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☞ VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE solicited from all parts of the Continent of America. If made use of, the parcels transmitting the information will be liberally remunerated.

THE COURIER.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1851.

We understand that the "disjecta membra" of our (for some time past) dislocated Ministry, have fallen finally asunder. We have at present not even the shadow of an Executive Government, except what resides in the Governor General. Rumour says, with her hundred tongues, that Lord Elgin has called upon the Hon. Francis Hincks to form a *new quick and open* Ministry. How far Mr. Hincks has the confidence of the country, so as to insure the successful completion of so important a duty, remains to be seen. We not only doubt his capability and influence, but we are nearly certain that he will fail in any satisfactory arrangement. We therefore expect that before Parliament meets again there will be literally confusion worse confounded in our definct strong Government—alas for its strength!

Regretted.

We have become painfully aware that for a day or two past bills have been handed round intimating that, on SUNDAY EVENING next, Fire Works would be exhibited at Longueuil, and that boats would start from our wharves for the purpose of carrying passengers to witness them. We had, it appears erroneously, imagined that living under the authority of the British Crown, and considering this Colony also as British, and consequently *Protestant*, we were secure from the irreligious manifestations of any openly profane practice whatever. The melancholy fact is before us—we were mistaken. It appears that we have here to encounter a foreign faction no less hostile to us in politics than in religion—a faction who are as inimical to the social supremacy which the guns of our fleets and the bayonets of our soldiers at first asserted at their expense, and have since uniformly maintained—as they are prone to abuse a day which every Protestant Christian respects and venerates. Taking the law of the land even, not to speak of social common sense, we would have supposed that living under the authority and protection of the British Crown, being in ourselves essentially British, and consequently *Protestant*, in spirit and Government—it might have been thought, we say, that *that* part of its population calling themselves loyal subjects would not have been insulted upon their very hearths by an announcement which carries with it to us, and to our families, the shock of desecration. This insulting and disgraceful announcement to a Protestant community was left at the door of our dwelling-house, and we were thereby invited to take a steamer at the wharf upon the evening of that holy day, consecrated by every true Christian,—from noon to noon, from noon to dewy eve,—to the calm and tranquil contemplation of all that is inviting to the faith and consolatory to the lost condition of sinful man. If our principles as Christians are thus to be contemned, our feelings to be harrowed, and our religious exercises to be thus interrupted and *glared* in upon by unhallowed pastime, it is time for the British part of the population to take into their serious consideration the position they occupy in Canada, and ascertain, by whatever means they can, if their Christian feeling is to be derided with the same impunity that their political rights and the lawful use of their very language have been invaded. We shall return to this subject to-morrow—our London letter precludes any further remark.

TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.—The vague note of Western Shawls that our talk plant here, or we believe on this Continent, was made by Scott & Glassford, (on Thursday) for account of the Bay State Mills, situated at Lawrence, near Boston. The attendance of purchasers from various parts of the country was very large—bidding was spirited and every lot on the catalogue was sold, exhibiting 44th history place.

FOUND DROWNED.—The body of Martin Regan, who had been missing since Saturday evening last, was discovered on Friday morning in the Steamboat Basin. After the Coroner's Inquest, whose verdict was, "found drowned," the body was taken charge of by the friends of the deceased. We regret to learn that Regan leaves a wife and family in Ireland.

The following are the names of the gentlemen composing the Committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the public dinner to be given to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine:—

Hon. A. N. Morin, Dr. Nelson, M. P. P., and Ludger Duvernay, John Young, A. M. Dubois, W. Bristow, J. L. Beaudry, H. Stanton, Louis Marchand, C. D. Day, L. H. Holton, C. A. Leblanc, John Fitzpatrick, L. Renaud, L. J. Hurlin, and M. Dumoulin, Esquires.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, September 12, 1851.

