

thousand pounds out of the indemnity deodand and exacted from the Chinese.—*Illustrated News.*

**THE GREAT EMPIRE.**—The Russian census, just completed, gives 79,000,000 as the total population, the women being in excess of the men to the number of 1,750,000. The nobles and higher guilds of traders number about 1,000,000, the nobles possessing 21,000,000 serfs. The lower classes, including serfs, petty traders, and artisans, number 53,500,000. The population of Siberia, including the wandering tribes of Kasan, Astrakan, and Orenburgh, is 4,000,000.

**SECRETARY OF LEGATION AT JAPAN.**—The *Times* says Lord John Russel has offered the new appointment of Secretary of Legation at Japan to Mr. Oliphant, who accompanied Lord Elgin in his first visit to Jeddo, and that Mr. Oliphant has accepted the post.

**CHAIR OF CHURCH HISTORY IN UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.**—It is reported that the Rev. Dr Stevenson of South Leith has been nominated to the vacant chair.

### GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

There is an apparent lull in the Secession movement in the United States, without much prospect of either a compromise, or an understanding being come to, by the contending parties, whose views are wide as the poles asunder. We read of men and money, arms and munitions of war being freely voted by the Legislatures of several of the Northern States, to preserve the Federation intact, and put down treason. On the other hand, although there is less noise and violence of expression in the South, the feeling in favor of Secession can scarcely be said to be modified. It is said that the number of States which have formally left the Union now amounts to five—the last and most important, perhaps, being Louisiana. The action of the Executive, if it intends to enforce the oneness of the Republic, is inexplicably weak. About a dozen forts, and more than a thousand guns, have already been seized by the revolutionary party, who now appear quietly but resolutely preparing for the struggle.

The decision of the Canadian judges, in the case of the fugitive slave, who killed his pursuer in self-defence, in order to avoid being taken, is universally and strongly condemned by the press of England of every party. It is fortunate there is in such cases an appeal to the crown, so that we should think the unfortunate man does not run much risk of being burned alive, or otherwise tortured to the death.

We are glad to find that both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia the shipbuilding trade is looking up, and large quantities of timber is being sledged to the various yards in both provinces, affording profitable, if temporary employment, to many of the country-people who have been suffering severely from the general and long continued depression.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia met on the 31st ult. for the despatch of business.

After a long continuance of open weather we have, for some weeks, been favored with steady and somewhat severe cold, which being preceded by a fall of snow, has afforded sleighing almost in perfection, facilitating the conveyance of timber and produce, which cannot fail to be a great boon to the country generally.

At latest accounts, the cold in England continued very intense, and was producing wide-spread distress, especially in the shipping towns, where all labor is at a stand still, and many thousands were without a meal, or the means of procuring one. The Thames was frozen over, the ice being about a foot thick, and on the canals it is said to have been not less than 15 inches. Neither the duration nor the intensity of the cold has been equalled in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

The peace with China has been confirmed, and to all appearance will not soon be broken. The Chinese have been completely humbled, and, perhaps for the first time, understand how entirely powerless they are against such a nation as England or France. The concessions are very ample. Not only does a British ambassador reside at Peking, and a Chinese one at London, but all the important ports, and all the inland waters, have been, or are to be, thrown open to foreign commerce. This will be an immense boon equally to Europe and China, and it may be in course of time that the absurd superstitions of this interesting portion of the world may melt away under the benign influence of the Sun of Righteousness.

By a meagre telegram *via* Australia we learn that a fierce combat has taken place between the English troops and the New Zealand Aborigines, and that the latter have been defeated and dispersed with the loss of their head Chief. This will probably bring hostilities to an end, and we trust that notwithstanding the position they have taken these spirited savages will be generously dealt with.

The siege of Gaeta drags its slow length along. A kind of armistice had been agreed to, to last till the 19th ult. when it was expected that if the King of Naples refused to come to terms, the French Emperor would permit the Sardinian fleet to open on the stronghold from the sea. Matters continue in a deplorable state throughout Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples, and it will evidently take a long time to bring back peace, order and industry to this distracted country. We