this motley throng, and at length were riveted on a kneeling figure, wrapped in a long white mantle, and bare-headed, which bent beside the altar in an attitude of devotion or sorrow. Something told us that this was he whom we sought. Caroline was springing forward, when I caught her wrist.

'Hist!' said I, 'do you hear nothing?'

'Nothing,' she replied.

I listened; the sounds had ceased. Then the kneeling figure in white arose, and in the dying light of the fire we caught a glimpse of Basil Olgoff's face, pale and distorted with suppressed but passionate emotion. Laying his hand on the young man's head, Stephen commenced speaking, and so profound was the silence, that every note of his sonorous voice reached us distinctly. The language was quaint and mystical, but through its obscurities I thought I could discern that Basil Olgoff, in penance for his sins of compliance with the 'impious' church of the orthodox, for his fault in plighting his troth to a foreign maiden, and as he on whom had fallen by lot the duty of atoning for the offences of the congregation, was to abandon property, rank, and earthly happiness, and devote himself henceforth to 'the work of the Lord.' And Stephen, solemnly and slowly, dictated the words of a terrible vow.

But before Basil's trembling lips had framed the first syllables, Caroline uttered a shriek that rang over the forest, and bounding through the trees, cried aloud: 'Husband, Basil! they are robbing you of hope and happiness. You are duped by these wild men; do not speak the words.'

A dead silence followed, and then fifty outstretched arms pointed us out, as we stood on the edge of the dell, and a hoarse roar of fury and terror arose, while we saw Basil forcibly held back by the priest and others, and twenty grim forms came bounding towards us, armed with hatchet or pike.

'Fly, Caroline—we are lost!' I cried, trying to drag her away; but just then a shout of dismay arose from the crowd below, and with it blended the thundering tramp of many horses, and the clash of weapons, and the Cossack hurrah. The fanatics fell back and huddled together, as Count Galitzin and his lancers came spurring down the glade, and recklessly urged their sure-footed steeds over the slippery and broken ground.

What followed was a confused scene of horrors. I remember the summons to yield, the crackling volley from carbine and pistol; the yells, screams, and imprecations; the floundering of the wounded horses as they rolled down the bank, crushing the riders in their death-agony; and the dreadful struggle that went on, hand to hand, man to man. Some recollection, too, I have of seeing Olgoff in the thickest of the fray, unarmed, but opposing his defenceless breast to the stabs and shots of the soldiery, as one who seeks death as a deliverance. And then I remember a glare of red light flashing up suddenly, with the roar of burning wood, and showers of sparks falling through the eddying smoke, and dark forms looming through the blaze, like actual demons.

I seemed to be holding Caroline back by main force, while she wildly strove to break away and plunge into the curtain of stifling smoke and flame. Then a riderless horse, dashing by in its blind terror, bore me down and hurled me against a pine-trunk; and when I regained my senses after the stunning fall, Galitzin was near me, wiping the blood from his sword, and giving orders in a subdued tone, while the trumpeters were sounding a shrill note of recall, and Cossack after Cossack came to the muster.

'Ah, my friend,' said the Russian officer, more seriously than usual, 'you may be thankful the wind blows from this quarter. The conflagration has rolled off the other way, and will consume many a square verst of woodland before it dies out. Had it taken this course, we should have found you burned to a cinder.'

'But Olgoff—but the fanatics below?'

'The poor wretches! in their despair, they fired the pile of wood which they always raised beside their altars,' said Galitzin, with an involuntary shudder, 'and most of them rushed into the flames, as if the hot embers had been a bed of roses, sooner than be taken. Such is their idea of winning Paradise, as I have often heard. Pah! such a sight disgusts one with soldiering. I saw Olgoff and Stephen through the thick of the flames, where my wounded men perished too. But what is that—a woman?'

Behind the tree, poor Caroline was lying insensible, and with a stain of blood on her bright hair and pale brow. We bore her home, and she lived, but her reason was utterly gone. To this day, she speaks of Basil Olgoff as absent on a journey, and soon to reappear and claim her as his bride; and she twines flowers and wreaths them in her hair before the mirror, and then weeps, she knows not why. The ghastly story was hushed up, according to the invariable policy of the Russian government; nor was it until my uncle's death that I myself cared to break silence on the subject.

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

An open-air meeting was recently held at Sheffield to consider the American question. Mr. Roebuck attended, and urged that it was the duty of England to recognize the Confederacy as an independent power. A majority of those present endorsed this conclusion, and Sheffield will, accordingly, request her Majesty's Government to enter into communications with France and other powers to secure a general recognition of the South. A Sheffield journal of independent views remarks—"The absence from the meeting of many gentlemen who are generally foremost in great political movements suggests serious doubts as to the wisdom of advocating, in the present stage of the American conflict, the recognition of Southern Independence."

It is stated that the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Balmoral in July. Prince Alfred will reside in Edinburgh next winter, and pursue his studies there. Prince Arthur is making a tour of the lake district.

The Prince of Wales accompanied by the Princess, reviewed the Queen's Westminster Volunteers on the 24th.

Communications are passing between the English and French Cabinets, with a view to the joint occupation of Greece by the two Powers.

The information in the case of the *Alexandra*, the alleged Confederate steamer seized by the customs officials at Liverpool, has been filed. The trial will take place in a short time.

During the week which ended on the 16th instant, there was a decrease of 5287 in the number of persons receiving relief in the districts in Lancashire and Cheshire. The total decrease since December 6 is 94,706.

The English papers speak in the highest terms of the late Stonewall Jackson.

At a meeting of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society a letter was read from Mr. Adams, thanking the society in Mr. Lincoln's name for the proceedings in January last. Speeches were made expressing sympathy for the North and hopeful for the extrication of Slavery. Resolutions were adopted rejoicing at the various steps taken by the United States Government in the furtherance of the emancipation of the slaves of the Southern States, and expressing the gratefulness of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society at being recognized by the Washington Government as the friends of freedom.

