

fined—may be by ship down Peel Sound or by Regent Inlet and through Bellot Strait, which would place the searchers at once within reach of their work and in the waterway of the North-west passage into the Pacific, which, I need not tell you, has never been accomplished.

The other route would be by land starting, as Mr. Hall did, from Repulse Bay. The choice will depend probably upon the habits and experience of him who undertakes it.

It is a quest worthy of your Mr. Stanley and if he were not engaged in other work my aunt would endeavour to stimulate his enthusiasm in its behalf.

In consideration of the difficulty of providing for the equipment of such an undertaking my aunt has added to the reward of £2,000 on receiving possession of the documents in question, the offer of some compensation for the adjudication of this, as well as the reward itself to be made by three persons approved by both parties, of whom two shall be officers of the navy who have had experience in Arctic service, and who must therefore be competent for the duty kindly undertaken by them.

It is right I should add that the payment of the sums to be claimed is made binding upon my aunt's executors in the contingency of her death during the progress of the work.

You will excuse, my aunt hopes, the lengthy explanation with which I have troubled you. It is offered rather as a guarantee for the reasonableness and hopefulness of the object, which may therefore commend itself to your advocacy as well as your sympathy of which indeed my aunt has no doubt.

She begs her kind regards to you, and I am, dear sir, yours very truly,
SOPHIA CRACROFT.

EXAMPLED HEROISM.

The North Sydney Herald's description of the attempt to rescue the crew of the G. J. Troop, off that harbor, in which Captain Downey, of this city lost his life presents a graphic picture of acts of the greatest bravery and self-denial. The conduct of Capt Thomas Hackett, as here described, will not soon be forgotten by those who witnessed his unselfish and devoted effort to save life, regardless of his own or who read the account of his gallant heroism.

The second boat's crew, mentioned above were some time after the first in getting a start taking the same course; they did not arrive out side the wreck until the first boat was pretty well on the home stretch. She too was manned by a dauntless crew determined to accomplish their mission. Twice they bore down on the wreck, but each time by the force of the wind which now began to show perceptible increase combined with the running tide, were carried to leeward of the wreck. Each time they skillfully managed their boat through the mass of breakers and bore her out to windward. Dauntless still they bore down a third time, but alas! for the last. When nearing the wreck on this third attempt a boiling whirl as if thrown up by some demon of the deep suddenly arose right under the boat and turned her keel up quicker than thought precipitating all hands into the foaming waters and underneath the boat. All hands rose again to the surface and succeeded on the keel of their boat and succeeded in righting her again getting within her. But what availed their nautical skill now, with a boat full of water and oars gone, they were now at the mercy of a raging sea and too far off to receive a line from the crew on board the vessel. It was at this critical juncture that the intrepid daring of one of our brave men suddenly burst forth in all the sublimity of nobleness.

We refer to Capt Thomas Hackett. When all had got into the boat again he inquired, "Is my brother Charles here?" "Being answered by his brother, he next exclaimed, "Now boys swim for the light! It is our only chance for life!" and himself taking the lead he leapt clear over the side into that seething, raging mass of waters followed by his brother Charles Hackett and Dan Campbell. God help them! What are the tiny human arms of even the strongest man to struggle against this merciless irresistible flood of cold waters—the visible emblem of that invisible Jordan that divides the Present from the Eternal Future. Thomas now, the leader made wonderful progress under the circumstances toward the light, and at length came within reach of a line thrown by those on board the brig, but in place of clinging to it for his own deliverance he turned and swam back to his followers and passed it to each of them, then, seizing another line thrown out he directed them to separate and take a line each leaving himself unprovided for. By these lines they were dragged a yard, by this time so badly exhausted as to be helpless. This noble leader continued the unequal combat with the raging breakers and succeeded in getting pretty near to the lee quarter where the boom was projecting over the side with the sheet reaching down into the water. This he tied to, seized, and his hands were too numb to retain their hold. Failing in this he seized the rope with his teeth thus holding still for a moment to gain his exhausted breath; he threw up his arms, clasped the boom and sailed on top of it, crept along and gained the vessel's deck in safety. Anything more indomitable in overwhelming danger—any thing exhibiting greater powers of endurance under the combined actions of flood and cold, we have never heard of, much less witnessed. As an exhibition of noble self-denial it stands unsurpassed in human annals. But to return to the boat—of the other three, Messrs. Cann, Downey and Keenan, it does not appear that they left the boat with the others, as two of them, Cann and Keenan, were seen by those on board the vessel to be still in the boat as she drifted away through the surf towards the Head, and Capt Dow-

ney was seen floating on the surface making no effort. This was about 4 o'clock p.m. The upsetting of the boat was witnessed by the people.