It is very clear, from the correspondence published between the Treasury and the Commissioners of the Exhibition, that "it is their intention, in due course, to give the contractors the necessary notice for the removal of the building" in Hyde Park. I never had a doubt on the subject, and it seems very clear to me that the agitation which has been so miserably provoked, to procure the sanction of the public to some bold scheme for turning the palace into a winter garden, or a college, or fifty other ideas, has originated in the interested motives of some of the "contractors." It is plain, by the Commissioners' own admission, "that the building does not belong to them," and as £70,000 must be forfeited by the contractors if the building is to be retained beyond the time fixed in the contract, it is a good round sum to agitate for. Some persons who were loudly in favor of the winter garden scheme, are now trying another dodge. Useful knowledge is now the cry, but depend upon it the group will grow next year where the produce of the world is now exhibited to the gaze of the world. During the last few days the receipts at the Crystal Palace have augmented, and on several occasions have fallen little short of £3,000

The lock controversy is yet going on. Messrs. Bramah, although they take exception to Mr. Hobbs' mode of opening their famous lock, have paid the 200 guineas reward. According to Messrs. Bramah's account, Mr. Hobbs, with his "thieves' wax," and with one instrument to force back the lock, "a hinged mirror in the key hole," a strong light, and all other sorts of odd instruments, is scarcely, by strict interpretation of the challenge, entitled to the reward offered in these terms:—"the artist who can make an instrument that will open or pick this lock, shall receive 200 guineas reward the moment it is produced." The *Builder* pertinently asks, where is the instrument? It is a nice question, which only the wisdom of a Locke could decide.

The harvest is now so far concluded, that all anxiety with respect to it is set at rest. The crops, although not abundant, are of an average quality; and the quality, in many districts, is spoken of as being superior.

At length we have some authentic, although very unsatisfactory, because imperfect, news of the Franklin expedition. Captain Parker, of the *Truelove*, whaler, has written a letter, brought by Captain Ord, of the *Tyne*, which arrived on the 6th instant, at Berwick-on-Tweed, from Davis's Straits. Captain Parker gives an account of Captain Austin's expedition up to the 13th September, 1850, the substance of which is, that on the 26th of August, 1850, traces were found to northward of Port Innis, in the Wellington Channel, by Captain Ommanney. They consisted of fragments of clothing, preserved meat, scraps of papers, one of which bore the name of "McDonald," medical officer of the expedition. On the 27th of August, Captain Penny's parties reported three graves, the latest death being the 3rd of April, 1846, at which period Franklin was about to push forward to the main object of his expedition. Besides these, there were unmistakable evidences of the ship having been permanently moored as the first winter station of the missing vessels. On the 1st September the ice broke up, and by the 6th several vessels penetrated to the Cornwallis side. Such, however, was the impenetrable character of the pack in Lancaster Sound, that by the 10th of September the searching expedition was again concentrated about eight miles south of Griffith's Island. This was the furthest point west gained by the United States expedition. The latest dates from Captain Austin are to the 12th of September, when they were likely to make Assistant Harbour, a port near Cape Martyrs, their winter quarters. The American vessels, *Advance* and *Rescue*, were frozen in opposite Wellington Channel, and drifted during the ensuing winter no less than 1050 miles, and were liberated after much exposure and trial, although the winter was mild, at a point South of Cape Walsingham, in Davis' Straits. They were going home. So far, there is nothing to cause greater alarm than before; in fact, it is very satisfactory to learn something of the brave men whose absence we all deplore.

A providential escape happened to four persons who went up on Monday evening in a balloon from Boyer's Symposium, at Kensington. When the balloon had ascended a considerable height, a large fracture was observed in the silk, and one of the party observing this, with great presence of mind, collapsed with his arm the upper part of the balloon into the form of a parachute. This saved the lives of the party, and the balloon descended in a field without serious accident.

Railway accidents have lately been very prevalent, attended, I regret to say, with serious loss of life. This, I fear, is mainly owing to the immense number of excursion trains running at all hours on the various lines, without the necessary precautions being taken to prevent collision with the regular trains. Upwards of 2,000 persons were waiting at the Southampton Railway station on Monday morning, for a cheap excursion train to London. When the station doors were opened, the crowd was so great, and so eager to get in, that the windows of the station were broken, several persons were injured, and a great number of hats, shawls, bonnets, caps, and shoes were lost, numbers of women fainted, or were taken ill, and the children were nearly crushed to death.

Lord Cranworth and Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce have been appointed Judges of Appeal, the latter with a seat in the House of Lords. Sir W. Page Wood and Mr. James Parker are to become Vice-Chancellors. A vacancy to fine council in the post of Solicitor-General.

The Chartist organ, the *Northern Star*, intimates that, in consequence of Mr. Feargus O'Connor's failing health and pecuniary embarrassments, he has been compelled to withdraw to the Continent.

