## The Emperor of Russia.

Nicholas I. Pawlowitch, or, to call him by his official titles, "Autocrat of all the Russias, Czar of Poland, Grand Duke of Finland," &c., is the third son of the assassinated Emperor Paul I., by his second wife Maria Feodorowna, a daughter of Duke Frederick Eugene of Wurtemberg, and was born in St. Petersburg on the 6th of July, 1796. He was the ninth of the ten children of Paul, by that Princess, and but four months old when his father ascended the throne, from which Catherine II. had kept him for thirty-five long years. The two eldest sons of Paul were Alexander and Constantine, and these, not Nicholas, did the world look upon, as the successors to the imperial throne. It has been asserted that though a child at the time, the assassination of his father made a lasting and terrible impression on his mind. He and his younger brother, Michael, were sleeping in the apartments of the Empress on the night of the murder. The noise in the palace, the clang of arms, and the rude voices of men, woke the mother, who, tearing the young Grand Dukes (this is the name of all Russian princes; the successor to the throne being called the hereditary Grand Duke) from their beds, was hurrying with them towards the rooms of the Emperor, when she was met by one of the conspirators, Count Pahlen, who pushed her and the children back again into their apartment, with the laconic assurance in French, "There is no danger for you, Madam." "And my husband?" cried the unfortunate princess. Here the door was shut upon her, and Paul I. was no longer with the living.—This happened in the old Michaelows palace, which was shut and never opened during the reign of Alexander. Nicholas had it opened and passed through the rooms *once* during his reign. Since then the rooms in which the murder was committed have remained closed. The rest of the palace is now used as a military school, which, however, is seldom visited by the Emperor, who is frequently inspecting all similar institutions.

The early education of Nicholas was not equal to that of Alexander, especially in the historical department. Greater proficiency he obtained in the mathematical and military sciences, and in music. It is said that he even shone as a composer of *marches*. His feelings were less cultivated, and he was even as a child secluded, earnest and taciturn. He was educated for the army, and became, at a very early period, a great disciplinarian, though, during his whole life, he never assumed the command in actual war.

At the age of 21, the Grand Duke Nicholas married Princess Charlotte, of Prussia, aged 19, very similar to him in disposition, though far better educated than himself, and, as a woman, accounted as faultlessly handsome as Nicholas was as a man. They were considered the handsomest couple in Europe, and what at first was merely a political marriage, became afterwards one of sincere and devoted mutual attachment. They occupied the Anitchow Palace, nearly a mile distant from the "Winter Palace," (the residence of the Court) entirely devoted to each other, and but seldom appearing in Court circles. The birth of the Grand Duchess Maria (subsequently Duchess of Leuchtenburg) within one year after this marriage, and of Olga, (now wife of the Crown Prince of Wurtemburg,) exhibited Nicholas as a model of father and husband to all Europe. He took little or no interest in the politics of the day, but divided his time between his duties as Chief Inspector of the Military Staff, and those he owed to his family. Even in 1839, *Custine*, in his work "*Russie en 1839*," said of Nicholas, "The Emperor forgets his Majesty only in the domestic circle. Here he remembers that there are pleasures and joys independent of the duties of statesmen."

The first administrative act of Nicholas was to give Russia a thorough military organization. He created 120 general aids-de-camps whose privilege it is to inspect the books and papers of every civil bureau in the land, and to whom all civil officers are at all times accountable. Then he created a triple police, the highest grades to centre in the imperial chancery, and to be charged with the safety of the Emperor's person, and the *surveillance* or supervision of all higher administrative officers, as well as persons in high society. The codification of the Russian laws was decreed in 1827, but not accomplished till 1846; and the attempt of the Emperor to introduce honesty and economy into the different branches of the government has, as yet, met with but very indifferent success. Nicholas is not sufficient of a modern statesman to introduce organic reforms; he has, as Czar, only increased the terrors of punishment of those who transgress against his will. To show how even a despot may be baulked, we will mention but one fact. Four merchants of Cronstadt reported that the imperial arsenal was robbed regularly by the officers (!) of all manner of naval stores, including even cannon and munitions of war, and that the Bazaar was the place where they were sold to foreign captains of vessels. An adjutant of the Emperor was immediately despatched to Cronstadt, and the goods were actually found. The discovery made an immense sensation; but no prosecutions followed—for the Bazaar became that very night a prey to a conflagration.

Some believe that the system of gradual emancipation of the serfs of the nobles, and the creation of a crown peasantry, holding their lands directly under the crown, is an act of liberality on the part of the Emperor. But the truth is, the peasants are blindly devoted to the Czar, who is both their Chief Priest and King, and the events in the history of Russia have shown the Emperor the advantage of a class in which his successors, if not himself, may yet find a counterpoise to the power of the nobles.

