IN THE BOX.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

(Continued.)

MR. WATKINS' STORY.

I could see the madman's face pale under the paint with which it was smeared, and a sudden fear tremble in his eyes. Motionless and rigid as a statue, he stood listening for the voice to come again.

'Soan-ge-taha,' repeated the voice, 'brave son of the redskins, why dost thou linger? The Great Spirit that visited thee in thy sleep gives thee a secret hatchet. With it, thou shalt slay many white men. Come forth, and seek it where it has been laid ready to thy hand. Thou shalt find it in a sweet-smelling box of cedar-wood, in the straw thatched shed close to the house. Soan-ge-taha, come—come—come!' and with a low wailing sound, the voice seemed to die gradually away in the distance.

It sounded so weird and unearthly in the gray stillness of early morning, that for my own part, perfectly unable to account for it as I was, I could not help feeling strangely thrilled and moved; as for the American, he looked like a man stricken by some mortal terror, with big drops of sweat standing on his brow, afraid to stir, and equally afraid to disobey the ghastly summons.

Again was the summons repeated in faint far-away accents: 'Soan-ge-taha, come—come—come!' The American disobeyed no longer. He laid his empty revolver gently on the floor, tightened the girdle round his waist, felt that his knife and tomahawk were ready in case of need; and then unbolting the heavy oak door, with a last scared and trembling, but half-suspicious glance at me, as though suspecting some treachery on my part, he opened the door, and slipped noiselessly out into the gray dawn.

Scarcely had the peacock's feather which decorated the head of Soan-ge-taha disappeared through the door, when, light and agile as an acrobat, the hump-backed landlord swung himself by a pendant rope through the trap-door of the loft to the ground. With a single bound he reached the open door, and in another instant it was bolted and shut against the madman. Not a word did he utter till, with wonderful rapidity, he had seen to the fastenings of every door and window in the house; then he gave vent to a smothered 'Hurrah!' and drawing a knife from his pocket, proceeded to cut the cords with which I was bound.

I could hardly believe in the reality of what I saw; the whole affair was so incomprehensible, for some moments, I could regard it as nothing more than a wild vagary of my own over-wrought brain. But when I saw the cords fall from my feet, and felt that I was free, the sudden rush of happiness was more than I could bear; and I remember nothing more till I found myself on the carved chest again, with the landlord's friendly face bent over me while doing his best to restore my scattered senses.

But the madman was back by this time, conscious that he had been made the victim of some trick; and the first sound that greeted my returning consciousness was a horrious yell of mingled rage and despair, which burst from his lips as he flung himself against the stout old door, which quivered visibly under the shock, but refused to give way. Finding his efforts of no avail, he next tried his strength against the windows; but they were even more impervious to his attacks than the door had been, being grated with iron bars, and further secured inside by stout wooden shutters. Then, in a red hot fury of raging madness, he tried, one after another, every door and window that opened into the house; but they had been too well secured by the vigilant landlord to afford any chance of ingress. Baffled at every point, the madman's rage found vent in a series of terrific yells, mingled with curses and threats of the direst vengeance against both of us. Then, for a time, everything was still, and we breathed more freely.

'But how did it all happen, Mattinson?' I said after a time. 'I confess I can't understand it all. And that my mysterious voice, which chilled me to the very marrow, can you explain what that was?'

'Easily enough, sir. The voice you heard was my voice.'

Seeing my stare of astonishment, he went on, with a little laugh:

'You see, sir, this is how it was. When I was a young fellow, I was servant to a well known conjurer and ventriloquist, and travelled up and down the country with him—After a time, I found out, quite by chance, as I was trying to imitate him one night, that I possessed in quite uncommon perfection the ventriloquial faculty. I practised it a good deal after that entirely for my own amusement, though there were not wanting people who said I might have made my fortune by it had I been so inclined. Be that as it may, however, I grew heartily sick of the vagabond sort of life after a while; and as my old woman, whom I was courting at that time, refused to have me unless I would settle down at home again, why, I did what I have never regretted doing—I sacrificed fortune for happiness, and here I am.

Well, sir, when I woke, some time in the night, up there in the loft, where I was sleeping comfortably enough on a shake down, I heard some curious noises below, which induced me to get up cautiously, and look through the trap. There I saw you fastened down on the chest, and that rampaging pained devil standing over you, and laughing like some hyena gone mad. With that, I quietly pulled up the ladder, thinking perhaps, he might want to serve me the same way next. A minute or two later you opened your eyes, and you what happened after that as well as I do; only you don't perhaps know that after that madman shot at me, I found a little crack in the floor, just over where you lay, through which I could see and hear everything without being seen myself. When he was firing at you in that bloodthirsty way, I was all in a quake of pity and terror, not seeing any way by which I could help you in the least; for to have ventured out of the loft with no weapon but a little pocket knife, would have been merely sacrificing my own life without doing you the least good; when suddenly it dashed across my mind—and it was more like a flash of light from Heaven than anything else—to try the effect of my old powers of ventriloquism, which had indeed grown somewhat rusty for want of use. The thought was not well out of my head before I spoke as you heard; and words seemed given to me in a wonderful way, of which I had never any experience before, as if something above and beyond me were speaking through my lips: And now he's outside, trying his best to get in again; but I don't think he'll manage it. Hark! he's at the window again.'