Stock of the Bank of British North America, 50 to 51.

LIVERPOOL, May 23—Evening. It is reported that the Trinity Board have resolved to establish a floating beacon off the extreme southern point of Cape Race.

The Prussian *coup d'etat*, long expected, has come at last. King William has recovered from his illness, and has proved to his Parliament that nothing can equal the obduracy of a monarch who wears a heaven-sent crown. His Majesty not only persists that he was right in his view of the question relative to the privileges of Ministers to speak unchecked in the House of Deputies, but he tells the Chambers that its address has cut away all hope of community of action—that its attitude on foreign questions has deeply grieved him—that he should seriously oppose any attempt to carry out the threat of stopping the supplies—that he will maintain the power of the crown undiminished—and that he will neither change his ministers nor his system of government. This message was read to the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday, and the House was told that the Parliamentary session would be closed in the afternoon. The prorogation will in all probability be followed by a dissolution, and until the new Chamber meets the Government will go on spending the public money without a budget having been voted.

The Italian Chambers have met, after a brief holiday, to commence the session of 1863. Victor Emmanuel delivered the opening speech. He gave a cheerful view of the condition of the kingdom, and anticipated with confidence "the hour of the accomplishment of the destiny of Italy." Referring to Poland, he said that the voice of Italy would make itself heard amongst those of other Powers for the triumph of justice and for the defence of the principles of liberty.

The revolution of Poland is fast becoming a religious as well as a civil war. Secret instructions of the Russian Government to the peasants in those parts of Poland in communion with the Greek Church have been discovered, directing them to extirpate the Catholics (Poles); and the Poles in self-defence are compelled to import the religious element into this terrible strife. The Polish National Government has issued an important decree. It is dated "Warsaw, 10th May," and is sealed with the official Polish seal. The preamble of this decree sets forth, first, that the Russian Government in Poland is making various arrangements with regard to the finances of the country which are at variance with its interests; second, that these arrangements are calculated to create difficulties to the finances of the country when it becomes independent; and third, that any assistance given to the Russian Government in carrying out their arrangements should be regarded as a criminal act.

In Paris, some of the friends of the North have now arrived at the conclusion that the South has established its claim to European recognition.—The Northerners themselves say that the Washington Government will still go on with the struggle.

Swarms of Opposition candidates are making their appearance in France; but some of them frankly avow that they have little hope of succeeding. The Government, it is said, is not at all satisfied with the way in which the elections are going on; and the report is revived that the Emperor himself will shortly appear on the scene, and by means of a proclamation in the *Moniteur* strive to control and guide the electoral excitement.

The Provincial Government at Warsaw have it is said, declined the service of Garibaldi, not wishing to give offence to Austria.

The Revolutionary Government of Poland has issued a decree requesting all the insurgent chiefs to organize a general levy in their respective districts, in order to extend the insurrection, which already has from 180,000 to 200,000 combatants resolved to conquer or die.

Details of several battles between the Poles and Russians are given, which show the bravery and determination of the former, and the cruelty of the latter, particularly to the wounded, after battle.

Letters received at Toulon from Japan, dated the 4th of March, state that the empire of Japan is at present traversing a political and social revolution, which is excessively dangerous to foreigners. The French minister did not deem it prudent to leave the corvette Dryade any longer in the port of Yokoama, and had sent her to Shanghai. The natives had set fire to and totally destroyed the English factory the night previous to its being opened.

A horrible case of piracy had occurred in the Chinese seas, in which, after a desperate resistance, the Capt. and five of the crew of a British ship were killed and thrown overboard.

The following letter was posted on 'Change on the evening of the 23rd:

PERNAMBUCO, May 18, 1863.

Gentlemen: I write to inform you that the ships Nora and Charles Hill, being in company on 25th March, in lat. 1 23, lon. 26 30 W., were captured by the Alabama, and both burned on the 27th March. We were held as prisoners for 21 days on board the Alabama, and then landed at Fernando De Noronha, where we remained 5 days, and half starved. One hundred persons in all then sailed in a schooner of 50 tons for this port, where we arrived on the 26th of April, more dead than alive. We could not get ready to come by this steamer, but shall sail in four days for Liverpool direct in the English barkantine Edith.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) CHARLES E. ADAMS,

Master ship Nora.

To Messrs. E. J. Crocker & Co., Liverpool.

AMERICAN NEWS.

The papers received lately contain lengthy and prosy accounts of the late battles before Vicksburg, but nothing definite as to the position of affairs there. We clip the following items of general news:—

SUPPRESSION OF THE CHICAGO TIMES.—*Chicago, Ill., June 2.*—The proprietors of the *Times* were notified to-night by Capt. Putman, commanding at Camp Douglas, that if they attempted to issue their paper for to-morrow morning, he would in accordance with a telegraphic order from Gen. Ammon, take military possession of the office. Judge Drummond, of the United States Court, was immediately applied to for a writ enjoining Capt. Putman from any interference whatever with the *Times* office. Up to this hour, midnight, the Judge had not given a decision. It is thought probable, however, that he will grant the writ. A feeling of resistance to the military, should they attempt to carry out Gen. Ammon's order, is observable.

Chicago, June 3—Shortly after 12 o'clock last night, Judge Drummond issued a writ directing the military authorities to take no further steps or measures to carry into effect the order of Maj Gen. Burnside for the suppression of the Chicago *Times*, until the application for a permanent writ of injunction could be heard in open court. At 3½ o'clock this morning, after nearly the whole edition of the paper had been worked off, a file of Federal soldiers broke into the office and took possession of the establishment for some time, and then left, after giving notice that if any attempt was made to publish another paper, the military would take permanent possession of the office.

