoms. Tests very good. At 1 p.m. it was discovered that there was a serious fault in the cable which entirely cut off communication with the shore. The ship was stopped and the cable, transferred to the picking-up gear, which commenced hauling it in at 8:14 p.m. After picking up 2¼ miles it proved to have been caused by a stout piece of wire having been drawn entirely through the cable. 7¼ miles of cable was recovered from a depth of 1,900 fathoms. The operation of picking up from this great depth was frequently interrupted by want of steam.—At night, being very dark and foggy, the operation of lowering the splice and transfering the cable to the paying-out machinery at the stern, was postponed until next morning. The Great Eastern was by the able management of Captain Anderson, kept up to the cable, and so prevented any strain beyond the cable's own weight coming on it. At 8:10 a.m. the splice had been successfully lowered, and the ship was again on her course. The detention by this fault was 18 hours and 44 minutes, and most anxious hours and minutes they were. July 30th.—The distance was 24 miles, and 37 miles of the cable were paid out. Depth of water 960 fathoms. Tests very good. July 31st.—Distance run 134 miles; cable paid out 158 miles; water 1770 fathoms; tests very good. Aug. 1st.—Distance made 155 miles; cable paid out 179 miles; water 1709 fathoms; tests very good. Aug. 2nd.—At 5:25 a.m., on resuming the insultation tests, it was discovered that there was a partal loss of insultation. The ship was soon afterwards stopped, and the cable transferred to the picking-up gear. The operation of hauling in commenced by noon, and the engine used in picking up stopped for want of water for a considerable time. Two miles had been recovered, and the cable was cut to see whether the fault had come on board. At about 2 20 p.m. the cable caught, and chafed on the mouth of the hawse-pipe, and was with considerable difficulty removed, and at 12:35 it parted on board where it was injured, just behind the stopper, and in a moment the end disappeared in the water. Distance run in the last 24 hours 116 miles; cable paid out 132 miles; recovered two miles; depth of water 1950 fathoms; total distance from Valentia 1063 miles; total distance to Heart's Content 600 miles; total cable paid out 1313 miles, equal to 14 per cent. Steamed back toward Valentia 23 miles, and commenced dragging for the cable. Thursday, 4 a.m.—It being evident from from the strain that the grappel had caught the cable, we began to haul it in at 11:50. When 1150 fathoms of the grapeling rope had been got on board a shackle broke near the ship, and 1400 fathoms of the rope sunk with the cable to the bottom of the Atlantic. A buoy was lowered, with 2400 fathoms of cable and a mush-room to hold it; and mark the spot. During the operation of picking up, the machinery gave way. It seems that a tooth was broken off by strain and this getting in between the spur wheel, smashed the latter. The accident happened twice, and the operation of hauling had to be performed by the capstan. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.—Weather unfavorable for recovering the cable. Aug. 7.—Lowered another grapnel. At 12 10 p.m. commenced dragging for the cable. At 8 p.m. began to haul in, and continued to do so all night. Aug. 8.—At 7 50 a.m. 1,000 fathoms of grapnel rope had been hauled in, when the shackles broke just inside the ship. Lost in this attempt 1,500 of rope. A second buoy was lowered to mark the spot. The balance of this day and all the next were fully occupied in having new shackles made for hauling in rope, altering the capstan, and making preparations for another attempt to secure the cable. Had the apparatus been ready, the weather on Wednesday was much too rough to attempt any operations. The two buoys rode the in this depth perfectly. Thursday, 10th.—At 7 a.m. we began to lower the grapnel, and at 8:55 had out 2,460 fathoms, all that was on board the ships, and commenced dragging for the cable, and continued to do so until the evening, when we began to draw in slowly. Friday, 11th.—At 6 a.m., we finished hauling in 2,460 fathoms of rope, when the grapnels came up with our chain. At 11 a.m., we began to lower the grapnel again, and as soon as all the 2,460 fathoms were paid out we commenced dragging until 3:55 p.m., when we began to haul in slowly. It was soon evident by the great strain that the grapnel had caught the cable. At 7 p.m., when 710 fathoms had been recovered, the rope parted. As there was not sufficient rope on board the Great Eastern to resume grappling, it was decided that she should return at once to England.

The steamer Belgian has arrived but brings no news of the Great Eastern. Some anxiety is felt in reference to delay in her return.

Queen Victoria and the junior members of the Royal family arrived at Antwerp, and proceeded to visit the King of the Belgians at Mechlin.