Nettlefold, in fact, came back at that moment, and again tried his utmost to effect an entrance both at back and front, breaking the silence every now and then with a true madman's yell, more terrible to hear than even a genuine Indian whoop.

After a time, when all was silent, Mattinson climbed up into the loft, and making a watch-tower of the window in its sloping roof, from that elevated position reported to me the progress of the siege. He had not been long at his post before he reported that the American had just entered the stable, which stood a short distance from the house; a minute or two later, mounted on the share back of my mare, and with nothing but a halter to guide her, Nettlefold galloped out of the yard, and flinging a parting yell at the house and its inmates, disappeared at a headlong pace down the white road.

We kept within doors all day, thinking that the departure of the American might be merely a ruse to draw us from our retreat. Towards nightfall, a company of a dozen people, among them our landlord's wife and daughter, all came up together from Overbarrow, whom we welcomed to our temporary prison with thankful hearts. The same evening, by the favor of a kindly farmer, who undertook to drive me over, I found myself at Hawthorpe Hall.

Before the following morning, the storm, which had been threatening for several days, came down in earnest, and was remembered as one of the most terrible which had been known in those parts for many years.

Six weeks later, when the thaw came on, the bodies of Nettlefold and my mare were found at the foot of a precipice among the hills, over which they had gone headlong in the storm.

Papers found among the effects of the American enabled us to communicate with his friends. From what we learned subsequently, it would appear that he had at one time been confined in a private lunatic asylum, but had ultimately been discharged as that cured; his insanity was supposed to have been occasioned in part from a blow on the head received during a frontier skirmish, and in part from disappointment and wounded self-love, at being jilted by a beautiful Indian girl with whom he had fallen in love during his wanderings. His friends were wealthy, and they took him—sleeping his last sleep—across the Atlantic, to rest in the grave of his fathers. Peace to his memory!

As for Mattinson, he is now, thanks to the generosity of my then prosperous employer, the landlord of the *Rose and Crown*, the largest and best known inn within twenty miles of Hawthorpe.

By the time Mr. Watkin's story was concluded, the morning was far advanced.—Nothing could be more wretched than the aspect of the jury-room as the early sun poured in through the ghastly window, making the white walls blush as if for their nakedness. Mooney was, of course, asleep; Quiverful has forgotten his domestic anxieties in an uneasy slumber; and Simperton was enjoying broken snatches—homœpathic doses of sleep, from which he every now and then awoke to exclaim 'Bravo!' 'Very good!' in tribute to the talents of the narrator for the time being. The rest of us were awake, and although far from comfortable, as resolute as ever. We felt that we were right in our intended verdict, but above all we felt that Crasket was wrong. As for the iron merchant, he was still as obstinate as George III, but it was evident that his constitution was not what he had boasted it to be. His face was pallid, and drawn down in gutters like a wasted tallow candle; and when he spoke, his voice sounded as hollow and sepulchral as the tones in which the ghosts of Professor Pepper are accustomed to address the shuddering public.

'How many more of these childish stories are we going to have? inquired he.

'Just as many as the foreman thinks proper,' returned Sunnyside gaily. 'I have written down the heads of some half dozen narratives myself, and Mr. Winkard here, he has been doing the same.'

'As for me,' remarked the supercargo, 'I'm just as choke full o' narration as a pumpkin is of seed.

'Moreover,' said I, 'only five of us have yet favored the company; and the other seven should be taken in order, as they sit, before our second batch comes on. It is Mr. Mooney's turn now, for example and probably, after his prolonged rest, his intellect will be fresh and vigorous.'

'Stop!' cried Crasket in an awful voice: 'don't wake that man. I wish to say a few words, once for all. I have suffered much—it is useless to conceal it—through this last night, and I am supremely wretched at this moment. No narrative from Mr. Mooney—no, nor from even Simperton—could make me much worse. All these stories have been told, I am well aware, to exhaust me, to wear me out: well, I'm not to be exhausted; I'm not to be worn out. Still, as I said before, if a single genuine instance can be brought forward—the scene not being laid in Yucatan—of an honest individual in possession of a stolen five pound note, and'——

'Bob knows one,' interrupted Mr. William Rooster.

'Bill knows one,' echoed Mr. Robert.

'I don't want two instances,' returned Mr. Crasket, viciously; 'one is quite sufficient. If one can be adduced, I say I will'——

'Well, you'll give in, Mr. Crasket; come, that's right and fair enough.'

'No, sir; *I'll eat my hat*,' ejaculated the iron merchant savagely.

