THE EXILES OF SIBERIA.

WHILST Russia and the Russians are the prevailing topics in all circles, a few gathered remarks upon those victims of Russian policy, the poor exiles, may not be deemed inappropriate; and as the laws of the empire require that all those condemned, in whatever part of the country they may have received sentence, should pass through Moscow on their way to Siberia, the traveller who may have chanced to be there during the weekly gathering, will have little difficulty in recognising facts in the following account.

On reaching that city, they are all allowed a brief rest in the convict-prison, their daily journeys being so calculated that the separate bands all arrive there from divers directions each Saturday night. After resting throughout the ensuing week, during which term they are relieved of their chains, they are despatched in one common band on the second Monday after their arrival; but, ere their departure, government appoints a committee of prison authorities to control the jailers, and to see that they do not use unnecessary harshness. These members are also empowered to hear statements from the prisoners, and, in many cases, to grant redress. Such interferences do not, of course, extend to the quashing of legal proceedings, but merely to the prisoner's comfort, his health, or perhaps some last wishes respecting his family. The excellent Slazy, physician to the prisons, was, some years since, constantly present on these occasions, and was one of the warmest philanthropists ever known. His exertions on behalf of those unhappy convicts were incessant; his labours, evidently those of a love that made him deem no sacrifice of time or comfort too great. He was a German, from Cologne, and as keen a Roman Catholic as that zealous city ever sent forth; and it would be well for mankind, if half the world only possessed as much of the true Christian spirit as this worthy philanthropist.

Sparrow's Hill—for so is the place named from which the doomed band depart—is situated at some distance from the city, and is not a prison, as might be imagined, but consists of a number of log-huts, united by a strong wooden-wall, and in the interior divided into two or three courts, each strictly guarded by sentinels. In the first of these, both sexes are to be seen mingling indiscriminately, and all dressed alike in long loose greatcoats, made of a kind of grey cloth; the only distinguishing mark is, that the men have half their heads shaved, whilst the women retain their long hair—a privilege also granted to the men as regards their beards; which decoration is the pride and delight both of the merchant-class and the peasantry. They are led thence into a second court, where their names are registered; as also their crime and history. Here they make their petitions; some soliciting leave to travel by the side of a brother, a fellow-exile—a poor consolation that, of being together in disgrace; but the boon, it granted, is hailed with the greatest joy. A woman will also sometimes petition to accompany her husband; but only in rare cases is this permitted. According to the laws of Russia, she may marry again, for the banishment of the husband cancels the marriage-bond as completely as death; but if her prayer is granted, government pays her expenses, and she assumes the convict dress, though not the fetters.

The children of convicts, after five years of age, become parish property; a rule which the various proprietors in the territory are not disposed to relax, as the boys, at least, serve ultimately so far to furnish the conscription of the army.

The examination past, the exiles are led to a third court, where fetters are placed upon the whole band. This is a most cruel and brutal affair. The fetters consist of a couple of iron rings, one for each ankle, united by a chain, not adapted to the size of the person and his length of stride, but of one unvarying length, about two feet. This is connected, by means of links from four to five inches long, with another chain fastened round the waist. The hoops round the ankles are not fastened by a padlock, so as to be removed at night, but are riveted by the executioner, who drives an iron bolt through the rings, and by strong and careless hammering—for he often misses the mark, and strikes the flesh—flattens the bolt at both ends, in such a way that a removal is impossible, except by means of the file: and with these chains, the poor weary footsore wretches are to walk every step of a journey, which takes them only a few days short of six months. Meanwhile a sergeant stands by, who must answer for their security with his own life, as he takes charge of them during their pilgrimage; and he sees them properly secured and fastened together in fours by the wrists. At the head of the line stands a little table, covered with copper coins, from which every man receives in advance a certain part of his daily allowance; government giving each for his maintenance forty-eight kopecks—a fraction less than fivepence a day—and to each woman permitted to accompany her husband, half that sum. This ceremony over, the gates are thrown open, and the world ceases to exist for them. It is surprising to witness the calm bearing, the sad but resigned looks of that melancholy assemblage. Hope is now dead; and in its place a dim vague glimmer appears in the distance of life, to which they look, perhaps, more with a dreamy curiosity than with any active feeling of terror or despair.