A terrible tragedy occurred in London. A man took three children to lodge temporarily at a coffee house and murdered them all in their beds by suffocation. The murderer escaped.

SPAIN.—In consequence of the conference between Marshal O'Donnel, Gen. Prim, and Senor Madoz, the Progressionist party will abandon their policy of abstaining from public affairs.

The Paris correspondent of the London Star, says the 10c subscription for a gold medal to Mrs. Lincoln was progressing. The number of subscribers was 25,000, and committees were appointed to raise the number to 100,000.

It was rumoured in Paris that reinforcements to the extent of 6000 troops were on the point of being sent to Mexico, 3000 from France and 3000 from Algeria.

The illness of the King of Spain has assumed a most serious aspect.

Mrs. Cobden has presented a bust of her illustrious husband to the Emperor Napoleon. The presentation was made through M. Michel Chevalier, and his Majesty has acknowledged the gift in a graceful and feeling letter.

On Saturday last a man named Brougham, was going to the Tannery in this village, when he was attacked by two very wicked dogs, owned by the proprietor, and terribly abused, his face being torn in a frightful manner, and his arm almost eaten off. He was immediately attended to by Dr. Burns and is said to be doing well. We think the owner of such vicious dogs should, immediately put them to death.

The following insolvents are gazetted: David Forbes, Mirickville; Peter Smith & Co., St. Ambrose; George Parry, Woodstock; Thomas J. Milligan, Hamilton township; Roswell Tomlinson Vienna; A. E. McEdward, Neustadt; R. Gallagher, Montreal; Wm. Gordon, Cobourg; James Hicks, Allandale Mills; Thos. Taylor, Hungerford township; Benj. Taylor, Elora; Edmund Morris, Guelph; J. W. Maxwell, Stratford; Absalom Daly, Ingersoll; J. W. Eaton, Phillisburg; Robert Wynn, Brighton.

On Saturday last the Carleton Place Rifle Company went to Almonte, in obedience to an invitation from the Almonte Infantry Company, to have a "friendly shooting match" at target practice. The two Companies fell in at the station and were marched to the shooting ground with music from the "great Highland pagpipes" of Messrs. Stewart and Willis. The necessary preliminaries having been arranged the shooting commenced, a "red coat" and a "green" firing alternately. It was soon discovered that the Infantry company, as if determined to win, even at the sacrifice of honor, had resorted to a mean trick—as dangerous as it was unprincipled—to deceive their visitors. Their gun locks were fixed to go off at the slightest touch—requiring only a pull of as many ounces as they should have pounds. This was done by a very ingenious contrivance, which could be put in and taken out of the lock at pleasure, and several of them were seen putting it in and taking it out. The arrangement was such that in the event of weighing the guns, which is usually done at shooting matches to ascertain whether any locks had been tampered with, their little gauge could be drawn out before weighing, and re-inserted afterwards. This admirable contrivance of theirs is nothing but a small bit of leather inserted in front of the triggers! It is an old saying that there is '*nothing like leather*,' the truth of which they must have believed, when they conceived the bright idea!

It was rather an unpleasant termination of a "friendly shooting match" for the Captain of the Rifles to find it his duty to point out to the Captain of the Infantry this contemptible trick, and to march his men off the field, and refuse to allow them to compete in a contest which was not intended to be conducted fairly or honourably, and in which, in fact, they were in danger of their lives. Guns are dangerous at all times, but how much more so when the locks are tampered with, and the parts prevented from performing their proper functions.

In justice to Captain McIntosh we should state that he reproved his men sharply for being the whole cause of the unpleasant difficulty; and fully, publicly and repeatedly expressed his approval of the action taken by the Captain of the Rifles, and declared that he would have taken the same course himself, under the same circumstances.

We might say much more about the matter, but we forbear. We have simply stated the facts which are necessary to correct misrepresentations which have been and probably will be made, and which need not be wondered at, as it is almost a rule in human nature, that when men do wrong they lie to hide it. All men ought to deal fairly and honestly, but soldiers, especially, wearing the Queen's uniform, whether in red or green, should be a pattern to the world, of TRUTH, DISCIPLINE and HONOUR.

No doubt Captain McIntosh will report the conduct of his men to the Brigade Major, in accordance with the general order from headquarters, dated August 5, 1865, which was published in our last week's issue. We think the matter has a right to be thoroughly sifted. It is, undoubtedly, contrary to the intention of the government to have the ammunition wasted by being fired from arms not according to regulation.—And it is unfair to all the companies in the Province, to have scores, published in competition with them, which were obtained by unfair means.