Chicago Ill, June 3.—The following handbill is being circulated throughout the city:—

"All good loyal citizens of Chicago, who favor free speech and freedom of the press as guaranteed to us by the Constitution we love and uphold, are invited to assemble in front of the *Times'* office, on Wednesday evening, June 3, at eight o'clock, to take counsel together in regard to the recent infamous and tyrannical order of Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, suppressing a newspaper always Democratic and consequently always loyal."

THE FATE OF VICKSBURG.—The fate of this place is still suspended in the balance. Our own telegrams have been encouraging; but they lacked the definiteness essential in such a case as to bring entire relief to the public mind. The Yankee bulletins in the interim are unpleasantly detailed and specific—well calculated to unsettle conclusions and inferences based upon the che[illegible] but vague accounts from our own [illegible] The suspense, however, cannot long be [illegible]ontinued. It will be interrupted no doubt by some decisive event in a few days—may be hours. The hopes and opinions of those who know the locality are strongly in favor of the impregnability of Vicksburg. The general feeling, after what it has stood, is that it will not be carried by Grant. The resistance has been, from all accounts, determined, and let us continue to hope and believe will be successful.—*Richmond Dispatch, May* 30.

The Confederate steamship General Beauregard, Captain Louis M. Coxetter, arrived here yesterdoy from Nassau, which place she left on Tuesday evening last. The Beauregard was fired at fifteen times by the Yankee blockaders, and one of them discharged his broadside, but it did no harm. She brings the most valuable assortment of goods that has entered the port for some time. The steamship Orion and Sirius were left at Nassau. The steamer Brittannia, from this city, arrived there on Monday last. It is with much regret that we announce that Captain Coxetter retires from his ship with this trip, and that his invaluable services as a shipmaster will be, for a period at least, lost to us. His health, which has been indifferent, requires that he should remain ashore and recruit, after passing through two years of intense excitement, first as commander of the privateer Jefferson Davis, and afterwards in the steamers Antonica (Herald) and Beauregard (Havelock).—*Charleston Mercury, May* 23rd.

NEW YORK, June 3.—The Richmond *Examiner* of the 29th says: "Last evening's train from Fredericksburg brought the rumor that Hooker was preparing to leave the Rappahannock and establish a new base somewhere on the York peninsula. What were the indications on the part of the enemy that gave rise to this report we were unable to ascertain. The monotonous quiet of our army was agreeably broken off on Wednesday by a review and dress parade in honor of the arrival of General Elwell, of the second division, on the plain south-east of Hamilton's crossing. The Yankees, becoming aware that something unusual was going on, sent up their balloons to reconnoitre, beat the long roll, fired signal guns and made other excited demonstrations."

[From the Boston Courier.]

Admiral Porter sends to the Navy Department an account of the important aid rendered by his fleet to the army of Gen. Grant, on the occasion of the attack upon the fortifications of Vicksburg, 22d inst. His vessels advanced to within 440 yards of the water batteries, and returned the enemy's fire for two hours. Finding that the hill batteries were silenced, he ordered up the Tuscumbia to within 200 yards of the water batteries, but her turret was soon made untenable. Having been engaged already an hour longer than Gen. Grant had requested, the vessels were ordered to drop out of fire. This was the hottest fire the gunboats have ever been under, but owing to the water batteries being more on a level with them than usual, the gunboats threw in their shells so fast that the aim of the enemy was not very good. The enemy hit our vessels a number of times, but fighting bow on, they received but little damage. Not a man was killed, and only a few wounded. In the noise and smoke caused by their own firing the naval officers did not see or hear the attack on the enemy's works by the army, and it was only after the battle was over that they were informed the assault had taken place.

Admiral Porter's detailed report of the expedition to Yazoo City, accompanied by the report of Lieut. Com. Walker, adds but few facts of interest to the statement already published. Three powerful rams were burned, viz.: the Mobile, a screw vessel ready for plating; the Republic, being fitted for a ram, with railroad iron plating, and a vessel on the stocks, a monster 310 feet long and 75 feet beam. This vessel was to have been covered with 4½ inch iron plating, and to receive six engines, four side wheels, and two propellers. If Lieut. Com. Walker could have obtained pilots he would have succeeded in getting possession of all the rebel rams, instead of leaving them behind. In the hospitals at Yazoo City he found and parolled 1,500 soldiers. He had one man killed and seven wounded by field pieces from the enemy's batteries, going up the river.

GEN. GRANT'S RECENT VICTORIES.

BATTLE OF CHAMPION'S HILL

Early on the morning of the day following the occupation of the city of Jackson it was decided to evacuate the position. There were several reasons which induced Gen. Grant to arrive at this decision, prominent among which was the difficulty of keeping intact his long line of communication, and the fear that Gen. Johnston—who was known to be hovering in the region north of Jackson with a force estimated at from fifteen to twenty thousand men—would attack his rear. The force which we encountered just before we reached Jackson, under Gen. Gregg, had divided, one portion going to Canton from the north, and the other from the south. Johnston and Gregg combined might prove altogether too formidable. It was therefore decided to return to Clinton and move upon Vicksburg.

At nine in the morning Gen. Osterhaus took possession of Bolton, capturing a rebel mail and several prisoners. Gen. M'Clernard placed his army in camp early in the evening, and by daylight the following day each division occupied the ground selected, and prepared to offer battle.

The enemy's first demonstration was upon our extreme left, which they attempted to turn. This attempt was most gallantly repulsed by Gen Smith, commanding the left wing. At 7 o'clock the skirmishers were actively engaged; and as the enemy sought the cover of the forest our artillery fire was opened, which continued without intermission for two hours. At this time Gen. Ransom's brigade marched on the field and took up a position as reserve behind Gen. Carr.