'And he *shall* too,' exclaimed the supercargo with shrill vehemence. 'If that story *is* told, and it don't convince that 'ere Crasket right off, and he don't come into our verdict pretty slick, I'll be *dodrotted* but he *shall* eat his hat, linin' and all.'

'Under these circumstances,' observed I, gravely, it is especially necessary that there should be silence for Mr. William'——

'No, sir; Bob, if you please—it's his story,' observed the individual in question.

'No, sir; it's Bill, exclaimed Mr. Robert.

'Then silence, gentlemen all, if you please,' said I, 'for

THE MESSRS. ROOSTER'S STORY,'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Late Chief Justice LaFontaine.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Sir Louis Hypolite Lafontaine, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in Lower Canada, which occurred yesterday morning in Montreal. The deceased judge will occupy an important place in the history of Canada, having for many years been among the foremost of her public men. To his great worth as a man, a statesman, and a judge, all parties concur in testifying.

He was born at Boucherville, in Lower Canada, in October, 1807. He was educated for the bar, and proved most successful in his profession. At the time he turned his attention to politics he was pecuniarily in good circumstances. Previous to the rebellion he is represented as having been more radical than Mr. Papineau, the leader of the French party in the struggle which culminated in the outbreak of 1837. At the time of the rebellion he was accused of high treason, and left the country for a short time. As there was no evidence against him, he was soon able to return. Though a prominent member of the Lower Canada Parliament, it is since the Union, however, that he is best known as a political leader. As the head of the French party in the House, and the ally of the late Robert Baldwin, he took part in the quarrel with Governor Metcalfe on the question of appointments by the Governor without consulting his advisers. He had been appointed Attorney General for Lower Canada in September, 1842; the rupture with Sir Charles Metcalfe took place near the close of 1843. The elections of 1844 gave the Tory party a very large majority in Upper Canada. Mr. Lafontaine, though at the head of a very large Lower Canada majority, was left almost without Upper Canada allies. In consequence of the success of the Tories in Upper Canada, Mr. Draper was enabled to govern the country until the election of 1848. Under the Draper Government, Mr. Lafontaine was leader of the Lower Canada Opposition. The elections of 1848 gave the Reform party a majority in Upper Canada, which along with the very large majority which Mr. Lafontaine's party had in Lower Canada, formed a majority of about two thirds of the House. Mr. Draper retired from office, and the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government was formed in February, 1851, when the Hincks-Morin Administration succeeded. On the 13th of August, 1853 Mr. Lafontaine was appointed Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench for Lower Canada.—At the time of his death, he had occupied the position but a little over ten years. In August, 1854, he was created a baronet of the United Kingdom.

In private life the late Chief was much esteemed. His moral character has ever been regarded as irreproachable. As a politician both before and since the Union, he occupied a prominent and honourable position. When he was elevated to the first position on the Lower Canada Bench, the universal feeling was that a fitting appointment had been made. In his death the Province loses an able and a most worthy man.—*Globe.*

RATHER A MIXED COMMUNITY.—The State of Wisconsin exemplifies the wonderful and unprecedented character of the United States in regard to the sources of its growth and strength. The legislature of that state has ordered the Governor's message to be printed in eight different languages: English, German, Norwegian, Irish, Welsh, Holland, French and Bohemian. The old, vigorous Teutonic stock is largely represented there, and is contributing largely to the prosperity of the state.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MARCH 1st, 1864.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

If it is the desire of gentlemen of the opposition to turn the Canadian "House of Commons" into a Pandemonium, we must say that we think they are in a fair way of achieving a brilliant success. We had occasion a few days ago to revert to the discreditable means used by Messrs. Cartier & Co. in their attacks upon the premier, but in the simplicity of our hearts we thought the ebullition of spleen would pass off and that the House would be allowed to settle down into something like a business-like attitude. Nothing of the kind, however, has taken place. Compared with subsequent portions of the debate, the virulent attacks upon Mr. J. S. McDonald are high-toned and honorable. If Mr. Cartier snarled and gnashed his teeth at the commencement of the session, he fairly frothed at the mouth a few days later. It is impossible to read a full report of the speeches without bringing to mind the description given by Mr. Dickson of the little fellow with the ugly head, and to wonder indeed that such confessedly able men as John A. McDonald and others can reconcile themselves to the political companionship of anything so manifestly vile and corrupt. We will give our readers a morsel of the debate on Tuesday night. Here it is, only let the reader bear in mind that it took place under the shadow of the British flag:

Mr. TASCHEREAU addressed the House, and took occasion to deliver a running commentary on the speech of the Hon. the Solicitor General East on the previous evening.—He took exception to some of the expressions used by the Solicitor General.

The SPEAKER—Shall the second paragraph of the Address be adopted to pass? Cries of "Yes, yes," and "No, no."

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—I have yet to speak to the motion. Cries of "Spoke, spoke."