Wednesday morning dawned on a blinding storm of snow and wind, which continued through the day. Early in the day the doubts of the previous night received a partial though melancholy solution in the bodies of Mr William Cann and Capt J. D. Downey having been found inside the harbor just below the South Bar. Captain J. D. Downey was aged 35 years, a native of New Brunswick and son of a Presbyterian minister; he leaves three orphan children, whose mother is also dead. He was well known to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

It will be the duty of the Government of Canada to reward the brave survivors of the band who offered succour to the distressed and also to look after the families of the deceased.

KANSAS BRIGANDS.

On the 8th ult., an Express train on the Kansas Pacific Railroad was stopped and robbed by five masked robbers at a small station called Muncie, in Kansas a few miles west of Kansas City. About half past three in the afternoon Mr John Purtee who owns the village store saw five men on horseback coming up the track from the direction of Kansas city, each carrying a rifle or carbine. Hitherto their horses entered the store, masked, silenced Mr Purtee by threats of shooting, emptied his till and demanded all the fire arms in the place. They compelled the section men at work there to block the road and ordered Mr Purtee to flag the train. While waiting for its arrival they captured a young farmer who was riding a rather good mare, and ordered him to dismount. The mare they kept, and taking the sorriest horse of their own proceeded to shoot it, firing some eight or ten shots into it before it fell down. A wagon containing women and children was also captured, altogether twenty persons being guarded by five bold and desperate men.

The train came up a little before four o'clock and was brought to a stop by the flag. One of the brigands boarded the engine and compelled the engineer to uncouple the engine and express car from the passenger coaches, and run up the line to where it was blocked. Two of the ruffians then captured the express messenger, and by threatening him with instant death persuaded him to unlock the treasure chest, from which they took \$25,000 in greenbacks, \$4000 in gold dust, and some valuable papers. While this some lively firing took place at the conductor, Mr Drinkenhoff, who was making his way back to flag a freight train followed in the rear of the express. He was brought to uninjured, but upon learning that his errand was one of mercy the brigands allowed him to proceed. When their work was finished they made off. One of the perpetrators of this daring outrage, was captured the day after ward in Kansas City, and the money and jewelry found on him identified.

INDIAN SUN DANCE.

At the time and place appointed the whole tribe comes together and makes preparations for the construction of a round inclosure of high poles, interlaced with branches and covered with buffalo skins. In the centre of the arena stands a tall pole which has been selected by a young Indian maid and cut down with great ceremony. It is adorned with flag of white and red cloth, and at the top, during the first day of sites, are fixed rudely carved representations of a man and a buffalo. Old warriors and young bucks mounted on ponies, gallop round the pole at full speed firing with arrows, pistols, and rifles at the two figures till they are brought to the ground.

The young warriors of the tribe undergo various self inflicted tortures for the purpose of proving their powers of endurance—such as piercing the skin and sticking into the wounds pieces of wood to which stout cords running from the centre pole are attached. The whole weight of the body is suspended on the cords, producing the most excruciating pain, but with every manifestation of daylight. Others are fastened to ponies in the same manner and dragged around the arena. All these young warriors are naked, with the exception of a cloth about the loins and their bodies are smeared with red, green, yellow, and blue paint.

All this time the old warriors, who have been through the same trial in their youth try to encourage the young backs by beating drums and singing war-songs. The medicine man stands ready with drugs and herbs to revive those that succumb to the torture. The squaws adorned with green wreaths, and carrying boughs in their hands encourage them with approving cries, and throw them presents in token of admiration. The ceremony ends at sundown, and the night is spent in a grand carouse. Very often the Indians go on the war path the morning after the sun dance. This was the case at the time this ceremony was witnessed by our correspondent.

On the Japanese coast there has been captured a whale, in the stomach of which was found a hide bag, containing 10,000 yen in gold and silver coin.

