

ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES.

The Saturday Review acknowledges that the circular just issued by some influential colonists now in England has appeared at a very momentous crisis in the history of Great Britain and her colonies. No one can say what great issues may not come from the proposed conference, in which all the dependants of the British Crown are invited to take part.

The Economist augurs important consequences from the discussion just begun by some of our colonists resident in this country. They are dissatisfied with the colonial policy of the government, and in order to correct it propose to bring the various colonies into communication so that they may act jointly in procuring an administration of colonial affairs.

The Terrible Coal Mine Disaster.

When the terrible disaster in the coal districts of Pennsylvania, nothing less than the stopping up of the shaft by burning debris from the building and machinery erected over its mouth.

About an hour after another squad entered the mine, and after exploring around the vault and chambers nearly 1500 feet, a sickening sight revealed. At this point about sixty-five dead bodies were found, and these were lying literally in a heap.

At half-past seven o'clock one of the gangs which had just returned said that they went up the plane, just beyond which a barrier was met consisting of a car packed around with coal, culm and clothing.

This barrier was removed, when a large portion of the force was found together and piled one upon another dead.

Up to 7 1/2 o'clock in the evening, 65 bodies were taken from the mine. The faces of the dead looked wonderfully natural, there being but a few bruises and few lacerations of the flesh to be seen upon them.

unearthed were a father and his son, their names John Burch, Sr., and John Burch, Jr. So tightly were they locked in each other's arms it was found to be a difficult task to separate them, and it did seem to be at last cruel to disunite their arms.

A horrible fear, it is said, has seized many persons whose residences are near the shafts which perforate this untractable region. Almost above the shaft beneath which this calamity occurred, is a row of cottages in which many of the miners lived with their families, as near as possible to the shaft.

There is one thing certain, however, namely, that no more shafts will be sunk in Pennsylvania unless corresponding ones are also put down, so that in the event of an explosion like that of Monday the miners may have means of egress.

A heavy rain has been falling since early evening, but the miners are pursuing their work most heroically. They are determined, it is possible, to have the mine cleared by to-morrow night, and from prospects it is very likely they will accomplish as much.

Another account of the scene at the mouth of the mine says: "All is confusion about the shaft, and as each car or basket comes up freighted with its precious cargo there is always some one to discover that he is 'My husband! O, God! O, God! he is my brother, he is my father!' &c., and after witnessing with their own eyes what experienced wisdom failed to make them believe, they tell prostrate to the ground, worn out and distracted at the culmination of the most agonizing calamity that ever occurred in this country.

Up to the last moment the wives, children, and relatives hoped against hope, but as one blackened corpse after another was brought out, the low sobs of the women broke out into shrieks and wails of agony as they recognized the remains of their friends.

It was sad to see the little children clinging to their mothers, and wailing in sympathy with them, although they were unable to understand the full meaning of the fearful disaster.

The whole number taken up dead was 150.

The Cuban Revolution.

Havana, Sept. 6.—The foreign residents of this city, principally the Germans, are enlisting to act as a volunteer reserve battalion when the present volunteers take the field. The foreigners this morning presented a letter to Captain-General De Rodas containing the above offer, and it was accepted by him.

We are glad to hear that hundreds of copies of the Halifax Chronicle have lately been stopped on account of the disloyalty of that paper. Mr. Annand will soon have to depend entirely upon his American subscribers for support.

Very Latest Telegrams.

London, Sept. 12. Lady Palmerston, the widow of Lord Palmerston died Saturday.

A great storm has visited France. The Republicans are gaining influence and numbers in Portugal.

Victor Emmanuel of Italy declines to permit his son to take the Spanish Throne, unless by the unanimous call of the Constituent Chambers.

Gold opened at 135 5/8.

London, Sept. 13. Madrid advises report that twenty-four thousand troops are to be sent to Cuba.

Rumors say that General Scales has notified the Spanish Government that if matters are not soon modified in Cuba, the United States will recognize the belligerency of that country.

Treasury detectives have arrested a lot of counterfeit bills in N. York and obtained possession of the lithographic stones by which counterfeit bills were printed.