Next to the military concentration of the Government, we must mention the unity of language and religion, which has been the aim of the Emperor Nicholas during his long reign. The Russian language was forcibly introduced into the provinces of Courland, Esthland and Lifland, and the Greek Church, recruited from Catholics, Lutherans, Jews and Heathens, partly by persuasion, partly by the knout and the terrors of Siberia. It is proved, by the official registers, that over 100,000 victims of this system are annually condemned to the mines, or to the penal companies in the Caucasus; but the Greek church is flourishing under it. Unity of Church and State in the person of the Czar, is the fundamental idea of Nicholas' Government; the means, the army and its organization.

To do Nicholas justice, he has respect for the law as it exists, and he is, in regard to that law, ever just, and a promoter of order and internal peace. But he knows no progress, either political or social, and is unsparing in his efforts to crush both. He told Mr. Buchanan, then U. S. Minster to Russia, that he could comprehend the government of the United States, and his own; but that a constitutional monarchy appeared to him sheer nonsense. He repeated the same thing to the Marquis of Custine. "I acknowledge absolute monarchy," he said, "because I am at the head of such a monarchy. I acknowledge the Republic, because it is a systematic, well-arranged government; but I detest a constitutional monarchy; because it is the form of falsehood and deception." Yet the only republic now deserving the name, that of the United States, was hatched by constitutional monarchy. Nicholas does not acknowledge the progress of constitutional monarchy over despotism, but he seems to have a presentiment, that a constitutional monarchy is but the half-way house to the republic; hence his determination to crush it in every part of the world.

Having thus briefly sketched his character, we may briefly state his achievements. His first military exploit was against Abbas Mirza, the heir to the throne of Persia, who had crossed the Russian frontier. The latter was defeated by Field Marshal Paskewitch, and peace concluded at Turkmanchae, 22th February, 1828. Persia surrendered two provinces, now forming the Russian Governments of Georgia and Trans-Caucasus, and paid eighteen millions of rubles.

The war with Turkey in 1828 commenced with the storming of the fortresses Braila and Varna, the victorious battle of Shumlaw, and terminated with the crossing of the Balcan, and the entry into Adrianople, where peace was concluded in 1829. Turkey granted freedom of trade to all Russian subjects, free navigation to the vessels of all nations in the Black Sea, the Protectorate over Moldavia and Wallachia to the Emperor of Russia, surrendered a Pashalic near the Caucasus, and paid two millions of ducats.

The Revolution in Poland was quelled, after nine months of cruel war, by the surrender of Warsaw on the 7th September, 1831. An Imperial ukase, (17th March, 1832,) abolished the Kingdom of Poland and its Constitution, and incorporated it with Russia as a Province. The University of Warsaw was also abolished. It was want of dignity and humanity when, after such punishment, and the banishment into Siberia of so large a number of patriots, the Emperor addressed a Committee of Poles deputed to receive him at Warsaw in 1835, in these terms: "If you continue your dreams of nationality and independence, you can only injure yourselves. I have caused this citadel to be built, to level your city to the earth, at the first sign of another revolt."

The same war of extermination the Emperor has been waging for more than a quarter of a century against the Circassians in the Caucasus; but there he encountered in Shamyl a character as firm and resolute as his own, and a chivalry and prowess among the people far exceeding that of his army. That war is still going on, and while it lasts, forms a counterpoise to Russian influence in Persia and Affghanistan.—England and Russia have already met once, though not face to face, in Asia. The campaign against Cabul by the British, and the march of the Russians on Khiva, toward the close of 1839, formed the prelude of future contention for the dominion of India.

The intervention of Russia in Hungary is too fresh on the minds of our readers to deserve a special notice. Suffice it to say that the offer of a similar intervention in Prussia preceded it. That in Hungary was asked for by the Emperor of Austria; but the King of Prussia had made no such demands on his imperial brother-in-law.

Thus far the reign of Nicholas has been one of uninterrupted success, well calculated to confirm his belief in his mission to be not only the conservator of absolute monarchy, but the means of expanding the area of despotism. He marks a period of gigantic perturbation in the progress of history, from the effects of which Europe may not recover during the nineteenth century. But, then, who would have predicted the downfall of Napoleon in 1812? Nicholas has arrived at the zenith of his power. Will he have the prudence and moderation not to go beyond it?—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

## The Peerage in England.

It has frequently been asserted, and as frequently denied, that the Peerage of England cannot boast of particularly ancient blood. In the July number of the Westminster Review, we find an article germain to the question. The particularity of the writer in the Review may be considered to set the matter definitely at rest. From this authority it appears that, in 1828, out of 249 noblemen, 35 "laid claim" to having traced their descent beyond the Conquest; 49 prior to 1100; 29 prior to 1200; 32 prior to 1300; 26 prior to 1400; 17 to 1500; and 26 to 1600. At the same time 30 had their origin but little before 1700. It must be borne in mind, however, that these descents are traced indiscriminately through the male and female line, and that the chief authority for the antiquity of many of these descents is but a modern herald's pedigree. In 1830 Sir Harris Nicolas made a table of English peerage and proved that the ancestors of but one-third of the body were of baronial or even knightly rank, even so late as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Nearly two centuries ago, Dugdale, writing of the Roll of Battle Abbey, said, that, out of 270 families, but eight were represented in the direct line, and but twenty-four had left representatives in any younger male branch.