In the House on Friday a bill, introduced by Mr Bourassa, respecting the rate of interest, was read a second time, and referred to a select committee. The bill provides that as regards banks, insurance and loan companies, the law shall remain as at present. In other cases it shall not be lawful to take a higher rate of interest than seven per cent, and the penalty for violation of this enactment shall be the forfeiture of the whole of the interest. Hon. Messrs. Brown and Galt opposed the motion, but the subject was made an open question by the Ministry.

The cholera has got as far as Ancona, Italy, on its northward route, and the latest telegrams state the deaths it occasions in that city as exceeding twenty a day. The deaths from cholera at Alexandria, in Egypt, on the 26th June, were estimated at 900 persons. An Austrian ship left Syria with 500 Greeks and Maltese passengers on board. 150 died and were thrown into the sea. The others were refused permission to land at any port.

PROTECTION OF SHEEP.—Mr Wright of East York, has introduced a bill imposing the duty upon all Upper Canada townships of levying the following taxes on dogs: On every bitch 3 months old and upwards, kept by one person or family, $2; upon every additional bitch, $5; upon each dog not exceeding two, $1; and on each dog more than two, $3. The owner of any dog to be liable for the value of the sheep it kills, and if the owner cannot be found, or cannot pay, the township to be liable. Any person may kill any dog he sees worrying sheep. The owner of any dog that has worried sheep to be fined 62½ cents for every day he allows said dog to live, after notice is served on him.

A grey eagle, having an expanse of wing of seven feet, was shot by Mr Nichol of Waterloo whilst duck shooting near Gananoque. The bird was taken on the wing with duck shot, his right pinion being injured, and he fell squealing to the ground, full of rage and fight. He had to be dispatched by a blow from an ax before he could be safely handled.

THE FIRST ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The first Atlantic Telegraph transmitted 271 messages consisting of 2,855 words from Newfoundland to Ireland, and 129 messages of 1474 words from Ireland to Newfoundland. The only messages of historic importances were Queen Victoria's to President Buchanan, and his reply. By two messages countermanding the embarkation of two regiments the British Government saved, it was calculated, $250,000. The first message from Newfoundland to Ireland, was 12th August, 1858, and had merely reference to the mode of working of the telegraph. On the 17th, Queen Victoria's message was sent, containing 98 words, and on the 18th, the President's reply, consisting of 147 words, was returned. The current from Ireland to Newfoundland was much more difficult to work than that of Newfoundland to Ireland having it was said to contend with the "earth currents." On the 27th August, a news despatch of 72 words, which occupied nine hours in transmission, was received from Ireland. The last message received there was on last September, in answer to one announcing that the lines were to be thrown open to the public, and ending with the words, 'right—right,—DoSauty.' The last message received at Newfoundland, was on the same day as follows:—

C. W. Field, New York:

Please inform——government we are now in position to do best for——

SAWARD, London.

This was the last dying struggle of the oracular cable, the current of whose life had been tapped by the rough rocks of the ocean bottom, or crushed out by the immense pressure of the waters.

By an order in the Gazette the following corps, having been disorganized, are removed from the list of the Volunteer Militia, viz.:—Naval Company, Kingston; Naval Company, Oakville: No. 5 Company, 17th Battalion Infantry, St. Joseph; the Infantry Company, Phillipsburg; the Infantry Company, St. Ours; the four Infantry Companies, St. Hyacinthe; the two Infantry Companies, Nanticoke; the Rifle Company, St. Hyacinthe; the Rifle Company, Cottonvale; the Rifle Company, Cayuga; the Rifle Company, Galt; the Rifle Company, Lindsay. It will be seen that the Adjutant General does not propose to retain any paper organization.

KIDNAPPING.—It is stated that attempts to kidnap Southerners on our territory are still continued by desperate characters, notwithstanding the failure of the alleged Sander's case. Would it not be well if the Government of the United States would withdraw their proclamation, which may continue to induce unauthorized attempts to seize individuals, offenders against that government but who are only to be thus come at by a breach of our laws? In the meantime we see no good reason why the evidence taken in the Sanders's case has not been published by the authorities.

Mr. John Smith, hotel keeper, Renfrew, has rented the Exchange Hotel, known as Monroe house, in that village and intends keeping a first-class hotel. See card in another column.