Hon. Mr. BROWN—It is quite clear that the hon. gentleman is trying to waste the time of the country at the present moment. I appeal to the Speaker to decide whether the Hon. Mr. Cartier has not already spoken.—(Cries of "Spoke, spoke.")

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—I have not spoken on this subject. (Cries of "Chair, chair," and "Order.")

SEVERAL MEMBERS—You have already spoken.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER insisted on speaking. He said—I have already spoken in explanation—(the rest of the sentence was lost in the cries of "Chair, chair.")

Hon. Mr. DORION—I rise as to a question of order. The hon. member has already spoken two hours and a half.

The SPEAKER—The subject on which the hon. member was supposed to be speaking was that which is now before the House. (Applause.) But he devoted all his remarks to the hon. member for Missisquoi, and that was not the question before the House. (Applause, and cries of "chair.")

Hon. Mr. CARTIER, amid cries of "order, order," insisted on speaking.

SEVERAL MEMBERS—Adjourn the debate. (Cries of "chair, chair.")

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—The hon. member for South Oxford knows very well that when I take the floor I intend to keep it. (Laughter and cries of "order.") I intend to make a motion to adjourn, if necessary, and nothing can make me yield the floor at the call of the Hon. Attorney General East.

After considerable disorder, and some remarks from the Speaker,

Hon. Mr. CARTIER again attempted to speak, and amid cries of "chair," when

Hon Mr. BROWN submitted it to the good sense of the House whether it was decent in a gentleman who was leader of a considerable party in the House to persist in speaking after the Speaker had declared that it would be out of order for him to speak, and when he well knew, and every hon. member on the House knew, that he was out of order in attempting to speak a second time. And all for the purpose, not of instructing the House, but of consuming time and protracting the debate. If he was determined to inflict a second speech upon the House, he would move an adjournment, and then he would be perfectly in order. He so prominent a member of the House was to be allowed to defy the rules, how could other members be expected to preserve order? The country would take note of the fact that he had risen at this hour of the night, after the whole day had been spent uselessly, mostly by himself, to speak against time.

This, then, is the leader of Her Majesty's loyal—*most* loyal opposition! This bully, for we can call him nothing else, professes to stand at the head of the *Constitutional* party, as it now desires to be termed—this is the man whom the corporal's guard delights to honor! "There is such a lack of true statesmanship manifested by the Ministry," say oppositionists. Well, here is statesmanship of an original pattern. Surely no man of right-feeling or common-sense can fail to be disgusted with such a miserable specimen of opposition tactics as has been shown during the past few days. Fancy for a moment the outcry that would be raised in England were the members of any party to attempt such a vulgar exhibition—fancy Lord Derby, or Mr Disraeli, who can be bitter enough on occasion, openly declaring that in spite of rules or remonstrances they would speak just as long and as often as they liked. They would very soon find themselves without support either in Parliament or out of it. As in most deliberative assemblies, there has been a frequent use of invective in the British Parliament, but what a wide contrast there is between the polished sarcasm or even invective of Sir Edward Coke, Fox, the elder Pitt, Burke, Chatham, (whose frown gave Sir Robert Walpole a pain in the back) and others, and the miserable, filthy drivel that emanates nightly from Mr. Cartier and his confreres! It is true that Provincial Assemblies seldom aspire to the lofty dignity of Imperial bodies, but surely there is no earthly reason why in this ambitious Canada of ours there might not be at least an attempt at dignified deliberation. Mr. McGee wants to have a Prince to rule over us. Mr. Cartier, forgetful of the follies of his youth, believes himself to be the chosen exponent of Constitutionalism *par excellence*. What a pity that they do not act up to the doctrines laid down by them, respectively, in the *British American Magazine* and *La Minerva* newspaper.

What end the opposition have in view in thus prolonging the debate upon the Address is beyond our comprehension.—They cannot deny that the best interests of the country are involved in the Speech from the Throne, and yet they quibble and talk against time as though desirous of frittering away the days and thus ensuring a comparatively fruitless session.—Possibly they wish to retard real legislation until certain members who are now too ill to leave their homes shall be able to go to the seat of government *and of squabbling*. At any rate, the people of Upper Canada should not forget the actions of Mr. Cartier and those who sustain him in his rampant position.

NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

British American Magazine,—Rollo & Adam, Toronto. T. J. Moorhouse, Goderich.

The number for March is a superior one and contains many articles of real merit, peculiarly adapted to the tastes and feelings of Canadians, for which reason it should meet with a generous support.—The Review department is, as usual, very interesting.

Harper for March is a good number, but not up to the mark, in our opinion. There are in it, however, several very readable articles. Moorhouse has it on sale.

LINES.

Written by the late Thos. McQueen, hitherto unpublished.

The pleasures of life, once so flowery and fair
Are fading away into shadowy care,
And the soul once so lively, so cheerful and gay
Broods lonely in gloom that will ne'er pass away.