It is proposed to give medals to seamen of ten years service for exemplary conduct and these honourable marks of distinction are to be worn while the men are still serving.

The Bishop of Carlisle advocates the use of the lash on wife beaters.

The cost of the Russian army for 1874 is 24 millions sterling and that of the navy 3 millions.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

On Friday Mr D. Bruce, Manager of the Dundee Seal and Whale Fishing Company received a letter from Sir Leopold M'Clintock intimating that the Admiralty did not intend to purchase the steamer Esquimaux for the Arctic Expedition. It will be remembered that the Admiral when in Dundee recently made minute inspections of the Arctic now being built by the Messrs Stephen and the Erik the property of Messrs Anthony Gibbs & Sons, London, and the Esquimaux. Recently the Messrs Stephen were informed that the Arctic would not be taken; and as the Messrs Gibbs stated that they had no intention of selling their ship, it may now be regarded as certain that none of the Dundee steamers will be selected for the service. We hear that it has been definitely arranged that Capt Markham will have the second command of the expedition.

Captain Nares, the 'Athenæum' says is expected to arrive in this country about the 23rd.

It is now definitely settled that the route followed by the expedition under his command shall be that by Smith's Sound. The Admiralty have addressed themselves to the Councils of the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society, and asked those bodies to furnish suggestions regarding the scientific questions that should be kept in view during the expedition.

A request (says the Globe) has been made by the Foreign Office that the Danish Government will permit their agents at Disco, Proven, and Upponiuk to collect hunter's dogs and dog-drivers for the Arctic expedition.

It is announced that the vessel chosen to be the consort of the steam whaler Bloodhound in the forthcoming Arctic expedition is Her Majesty's ship Alert. She is a five-gun steam sloop of 752 tons (old measurement) and 100 ton horse power nominal. Active preparations for the equipment of the ships will soon commence; but the start will not be made until the latter end of June of the present year, as it is considered merely waste of labour and time to push across the north water until the ice has had time to melt and drift out from Smith's Sound.

It is now finally decided that the Bloodhound and the Alert will be the only two ships employed in the Arctic expedition. A telegram has been despatched to Commander Markham at present with the Channel Squadron at Vigo, ordering him to return as soon as possible and assume his duties in connection with the expedition.

The decision recently made public, that none but members of the Royal Navy would be permitted to take part in the Arctic Expedition, has been somewhat relaxed, and it is not improbable that men of experience in whaling will be engaged as ice quarter-masters.

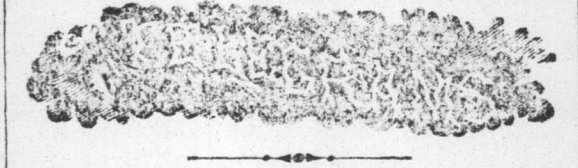
The brother of Lieut. Bellot the Arctic explorer, who fell a victim to his devotion at the age of twenty seven has obtained permission from the French Government to volunteer for the approaching English expedition to the Arctic regions. M. Bellot is a second lieutenant in the French Navy, and hopes are expressed that the British Admiralty will accept his services. — [English paper.]

ATTEMPTED SEIZURE OF A BRITISH GUNBOAT BY SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

The following particulars regarding the massacre of the Lapwing's crew and the attack on her Majesty's schooner Sandfly have been published in the Sydney Evening News of October 22:— The Lapwing was a cutter of about 40 tons, and sailed from New Caledonia about 11 months since, with a crew of four white men and several natives, on a beche-de-mer fishing voyage in the New Hebrides group. The cutter having fulfilled her mission, preparations were being made for the return to Noumea, but she was short of provisions. The mate left the cutter with a native boat's crew, to endeavor to get provisions from the natives of Santa Cruz, and while the boat was close in the inhabitants of the place made a combined attack upon her, and either clubbed or tomahawked all excepting one Tanna native, who escaped in the boat and got clear of the island. An attack was then made upon the cutter, and the master and the rest of the crew were killed, and the cutter seized and destroyed. The Tanna man was picked up by her Majesty's schooner Sandfly, cruising in the vicinity and conveyed to Sandwich Island (New Hebrides) from whence the W. S. Fox sailed.