London, Sept. 13. The Times publishes an editorial on French governmental affairs, suggested by the health of the Emperor and the senate's consultation, arguing that no one can govern in France except through a cabinet in sympathy with a majority of the people.

New York, 14. Steamer City of Antwerp arrived this morning. The Harvard crew were passengers. They will have a public reception in New York.

Prince Arthur arrived at Rivier du Loup last night, and left for Quebec.

Admiral Hoff has made a report characterizing the execution of two Americans by the volunteers in Cuba as a massacre.

Liverpool markets steady. Corn 30s. A heavy storm prevailed yesterday throughout England and in various parts of the Continent.

The Great Storm.

From St. John's N. B. News, Monday Sept. 13.

The Portland and Boston papers are full of particulars of the great gale of Wednesday last, and the fearful damage occasioned thereby. Although the telegraph wires were blown down, and intelligence from a distance could not be obtained, yet sufficient information had been received through other sources to show that the storm was general all along the New England coast, and that a long list of disasters will have to be recorded to shipping and otherwise.

In Boston the wind was fearful, and the blowing down of chimneys, and the unroofing of houses were every where serious damage it occasioned. The steeples of the churches rocked like pendulums, oscillating from 18 inches to 2 feet, and so great was the danger that the inhabitants of houses in the neighborhood of churches were removed to more secure quarters by the police.

Most of them were more or less damaged, losing minarets, zinc roofing, &c. Trees, both shade and fruit, were every where rooted up or stripped of their branches. Many buildings in the course of erection or repairs were entirely dismantled, and in some cases the walls were levelled with the ground.

Piles of lumber, and other material on, or near the wharves, were blown away by the wind, or washed away by the tide, which rose to an unprecedented height, and swept all before it. At Dorchester the spire of an Episcopal Church was blown down.

The spire of the Episcopal Church at Somerville was also blown down. The Baptist Church at Lynn lost its spire and \$7000 worth of roof blown down. At Malden the Orthodox Society lost \$20,000 by the loss of their house, which was blown down, the spire in falling smashing a house near by.

At South Olingdon the spire of one Baptist church was blown down. Dr. Starr's church at Braintree lost its spire, clock, and got the roof ridged with falling stones.

The Monument of the Boat Club of Charlestown lost their house and twenty boats. At Swampscott the yachts suffered terribly, one of them being a total loss.

At Chelsea one man had a block of 20 wooden buildings just up, but without the doors and windows in. They now lie an inextricable mass of debris and rubbish. At the same place a great many other houses were destroyed, and the spire of the Universalist Church was blown down.

At Nantasket Beach the storm was so fearful that a party of twenty men grasping each other for safety, and escorting in that way a few ladies, were with difficulty able to save themselves from being blown into the sea, while another party at the Sagamore House, fearful of their lives, rushed out and sought the shelter of the rocks.

At Portland the tall spire of the new Catholic Cathedral on Cumberland street fell directly across the street, demolishing a house and covering the street with debris. The spire 108 1/2 feet of wood, all of which, together with an immense wooden cross, is down.

Fifteen thousand dollars will not convey the damage to the building, which had only that very day been dedicated by the Bishops and Clergy who were at dinner in the Falmouth House when the accident occurred.

The "Fair Grounds" were a scene of desolation, everything confusion and trouble. The cattle pens were blown away, and in some cases their contents with them.

Shownen lost their caravans and their fierce wild beasts attempted to find a more congenial home in the forest, but were captured.

At some vessels were ashore, and in some cases their crews were lost. The Boston Journal also contains particulars of over a hundred vessels wrecked, ashore or in collision, and when the fullest information is obtained a much larger number than this will be rolled up.

We may regard ourselves as fortunate in this Province that so little damage was done, seeing our neighbors fared so much worse.

A later account says that at the Railway Station in Portland, during the storm on Wednesday night, the roof of the building was lifted off by the force of the wind and squarely deposited upon the top of the passenger cars, which had just come in.

The New England left Portland at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, the wind still blowing from the west. The steamer City of Antwerp of the Boston and Portland Line, was discovered with her flag union down. The New England at once offered assistance. She was taken in tow and left in Rockland harbor, after parting several cables on the way.

At Rockland there were some thirteen vessels reported ashore upon the coast in that vicinity.