The morn's rosy light falls on landscape and lake,
And bids dowsy Nature in gladness awake,
But to my listless bosom it comes but to say,
That the gloom on my spirit will ne'er pass away.

The moonlight that gambols on woodland and wave,
Brings rest to the weary and sleep to the slave;
But its silvery softness unheeded must play,
For the gloom on my spirit will ne'er pass away.

In her loveliest robes maiden Nature appears
And her melody soothes dull despondency's ears
Her sounds may be sweet and her flowers be gay,
But the gloom on my spirit will ne'er pass away.

The cheek of the maiden may vie with the Rose,
And beauty and love in each feature repose,
But I feel not the power of her eye's loving ray,
For the gloom on my spirit will ne'er pass away.

Alas, dearest friend, earth's pleasure's are fled,
Life's only to me as the home of the dead,
No longer I dream of a happier day,
For the gloom from my spirit will ne'er pass away.

Marine Intelligence.

GODERICH AND SAGINAW.—the side-wheel steamer Canadian is being rebuilt, and will run during the coming navigation season between Goderich and Saginaw.

LAKE TUG SOLD.—The tug 'A. A. Turner' has been sold to Hicks & Bell, of New York, for $15,000 cash. She is destined for New Orleans, where she will be employed in the towing service.

CHICAGO RIVER.—The *Tribune* says the ice in the Chicago river is breaking up. From present prospects, navigation will commence earlier than usual, and the coming season will be unusually busy one.

The Propellers Edith, Niagara, Union, Scotia, Alleghany, and two others, names not known, will run a daily line between Chicago and Sarnia, running in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway, viz, F. B. Wade, Antelope, Montgomery, Sun, Kenosha, Gov. Cushman, and S. D. Caldwell.

The above, which we clip from an exchange, is not correct in every particular.—We will be able to state the arrangements for the Spring trade in so far as Goderich is concerned, in a few days.

ARRIVAL OF THE 'HIBERNIAN.'

PORTLAND, Feb. 22.

The *Hibernian* arrived about 5:30 this afternoon.

The Richmond correspondence of the *Times* asserts that, if necessary, where one slave is for fighting for Lincoln, ten slaves will be found fighting for the South.

The reply of Napoleon to the letter of the Queen of Spain, announcing the marriage of the daughter of the Duc de Montpensier to the Count de Paris, is said to be couched in very affectionate terms.

POLAND.

Gen. Berg issued an order to the effect that insurgents voluntarily surrendering with their arms shall be permitted to retain their liberty; those surrendering without arms to be set free on a certificate of legitimation—their future good behaviour being guaranteed.—Insurgents failing to comply with either condition to be transported until order shall be restored.

The west coast of Africa January mails have been received. Trade generally was dull at all ports. General news unimportant.

SCHLESWIG, Feb. 11.

It is stated that the Danes have evacuated the works at Duppel, and embarked their stores and war material at Alsen.

General Cameron had made a successful attack on the Maoris, in New Zealand, annihilating the tribe of Jakewa, the most powerful tribe in the country, south of Auckland, killing 100 and capturing 200, being nearly all the fighting men of the tribe. The British loss was 35 killed and 93 wounded.

The *Times'* leader regrets the heavy loss, although the results were important; so much so, that the leading man among the natives, William Thompson, wished to offer his submission to the General immediately after the struggle, and was only prevented by the determination of his few remaining followers.

The *Post* understands that the English Government has proposed an armistice to the belligerents on the basis of the evacuation of Schleswig, with the exception of the Island of Alsen, by the Danes.

This suggestion has met with the support of France, Russia and Sweden, and is put forward as a preliminary to a Conference which it is hoped will finally dispose of the long vexed question of the Duchies.

The *Times'* city article says:—Whether the alteration in bank rates will be more permanent than the last similar reduction on the 24th December, which it was found necessary to retract within three or four weeks, must be a doubtful question. The probability is, that if war symptoms thicken, the contradiction that will occur, especially in the German trade, coupled with the withdrawal of credits and the exercise of general prudence, may cause a further diminution in the pressure to be witnessed.

Some of the letters from Germany to day state that an increased sense of the internal complications and external dangers into which the country may be driven by its present course is beginning in several quarters to become manifest.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 12.

Corn market, thin attendance. Wheat—hardly anything doing at a decline of at least three-pence per cwt since Tuesday. Flour neglected, and to effect sales less money is taken. Oats and meal, no enquiry, and the prices are nominally the same. Indian Corn Meal offering at 29s 6d; White 33s per quarter.

ARRIVAL OF THE "ASIA."

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.

The Royal Mail steamer *Asia*, from Liverpool at noon on the 13th, and Queenstown on the evening of the 14th February, arrived here this morning.

Lord Derby, in the house of Lords, attacked and Earl Russell defended the Government in reference to the suspected steam rams. The latter declined to produce papers pending legal investigations

In the House of Commons Mr. Layard reiterated his statement that Mr. Adams made no official or verbal communication to Earl Russell of the substance of Mr. Seward's despatch of the 11th of July last.