The Lapwing was owned in New Caledonia. It transpired that her Majesty's schooner Sanibity, Lieutenant Howell, when at Santa Cruz, was nearly taken by the natives of the Island. It is reported that she was at anchor in a calm and the crew were all below at dinner, one man only being on the look-out, but the ship's gun was loaded and all the sides fully charged in case of an emergency. Several hundreds of canoes it

is stated, surrounded the Sandfly with the evident intention of attacking her, when the Sandfly opened fire upon the natives with the swivel guns and small rifles. The fire was hotly returned, the canoes sending volleys of arrows from all quarters, and still surrounding the schooner, and getting at closer quarters. A breeze, however, sprung up, enabling the Sandfly to get away from the place.



LONDON, Jan. 15.

Gladstone, on withdrawing from the leadership of the Liberal Party, writes to Earl Granville, as follows:— The time has arrived when I ought to revert to my letter of March last. After reviewing a number of considerations I see no public advantage in my continuing to act as leader of the Liberal Party. After forty-two years of laborious public life I think myself entitled to retire with the present opportunity. This retirement is dictated by personal views regarding the method of spending the closing years of my life. My conduct in Parliament will continue to be governed by the same principles as heretofore; and arrangements for the treatment of business to advance the convenience of the Liberal Party, will have my cordial support.

Lord Granville replied:— I have communicated, in detail, the reasons for which I profoundly regret and deplore your decision. My late colleagues agree in this regret, that the failure of the endeavors to dissuade you from your purpose, and doubtless, the Liberal Party also concur with us. In the observations we addressed to you, we were prompted by considerations of public advantage—and not merely by a sense of your services and of our admiration and attachment.

The steamer 'Alice Cardiff,' for Constantinople, has been lost; twenty drowned.

New York, 15.—The President sent a message to Congress yesterday, and approved of the restoration of the duties on tea and coffee; and that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to redeem legal tender notes at a premium of 7 1/2 per cent.

Gold 112 1/2. The examination of Moulton continued yesterday and to-day. He quoted from several letters written by Beecher, in support of some of his former statements; but otherwise his testimony was of the same tenor as charges.

London, 16.—The leading Liberals, Argyie, Cardwell, Wolverson, and Bright met at Lord Granville's to consult on Gladstone's retirement. Forster is a favorite for Leader. All agreed that Gladstone ought not to retire from Parliament.

The Germans have 8 war-vessels in the north of Spain. It is hoped at Berlin that Spain will accede to German demands. The Carlists deny the outrage on the 'Gustave.'

Gladstone has written an article on the Pope's speeches, sketches of the history of the Pope's reign; and the increased subservience of Roman Catholic clergy, and concludes by saying that the mass of the British nation now repudiates the pretensions of the Papacy more eagerly and resolutely than former generations.

The Times says that in the gloom surrounding there is one thing perceptible—all men are arming; Germany is arming en masse; surrounding nations, including the best part of the world, cannot do otherwise; momentary dreams of peace are fled. Germany recognises the stern necessity of holding by arms what was won by arms; believes that Germany cannot raise a third army—her hopes are in the navy.

The merchants of Madrid presented a magnificent crown to Alphonso.

London, 19. Serious alarm is felt for the health of the Pope who is suffering from the effects of a chill.

The Turks and the Montenegrins are going to war.

Renewal of trouble at Monte Video; crisis imminent.

New York, 19.

Another extensive silver mine has been discovered in California.

Interest in Beecher's trial is unabated.

The acting Sheriff of Viicksburg has been ejected from office at the point of the bayonet by Federal troops.

Gold 112.

London, 20. Prince Leopold's health shows no improvement, and less haemorrhage is speedily arrested death will ensue.

Canon Kingsley is reported to be dying.

The Bishop of Paderborn of Prussia, was imprisoned yesterday in the fortress of Wossel.

New York 20. Cuban insurgents have been defeated at Paso Castano.

THE STEAMER 'HERCULES' IS ADVERTISED to call here to-day with freight and passengers.

On Tuesday last the Prospectus of a new satirical paper, to be called the "Judge," was put in circulation here.

The steamer "Hercules" arrived here, on Saturday last with freight and passengers, and was detained by boisterous weather till Monday, when she left for St. John's.