Now the battle raged fearfully along the entire line, the evident intention of the enemy being to mass his forces upon Hovey in the centre. There the fight was most earnest; but Gen. McPherson brought his forces into the field, and after four hours hard fighting the tide of battle was turned and the enemy forced to retire.

Disappointed in his movements upon our right, he turned his attention to the left of Hovey's division, where Col. Slack commanded a brigade of Indianians. Massing his forces here he hurled them against the opposing columns with irresistible impetuosity, and forced them to fall back: not, however, until at least one quarter of the troops comprising the brigade were either killed or wounded. Taking a new position and receiving fresh reinforcements, our soldiers again attempted to stem the tide. this time with eminent success The enemy were beaten back, and compelled to seek the cover of the forest in their rear. Following up their adventage, without waiting to reform, the soldiers of the Western army fixed their bayonets and charged into the woods after them. The enemy were seized with an uncontrollable panic and thought only of escape. In this terrible charge men were slaughtered without mercy.—The ground was literally covered with the dead and dying. The enemy scattered in every direction, and took through the fields to reach the column now moving to the west along the Vicksburg road. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the battle was over and the victory won.

Of the part taken in this battle by M'Pherson's corps, it is only necessary to say that it rendered the most efficient and satisfactory assistance. To it belongs the credit of winning the fight on the extreme right.

It is impossible to arrive at any just estimate of our losses in this battle of Champion's Hill. The list swells fearfully. Those who are in a position to know say it will reach fully three thousand in killed and wounded In the excitement of pursuit and daily engagements with the enemy no definite statements can be obtained.

The enemy's loss is not known. Their dead upon the battle field were largely in excess of our own. None but the fatally wounded were left behind. The citizens say that two trains filled with wounded left Edwards' Station for Vicksburg the evening of the fight. A large number of prisoners fell into our hands—over a thousand. From the data at hand I estimate the rebel loss in killed, wounded and prisoners at four thousand.

The battle ended, the left was speedily advanced upon the Vicksburg road, driving the enemy rapidly before them, and picking up, as they advanced, large numbers of prisoners and guns.

On the left of the road we could see large squads of rebel soldiers and commands cut off from the main column, whom we engaged at intervals with artillery. One of these was under the command of Major General Tighlman, who was struck by a shell from our battery and instantly killed while in the act of sighting a gun. This we learned from prisoners subsequently captured.

Thus we pursued the enemy until nearly dark, when we entered this little village just as the rear guard of the enemy was leaving it.

When within rifle range of the Station we discovered on the left a large building in flames, and on the right a smaller one from which had just issued a series of magnificent explosions. The former contained commissary stores, and the latter shell and ammunition—five car loads—brought down from Vicksburg on the morning of the day of the battle. In their hasty exit from Edwards' Station the rebels could not take this ammunition with them, but consigned it to the flames rather than it should fall into our hands. We bivouc in line of battle to-night, and to-morrow move upon the bridge across the Big Black river.

THE BATTLE OF BIG BLACK BRIDGE.

The battle of Big Black Bridge was fought on Sunday the 17th, the day after the battle of Champion's Hill. In this spirited engagement only the Thirteenth Army Corps was engaged. It is superfluous to add that the troops comprising these corps fought as they always do, exceedingly well. In the morning, after a night's bivouac overlooking the village of Edwards' Station, the column, with McClernand at its head, moved towards Black River Bridge. The citizens who were questioned on the subject said the position was most strongly fortified at the crossing, and we naturally thought the enemy would make a stubborn resistance there. We were not surprised, therefore, to learn that our advance guard was fired upon by the rebel pickets as the column moved towards the river.

The country between Edwards' Station and the bridge loses that hilly and broken character which distinguishes the region further East, and spreads out into a broad and fertile plain, over which we moved rapidly. There were no commanding hills whence they could pour a deadly fire into our ranks; but there were numerous patches of forest, under the cover and from the edge of which they could easily enfilade the open fields by the roadside. There was such a one a mile east of the intrenchments where the main picket guard was stationed. Here determined resistance was first made.

Gen. Carr's division had the extreme advance of the column, and opened and ended the engagement. Hastily deploying a heavy line of skirmishers to the right of the road backed up by the two brigades of Carr's division in line of battle behind it, with Gen. Osterhaus' division on the left of the road similarly disposed, Gen. McClernand gave the orders to advance. Soon in the depths of the thick forest the skirmishers of both armies were hotly engaged, while batteries of artillery planted on the right and left of the road poured shot and shell into the fort most furiously. The guns in the entrenchments replied with vigor and spirit. Almost the first shot dropped into the cassion belonging to Foster's Wisconsin battery, and exploded its contents, slightly wounding Gen. Osterhaus and Capt. Foster of the battery, and very seriously injuring two gunners. Gen. Osterhaus being thus disabled, the command of his division was temporarily given to Brigadier Gen. A. L. Lee.

After skirmishing had continued for an hour, during which the enemy gave way and sought the cover of his intrenchment, the order was given to the several brigade commanders on the right to advance and charge the enemy's works. The order was received with cheers and shouts, and the 21st, 22d, 23d Iowa and 11th Wisconsin, Gen. Lawlor's brigade, were the first to announce themselves in readiness. The order 'forward' was given, and steadily and splendidly the brave boys moved up to the assault. The enemy crouched down behind the breastworks. A portion of them stationed in a curtain on the right of the fort, whence they were able to get a cross fire upon the column, reserved their volley until we were within easy musket range of the intrenchments, when they swept the advancing line with their terrible fire. The brave boys lost in that fearful volley one hundred and fifty men; yet they faltered not nor turned their steps backward. They waded the bayou, delivering their fire as they reached the other bank, and rushed upon the enemy with fixed bayonets. So quickly was all this accomplished that the enemy had not time to reload their guns, and were forced to surrender.