Mr Fitzgerald called attention to the circumstances attending the capture of certain British vessels by Federal cruisers, the murder of one of the crew of the 'Saxon' by a Federal lieutenant, &c. He asserted that Earl Russell had not done enough in the matter, and moved for the correspondence. The Attorney General opposed the motion. He said the principle of prize adjudication in America is the same as in England, and the disposition of the American Government is very fair and just.

During a general debate several speakers charged the Government with a truckling policy towards the American Government.

Lord Palmerston said it was due to the American Government to say that they invariably received England's representations in a spirit of equity and justice. He quoted the 'Trent' case as evidence of a desire to do right. It was prejudicial to the good understanding between Powers to accuse a foreign Government of acts of which it is not guilty, and express distrust of their equity when nothing justified such charges. The resolution was withdrawn.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says the military estimates will be reduced a quarter of a million sterling, with only the loss of a few hundred men.

There is a questionable report that two first class English houses, sufferers by rebel cruisers, are about to despatch one of the fastest steamers afloat in pursuit of the pirates. It is suggested that this may be another rebel dodge.

It is confirmed that England proposed an armistice on the basis of the evacuation of all Schleswig except Alsen by the Danes. Russia, France and Sweden support the proposition. It is stated that Austria dissents. The result is not yet known.

Nothing but mere skirmishing was reported from the seat of war.

The Germans were receiving large reinforcements, and making preparations against Alsen.

The Prussians had occupied Altona, in spite of the Federal protests.

The Danes were capturing Prussian vessels.

It is asserted that Italy is arming.

Breadstuffs.—Flour dull, and 6d to 1s lower. Extra State 21s to 21s 6d. Wheat very dull, and 2d to 4d per cental lower.

Preliminary proceedings in the case of the suspected steamer 'Pampero,' seized on the Clyde, commenced in the Exchequer Court, Edinburg, on the 11th. The indictments are similar to those in the 'Alexandra' case. The defendants put in a general denial and appeal to the jury. The case was adjourned till the 13th.

The London *Times* has an article on the Parliamentary debate upon seizures by the Federals of cotton in British ships. It treats the alleged murder on board the 'Saxon' as a most serious case, and says any negligence in demanding and urging the punishment of the crime, will be an abandonment of the protection which a State owes its subjects.

Rendsburg, Feb. 12

The Danes on the 10th were posted about an hour's march from Duppeln.

Flensburg, Feb. 12.

Troops and artillery continue to pass through here, bound northward.

It is not certainly known whether an attack on Duppeln has commenced, and but a few wounded men are brought in.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

CONFEDERATE VICTORY IN FLORIDA.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—The *Times* says the steamship Fulton, from Port Royal, on Wednesday last, arrived here at a late hour last night, bringing information of a sad reverse to our expedition under Gen. Seymour in Florida. We are unable to give details, because after the Fulton had put into the bay she was boarded by the provost-marshal and quartermaster, with orders from Gen. Gillmore to deprive the passengers of all private letters. To a passenger by the Fulton we are indebted for the following main facts of the battle:—

On the forenoon of the 20th our troops under Gen. Seymour met the enemy, 15,000 strong, 15 miles beyond Jacksonville and 8 miles beyond Sanderson, on the line of the Jacksonville and Tallahassee railroad. The battle was desperately fought during three hours, and at sunset our forces overpowered by numbers retired to Sanderson taking with them the greater part of the wounded. The 7th Connecticut, 7th New Haven, 40 Massachusetts, 48th and 150th New York, and 8th United States were engaged. Colonel Fribley of the 8th United States was left dead on the field. Colonel Reed, a Hungarian officer was mortally wounded.

All the officers of Hamilton's battery were wounded. Captain Hamilton, wounded in the arm, and Lieutenant Merrick, wounded in the foot are at General Gilmore's headquarters, at Hilton Head, Colonel Henry, of the 40th Massachusetts, had three horses shot under him, but escaped unhurt.

The Cosmopolitan arrived at Beaufort on Monday evening with 240 of the wounded—Colonel Reed among them—who was living when the Fulton left on Wednesday.

The enemy's loss is not known. They captured five guns. It is supposed that the troops were from Bragg's army. Gen. Hardee himself was on the field, having come to Florida on a visit to his family, and also to form a second marriage. Our loss is variously estimated at from 500 to 1,300. Seventy-eight Confederate prisoners were brought by the Fulton. We understand that the purser of the Fulton has a list of the killed and wounded, which he will show, but will not allow it to be copied.

The *Herald's* Washington despatch reports a fight between Captain Harper's company of swamp dragoons and some of Imboden's men at the mouth of Seneca river. Pendleton's company who were bent on a road, the despatch says nothing of the result.