CONVINOED.

One great good that has arisen out of Prince Arthur's visit to the British possessions in America, now under process of consolidation, is that our neighbors have been completely disabused of their delusive belief that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are annexationist. The leading New York papers sent correspondents to Halifax, and these had ample opportunities to discover the sentiments of the people.

The New York Times correspondent writes of the way a very capable person, and as we have already intimated, strongly impressed on his first arrival here with the notion that the country abounded in Annexationists, writes from Montreal to the Times, in this wise about the Annexationists of the Dominion: "In Ontario they could be counted in your fingers. In Quebec they are more numerous, but their influence is contemptibly small. They consist principally of broken down merchants, disappointed office-seekers and politicians, and laboring men out of employment—men who have come under the pressure of hard times and must have something or somebody to grumble at. Bread and butter is the remedy in this case. In Nova Scotia the Annexation feeling arises from a different cause. The repeal party, that at the last general election headed the polls in every county, with one exception, have fallen in the object, and failure is hard to bear, particularly when you feel you are in the right and have the vox populi at your back. Our friend wrote this before the Colchester election came off.—Ed."

CORRESPONDENCE.

ECUMENICAL COUNCILS.

MR. EDITOR:—

The Theological writer for the Progress has lately been treating the public to a dissertation on Ecumenical Councils. If this writer is no better versed in other subjects than the one which he undertakes to enlighten the community, he should keep out of print. While the article itself is scarce worthy of notice, yet if some of its statements, or rather misstatements, be allowed to pass unquestioned, we may expect to see any amount of misrepresentation and absurdity scattered broadcast over the land.

Now, Sir, as stuff of this kind has lately been sent forth from Summerside, and been allowed to pass unrefuted, in my opinion the interests of truth demand that in future such statements should be shown to be what they really are—utterly groundless.

While discussions of this kind may not be desirable in a mixed community, those who commence them must bear the responsibility. The Progress writer gives the following definition of an Ecumenical Council, which we shall prove to be utterly untrue: "The Council is the only Church that is now or ever was,—that all without her pale are heretics or schismatics,—and that the Pope of Rome ever was, and still is, the Head of the Universal Church of Christ on earth."

Now would this writer be kind enough to inform the public what Pope or Popes summoned all or any of the above Councils, and presided over them?—or would he be good enough to tell us the names of the persons who resided at Rome during these centuries, and who claimed to be the Vicar of Christ, and sole Head of His Church on earth?

But why need we put these questions when every intelligent reader must know that not one of the above Councils was either summoned or presided over by a Pope; and for the very best of reasons—because there were then no persons residing at Rome or elsewhere who assumed the prerogatives of the Vicar of Christ, and sole Head of His Church on earth. The manufacturing of a Pope with such extraordinary powers (?) was the work of after years!

And for a person to speak of these four Councils as if they belonged exclusively to the Church of Rome,—like the Council of Florence or Trent,—or that they were summoned by Popes instead of Emperors, either betrays unpardonable ignorance of Ecclesiastical History, or else something worse—a desire to deceive the public.

Every intelligent person must know that the decisions of the above Ecumenical Councils on the fundamental doctrines of the Trinity and Person of Christ, are universally received, not merely by the Greek and Roman Churches, but that they are also the doctrines of the Protestant Churches of the Reformation, which the Romish Council of Trent afterwards so "utterly condemned."

What this writer intends the public to understand by "the Consubstantiality of the Word and divinity of Christ, and also by the 'divine motherhood of Mary,'" which he says the above Councils established, we leave himself to explain.

While speaking of the Council of Chalcedon, held in 451, the Progress writer should have informed his readers that this very Council solemnly enacted that the Bishops of Constantinople should enjoy equal rights and privileges with the Bishop of Rome.

Even at this period a rivalry had commenced between the Bishops of Old and New Rome (Constantinople), and which continued until it finally produced a separation between the Latin and Greek Churches about A. D. 1050.

It is true that some doctrinal differences arose between the Latin and Greek Churches; for instance, the latter Church maintained that the Holy Spirit proceeded only from the Father, instead of the Father and Son.