There can now be no doubt as to the accomplishment of the Duke of Norfolk to the Reformed Church. The Duke, hitherto a staunch Roman Catholic, attended Divine Service in Arundel Church last Sunday, and afterwards received the Sacrament administered by one of the Queen's Chaplains. There cannot be a doubt that this is a political conversion. His Grace is deeply allied with the greatest of the secessions from Romanism, and has wisely resolved to disencumber them by quitting their body. The Duchess of Norfolk and her daughters are Protestants.

The invasion of Cuba by the American piratical contingent is excite great interest here, and the "indignation" of the sympathisers at the treatment of the 50 prisoners who were shot by the Spaniards, is carried on vigorously. Albeit, I see it given out that a secret treaty is in existence by which France, England, and the United States are pledged to the integrity of Cuba, and to its uninterrupted possession to Spain as part of her Colonial Empire. For some time I was under the idea the impression; but the Earl of Aberdeen has definitely denied this, and during one of the recent discussions on the subject, expressed his regret that his endeavours to bring about such a treaty had wholly failed. Treaty or no treaty, however, neither France nor England would permit the United States to take Cuba, but it seems that the other Powers of Europe, in fact the whole civilized world, would unite to prevent the consummation of such a monstrous and pernicious act. The French Government have sent positive orders to the Commander of the French Squadron in the West Indies to assist the Cuban Government against the aggressions of the American pirates.

A wide-spread conspiracy—perhaps got up by the police—has been discovered in Paris, and a vast number of arrests have taken place. This huge alleged plot seems, however, to attract little notice. The result of the deliberations of the Council-General may be thus stated:—30 have pronounced for revision in some form or other. Of these 74 voted for legal revision according to the Constitution—that is, by a majority of three-fourths of the Legislative Assembly, which, of course, is out of the question. Five only have asked for a revision of article 45, which renders the present Chief of the Executive ineligible; and one of these demanded expressly the prolongation of his powers. One has asked for the hereditary interest of hereditary Monarchy, and five have voted against all revision—the great department of the Seine has yet to "pronounce!" It is very clear that the opinions emanated by these bodies can have little or no effect upon the issue of the question. A prodigious deal of verbiage is wasted in discussing whether the Prince de Joinville has or has not declared himself a candidate for the Presidency. His Highness, or his partisans, are playing fast and loose, letting "I dare not wait upon I would!" No one seems to like to be the cat's paw to stand sponsor to the Prince's declaration, and he has not the courage to avow his intentions openly and boldly in his own name.

An uneasy feeling continues to exist in the south of Germany, in Austria, and in Italy, which will, I fear, develop itself in some serious events.

There is not any doubt but that Kossuth will be liberated at the period appointed. He and the other Hungarian refugees will proceed first to England, and thence to the United States, at their own desire.

The accounts from the Cape of Good Hope, brought by the *Hellespont*, which arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday, are most unsatisfactory. Having by a combined operation of the British troops been driven from their fastnesses in the Amatolas, the Kaffirs have dispersed in small marauding parties in the Eastern Provinces, and have made frightful ravages among the colonists, driving away cattle, and sweeping and devastating all before them. Patrols had been sent out to track the marauders, but the Kaffirs managed to escape. Between Fort Beaufort and Graham's Town, they massacred five of a party of Englishmen who were coming along the road unsuspicious of all danger, so that it is said at now they are in the heart of the Colony. The news from Natal is favorable; the Zoola contingent appears to have been dishanded, and the Colony remained perfectly quiet.

LAWS ARUNDEL; OR, THE RAILWAY OF LIFE: R. & C. Chalmers, Montreal.

This is a Novel of great merit, and fully deserves its popularity. The incidents are natural, and perfectly within the range of probability. There are several scenes very powerfully written, and many pages inculcating principles of the purest morality. Indeed, the whole work throughout is characterized by the strictest attention to purity of language and probability of incident, without being at all common-place.

DISASTER.—The Journal de Quebec says:—"We have been informed that a barge belonging to Mr. L. Methot was lost, with her cargo, in the vicinity of Berthier, below Quebec, during the storm on the evening of Saturday last. Part of the cargo, which consisted of dry goods, &c., belonging to Mr. Methot and Col. Gugnache, Merchants of Cap St. Ignace. The crew were saved."