Nothing of great importance has taken place in parliament during the last week, as we except a small dispute and some angry words between Mr. Holton and Mr. Brown.

It is said that a regiment of soldiers will be stationed in Ottawa, on the removal of the Seat of Government to that city.

Mr. Brierly, of Brockville, will (D.V.,) preach, on Sabbath next, the 27th inst., in the Baptist Church, Carleton Place, at eleven o'clock, A.M.

The Hon. John A. Macdonald has been absent from the sittings of the House for the last ten days from illness.

It is reported by telegraph from Montreal that an attempt has been made to kidnap Mr Tucker.

Three of Jeff. Davis' children and their mother and grandmother have arrived in Montreal.

The annual festival of the Church of England Sunday School will take place on the 24th inst. See advertisement.

☞ The members of the Carleton Place Rifle Company are requested to bring into the Armory all their guns, great coats, and accoutrements, for inspection by the Brigade Major. They may keep the Tunics and pants in their own possession.

To the President, Directors, and Members of the Township of Beckwith Agricultural Society.

The undersigned Crop Viewers for the Township of Beckwith Agricultural Society respectfully submit the following report:

Having travelled over the greater portion of the Township and visited 31 farms, we observed that, in general, the crops are light, owing to the great drought in this part of the country.

From the continued failure in Fall Wheat, for the past number of years, in this section of country, there has been very little sown. But the pieces that have been sown this last year have done well and are above an average yield per acre. Spring Wheat in general is very thin on the ground, and short in straw, particularly in light soils, and is below an average crop. Peas are excellent and are over an average crop.—Barley is below an average crop. Oats, a fair average, and on some farms we meet with some splendid fields. Potatoes, in the meantime, look well and promising; still a good deal will depend on the season. They are so subject to suffer from early frosts and other blights that the yield depends so much on circumstances, it is impossible, at present, to say what the yield will be. Indian Corn promises to be a good average crop. The same may be said of Beans and all kinds of Root Crops, although, from the continued drought, they have suffered considerable on stiff clay or light soils.

On the farm of Mr. Alex. McEwen we observed a very fine field of potatoes, of about eight acres, and understood from him that he had other two small fields under the same crop. Although these eight acres were not so good, upon the whole, as some smaller fields which we had seen, yet they reflected much credit on the owner, considering the large quantity he had to cultivate. On the farm of Mr. Alex. Cameron we saw a fine plot of four rods of onions, upon the cultivation of which great care had been bestowed, and is entitled to be highly recommended; and also upon the farm of Colin King we saw a fine little plot which is worthy of honorable mention.

As to that beneficial and much needed improvement, *Land Draining*, we have the pleasure to say that a good few are doing less or more in that way of improving their farms. Amongst the foremost in that way we found that Robert Moffatt, Esq., had done the most this season, next to him Mr. Alex. McTavish. Both of those gentlemen are deserving of great praise for the good example they are setting to others.

JOSEPH MCCREARY,
DUGALD FERGUSON,
THOMAS CAVERS.

Beckwith, August 17th, 1865.

Crop Viewer's Report.

To the Editor of the C. P. Herald.

Ramsay, August 19, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—As the Corn was omitted in the Report sent in, would you be kind enough to merely mention that Corn was an excellent crop and a large breadth of it has been planted.

And oblige
Yours truly,
ANDREW TOSHACH.

MASONIC.—The Royal Arch Grand Chapter of Canada held its eighth annual convocation at Prescott, C. W., on the 8th inst. After the address of the Grand Z. the following officers were duly installed for the current year. After the closing of the Grand Chapter, the Provincial Grand Conclave of the Royal Exalted, Military and religious order of Masonic Knights Templar, and Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhode and Malta was held. The attendance was larger than on any previous occasion. We subjoin a list of officers of both Grand bodies for the years 1865, '66. The next meeting will be held at St. Catherines, Canada West.

ROYAL ARCH GRAND CHAPTER.

M. E. Comp T. Douglas Harrington Quebec,.....G.Z.
R. E. Comp Chas. D. Macdonnell, Peterborough,.....G.H.
" " Thos McCraken, Hamilton G.J.
" " Chas Khan. Stratford, G Sup. London District.
" " D. Curtis, Brantford, do Wilson District.
" " J Seymour, St. Catherines, do Hamilton District.
" " Jas Adams, Toronto, do Toronto District.
" " S D Fowler, Kingston, do P. Edward District.
" " S D Fowler, Kingston, do Central District.
" " Thos Molton, Montreal, do Montreal District.
" " L H Robinson, Sherbrooke, do E. Townships District.
" " J H Rowan, Quebec, do Quebec District.
" " T B Harris, Hamilton...G.S.E.
" " I H Stevens, Montreal...G.S.N.
" " Alex S. Kirkpatrick, Kingston, G.P. Soj.
" " J W Murton, Hamilton, G. Tr.
" " Edwin Goodman, St. Catherines.....G. Recr'r.
" " A P M Collver, St. Catherines, G Janitor.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE OF K. TEMPLAR OF CANADA WEST.