But the great bone of contention between these two Churches was the Primacy of the Bishop of Rome. This assumption the Patriarch of Constantinople would not admit, and to this day the Greek Church, which is under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchs or Bishops of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem, and which embraces more territory than that of the Roman See, utterly disowns the authority of the Pope, and denies that the Church of Rome is the true Catholic Church.

Since some of your readers may remember that when the Pope last year sent an embassy to the Patriarch of Constantinople, with a letter of invitation for him to attend the present Ecumenical Council, the latter refused to receive the embassy or letter—denied the claims of the Pope to be sole Head of the Church on earth, and declared he was prepared to prove the latter was a Schismatic and worse.

But the Progress writer tells us that at the Council of Florence in 1439 the "Greek Church admitted the primacy of the Pope and doctrine of Rome in reference to the Holy Ghost." The reader will see that this statement carries its own contradiction on the face of it, for if the Greek Church admitted the Primacy of the Pope and all the dogmas of the Romish Church, there would be no separation between them.

The Council of Florence, under Pope Eugene the 4th, [the Bishops of Rome had now for several centuries claimed to be the sole Head of the Church on earth] was chiefly employed in endeavoring to settle the point of discrepancy between the Roman and Greek Churches. This most important matter was entrusted to a select committee from both Churches.

Mosheim, the German Church Historian—himself a Lutheran, and not belonging to either of the conflicting parties—states that the Roman Pontiff, having gained over Bessarion, the most distinguished of the Greeks, employed threats, rewards and promises, to induce the other Greeks at the Council to embrace the dogmas of the Church of Rome, among others, among others, and especially that of the Primacy of the Pope.

"But one of the Greeks—Mark of Ephesus—could not be persuaded by entreaties or bribes to give his assent. After all this peace, which was extorted by various artifices, did not prove stable; for the Greeks, on their return to Constantinople, stated to their fellow citizens that everything had been carried at Florence by artifice and fraud, and they resumed their hostility," and, we may add, still continue it.

We had intended to notice a few other statements in the Progress article, but as your space is valuable, it must be omitted for the present. With your permission, perhaps we may do so shortly.

OBSERVER.

Sept. 14, 1869.

TO OUR MUSICAL FRIENDS.—Believing that the musical interests of our neighborhood will be benefited by the introduction of Peters' Musical Monthly, we have made arrangements with the Publisher to offer as follows—our paper one year and Peters' Musical Monthly for six months, (one volume,) for \$1.75; or any one sending us a Club of two subscribers, at \$1.50 each, will be presented with a half-yearly subscription to Peters' Musical Monthly—and when we tell our friends that this is equivalent to giving them at least 60 pieces of Music, they will see that we wish them all to "sing, play, and be happy."

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1869.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

"NOTHING IN THE PAPERS."

This is a complaint which we often hear, but we must say that it is one which we seldom make. We, for our part, always find a great deal in the newspapers, and the wonder with us is how the editors continue to collect so much that is new, instructive and interesting, as we see in even a rapid glance over our exchanges. It must, however, be confessed that the news by the last English mail is neither so varied nor so abundant as usual. Times seem exceedingly dull in the Old Country just now. There are no wars nor rumors of wars—no earthquakes, famines or pestilences.

Politics are unusually flat, trade appears by no means brisk, and nothing has happened for the last month or so in the social world, very much out of the usual course. The Harvard and Oxford, or Oxford and Harvard boat race, created some stir—a great deal more than its importance deserved—both in Europe and America. That sensible people should attach so much weight to a trial of strength and endurance between eight men of different nations, is more than we can comprehend. In England hundreds of thousands of people left their work, and submitted to considerable inconvenience, to see these youths row; and in New York and Boston, while the race was going on, one might suppose that the fate of the Republic depended upon the issue, so anxiously did men of all ages and ranks await the result. What, after all, was involved in the contest worth a moment's anxiety? The slightest accident might have changed the victory into defeat. Those precious six seconds in a four-mile race—what do they decide? To the lads immediately concerned, it may be a matter of great interest that Oxford beat Harvard in a race on the Thames by four lengths of a boat, but why so many sensible people of both nations should care a button which boat won or which lost, is what we fail to comprehend. We are proud to see that the American collegians were treated by the English people with the utmost courtesy. The acknowledgment that the most scrupulous justice was shown to the Harvard crew by their English opponents, while grateful to us, is no more than we expected to hear. John Bull, though sometimes rough and surly, loves to see fair play shown to all who struggle for mastery, even to a pair of fighting dogs. Nothing rises his ire more quickly than to see an unfair advantage taken by either of the combatants.