The rapidity with which peerages become extinct is very remarkable. Charles the First created fifty-six peerages, of which all but six are extinct, though but little more than two centuries have elapsed. From 1784 to 1830, there were created 186 peerages, of which 84 had already become extinct, at the last of these two dates. The dukedom of Northumberland is an illustration of the fate of the peerage. Three times the line of the Percys ended in an heiress, who carried the estates and title to new families. The last time was when the heiress married Sir Hugh Smithson, the son of an apothecary, the ancester of the existing duke. The present dukes of Buckingham represent neither the original Stafford family, which had Plantagenet blood in its veins, nor even the Villiers family, but the Grenville family, of which Lord Temple, the brother-in-law of Chatham, was the representative a century ago.

Within the last hundred years, the peerage has been recruited principally from successful lawyers, politicians and merchants, most of them being, however, what are called men of family, that is entitled to wear coats of arms. Very few creations have been made from among country gentlemen of ancient descent and good estates. Yet the purest blood in England, heraldrically speaking, exists among this class. After all, however, pedigree is not much of a recommendation. Burns has well said—

"The rank is but the guinea stamp,
The man's the gowd f r a' that."

## Ages of British Statesmen.

Lord Aberdeen, the premier, is in his 70th year. Lord Lansdowne, who was offered the office of prime minister on Lord Derby's resignation, and has a seat in the cabinet, without salary, is in his 74th year. Palmerston is nearly 70. Sir James Graham and Lord John Russell have entered their 62d year; the first is unpopular from his shifting politics, &c., when Home Secretary; the latter is "used up," and will probably be called to the House of Lords, in which he will be—nobody. Cranworth, the lord chancellor, is 64, and a "s ow coach." Sir Chas. Wood, at the head of Indian affairs, is only 53, but he has hitherto so much spoiled all that he has touched, that no future ministry is likely to be burthened with him.

The *young* men of the present ministry are all for progress and liberal measures; the *old* ones, whom I have above named, are for standing still. There are, in the present cabinet, sufficient young men, yet well practised as politicians, who, no doubt, will constitute the government, when Lord Aberdeen's senile hands drop the rains. There is Lord Clarendon, aged 53, who is Foreign Secretary, and has been Ambassador to Spain, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lord Privy Seal, President of the Board of Trade, and Viceroy of Ireland. There is the Duke of Newcastle, aged 42, Colonial Secretary, who has been a Lord of the Treasury, First Commissioner of Woods and Forests, and Irish Secretary. There is Sydney Herbert, aged 44, Secretary of War, who was Admiralty and War Secretary under Peel, from 1841 to 1846.—There is Sir William Molesworth, aged 43, Woods and Forests Commissioner, who has been a leader on the popular side since 1832. There is Edward Cardwell, aged 40, President of the Board of Trade, who was Peel's Treasury Secretary. There is Lord Granville, President of the Council, who has been Foreign Secretary. There is the Duke of Argyle, aged 30, Lord Privy Seal. And there is Gladstone, aged 44, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was one of Peel's Government in 1834, (when a *very* young man,) and has filled the highest offices from 1841 to 1846.

All these whom I have named are actually cabinet ministers. Seven are antiquated in years and ideas.—The other eight are comparatively young men—are tried and approved men, and, more or less, belong to *the progress party*. I might add a few who hold like opinons, such as Lord Carlisle, aged 51, a man of letters as well as a statesman; Frederick Peel, aged 31, now Under Secretary of State, and "a chip of the old block;" Ralph Osborne, aged 42, Admiralty Secretary; Sir John Young, aged 46, Irish Secretary; and, perhaps, no less a personage, also, than Benjamin D'Israeli himself.—*London Cor. N. Y. Times.*

## The Great Work Completed.

The Portland *Advertiser* of 18th July, says: "Just seven years ago, last fourth of July, the Chief Magistrate of our States, members of our Legislature, our city authorities, and many thousands of the citizens of the State, assembled together in this city for the double purpose of celebrating our national anniversary and of "BREAKING GROUND" in the great enterprise of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad. Foreverty years previous, the fourth of July had been celebrated here and throughout our country, the anniversary of the declaration of our natnal independence. Hereafter, it ought to be doubly memorable to the people of Maine, as the anniversary of another declaration, the joyful remembrance of which we trust will be indelibly agraved upon our minds—the declaration of the fure commercial independence of this, our beautil metropolis, and of the State which it adorns.—Hreafter, when we celebrate that day, we shall remember that it also marks a new era of progress, improvement and prosperity to our State and city, a which they are now to advance with railroad peed, to that commercial pre-eminence which is heir natural and manifest destiny.