The gates thrown open, the exiles are handed over to a strong guard, employed exclusively on this duty, and each soldier loads his gun in their presence; there is also a mounted escort, with spears, the commander of which carries a long whip to lash the cavalcade into order; and thus they move on, the males first, then the carts, and, lastly, the females. Their day's journey is from 22 to 25 versts (from 14⅔ to 16⅔ miles English). Persons of rank are not treated otherwise than the lowest serf—noblemen being compelled to march the dreary journey on foot, and as heavily chained as the vilest felon. Political prisoners are undoubtedly treated more harshly than even the most ferocious criminals; and although, during the contest with Poland, there may have been exaggerated accounts published in England as to the numbers banished, there is not the slightest doubt as to the cruelty exercised on all who were so. During their short rest at Moscow, they were linked together like felons; treated by their jailers like brutes. The *Times*, many years ago, gave a touching account of facts which have been since confirmed. One hundred and fifty Lithuanian nobles were mentioned as having been met barefooted and chained, on their march to Siberia—their sentence being, that they should be put as common soldiers into the regiments of the Caucasus, Orenburg, and Siberia. The two young Counts Tyskiewicz, almost children, were so loaded with heavy chains, as at each step to sink into the ground; and they held out their little hands, imploring charity to buy lighter fetters, which their guards refused them. At Choracewicze was to be seen Mr. Warcynski, the marshal of Osmiand, the same town where the Kirghiz murdered in a church 400 women and children. He was seated in an open wagon—a blessed privilege, too, this was considered—his hands and feet were chained and connected to his waist by other links; a collar of iron encircled his neck; his long gray beard flowed over his breast; and his head was shaved in the form of a cross—his coat being half-black, and half-white. He was condemned to hard labour for life. Those destined for the mines are shut out even from the light of heaven; they not only lose rank and riches, but, by a refinement of cruelty, are deprived even of their names, and a number given them instead, by which the driver of each band calls when he has need to address them.

"A SIGN OF THE TIMES."—The schooner *Lucy Ann* arrived at St. John N. B. from Portland, (Me.) with the following cargo: 1000 bushels of potatoes, 2000 bushels and 100 bags of oats, 200 bags of salt, &c., &c. Potatoes must be plenty in the State of Maine this year.

The *Northern Bee*, published at St. Petersburg, says:—"If God grant us peace, we shall take advantage of it to provide Russia with railways."

HASZARD'S GAZETTE

Wednesday, March 26, 1856.

A most convincing proof of the ability of our farmers to supply the public with the very best of butchers' meat was afforded in the appearance of the Meat Market on Saturday. We doubt, if better beef was ever exposed for sale in any country. There may be, and we believe there is, larger, and perhaps fatter meat exhibited in the Markets of London, but we cannot conceive of its being possible to have wholesomer food, or in finer condition placed on the table, than that from the prize cattle of Wednesday last. We refer to the report of the Judges for the weight, age, &c. We could wish we were able to report as favorably of the Market House, as of the articles in market. It is at such times that the want of a proper place for the convenience of the public in buying and selling, is most felt. We had hoped to have heard of the Legislature appropriating a sum for the purchase of a site, for a building of this nature is as much wanted for the benefit of the country as the town, and the expense ought to be mutually borne. The splendid carcasses of fine beef were not the only pleasant objects that met our eye on Saturday. Opposite to Mr. William Dodd's Auction Room, was a most goodly row of finished ploughs—30 in number—accompanied by 16 pairs of Harrows, made by Mr. William Jakeman. This shows well, as affording a proof of increasing capital laid out to the best advantage. It is by means of the plough and harrow that the Island is destined at no very distant date, to become for its size, one of the most celebrated agricultural communities on this side the Atlantic. Its sons are just beginning to feel the importance, and we would fain hope, the dignity of their position, and it is with heartfelt pleasure, that we behold these exhibitions of their power and ability to excel. A most extensive market is now open to their productions, and they must take pains to avail themselves of it. We anticipate, that in the course of a few years, the commerce between this Island and the United States of America will have increased in a ratio that will astonish the farmers themselves, and that a variety of articles will have to be raised, that they little dream of now. Some of our most intelligent, best-educated young men must visit those ports on the Atlantic, and carefully note their wants, and calculate whether the farmers of the Island can minister to those wants in a manner that will be profitable to themselves and beneficial to the others, and by communicating the result of their observations encourage others to commence the culture of those articles which are most wanted, and for which there will be the most extensive demand. It is said by some upon whose judgment great reliance is placed, that we are likely to have an early spring, and we shall be pleased to find their prognostications correct; not that we attach so much importance to the earliness of the season as we do to the continuance of fine weather; after it has commenced, we have frequently known an early spring succeeded by sharp frosts which did more injury to the farmer and gardener, than the precocity of the season did good. An early season is however of great importance to the farmer in the saving of fodder, and in the enabling him to get his land in good order for sowing, as well as affording the ground the opportunity of getting warm before the seed is put in. There are many circumstances at the present time that are telling well for the farmer, and among these we are inclined to place the prosecution of the railroads in the neighbouring provinces in a very prominent rank. Let these roads be connected with the Island by well appointed steam boats and we are brought within a day or two of what will then be the best possible markets. Independently of this the concourse of strangers that will be by this means attracted to the Island, will be naturally great. It will be too much to hope that many will stay. In order to induce them, we must have an alien Act passed; but that would tend to develop the resources of the Island and make cultivated land twice as valuable as it now is. The passing such an Act would be no proof of sound sense and good policy, and consequently it is not to be thought of.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The Rev. J. M'Leod will Lecture on Thursday next, on "Infidelity and Christianity contrasted."