The plucky Americans who crossed the Atlantic to contend with the champions of Europe, no doubt return to their homes in the west with greatly increased esteem and respect for their cousins in the Old World. It is well known by thinking men that the cause of by far the greater part of the antipathies and misunderstandings in the world, both national and personal, is nothing more nor less than ignorance. Those persons and nations who know very little of one another, cherish a hundred prejudices and dislikes which a closer acquaintance proves to have been grounded upon misrepresentation.

The Queen's Speech at the prorogation of Parliament is declared to be a poor affair, altogether unworthy the talented British Ministry which must have composed it. It is said to be "dull, ungrammatical and bombastic"—faults enough, surely, to be attributed to the production of colonial statesmen. It seems that it is the fate of speeches from the Throne to be exceedingly poor specimens of composition. The best educated and the most talented men in Britain appear to be altogether unable to put a good speech in the mouth of the Sovereign. From the days of Cobbett until now, speeches from the Throne have been remarkable for little else than their clumsy style and bad grammar.

The Irish Church question is settled at last. But we very much fear that we have not heard the last of Irish grievances. Punch contains a rather significant cartoon on Irish affairs. Britannia is represented as standing by her sister Hibernia, who is passing her fingers across the strings of her harp. Says Britannia, "There, my dear, I've tuned the string for you that made all the discord, and now I hope we may have something like harmony." Hibernia replies, "Ah, thin, sister darlin', shure there's another string as 'll have to be tuned by and by."

Another string is, as we all know, the land question. It is very hard to find out what reform it is the Irish people want with respect to their lands. We all know that the land of Ireland is cultivated by tenant farmers. We know, too, that the greater part of these tenants are tenants at will. They have no leases, and the landlord can turn them off whenever it suits his convenience, without allowing them a sixpence for improvements. In parts of Ireland, a custom prevails similar to what obtains among ourselves. The outgoing tenant can sell his improvements to any one who desires to purchase them. As far as we can learn, the utmost that many of the Irish demand is a law in principle somewhat similar to the Tenant's Compensation Bill of the Hon. Geo. Coles, which was refused the Royal assent some years ago. The Irish tenant demands to be compensated at a fair rate for whatever improvements he may make on his holding. This does not appear to be an unreasonable demand. But as the landlord class in Great Britain have hitherto made the laws relating to the tenure of land, and as the influence of that class in the House of Lords is still paramount, it is very difficult for tenants in any part of the Kingdom to have their grievances redressed. It does seem hard that the Irish tenant who pays his rent regularly, should be liable to be turned out any day at the caprice of his

landlord or his landlord's agent, and it is no doubt a crying injustice that the poor man should be turned houseless and homeless into the world, without receiving any compensation for the improvements he may have made. It is not fair that his hard labor should go to enrich his landlord. Mr. Bright's proposal, which was scouted by the British Lardocracy, was for the British Government to do on a large scale for the Irish tenantry what this Island has done on a small scale for the Island tenantry. That statesman would introduce into the Imperial Parliament, for the relief of the Irish tenants and for the settlement of the Irish Land Question, a Bill similar in its provisions to our Land Purchase Bill. For our part, we strongly incline to the belief that Mr. Bright's measure, or one similar to it, will be the one which will ultimately settle the Land Question in Ireland. There is, however, a strong prejudice against "peasant proprietors" in the Old Country.