By late cablegrams we observe that political affairs in Europe have assumed a threatening aspect. The assumption of the Spanish Crown by Alphonzo, and the refusal of Germany to recognize him until certain demands made by the latter power are acceded to, give reasons for apprehension that a collision may take place between the two nations, involving a struggle in which the chief powers of Europe would probably be forced to participate. The action of the Shah of Persia in ignoring the claims of Baron Reuter, and granting railway concessions to Russia, has caused the British Government to take a firm stand in support of the Baron, and Lord Derby has instructed the British Minister at Persia to back up Reuter's protest. The London 'Times' editorially says:—

"In the gloom surrounding there is one thing perceptible—all men are arming. Germany is arming en masse, and surrounding nations, including the best part of the world, cannot do otherwise. Momentary dreams of peace are fled, Germany recognizes the stern necessity of holding by arms what was won by arms. It is believed that Germany cannot raise a third army. Her hopes are, therefore, in the navy."

MEN AND THINGS.

A. J. W. wants the Colonial Secretaryship, but Noddy does not feel disposed to surrender the lucrative office. What does Ambo say about the matter? We await patiently the decision of the oracle.

The local 'Junius' of the "North Star" appears to be getting rather egotistical. He attributes Mr. Carter's success at the late election to the powerful influence of his prolific pen, and in consideration of his services in behalf of the Government demands an appointment to the office of Queen's Printer, threatening in case of refusal, to cry "peccavi," and join the Opposition. This is "too thin," Robert; the Opposition will have nothing to do with you. You are a well-known temporizer, and therefore dare not be trusted by any party.

AND so 'Northern Sam' has no chance of commanding a steamer at the approaching seal fishery. It seems that he has been weighed and found wanting; but in what respect we are unable to say. "How wretched is the man that hangs on princes' favours." The zeal-creating rays of hope visible previous to the election have vanished, and poor Samuel will be forced to confine his ambitious schemes to the circumscribed limits of a schooner. Political promises are of little account!

RUMOUR says the editor of the "Telegraph" has offered his services to the powers that be" as envoy to the Court of Persia, for the purpose of trying to bring about a solution of the Reuter-Shah difficulty. He urges his efficiency by stating that he is well acquainted with "foreign" as well as home politics, having but recently returned from a special mission to Canada, via Portland.

RAFFLING appears to be the rage just now. It would seem that the admirable delivery of "McGinnis' Raffle," by the comedian of the T. A. & B. Society's Literary Club, at their late entertainment, has given quite an impetus to the ever-existing desire to turn over "an honest dollar or two," in this, to say the least of it, honorable (?) way. During the past week raffles of china-ware, "nobs," nutmegs, and nie-backs, have taken place in various parts of the town, at some of which the hilarity of the patrons kept pace with the strains of the "fiddle" and the rattling of the dice-box.

THE following poetical item may be of interest to some of the local bleggiers:—
"He ran so long and ran so fast,
No wonder he ran out at last;
He ran in debt and then to pay,
He lost his brains and hid away."

WE congratulate our friend 'Mat' on the success of his fat-outting invention, and hope it will be the means of making his pocket 'fat,' notwithstanding Maek's efforts to claim the honor of being the originator of the idea.

Fragmentary text from the adjacent page, including phrases like "Cri", "ne", "of", "for", "why", "aw", "He", "An", "And", "In", "W", "evils", "negle", "pany", "bur", "men", "gard", "us h", "resor", "T", "Ob", "sides", "natu", "ver", "wind", "and", "to th", "indi", "and", "sout", "upon", "to e", "The", "ful", "part", "grea", "by l", "since", "felin", "A", "cle's", "bad", "last", "the", "W", "New", "had", "pick", "ber", "but", "hosp", "Secre", "pies", "£600", "Ne", "men", "for s", "Chro", "On", "Sa", "pond", "tow", "eigh", "Gree", "anot", "about", "in ab", "of ice", "stret", "visti", "also", "and", "Th", "excell", "vessel", "John", "We", "cident", "Brenn", "appea", "men v", "funer", "wind", "drift", "off an", "left hi", "in the", "to find", "lost to", "tive se", "under", "Doubt", "deep i", "The", "open", "with a", "Lectur", "Esq.", "as ma", "ject as", "and se", "in des", "tanded", "A ve", "tation", "feature", "had a", "red by", "wind", "roads", "and th", "pronou", "in twe", "so far", "mildne", "At B", "of Mr.", "daug", "On S", "aged 65"