The *Herald's* naval correspondent dated off Mobile, 18th says the Hartford, with admiral Farragut and six mortar schooners are with the fleet. It is rumored they will engage Fort Gaines to day. Deserters state there are about 20,000 troops in and around Mobile. Two iron-clads, the Tennessee and Nashville are in the harbor, the former mounts 10 guns.

The Confederate programme is stated to be an ascent of the Mississippi by those vessels the capture of New Orleans and blockade of the river between there and Natchez. In this they were to be assisted by General Magruder and Taylor's forces.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—The *Express* says:—From an officer arrived in the Fulton, we derive some further particulars of the disaster to our forces near Lake City. Gen. Seymour who commanded the expedition had been placed under arrest by order of Gen. Gilmore. His successor is Gen. Vodges, who left Hilton Head on Tuesday last with reinforcements for Jacksonville, consisting of an entire division. Our information says it was the opinion of the officers who took part in the expedition that our total losses in killed wounded and missing are between 1200 and 1500.

Gen. Seymour is severely censured in not throwing out scouts and skirmishers as our troops advanced. As it was our troops were led into a trap. Hamilton's artillery led the van and suffered severely. The Confederate sharpshooters picked off their horses and the guns had to be abandoned. The 40th Massachussetts, mounted infantry, have also suffered severely. In the retreat many of our wounded were left behind, within the enemy's lines. Our troops were right in front of the Confederate batteries, in a piece of woods, before we were aware of their presence, and when their batteries opened a galling fire our men were driven back panic stricken in disorder. The Confederate force is not known but is supposed to have been larger than ours. One of the prisoners captured stated that the troops had recently been sent down from Charleston and Gen. Beauregard was in command.

ADDRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

The Address of the Confederate Congress to the people of the Confederate States has been published. It says:

The course of the Federal Government has proved that it did not desire peace, and would not consent to it on any terms that we could possibly concede.

In proof of this we refer to the repeated rejection of all terms of conciliation and compromise to their recent contemptuous refusal to receive the Vice-President, who was sent to negotiate for softening the asperities of war, and their scornful rejection of the offer of a neutral power to mediate between the contending parties.

The motive of such strange conduct is obvious. The Republican party was founded to destroy slavery, and the equality of the States, and Lincoln was selected as the instrument to accomplish this object. The Union was a barrier to the consummation of this policy, because the Constitution, which was its bond, recognized and protected slavery and the sovereignty of the States.

It is absurd to pretend that a government really desirous of restoring the Union would adopt such measures as the confiscation of private property, the emancipation of slaves, systematic efforts to incite them to insurrection, forcible abduction from their homes, and compulsory enlistment in the army, the division of a sovereign State without its consent, and a proclamation that one tenth of the population of a State, and that tenth under military rule, should control the will of the remaining nine-tenths. The only relation between the two section under such policy is that of conquerer and conquered, superior and dependent.

It would hardly be fair to assert that all Northern people participate in these designs, on the contrary, there exists a powerful political party that openly condemns them. The Administration has however, been able thus far, by its enormous patronage and its lavish expenditures, to seduce, or by its legions of Hessian mercenaries to overawe, to control the elections, and to establish an arbitrary despotism.

It cannot be possible that this state of things can continue. The people of the U. S., accustomed to freedom, cannot consent to be fettered and enslaved.

In order to ruin and enslave us moral like physical epidemics have there shooted perfidious, and must sooner or later be exhausted and disappear when reason returns. Our enemies will probably reflect that a people like ours who have exhibited such capabilities and extemporized such resources can ever be subdued, that a vast expanse of territory with such a population cannot be governed as an obedient colony until some evidence is given of a change of policy on the part of the government.

We combat for property, homes, the honor of our wives, the future of our children, the preservation of our fair land from pollution, and to avert a doom which we can read both in the threats of our enemies and acts of oppression we have alluded to. The situation is grave, but furnishes no just excuse for despondency. Instead of harsh criticism on the Government and our General, instead of bewailing the failure to accomplish impossibilities, we should rather be grateful for the results that have rewarded our labors.

Remembering the disproportion in population, in military and naval resources, and the deficiency of skilled laboring ship South our accomplishments have surpassed theirs. Assurance is received that efforts at negotiations will not be spurned. The Congress are of opinion that any direct overtures for peace would compromise our self-respect, be fruitless of good, and interpreted by the enemy as an indication of weakness. We can only repeat the desire of the people for peace and our readiness to accept terms consistent with the honour and integrity and independence of the States and compatible with the safety of our domestic institution. We have no alternative but to do our duty, of any people in the annals of the world.—There is no just reason for hopelessness or fear. Since the outbreak of the war the South have lost the nominal possession of the Mississippi River and fragments of her territ[illegible] but the Federal occupancy is not com[illegible]

T[illegible]my is not free from difficulties. W[illegible] enormous debt, the financial con[illegible] postponed, is surely coming. T[illegible] crops in the United States, and abs[illegible] harvests in Europe, will hasten what [illegible]erwise invaluable. Many sagacious [illegible] at the North discover in the usurpations of their government the certain overthrow of their liberties. A large number revolt from the unjust war, and would gladly bring it to an end; others too, with alarm, on the complete subversion of [illegible] Freedom by Abraham Lincoln, and feel in their own persons the bitterness of the slavery which three years of war have failed to inflict on the South.