Lord Stanley, and a number of political economists, consider that the land should be tilled as cotton is manufactured. A capitalist should own the soil and cultivate it on a grand scale, and on scientific principles, while the actual cultivators should have no more interest in it than the horses that plough it, or the sheep and cattle that graze upon it. That doctrine, however it may do in the Old Country, will not be very acceptable to farmers in America. The conviction on this side of the Atlantic is very deeply rooted, that no one has as good a right to the soil as the man who, by the sweat of his brow, causes it to produce food both for man and beast. If Lord Stanley would but come to America, and compare the condition of the peasant proprietors of this continent with that of the agricultural laborer at home, his ideas on that subject—if he be at all open to conviction—would be very considerably modified. Those who have seen what a change the possession of a few acres of land in a few years make upon the English farm laborer in America, will not readily subscribe to the doctrine that it is best for a country to have its land parcelled out among a few rich men, while those who really cultivate it are unable to obtain, during their life time, a single foot of it.

The Duke of Albany has done what the English people consider a noble act of generosity. He has, it seems, a church living in his gift—that of Redbourne, in Lincolnshire. This living, having become vacant, the Duke, instead of sending a clergyman of his choosing to minister to the spiritual wants of the good people of Redbourne, generously told them that they were at liberty to choose a pastor for themselves. The poor parishioners are in raptures. Their gratitude knows no bounds. That they should have a voice in the choice of their clergyman seems to them a most valuable privilege. This act of the Duke is so rare in England as to call forth comments from all the leading journals, some commendatory, some the reverse. We, the natives of this country, can hardly understand such a condition of things. That one man—and that man a most probable stranger to the parish—should have the power to set over the people a clergyman without as much as consulting a single man of those who would thereafter be compelled to accept his ministrations or leave the church of their fathers, seems to us a monstrous piece of tyranny. It seems from the Redbourne affair that the people of England are quite sensible of the grievance. They must indeed be a patient people to submit to it so long.

Dr. Cumming has accepted—or wishes to accept—the invitation of the Pope to attend the Ecumenical Council to be held at Rome. He has addressed a letter to Archbishop Manning, asking, if he attend, whether he shall have the privilege of speaking. The Archbishop sends him a courteous reply, referring him to His Holiness the Pope—at the same time sending him, for his instruction, certain books, from which the pugnacious doctor might learn that before he or any other heretic would attend the Council, he must submit to the authority of the Church. The Doctor then wrote a Latin letter to the Pope, which has not yet been answered. We are, we think, safe in predicting that Dr. Cumming will not attend the Universal Council.

Disasters.

It will be seen in another column that news has reached us, that a storm of almost unprecedented severity, has swept along the shores of the New England States. The loss of life and property must be enormous. So great was the force of the wind that men and women were, in some places, all but hurled into the sea. The debris of fallen buildings marked the track of the storm. Churches and dwelling-houses that have cost the owners thousands of dollars, as well as the mechanics years of toil, were tossed to and fro, in the elemental war, as if they were structures of tin and pasteboard. Almost simultaneously with this sad news we have accounts from Pennsylvania that over two hundred men are supposed to have suffocated in a coal mine, in consequence of the choking of the shaft by forty feet of burning coal and rubbish.

Nature has yielded fact after fact and mystery after mystery to scientific research, yet how few, comparatively, of her operations are understood. Science has extorted startling facts from the crust of the earth; it has computed with mathematical exactness the position of the stars and the appointed revolutions of the planets; and it has even predicted, months beforehand, startling atmospheric changes consequent upon new positions of the planets. But notwithstanding all this, nature not only baffles and forestalls all the most cunningly devised instruments of man, but also his most elaborate calculations.

We have received a marriage notice, accompanied by a note bearing the signature of the Rev. Mr. Richards. We decline publishing it, as we have doubts to its being genuine.

The American papers are still filled with details of the ravages of the storm. Two ships were lost in the Gulf during the gale. The crews were saved.

The Steamer St. Lawrence has been repaired, and is again on the route. She made her first trip here on Friday night last. The regular advertised route will now be carried out, and all the freight delivered at the wharf will be taken.

The barque Salas, of Maitland, N. S., went ashore on the north side of this island, in the storm of Thursday last. We learn that she has received a great deal of damage. The hull, materials and cargo (deals) is advertised to be sold on Thursday next.

Arrived at Richmond Bay, on Sunday, the 14th inst., the barque Ocean Mail, Thomas Lee, Master, from Bristol, after a passage of 30 days, with a general cargo of merchandise, for John Yeo, Esq., Port Hill. Passengers—Mr. Robert Yeo, Mrs. Lee and daughter.