We rejoice that most of the origin friends and promoters of this great enterprise, we to see its consummation in a manner far more ample and satisfactory than ever their sanguin minds then dared to hope for. The road is built, and the *stock at par and a trifle over!* Where can nother similar case be found, in the whole histor of railroad enterprises in this country.

In all the records of history, and upo the judgment and convictions of the intelligent and wise of the whole race, those days which mark the peaceful union of nations, are more memorable and glorious than those on which they re discovered by arms. To-day, we expect to greet, we trust, with enthusiastic cordiality, some of our friends from Montreal, in the first tra of cars over the *whole line of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, now complete!* We fid ourselves united with the province of Canada by a adamantine chain, which is to link together no only two cities, but two nations, parent and chil, we trust in perpetual peace, friendship and prosperity.

Then let the glorious stars and strips and the banner of St. George, float gaily and harmoniously together! Let cannon roar and bells ive forth their cordial peals, while the strains of "Hail Columbia," and "God save the Queen re heard mingled together in peaceful harmony! We have made no parade, and given forth no note of preparation. Whatever is done will be emirely *impromptu*, but we trust it will be none thtless sincere, hearty and satisfactory."

THE LARGEST RAILWAY IN THE WORLD.—The largest railway in the world will short be possessed by Canada. That branch of it which is opened this morning from hence to Portland, is, comparatively, but a small portion of the whole. Preliminary to the payment of the dividend, which during the week has rejoiced the hears of the stockholders, who have either been fortunate enough to hold on to their original stock or to have become possessed of stock by purchase, the definite arrangement was made for the amalgamation of the following lines. The Grand Trunk Railway or that road which was to connect Montreal with Kingston; the Toronto and Guelph road; the St. Lawrence and Atlantic road; the Grand Trunk railway of Canada East, or that road which is intended to connect Quebec with Trois Pistoles; and lastly, the Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad, or that portion of the road hence to Portland, which lies in the territories of the United States. The Grand Trunk company have not become possessed of the fee simple of the latter road; but they have got what, according to the old English saying, is as good as a freeholder, a ninety nine years lease, at a rent, calculated at 6 per cent on the outlay incurred by the American company, amounting to some £5,000,000. On the 19th instant, it is expected that the arrangements for incorporating the Richmond and Quebec Railroad with the rest will also be concluded. When that shall have taken place, there will be under one arrangement—finished, in rapid progress, or about to be begun,—the immense extent of eleven hundred and twelve miles of railroad. We imagine that the first portion of the road now opened must be secure of an enormous passenger traffic, passing as it does through the most romantic scenery from the St. Lawrence to the sea. [illegible]

## The Harvest.

The editor of the N. Y. Tribune, who has just traversed a large portion of the country of the North, East and West, sums up his observations with those of correspondents, &c. relative to the crops, as follows:

*Wheat* was considerably injured by the Fly and the Weevil, but not so seriously as was at first supposed.—The crop is a fair average.

Rye came in well, but was not extensively sown.—[It rarely fails.]

*Grass and Hay* are short in the average—we think not over three-fourths of an average yield throughout the Union. It was very generally injured by drought and by grasshoppers, and its later growth so hastened by the intense heat that very much of it suffers by standing in the field after it should have been cut. There is much yet out which will not be worth nearly so much as it would have been if cut a fortnight ago. It is very short in the great Grazing States of the West.

*Indian Corn* was quite extensively planted, and about half of all we have seen bears a good color, though often shortened by drouth. About a quarter of all we have seen is very miserable, and cannot yield ten bushels to the acre—much not five. The remaining quarter is rather worse than middling. There is time yet for improvement, if rains are frequent and frosts hold off, but the probability now is that the yield per acre will be below an average. If so, Pork must be higher. In the South, Corn is a great staple, and there will not be half a crop this year.

*Potatoes* cover a great deal of ground—we think more than usual—but the prospects for a yield are not bright. They have widely suffered from drouth, and the vines are generally less luxuriant than they should be. We hear reports that the dreaded Rot has made its appearance in Westchester County, where rain has been abundant. We believe the average yield will be small though many fields look well.

*Oats* are a failure. There was a great breadth sown, but the severe drought of July has stunted them, so that they are short and look badly. Even in Westchester, where there has been rain enough, they look thin and feeble—a result attributed to the intense heats of June. We did not see a dozen really good fields in the last thousand miles we travelled. There will not be over half a crop.

*Sowed Corn* (for fodder) is doing fairly.

*Buckwheat* is seen in all stages—some fields in the blossom; others hardly out of the ground. The earliest sown is generally short. It is too soon to speak as to the later.

*Roots*, other than Potatoes, are not extensively sown or are not yet up. The shortness of the Grass crop ought to have induced a very general sowing of Turnips and Indian Corn to eke out the deficiency of Hay, but we do not learn that it has done so.