The battle was ended, and the fort, with three thousand prisoners, eighteen pieces of artillery—some of them captured from ourselves, and bearing appropriate inscriptions—several thousand stand of arms, and a large supply of corn and commissary stores fell into our hands.

The enemy had, earlier in the day, out of the hulls of three steamboats, constructed a bridge, over which he had passed the main body of his army. As the charge was made, and it became evident that we should capture the position, they burned this bridge and also the railroad bridge across the river just above.

In the afternoon several attempts were made to cross the river, but the sharpshooters lined the bluffs beyond and entirely prevented it. Later, the main body of sharpshooters were dispersed by our artillery. It was not, however, safe to stand upon the bank, or cross the open field east of the bridge, until after dark, when the enemy withdrew altogether. An excellent bridge is now in process of construction by General Lee. We cross the river to-morrow.

LABOUR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Victoria resembles Melbourne before the great gold rush had subsided in that scene of speculation and adventure. A gentleman who once kept his cab in London, and was the member of a feshionable London Club House, is serving out liquor at a bar; and this very gentleman's employer was, curiously enough, a waiter at the very club of which this gentleman was a member. A gentleman, who was formerly a major in the English army, is receiving one dollar and a half a day as an ordinary labourer. I am told that another quondam army man is hawking cabbages about the streets. Another gentleman, who was a captain in the English army, was a bar-keeper, but he has now gone to try his luck at the mines. Another, who was a lieutenant in the army, and whom I met nearly every day, was apparently doing nothing but loafing about. A friend tells me that a lawyer is washing bottles. Another lawyer, with whom I am acquainted, is looking about for work in vain. An Oxford or Cambridge man, I forget which, is working at a forge, where he luckily got employment from the fact that he had acquired the art of shoeing horses. I know the son of a clergyman in one of the midland counties who has been working on the roads in British Columbia. He was a servant of all work for a time to Attorney General Cary. One day I found him working under a coloured man, helping to remove a wooden house. For this really hard labour he received two dollars and a half a day, but it was a temporary job and soon over. The lad did not look over well, and had a terribly swollen face, but he was compelled to stick to his work, or—I need not mention the other alternative. I met one day the son of an English clergyman distributing handbills for a gentleman attracted from Ayrshire by Governor Douglas's glowing despatches, who had laid in a stock of boots and shoes, and hoped, like many more, to merit a share of public patronage.—*Colburn's United Service Magazine.*

THE BRITISH COLONIES.—The following paragraph gives a short and curious summary of the colonial empire of Great Britain: "The colonies of Great Britain comprise altogether 3,350,000 square miles, and costs us for management £3,350,000 per annum, or about a pound a mile. They have an aggregate revenue of £11,000,000, and owe among them £27,000,000, or just two years and a half's income They import goods to the amount of £60,000,000 yearly—half from ourselves, and half from all the rest of the world. They export produce to the value of £50,000,000, of which three-fifths comes to this kingdom; and all this is done by a population which is under 10,000,000 in the aggregate, and of which only 5,000,000 are whites.' Add to these figures 900,000 square miles for India, and 200,000,000 of people, with a trade of £71,000,000, and we have as a result that the Queen reigns over nearly one-third of the earth, and a fourth of its population. If a British Vizier under the Emperor should, as seems probable, rule China, Englishmen will directly control more than half the human race.—*English paper.*

A Gold miner in New Zealand has lately seen a living Moa, a bird supposed to be extinct, that grew eight or nine feet high, and was an object of terror to the natives of New Zealand. A reward of $2000 has been offered for the bird, alive or dead. The track or footprint of this great bird showed three claws, and about a foot behind the mark of a pad, and behind that again of a spur.

[THE following description of a "pious performance" in London, from a good Protestant paper, will be highly interesting to our readers. Spurgeon has many imitators in the world who prate incessantly about biblical knowledge, and are wonderfully zealous in their patronage of prayer meetings; but the imitators are not so frank and open in the exhibition of their hypocrisy; and they are not near so diverting in their "pious performances."]

MR. SPURGEON AND THE HOWLING DERVISHES.

A few evenings ago, Mr. Spurgeon provided a novel entertainment for his followers. The proceedings were as successful as they were extraordinary. It is found that, however good men and women may be, they require the stimulus of a little excitement, and when a prohibition is laid on all public places of amusement except the Tabernacle it becomes somewhat hard to satisfy this necessity. The difficulty is increasing by the fact that Mr. Spurgeon himself has abandoned the comic element to which, in the first instance, he partly owed his popularity. No chief likes to appoint a successor, but in this instance necessity overcomes inclination. Mr. Spurgeon looked round for a comic man, and having found one likely to suit, an actual 'coup de theatre' was attempted at the Tabernacle. The programme proved sufficiently attractive to surround the doors of the building with an eager but sad-looking crowd, some of whom had prepared themselves for whatever might happen by bringing their hymn-books. There were to be seven ladies in the Eastern costume, a black servant, or eunuch, to attend upon them, a number of whirling and howling dervishes, some donkey boys of Egypt, and a quantity of live stock, such as the hands and feet of Egyptian ladies, gold bonnets, stomachers, ladies' girdles, and other similar curiosities. The whole was to be introduced by a traveller from the East by the name of Gadsby.