E Sir Kt. T Douglas Harrington, Quebec, Dep G. Com.
E " T B Harris, Hamilton, G Prior.
E " W B Simpson, Lingston, G Sub Prior.
" Rev J A Preston, M A, Carleton Place,.....G Prelate.
E " Thos McCraken, Hamilton, 1st G Capt.
E " Alex S Kirkpatrick, Lingston, 2d
E " C D Macdonnell, Peterborough, G Chancellor.
E " S. D Finden, Quebec, Vice G Chan.
E " Jas Moffatt, London, G Registrar.
E " L H Henderson, Belleville, G Tr.
" James Seymour, St. Catherines, G Chamberlain.
" A DeGrassi, Toronto, G Hospitaller.
" George En Earll, Montreal, G Expert.
" W M Jamieson, Sarnia, 1st G St'd B'r.
" Philip St. Hill, Quebec, 2nd G St'd B'r.
" John W Murton, Hamilton, G Almoner.
" H Potter, Quebec, 1st Aide-de-C'p
" J J Curran, Hamilton, 2nd do
" Isaac H Stevens, Montreal, G Director of Ceremonies.
" Benjamin Evans, Belleville, G Capt. of L.
" Edwin Goodman, St Catherines, 1st G Herald.
" M J May, Quebec, 2nd G Herald.
" David Ovitt, Brantford, G Sword Br.
" W W Simmons, Hamilton, G Equerry.

Executive Committee.—E Sir Knights T Wilson, S D Fowler, J C Franck, J H Rowan, and A A Stevenson.

A Desperado.

From the San Francisco Bulletin.

About nine o'clock yesterday morning a shot was fired at a Chinaman in a washhouse, which struck the side of the building lodging in the wall, from which it was subsequently extracted, and from its appearance was known to have been fired from Mulligan's pistol. The matter was reported at the police office, and Captain Lees sent officer McMillan to investigate and arrest the offending party. McMillan proceeded to the house and to Mulligan's room, and requested to be let in; but Mulligan refused admittance, and ordered the officer to leave or he would be killed. Mulligan contended that the Vigilance Committee were after him, that he would not be taken alive, and advised McMillan, for whom he professed feelings of friendship, to leave, and not attempt his arrest. Mulligan had his door barricaded on the inside with all the furniture in his room, and ingress in that direction was impossible. Captain Lees then held a long conversation with Mulligan from the hall endeavoring to persuade him to surrender, and promising him protection from his enemies. Mulligan listened to the propositions, and several times was on the point of surrendering, but when requested to give up his pistol he refused to do so, and finally signified his determination to stick to his room and stand a seige until starved out. A little strategy was then resorted to on the part of the officers. McCormick went out on Dupont street for the purpose of attracting Mulligan's attention, McMillan remained at the door, while Chappelle got on the balcony and proceeded to the window of Mulligan's room, for the purpose of catching him while his attention was attracted by McCormick, but the *ruse* did not succeed, for as Chappelle came to the window for the purpose of springing in upon him, Mulligan, who was on the watch, fired his pistol, the ball just missing Chappell's head. The firing of this shot seemed to have raised his frenzy to the highest pitch, and he stepped out on the balcony, talking incoherently, and cursing and swearing at a terrible rate. He walked along the balcony, pistol in hand, and entered another window opening on Clay street, and was again lost to the view of those outside. It was thought advisable as a means of pacifying him, to get some of his intimate friends to approach and draw him into conversation, but those who knew him best were least inclined to make the attempt.