—Our general conclusion is that Grain will rule high and probably advance during the next nine months, carrying Pork along with it, and that Cattle and Beef will be cheaper in the fall. Sheep cannot well be dearer. But August may materially change all this. So much depends on the fullness or deficiency of the Harvest, that we will thank our friends in every quarter to advise us early of anything that may occur affecting it in their respective neighborhoods, and to be careful to inform us accurately. Grass and Winter Grain are mainly cut, while Oats are generally past praying for; but Indian Corn and Potatoes may yet come in so bounteously as to ensure general plenty.

THE OLD "FIVE AND TWO."—The *Army Despatch* says the head quarters of the gallant 52d Light Infantry, under Lieut. Col. Campbell, embarked on the 30th ult. at Queenstown, in the Barham, and sailed on the following day for Calcutta. This division paraded in the Cork barracks at 12 o'clock, and marched to Penrose quay, accompanied by the Bands of the 30th, 81st, and 50th Regiments. On the bands striking up the popular melody of "Oh, Susannah," the whole of the troops joined in chorus with admirable effect.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.—The average daily visitors to the Dublin Exhibition now amount to 10,000.


# The Observer.

**St. John, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 1853.**


The Royal Mail steamship Niagara, from Liverpool, 23d ult., with 115 passengers, arrived at Halifax on Thursday last.

The screw steamer Sarah Sands sailed from Liverpool on the evening of the 21st of July, with 220 passengers, for Quebec.

It was generally reported, that Lord Palmerston would again succeed to the Secretaryship of Foreign Affairs, Earl Clarendon exchanging to the Home Department. In the House of Lords, on the 18th ult., Government stated that a few days would terminate negociations respecting the Turkish question, when the result would be published—whether successful or not.

The Earl of Portsmouth is dead. The Queen and family are sick with the measles. Since the sailing of the Washington, Parliamentary proceedings have been chiefly of local interest. Lord John Russell replied to Lord Dudley Stewart, that he doubted if owners of British ships in the Danube, had any claims upon Russia to keep the navigation open. Mr. Layard attempted to bring on a discussion on the subject, but was prevented. Respecting Eastern difficulties, there is no doubt that the reception given by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg to the first proposition from the powers, was so favorable as to warrant the expectation that the question will be settled without further delay. The Russian Chancellor is said to have declared to the French Ambassador that the Czar will welcome the arrangement held out for his acceptance. The only motive supposed to cause further delay was the necessity of obtaining the assent of Austria, which consent is supposed now to be on the way to St. Petersburg.

If the French proposal is the one ultimately adopted, it is a note framed by the French government, as a medium between the demands of Menschikoff and the terms offered by Redschid Pasha. It is difficult to say if the following important statement be premature, but it has an effect on public feeling. It came on the 20th, telegraphed from Berlin, that the Czar had actually accepted the proposal offered by France and England. The news was reported to have been brought by steamer from St. Petersburg on the 16th to Stettin, then published at Berlin and Dresden, and telegraphed to Paris and London, where it considerably improved the funds. The public fully believe that the main danger is over. It was also telegraphed from Vienna to London, under date of Constantinople, the 11th, that a conciliatory note had just been issued by Redschid Pasha, which is considered of a nature to bring negociations at once to a conclusion. The feeling among commercial men is decided. The English and French fleets are still at Besika Bay.

General news is scarce, there being no subject more nationally interesting than the weather. The clipper ship Sovereign of the Seas is up for Australia. The steamship Great Britain undertakes to reach Melbourne in 65 days from Liverpool, or forfeit forty shillings per ton, on freight.

FRANCE.—The French press mostly viewed the Eastern difficulties as over. The Porte had paid the cash to the French treasury for 40,000 Vincennes rifles, and took the opportunity to contradict the report that the Turkish finances were exhausted.

The number of arrests consequent on the supposed conspiracy, discovered at the Opera Comique, is now over two hundred. M. Arago is ill; his life is despaired of. Vanderbilt's yacht was much admired at Havre.

PRUSSIA.—The King has issued a proclamation that he will dismiss from his service any officer who, marrying a Roman Catholic, shall promise to bring up his children in that faith. This is intended as a protest against recent Papal encroachments.

ITALY.—The exportation of bread stuffs from the Neapolitan dominions is prohibited.

TURKEY.—A conspiracy was discovered among the Imoum Students, to assassinate the Sultan, his predecessor Abdul Azez. Fifteen were bow-strung. The war party were more incensed against the pacific policy of the Minister. The statement was confirmed that the Grand Vizer and Redschid Pasha were dismissed from office, on 9th ult., on account of dissensions, but the Sultan, reflecting on the critical condition of affairs, in the face of the change of Ministry, reinstated both ere night. Mahomet Pasha, ex-Minister at London, is appointed Governor of Adrianople. The Turks do not cease their warlike preparations, in expectation of keeping the troops from committing some outbreaks in their ardor against the Russians.

The commander of the forts on the Dardanelles has been instructed to permit the passage at any time, no matter whether by day or by night, of the British and French steamers.