The entrance of a procession of deacons and elders did not awaken the usual enthusiasm. The black eunuch, the dervishes, and the donkey-boys were much more to the taste of the audience; while the persons who represent women in Eastern costume were greeted with shouts of laughter, renewed again and again when the audience saw Mr. Spurgeon surveying the group with a broad grin on his countenance. The stride of the Eastern ladies, their height and their general demeanour, gave rise to a suspicion that they were not women at all, and long before the lecture was over there were many murmurs that they were only 'men dressed up.' The audience could not but recollect that the Surrey Theatre was hard by, and even the very pious had heard of supernumeraries at a shilling a night. No doubt, whether they were ladies or not, they served to show off the peculiarities of Eastern costume; but, with the women of the audience, half the pleasure was gone when they found they were not laughing at their own sex. The large platform being filled with the mummers, and the countenances of the audience resembling the well-known picture of a theatre on a boxing night, Mr. Spurgeon advanced to the front, and said they had better begin their exercises, as they always did with prayer. Directly this was over, the black man, who appeared to think that a little of that serious work would go a great way, waved before each muffled lady a huge fan, and the audience relaxed the rigidity of their countenances produced by the pastor's exercise. Then Mr. Spurgeon sat down by the side of the ladies, and laughed heartily at intervals at the fair creatures and their obsequious servant. When he laughed, the people laughed also; and the black, or perhaps the blackened, man walked up and down before his charge, making uncouth bows in order to increase the merriment. The howling and whirling dervishes behind gravely inclined their heads, and one whose make-up was chiefly beard and long red hair, was placed in a position where his antics could be well seen by the audience. A thin man, who eyed the troupe as a manager eyes his company when they assembled on the stage, proved to be Mr. Gadsby. The energetic way in which the women applauded told him that they were already half conciliated in his favour, and after that he strove hard to keep their friendship. He made them laugh over anecdotes of men who had got divorced from their wives, and of others who had 'licked' their spouses. This was Mr. Gadsby's own expression, and the women present seemed to know what it meant perfectly. This attention to the ladies' tastes was one great feature of the lecture. The other was the pains taken to satisfy any scruples that might be left in the minds of pastor or deacons by quoting passages of Scripture in 'illustration' of the performance of the Merry Andrews in the rear. When the laughter was getting too loud, an Eastern figure from Solomon's song—'than which,' said the lecturer, 'there is no more valuable book in the Bible'—was brought to sober audience, or a flattering reference to their 'reverend pastor' was made which answered the same purpose. At such times the reverend pastor folded his arms and looked upwards to the ceiling as if in sacred communion with himself, evidently hearing neither the lecturer's judicious compliments nor his people's hearty acclamations. Then the black would come to the rescue of all parties with his fan; the particular Eastern lady who was decorated with the tambour bobbed the long horn up and down; the dervishes grimaced at the delightful audience; and Mr. Spurgeon came down from the ceiling, and put his hands on his knees to get a good purchase for a hearty laugh, after which the lecturer would quote another passage of Scripture. This was the general course of the lecture—its details were even more curious.

It began with a talk about women, and a few general compliments touching their immense importance in the world, which were extremely well received by the audience. The ladies were almost perfect, Mr. Gadsby gave them to understand, only it must be owned that some of them needed the Scriptural injunction, 'Keep the door of thy lips.' He meant to say that they were a little given to chattering, only he deemed it safer to put it to them in biblical language. The ladies laughed good naturedly at this charge, encouraged by their pastor, who smiled as if to signify that it was only the lecturer's nonsense, and that he would talk to them differently by and bye. When the lecturer mentioned a young man who he had known in the East who had been married to five wives, there was great applause from the ladies, perhaps denoting their opinion that it would be as well if there were others like that excellent young man in the vicinity of the Tabernacle, and that if Mr. Gadsby had brought over a few of them instead of the ugly dervishes, it might have promoted the comfort of the spinsters of the congregation. Mr. Gadsby, having thus found his cue, took care not to lose it. The ladies liked his talk, and he gave them plenty of it. He told them how women in the East prayed to have children, and how thankful they all ought to be for this blessing. He added, 'Oh, if I were Chancellor of the Exchequer, would not I lay a heavy tax on bachelors!' The ladies looked spiteful, and cheered the lecturer again. To describe the lecture fully would be impossible. It was a medley that few men would have the courage to deliver in any secular place of public amusement. One after the other, the ladies were turned round for inspection, amid the roars of the audience. One, whose eye only was exposed, exemplified the passage, 'Thou hast ravished me with one of thy eyes;' and so with others It was not till the lady wearing the horn came forward that the delight of the audience reached its climax. Mr. Gadsby, as his best 'illustration,' said the horn was only an exaggeration of a lady's bonnet in the present day; and, to prove it, he put one with a high peak on his own head, and strutted about the platform. The audience fairly shouted with laughter, and it seemed as if Mr. Spurgeon himself would never leave off. He clapped his hands with intense glee, and was evidently quite satisfied with the efforts of the new man. The audience, on their parts, were charmed to have so much fun under the name of 'Biblical Illustrations.' Then came the dervishes, two of whom bowed grotesquely to each other, until they seemed giddy and confused. They were not equal to the howling, but Mr. Gadsby tried to make up for the deficiency by giving a wild whoop that resounded through the building. The dervishes sat upon the floor, and bowed again, till their long hair hung wildly about their faces. The Eastern ladies by this time began to show signs of distress. They went away in an apparently gasping condition, and the lecturer cut his story short. There was less difficulty in doing this as he had nothing to tell from the first.

This pious performance was concluded by the reverend pastor, as it had been begun, with prayer. The lecturer packed up his relics, and received the thanks of the company for his interesting narrative. Mr. Spurgeon seemed contented with what has been done, and even told the people that they must have spent a pleasant and profitable evening.—*Saturday Review.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

On reading the report, which lately appeared in some of the journals, of the proceedings on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the new Wesleyan Chapel, I was by turns amused and pained. Let me, however, say, as some preparative for what follows, that any one who knows anything of the genius of Wesleyan Methodism will not be surprised at the pretensions of its exponents.

The address of the orator of the day was a gem of a certain sort, well worth preserving. It ought to be filed as the latest contribution to "Curiosities of Literature." He informed the wondering crowd that what they had come to witness was a *national event!* Now, what the *nation* has to do with the laying of the corner stone of a *Methodist Chapel* in Charlottetown, in the little island of Prince Edward; or what connexion there is or has been between "the dawn of British glory" and "the rise of the great Methodistic mind;" or what peculiar credit to Methodism can arise from the fact that the birth of the Wesleys was contemporaneous with "good Queen Ann's weeping in maternal grief over babe after babe which passed away in untimely birth and premature death"—I am certainly at a loss to understand.