After several of his friends had declined to undertake the job, Jack McNabb (not Tom, as we were incorrectly informed yesterday,) a friend and companion of Mulligan's attempted to accomplish the object in view. McNabb went up the stairs, and as he advanced Mulligan levelled the pistol at his breast. McNabb continued to advance speaking to Mulligan in a familiar tone, and telling him that he wanted to take a drink with him. In this way, by coaxing and proposing drinks, McNabb had nearly reached the spot where Mulligan was standing, when the latter fired and shot him, the ball entering his right breast near the armpit severing an artery, causing an internal hemorrage from which he died in half an hour afterwards at Dr. Murphy's office, to which he was immediately taken. At this time the excitement about the vicinity of the tragedy was intense, and the streets about the St. Francis Hotel were blocked up with human beings, drawn thither by the exciting stories which had spread like wildfire about the town. The police endeavored in vain to keep them back, representing the danger that existed with a crazy man armed with a revolver, and ready to fire at any moment and at that direction. But still the crowd passed on, every man apparently thinking that in so large a crowd his chances of getting hit were slim and the percentage largely in favor of his own safety.

Various expedients were next attempted for dislodging the maniac. The presence of the Catholic clergy was brought to bear, one of the priests accompanied by a citizen, attempted to reach him by the neighbouring roof; but he fired his pistol at them, and they were compelled to retreat. Several attempts to administer drugged liquor was made, but to no purpose.

About three o'clock, Officers Ellis and McMillan made another unsuccessful attempt to get hold of Mulligan, but it having been abandoned they were crossing the street, when Mulligan appeared at one of the windows and fired at them. The bullet missed the intended mark, but struck an innocent passer-by, shooting him through the heart and killing him instantly. The murdered man was John Hart, the foreman of the Eureka Hose Company, No. 4. He is represented by those who know him as having been an estimable young man. His wife and child died a few weeks since, and he leaves no family. He has a sister in this city who is said to be nearly bereft of reason at the sudden shock, and several other relatives. He has a father, mother, and younger brother residing in New York.

It was now determined by the police that, as the only means of preventing more bloodshed on the part of innocent persons, Mulligan should be shot at sight. Accordingly a number of the people armed themselves with Minie rifles, and took positions commanding the front of the house on Clay street. For a long time Mulligan remained out of sight of them, and at the head of the stairs. A few minutes before four o'clock he went to the upper storey of the house and looked out of the window on Dupont street side, upon the crowd beneath, thence returned to the head of the stairs, from whence he suddenly wheeled, and entered a room on the second floor, fronting on Clay street. He advanced to the window, and was about throwing open the swing sash, when officer Hopkins fired from the window opposite and laid him low. The ball struck him in the left temple, passing through the head, glancing into the ceiling about ten feet from where he was standing, thence glancing downwards and lodging in a door at the further end of the hall, some thirty feet distant feet from where he fell. Immediately after he was shot the word passed quickly through the crowd that Mulligan was beyond the power of doing harm, and the crowd then pressed toward the hotel, with the hope of getting a right at the dead body.

Stretched out in the hall, on his back, with his feet just inside the door of the room, lay the earthly remains of the Billy Mulligan. The blood was flowing from his mouth, his eyes protruding from their sockets, and the brain oozing out on the floor and mingling with his blood. Firmly grasped in his right hand, and lying by his side, was the weapon with which he had been dealing death about him. The pistol is a large seven-barrel, French revolver, carrying and ounce ball, or one of the same size as those used in Colt's new army pistols. There still remain three loads in the pistol and another cartridge was found in his pockets. The walls were bespattered with blood and brains, and on a line with the fatal bullet were the same indications of death, even to the further end of the hall. Some twenty feet from where the body lay was picked up a piece of the skull the size of a silver dollar, showing the terrible character of the Minie ball, and its deadly effect where it strikes. The body was arrayed in a fashionable suit of black, which, with the neatly fitting boots and other portions of the dress which so characterised him when alive, were all that could be recognised of the exquisitely dressed desperado who had so many times been the terror of peacefully inclined citizens.

A young girl, named Victoria McGowan, died last week after a severe illness induced by drinking an infusion of Mandrake root, which she is reported to have mistaken for Sarsaparilla. People cannot be too careful in the medicinal use of unknown herbs.—Miss McGowan was sister-in-law to Mr Clifford, Grocer, of Peterboro.

A Mr Stowe eloped from Burlington, Vt., last week, with the wives of three prominent citizens. All the women were his mistresses. The guilty parties crossed the Canada border, closely pursued by one of the wronged husbands.

The Newport Express says:—The custom house officers at Island Pond seized one of the locomotives of the Grand Trunk Railway, with some whisky stowed away in it, last Saturday night. It has been a practice, it seems, to get liquor into the State, in this way, and now the officers commenced taking the smuggled goods "together with the vessel importing the same."