JASSY, July 8.—The Russian artillery has arrived to-day, with 72 heavy guns. The number of troops which have up to this date crossed the Pruth is 40,000, and others are following. The Cossacks are spreading themselves over the country.

BUCHAREST, July 10—The head quarters of the Russian army have been established in this city. The troops, to the number of about 80,000, are encamped in the environs of Bucharest.

The Russian troops have occupied all the fortified places on the Wallachian side of the Danube.

A *Te Deum* in honour of the Czar has been chanted in the Church of St. Spiridion.

Advices from China of the 18th May, are of a very singular character. The rebels had raised the banner of Christianity. The Bible having been translated and circulated among them, and they were bent under the impulse of an extraordinary fanaticism in the destruction of the whole Tartar race. Nankin, which was still held by them, is reported to be in a state of ruin, while the whole district was in a state of anarchy. The rebels, however, were fortifying the city as well as at Ghinkerang, and intended to march upon Pekin as soon as they received reinforcements from the South.

The Commander of the British war steamer Hermes, had returned from an expedition to the seat of the rebellion, where he had explained the neutral position of the foreign powers. He states that the insurgents had adopted the protestant form of worship.

RAILWAY AFFAIRS.—William Jackson, Esq., M. P., accompanied by his wife, and son, Mr. Thomas Jackson; Robert Stephenson, Esq., M. P., the eminent Engineer; and also —— Betts, Esq., another of the partners in the distinguished firm of "Peto, Brassey, Betts and Jackson," arrived at Portland, Maine, on Thursday last. They are accompanied by the Hon. John Ross, from Canada, Mr. Bidder, Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway, Mr. Roney, Secretary, and Mr. A. M. Ross, Chief Engineer.—On Friday last, the European and North American Railway Company in Maine, was organized; upon which occasion, Messrs. Jackson and Betts, on behalf of their firm, offered to construct and equip the line through Maine, upon the Company undertaking to raise twenty per cent of the requisite capital. Provision has been made for the necessary surveys, which are now in actual progress.

Mr. Stephenson will arrange the plans for the Tubular Bridges required for the Grand Trunk Railway across the St. Lawrence at Montreal, and for the European and North American Railway across the St. John at the Falls, near this city; and will remain at least a month on this side the Atlantic. Messrs. Betts and Jackson will probably remain considerably longer, occupied in arranging the details of the immense works they have undertaken in the British Provinces.

Among other matters, the gentlemen above named will examine the capabilities of Portland Harbour, as a steamship terminus.

We understand, that the Committee for managing the CELEBRATION of the commencement of our Railroad works, have fixed upon Wednesday, the 14th of September next, as the day for the intended public demonstration. As the occasion is one of the most interesting and important in our Provincial history, and the event to be celebrated is the commencement of public works of the highest utility, which are naturally expected to exercise hereafter a material and most beneficial influence on our Provincial prosperity, we hope that every effort will be made to honor the day, and to give every *eclat* to its proceedings. Messrs. Jackson, Betts and Stephenson are expected to be present on the occasion; and we hope that all classes and grades in the community will cordially aid in the celebration. The day will, of course, be observed as a public holiday; and as, no doubt, numbers of visitors from different parts of the Province will be attracted to the City on the occasion, our citizens will naturally be expected to exercise towards many of them, the rights of hospitality and friendly welcome. Among other arrangements for the demonstration, we sincerely hope that the *Corporate Body* will adopt the suggestion some time since thrown out, of granting funds for providing a superior and really splendid display of *Allegorical Pyrotechnics*, to signalise this rare and important event. This is a matter that should *forthwith* be acted upon, as it will take some time to manufacture the requisite fireworks.

ESCAPE.—On Friday morning last, three prisoners succeeded in escaping from the Gaol of this City. Their names are Andrew Brown, charged on six different indictments with uttering forged notes of the Casco Bank; Patrick McQuaid, charged with burglariously entering Mr. Lawlor's shop, and stealing therefrom eight watches and a quantity of jewellery; and James Barry, charged with obtaining goods under false pretences. The three were, most singularly, confined in the same cell; and having contrived to break through a partition wall of brick, they obtained entrance into an adjoining cell, the door of which was unlocked; and from thence found means to complete their escape. The High Sheriff has offered rewards for their apprehension; viz., $250 for Brown, and $100 each for McQuaid and Barry; in addition to which, the Cashier of the Casco Bank, (Maine,) on which the forgeries were committed, has offered a further reward of $200 for the capture of Brown.

At the Portland Police Office, during the month of July, fifty-four charges have been investigated by R. Payne, Esq., the Police Magistrate; and the sum of £37 10s., being the amount of fines and costs collected during the month, has been paid by him into the Commercial Bank, to the credit of the Commissioners of Police, according to law.

A new ship called the *Echnuga*, of about 1000 tons, built at the Bend by Mr. Malcolm Cochrane, was towed into this port a few days ago.