But this great orator did not confine himself, it appears, to any such limits as I have indicated. He told them that the age in which the Wesleys were born was, as a consequence, "the *Augustan* age of Great Britain"; that, while Whig and Tory were fighting fiercely, Methodist preachers were "consolidating our constitution and elevating the nation"; that "God cemented the union (of England and Scotland) with the grace of the Methodistic revival"; that, *in effect*, while great Generals were distinguishing themselves on the land, and great Admirals on the water; while Addison, Steele, and others were enriching our language—a language, as he says, "as mellifluent as that of Homer and Euripides!" Wesleyan Methodism was the *grand* secret of success, that Methodist preachers were all the time behind the screens pulling the wires, and were after all the only people who were really doing any good. How some of the educated and respected gentlemen, mentioned in the Report, could bring themselves to countenance, even by their presence, such statements as these, is to me matter of unfeigned astonishment.

But there is another point in the address which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed, namely, that "loyalty to our sovereign is a great integral part of Methodism." But how is this to be made out? The State and Church of England are most closely interwoven. Their interests are identical and *one*. Of the Church the Sovereign is not only a visible member, but the visible *Head*. The interests of the Church are essentially the interests of the Sovereign; and, to say the least, the Church is a pillar of the Constitution. Now, how a system which justifies, and incessantly encourages and promotes, *separation* from the Church of England, which is a pillar of the British Constitution, and of which the Sovereign is the visible *Head*, can possess "loyalty as a grand integral part," and can be eminently "consolidating our constitution," is, I can only say, one of the hidden mysteries that neither logic can reveal nor sophistry make apparent.

I am far from saying, however, that Methodism is an *unmitigated* evil. It is a form of Christianity that has gained access to certain classes, to which it is well suited. Upon the whole, it has been an instrument of good; but let it at the same time be remembered that God has brought good out of even greater evils than an ecclesiastical schism. It has effected something within its own proper sphere, *let it be admitted*, but to talk of its being an element of "British greatness and British glory" (!) only savours of an ambition and a zeal, to say the least, of a very questionable character.

In fact the Wesleyans are eminently *a sect* less than a century and a quarter old, acknowledging a human founder, and calling themselves by the name of a man. Mr. John Wesley, their founder, got his literary attainments in the English Church, and though, according to authentic records, he deviated widely from the path of "*perfection*" he so gravely preached, now ranks favorably amongst the successful leaders of *sects*. I am, however, bound in truth to say he never intended that his followers should remain apart from the Church of which he ever boasted himself a member, and frequently exhorted them not to forsake the Church of England.

But to my mind, the most painful fact elicited from the Report is, that a lady, whose person and position I have ever respected and honored, could on Sunday pray to be delivered from "all false doctrine, heresy, and schism," and on Monday lay the corner stone of a *Methodist Chapel*, "*in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*" Not wishing to say more on this point, I conclude at once, by subscribing myself

A PROTESTANT.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

MR. WHELAN;

SIR,—There is a set of beings about Charlottetown with tastes so vitiated and grovelling that, hog-like, they are never "at home" except in some mudhole, and no greater sample of those "critters" is anywhere to be found than those in immediate association with that "delectable sheet" the *Monitor!* Hence it is next to useless to look for anything manly or honorable from *that* source; yet, with all their depravity, one would scarcely expect to see so small-souled an article from the Orange organ as that in its last issue with respect to John Lawson, Esq., signing the anti-Orange Petition, more particularly as this gentleman has ever been too ready to support the party in power. Now, however, as he has carried the coat-tails too long for his own good, and they fear he is about to (Q. C.) Quit Connection with them, they are only too happy to show the cloven foot and *use* it, if happily they might kick him off the sooner. Hard that persons in or out of office cannot write their names when and where they please without having a nest of vipers, whom they have long cherished, in their bosoms, turning on the hand that has caressed them; but such is the Tory and the true Orange spirit in this Island!

Talk about the Recorder being afraid of losing his office at the next election. If the truth were known, the *Monitor* rats are afraid their nest in the Corporation, with the crumbs of office they have so long enjoyed, are about to vanish as the result of the next civic election, for they know to their sorrow that a reaction is setting strongly against "the powers that be," no greater proof of which need be cited than the action of his Honor the Recorder with respect to the anti-Orange Petition. The old saying, "When rogues fall out honest people will get their rights," is about being verified.

SO MOTE IT BE.

Charlottetown, 5th June, 1863.

P. S.—The *Monitor* people not having been invited to lend the mighty weight of their great names to the Petition in question, they are afraid it will be wanting that degree of respect it would bear if they were associated with it! They need not be the least alarmed, however, as the said Petition is getting along very well, thank you, without these great little men.

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE STATES.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

BANGOR, June 6.

The Post's Washington despatch says the Confederates have removed their entire force from the line of the Rappahannock, leaving Fredericksburg in Hooker's possession. No indication of the direction Lee has taken.

The Time's despatch says the enemy's columns were moving in the direction of Gordonsville.

Fierce fighting occurred at Port Hudson on the 27th; Federals assaulting works and repulsed. Gen. Weitzel captured one battery. Negro regiment fought like demons, charging on the enemy's batteries, losing 600 out of 900. Federal loss reported at 4,000. Brig. Gen. Sherman seriously wounded. Cols. Clark and Cowles killed.

Grant's despatches from Vicksburg continue of confident nature.

Bragg's army, about 20,000 infantry, flanked with cavalry, are now near Shelbyville. Rosencran's army ready in advance.

Flour declined five cents.