MISSISSQUOI AGRICULTURAL SHOW.—This Show was held at Dunham Flat on Tuesday last. The weather was propitious, rain pouring in torrents nearly the whole day, but nevertheless the disagreeable of the weather, everything passed off well and satisfactorily. The yeomanry of the County—those who follow, to borrow the words of Senator Douglass, of Illinois, "the noble occupation of man"—were present in great strength. The show of quadrupeds was exceedingly exceeding in number and excellence, beyond any previous show in the County. This is mainly owing, to "Old Missisquoi" is famed for its superior stock. We write in great haste, and much fatigued, and have neither time nor power to say more at present, but will, in our next, publish a list of number of competitors, together with an account of the District Show, which takes place on the same place on the following day.—St. Johns *News*.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Dame Emelie Tavernier, widow of the late J. B. Gamelin, and Superior of the Providence Convent, who departed this life on Tuesday evening, after a few hours illness. Madame Gamelin was well known to the Catholics of Montreal, as the founder of the Providence Asylum, for the aged and infirm. In 1844, the asylum was erected into a religious community, of which the deceased was always superior.—True Witness.

The Albion Hotel, we learn, has been taken on a lease continuous for Sir Benedict the Governor General. The commodious hotel, which Mr. Bailey occupied for the last year, has been taken for a term of April, to 2500. The manner that Bailey would be a most comfortable place for Lord Elgin when the Parliament building, became the vice-regal palace, is very highly appreciated by the fashionable world.—*Pilot*.

Mr. Joseph Mathewson, one of the most intelligent gentlemen attached to the Board of Works, has been selected by the Government to survey the northern shores of St. Lawrence, below Quebec, with the view of ascertaining the best and most direct situation, and the cost of constructing piers and harbours.—*Ib.*

HIGHLAND GAMES.—There was "a gathering of the clans" in Woodstock, on Friday last, to celebrate the anniversary of the Highland Society of this County; and as the weather was fine, the "sweaty hat and jacket guy," came into ways in Woodstock in a manner the mostly approved thing for a number of years. The Highland Society, at Christmas, assumes his once a year, but in the usual return, expresses feelings in the present of bark pipes and oil, which carry them back to the Highland hills, the good old times and back again to the land of mountains and of heather. It is good to see the old Highlander, long the chief of a great tribe of these sturdy, which daily plodded his way to truth, in the land of his fathers, thus respectively to that of her commonest events. Sir Walter Scott has truly said, that—

"In peace, love tunes the shepherd's reed;
In war he mounts the warrior's steed;
In halls, in gay attire is seen;
In hamlets, dances on the green.
Love, hid in caves, the trembling fawn,
Mars, on the mountain, the armed man.
And these who wooed the gentle dame,
Or fought for honour, can become its sons."

The contest to "win the sweetheart of the Society and carry off the silver medal on the grounds to be held for the ensuing year, in the name of the County Hotel," was very great indeed, the old country blood, which flows in the veins of the Highlanders, proved the best race of all, courage, and the spirit of the day contributed to the success of the day.

The number of young ones in the County, who were on the ground on Friday, was very great, and the enjoyment of the day, was the greatest ever witnessed in the County.—*Sentinel*.

Dr. J. Lyons appeared, plaintiff and defendant in an action of law, in two and during their pleadings, it was very, and during each other to remain the longest while.—*Ib.*

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—The intelligence of traces of Sir John Franklin and his companions in the Arctic regions, has caused no little sensation in the neighborhood, and many of them are enquiries in the expectation that they may yet hear the pleasure of welcoming at least the surviving portion of the noble crew who left Greenhead in May, 1845, with the *Erebus* and *Terror*. It may be interesting to know that the Royal Marines whose crews were lost in the Arctic Expedition, the Wellington Barracks, where volunteered to proceed to the Arctic Regions with the exploring party, although he had only recently returned from service in China. When inquired previous to embarking, he answered "to be in the full vigour of his constitution, but if it pleased the Almighty to call him in China but if it pleased to be the Arctic Seas, during the rigours of a winter in the Arctic regions, and that he was consequently one of the coolest to fill a victim, in his love of whatever."

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—THE SEARCHING EXPEDITION.—The following letter from Captain Parker, of the *Truelove* which ship, with the Barque of Captain Ord, hailed a number of 50 Orkney Men, of the Type, of Barrow's Island, "I write which ship arrived at that port on the 5th inst., from Davis Straits. From this letter it would appear that the searching expeditions were about to quit for the winter quarters in the southern shore of Cornwallis Island, in Lancaster Sound, and Capt. Parker, of the *True*, is bound to Port Leopold, under Sir Edward Parry of the United States' expedition, which will be met with the Arctic expedition, which will be met with the Arctic expedition, which will be met with the Arctic