A fine looking barque, called the *Express*, of 444 tons, O. M., built at St. Mary's Bay, N. S., by Mr. Edward Everett, for John Wishart, Esq., of this city, was also towed into this port a few days ago.

The first number of a new paper was issued yesterday, called the *British Constitution*. It is published by Messrs. Ross Woodrow & Co., and makes a respectable appearance.

THE WORLD'S TEMPERANCE CONVENTION will assemble in New York on the 6th of September. The organization is to take place in Metropolitan Hall, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The sessions are to be held forenoon and evenings for four days and the object will be, to promote the cause of Temperance generally, and especially to adopt measures to secure the passage and enforcement of prohibitory laws in every State and every government.

At a sale of Napoleon relics in London, the other day, a lock of the Emperor's hair sold for £5 15s, and the hat worn at the battle of Wagram for £45. The latter was purchased for Madame Tussaud's exhibition.

The scarcity of laborers is seriously felt by the farmers in the vicinity of Toronto. One instance is mentioned in which a neighbouring farmer who visited the city in search of help, offered and was compelled to pay $2 per day. Even at this rate, it is literally a favor to obtain hands.

The steamship *Europa* sailed from Boston on Wednesday last, for Liverpool, via Halifax, with 66 passengers for the former and 22 for the latter port, among whom were Lady Ellesmere and daughter. The steamer takes out 233,385 dollars in gold ingots and 1,500 in English silver.

Lord Ellesmere left Boston for Halifax on the Saturday previous, in H. M. Steamer *Medea*.

SALMON FISHERY AT MIRAMICHI.—The Gleaner says:—"It gives us much satisfaction to be enabled to state, that the quantity of salmon caught this season has been unusually large. We understand that the number of purchasers in the market, not only on this river but on the gulf shore generally, has been on the increase for some years, during the season just closed, more so than usual. The old plan of salting them in barrels, is now nearly abandoned in this county and in Kent, and the more profitable one pursued of putting them up fresh in tins.

This is a most important and valuable branch of trade, and is becoming more so every year; how necessary is it then, to extend to it every protection, by the enacting of wholesome regulations, and no effort should be left untried by the public authorities, or expense spared, to put them into execution.

A RACE.—Considerable interest is manifested among those who are curious in such matters, relative to the sailing qualities of the new ship *Guiding Star*, recently built at this port by Messrs. W. & R. Wright, and the *Amphitrite*, a new American clipper ship, built at Boston by Mr. Samuel Hall. These fine vessels sailed from the anchorage off this harbour, in company, on Sunday last—the former for Liverpool, and the latter for London—and when last heard from, on Monday evening, at sunset, were nearly down to Cape Sable, the *Guiding Star* about thirteen miles a head, and it was thought she would clear the Cape without tacking.

As an instance of the gentlemanly feeling that exists between the commanders of the two ships, we may state, that the vessels having come in contact in the fog on Sunday afternoon, the *Guiding Star* had her flying jib-boom carried away, when the captain of the *Amphitrite* immediately sent a pitch pine spar on board from his vessel to supply its place.—*Cour.*

SAD ACCIDENT.—On Friday a litt'e boy about 8 years of age, son to a man named Beamish, while running after a cart, which was going at a fast pace, in Brussels street, slipped, and his arm getting between the nave of the wheel and body of the cart, was dreadfully mangled. The flesh and muscles were torn from the bones, from the shoulder to the finger ends, the bone of the fore arm crushed to pieces, and the other bones broken. Drs. Boyd, Travers, and Jarvis saw the child soon after and determined that amputation was unavoidable. Chloroform was administered with excellent effect, and the limb was taken off at the shoulder joint by Dr. Travers, assisted by the other gentlemen. This, which is a much more delicate and difficult operation than amputation in the ordinary way, was rendered necessary by the state of the arm. The poor child is now doing well and his life will probably be saved.—*Freeman.*

MOWING MACHINE.—Mr. Jardine (who has done as much for Agriculture in New Brunswick as any person in it) has imported a Mowing Machine, and had it to work upon his farm during the last week. On Saturday morning we had the pleasure of witnessing the *modus operandi* of this curiosity. The machine resembles a narrow dray, with an iron wheel directly in the centre, broad enough to keep it from tilting over. The *scythe* filled with teeth, reminds one of the lower jaw of a shark; and this is made to project from the side of the cart about eight feet, on a level with the ground. Two horses are used for drawing the machine plough fashion. When pulled forward the teeth of the scythe are moved horizonally, being acted upon by a crank connected with the large wheel, and by this means the grass is cut as clean as possible. The machine will cut a breadth of eight feet, as fast as the horses, walking smartly, can draw it. It is astonishing to see the amount of *execution* committed among the grass in a short space of time. It will cut one acre an hour. Two men are required to attend—one to drive the horses, and the other to watch the scythe. The experiment on Saturday morning, tried in the presence of some half-a-dozen practical persons, gave much satisfaction.—*News.*

ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION.—On the 6th instant, a number of the members and seat-holders of the St. John Presbyterian Church presented the Rev. William Elder with a handsome Gold Watch, Chain, and Purse containing over £50, on the occasion of his taking leave of this congregation, in which he has, for some months, been officiating as temporary supply. The Watch bears the following inscription:—

"Presented to the Rev. Wm. Elder, as a token of esteem, and in appreciation of his valuable services as Incumbent of the Saint John Presbyterian Church. Saint John, N. B., 1850."—[*Courier.*

[Then follows the address to Mr. Elder, and his reply.]