BANGOR, June 8.

Fredericksburg is not evacuated. Federals crossed Rappahannock to reconnoitre in force and ascertain position and intentions of Lee.

Pontoons were laid in face of sharpshooters who were driven from rifle pits. 100 Confederates captured.

Lee marched two corps back to front, and Longstreet's corps reinforced Fredericksburg.

Southern despatches express great confidence in holding Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

Kirby Smith crossed over to latter place with his force, but Federal gunboats sunk steamer, drowning 700 troops.

Federal reports from Vicksburg say whole square was burnt on Monday from Federal shells.

Reported forage all gone in the city, and men on quarter rations.

Reported that a review took place at Culpeper of Fitzhugh Lee's and Wade Hampton's forces numbering about 15,000.

Herald's despatch says Confederates returned in large numbers to fortifications rear and below Fredericksburg. Object of Federal reconnoissance fully accomplished.

Burnside's ninth corps reported gone to reinforce Grant.

Reported that Suffolk is evacuated, and greater part of Peck's forces gone to Hooker.

Blair's expedition in Yazoo country secured over 50 miles, destroying much property. Country found teeming with agricultural riches; hundreds of negroes joined his force.

A lot of small blockade runners captured, mostly bound to Havana.

ST. JOHN, June 9.

A Federal expedition up the Mattapony River destroyed Foundry, Mills, &c., above Walkertown. Gunboats kept the river clear below and dispersed the Confederates whilst attempting demonstration.

While crossing the Rappahannock on reconnoissance the Engineer brigade lost 30 killed and wounded.

The New Orleans *Era* says that an immense caravan of six hundred waggons with 6000 negroes, 3000 mules and horses, 1500 head of cattle, with nearly all the troops in Letche County as guards, have arrived at New Orleans.

A despatch from Mobile speaks of the flourishing condition of the corn crops in Alabama and Georgia.

Richmond papers report gold 600 premium.

General Osterman is reported on the west side of the Black River Bridge, watching General Johnston.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, June 15th, 1863.

THE ANTI-ORANGE PETITION.

WE notice in the *Islander* of Friday last another proof of the fretfulness and alarm with which the petition against the Orange Bill is regarded by the Orange party. Mr. Secretary Pope, the mouthpiece of that party, denounces the petition as "untruthful," as "grossly libellous" on the Lieutenant Governor; and the Bishop of Charlottetown is not only scoffed and sneered at for having given his approval of the petition, but his Lordship is held directly responsible for the libellous and untruthful matter which, it is said, the document contains.

Now, we defy the whole fraternity of Orangemen to prove that there is one untruthful statement in the petition. We have given this challenge before,—it has *never been* taken up further than by a mere repetition of the assertion, that the petition *is* untruthful. Between eleven and twelve thousand people have signed it—amongst them are the names of persons of all denominations, distinguished for their learning, wealth and high social position; and we are glad to say that amongst the Conservative party not a few were found independent enough to show their hatred of Orangeism by signing the petition. It is not likely that there would be such an array of signatures to it, if it were such a document as the Orange Secretary has described it.

As regards the remarks upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for whose fair fame the Orange Secretary is very much concerned—although there were times when he was quite an adept at abusing Governors—we shall quote the few lines which refer to His Excellency, and let those who may not yet have carefully read the petition judge whether they are "grossly libellous" and "defamatory of Her Majesty's Representative." In the course of the narrative part of the petition reference is made to the Proclamation issued in 1852, by Sir Alexander Bannerman, against Orange Lodges and other Secret Societies, by which the organization of such illegal associations was discouraged. The petitioners regret that Sir Alexander's good example was not followed by Mr. Dundas, and the words in which this regret is expressed are as follow:—

"Your Memorialists deeply regret that Your Majesty's present Representative has not followed the wise example of Sir Alexander Bannerman; but acting apparently in concert with his advisers, he has permitted the Orange Institution to take deep root in the land."

Now, there is not another word in the document which relates to His Excellency Governor Dundas. The Orange Secretary, alluding to this passage, says:—"But we do object to a Roman C. Bishop lending his countenance to the production of gross libels upon Her Majesty's Representative in this Colony." Alluding to the same passage in the first part of the article, Mr. Pope says the Governor is "grossly libelled" by it; and in the middle of the article the passage quoted is denounced as "defamatory of Her Majesty's Representative." Where the libel or defamation is, every person must be at a loss to discover. It is surely not libellous to express regret that, with regard to one particular act of his public life, his Excellency has not followed the wise example of a predecessor; nor can it be shown that it is "defamatory" or "grossly libellous" to declare that His Excellency "has allowed the Orange Institution to take deep root in the land." The hireling Secretary's mawkish, drivelling and false sympathy for the Governor may be imposed upon the Belfasters and others of that stamp; but amongst people enjoying the blessings of knowledge and civilization the Secretary's imposition will be of no avail.

There are two short passages in the article under review which read strangely in a Government paper, and are well known to have been written by a salaried official, a member of the Executive Council, and the leading advocate of an institution which claims to be pre-eminently loyal. They are as follow:—

"The disallowance of the Orange Bill, it is very probable, would simply have the effect of consolidating the Orange organization."

But the second passage is particularly worthy of consideration:—

"Incorporated or not, Orange lodges will, no doubt, increase, and that which would tend more than anything else to their extension and consolidation, would be the rejection of the Bill of incorporation passed last session."

Surely, if it is possible to imply a threat, it is done in this instance. The language we have quoted plainly says—"We, the Orangemen, will go on more zealously than ever with our Orange organizations if Her Majesty the Queen should disapprove of them by rejecting our Incorporation Bill,—we will treat the Queen and her Colonial Minister with contempt,—we shall not be put down by any expression of the Royal will,—we shall compel the Queen and the Colonial Office to let us have our own way, otherwise we shall