Brave and earnest men at the North have spoken out against the usurpation and cruelty daily practised. The success of these men over the radical and despotic factions which now rules the North, may open the way to peaceful negociations, and a cessation of this bloody and unnecessary war. In conclusion, we exhort our fellow citizens to be of good cheer, and spare no labor or sacrifices that may be necessary, to enable us to win the campaign upon which we have just entered.

We have passed through great trials of affliction, suffering and humiliation are the school masters that bind nations to self reliance and independance, we beg that the supplies and resources of the country which are ample may be sold to the gov't to support and equip its armies, let all spirit of faction and past party differences be forgotten in the presence of our cruel foe.

The New York *Post* raises the question whether General Humphrey Marshall, who weighs 500 pounds, is fit for an officer of light infantry.

GOOD FOR HEADACHE.—Mr. Ephraim Blackmer, Munford, N. Y., writes: 'Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer and Zylobalsamum have stopped my hair from falling, as well as relieved me of violent turns of headache, with which I have long been afflicted.

Sold by druggists eeerywhere. Depot, 193 Greenwich st., N. Y.

SALT ON LAND.—It begins to be understood by those who have practised it, that salt sown broadcast at the rate of about two bushels to the acre is a benefit. Especially is it good for wheat. Like lime it is lasting, and need not be repeated every year.

A gallant little fellow gave 15 pretty girls a sleigh-ride in Skowhegan last week.—Horse ran away, tipped over the calico and created a scene for a painter or a descriptive poet.

Town & Counties.

☞ The weather continues mild and open and our streets are still quite bare of sleighing, although the back concessions have a superabundance of snow. There is little or nothing doing in the produce trade, and as a natural consequence business generally is very dull for this season.

MISSIONARY.—A Missionary Meeting was held in the Methodist New Connexion Church on Tuesday evening last. In the absence of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Cleaver, who is but just recovering from a serious illness, Rev. Chas. Fletcher occupied the chair. A very good congregation listened to stirring addresses from Rev'ds Messrs. English, Ure, McCappin and Caswell. The choir gave a choice selection of Music in excellent style.

SHAKSPEREAN READING.—We are requested to announce that Gilbert Griffin Esq., P. O. Inspector, of London, will give Shaksperean Readings in this place (this) Thusday evening, in aid of the Epicopalian Church Rectory Fund. Full particulars will be given in due time.—The pieces to be rendered are, the Merchant of Venice and Hood's Tale of a Trumpet. From the reputation he bears as an elegant and effective reader, we have no doubt that Mr. Griffin will give his audience a rare intellectual treat.

THOSE MAILS.—We have received several letters from township clerks urging us to hurry on the Assessment Rolls. All we can say is that they were mailed in the Goderich post office *nearly a month ago!* and we have the assurance of the officials that they were dispatched at once. In the name of wonder, then, how could such large parcels go estray when they were most carefully made up and sent away by our own hands. It is really too bad that in a matter of such great public importance a complaint of this kind has to be made. If some country postmasters were looked after a little it would not be amiss. As it is now, the parcel post into the new townships is untrustworthy to the last degree.

BIBLE SOCIETY MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Goderich Branch Bible Society was held in St. Andrew's Church, last evening. The attendance was good. The chair was taken by J. V. Detlor Esq., the president. After the preliminary devotional exercises, the chairman made a few suitable practical remarks regarding the object of the meeting, and the Report was read by the Rev. Mr Mackid. The statement read by the Treasurer and Depository was very interesting, but owing to an oversight in charging sales of books from the Tract Soc'y, it was re-committed to the committee to make the necessary corrections. From what we could gather, it appears that the receipts for the year were large, amounting to $69 38, and the subscription and collections $71 94.

The meeting was then addressed by the Rev. Mr. Ure in moving the adoption of the Sec'ys Report. He made some forcible remarks on the necessity of every one doing their utmost to forward this good cause. Rev. Mr McCappin, in seconding, spoke at length and urged the duty of every christian in this work.

The Rev. Mr. Brookman, agent of the Society, then addressed the meeting. He spoke in a clear and luminous manner of the means and instrumentalities at work, which, through the blessing of God were doing so much good, and gave a most interesting account of the operation of the British and Foreign Bible Society in foreign lands.

The Mayoralty Election Set Aside.

It seems highly probable that, after all, we are to have a fresh Mayoralty Election Contest. Most of our readers are aware that two protests were entered against the election of Mr. Watson—one in downright earnest before the Court of Queen's Bench in