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENT.—JAMES WATSON CHANDLER, Esquire, and the Hon. JOHN HAMILTON GRAY, are appointed Queen's Counsel in this Province. *By His Excellency's Command.*

J. R. PARTELOW.

Secretary's Office, August 3, 1853.

QUICK WORK.—The Packet ship *Middleton*, which sailed for Liverpool on Saturday night last, was only a fortnight in port. Her inward cargo, consisting of 1350 tons assorted goods, was discharged by Mr. Robert Riley in 6½ days; and her outward cargo, consisting of 1500 tons timber and deals, was loaded by Mr. James Mahoney, stevedore in 5½ days.—*New. Bruns.*

While noticing with pleasure the proud eminence our port is attaining to for its superior Clipper Ships, we were no less pleased to observe that attention is being paid to our increasing trade with the United States and West Indies, by placing on these routes an improved class of smaller vessels. One of these, of about 200 tons, named the "Helen Hoben," built at the Oromocto, of hackmatack, for Mr. Thomas McHenry and George W. Hoben, Esq., for a New York packet, is now fitting out, and is considered by persons conversant with those matters to be beautifully modelled, and of superior qualities; and we trust will prove not only an ornament to our port but a profitable investment to her enterprising owners.—*Visitor.*

His Excellency the Governor General returned here yesterday morning from his Ottawa tour. His Lordship, it is gratifying to observe, has been exceedingly well received by the people of the Ottawa district.

Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin will we believe, go home in the "Sarah Sands" and it is possible that the Governor General will also patronize the Canadian line of ocean steamships in returning for a short season to his native land.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The weather for the last ten days has been most delightful, dry and warm. A great deal of hay has been saved in excellent order, and much earlier than in former years. The grain crops are coming into ear fast and have a fine appearance, particularly the wheat crop which is most promising. The Potato blight has made its appearance on the St. Foy road in several places.—*Ib.*

Harvard College, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the celebration of Commencement, on the 20th ult., conferred the Honorary Degree of LL.D. on the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor General of Canada, and on the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellesmere.

MUNIFICENT SUBSCRIPTION.—Eleven Philadelphia gentlemen have united to purchase a park of forty-four acres of ground, at a thousand dollars an acre, which, when a subscription is made to pay for it, will be presented to the city. They give $1000 each, and have been joined by ten others, so that $23,000 only are required to finish the magnificent plan. The land lies upon the Nicetown Lane and Old York Road, just upon the out skirts of the built portion of the metropolis, and in topographical respects it is admirably adapted for the purpose of a popular drive and promenade.

THE YELLOW FEVER AT NEW ORLEANS.—A telegraphic despatch from New Orleans states that for the forty-eight hours ending August 1st, two hundred and ninety-three deaths had occurred in that city, of which two hundred and twenty-three were of yellow fever. The New Orleans Bulletin of July 26th gives the report of the interments in that city for the week ending July 23d, at 627, of which 429 were of yellow fever.

The railroad train from Montreal to Boston, Saturday 30th ult. with about two hundred passengers, was thrown off the track at the junction of the Lake Champlain road, near St. John's, owing to the misplacement of the switch. The cars sustained some damage, but fortunately none of the passengers were seriously injured.

A desperate affray took place in Boston one night last week, between the new harbour police and two river thieves who had been robbing vessels in the harbour, and sometimes using chloroform. They fired upon the officers who were in pursuit but without taking effect, and were finally captured. They were armed with two six barrel revolvers each, and several gold watches which had been stolen were found upon them.

The steamship City of Manchester, sailed from Philadelphia 30th ult. for Liverpool, taking out 58 cabin passengers, $30,000 in specie, and a cargo of 2,100 barrels of flour, 16,000 bushels of wheat, 642 barrels of rosin, 100 casks of rice, and 211 packages of sundries.

During the month of July, there arrived at the port of New York, 24,000 foreign immigrants, of whom 14,558 were British subjects, 6,851 were Germans, 1,874 French, 666 West Indians, 16 Spanish, 12 Chinese, 9 Africans, 5 Swedes, 22 Chilians, 11 Mexicans, and 41 Italians.

Admiral Mustapha Pasha, of the Turkish Navy, served nine years in the British Naval service, & if we mistake not, spent three years on the N. A. and W. I. station, on board the *Winchester*, 50, flag ship to Vice Admiral Colpoys.—*Ib.*

Miss