☞ A rumour is current in the city, that there is to be an early dissolution of the House of Assembly.

There has been some routine business transacted in the House since our last, but not affording any great interest to our readers.

Mr. Clark presented on Saturday last a petition from the inhabitants of St. Eleanor's, praying for an Elective Legislative Council. The Speaker refused to receive it because it was a printed one, which is contrary to Parliamentary practice. A petition by Hon. Mr. Whelan relative to Mills and Mill streams referred to a special Committee.

House on ways and means Gas Light Company, Bill passed.

TO THE EDITOR OF HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

SIR;

I beg to send you the above list of prizes awarded at the Easter Show of Fat Stock on Wednesday last, and I doubt not you did yourself the pleasure of attending the market on Saturday to view the carcasses of the prize animals. Finer Beef, I believe, was never exhibited in this City; and it is gratifying to think that the labors of the Royal Agricultural Society, in introducing pure-bred animals have been so far successful. It is now a fully established fact—even in P. E. Island—that stock of any kind coming to maturity at an early age, pay the breeder and feeder much better than a mongrel breed, which are extremely difficult to feed at any age.

The short-horns commence to feed fat when calves; this property increases with their growth, and at a year old, they have all the resemblance of Cows. The breeders of short horns in England, instead of keeping them to three, four, or five years of age, fatten them and sell them off at from two to two and a half years; they can thus turn off one half more at least, if not a greater proportion of Beef from the farm or the stall, than could possibly be done with any other breed. Hence they have quick returns, and large amounts of beef for the food consumed. It is not denied that the short-horns require good keep and shelter and care—"They also require nourishing food—but she pays for all, for she is a cow when another is a calf; the ox is fat, when the other is growing."

The short-horns will feed to an enormous size. The famous Durham ox weighed 2020lbs. and the still more famous Yorkshire ox, 3769. *Comet* a well known Bull, bred by Mr. Charles Collings, sold for £1000 sterling. £500, £600 and even £700 are still given for first rate short-horn Bulls. Comparing small things with great, we need not be at all ashamed of the recent exhibition, for notwithstanding the severity of our winter, which has hitherto been considered the great drawback to the successful introduction of breeds of improved stock—the absence of Oil Cake and other nourishing food available to feeders in Great Britain, the young stock shown by Messrs. Beer and Thorne, were in the highest degree creditable both to breeders and feeders, and may be looked upon as an earnest of what will by-and-by be done in both respects. In comparing the weight of the oxen exhibited by the above parties, it is but fair to state that, the loose tallow which is usually pegged to the "Twist" to add as much as possible to the appearance of the hind quarter, is not included in the weight given of Mr. Beer's Oxen; had this been done, the weight of that gentleman's Red Ox would have come very near to that of Mr. Thorne's.

The Sheep exhibited were not considered equal to those shown in former years; this may be the fact, but the reason is plain; the demand for Ram Lambs has been so excessive for some time past, that the general stock of good wethers has become considerably reduced, and it is only inferior animals that are altered, as long as from 50s to £3 a head can be obtained