MISCELLANEOUS.

THE STEAM MARINE OF ENGLAND.

The mercantile steam marine of England is increasing with great rapidity, and now consists of 2277 vessels, with a gross tonnage of 883,034 tons, or (after deducting engine room and space) of the registered tonnage of 591,434 tons. The recent Parliamentary return which gives these figures, also furnished a number of facts, which are condensed as follows:—

"A few years ago iron first began to be introduced as a material for the construction of steamers, and already the iron steamers in the British marine are more numerous than those constructed of wood, there being 1391 built of iron in the total of 2277 steamers. And a new material is coming into use in the building of steamers, namely, steel. The number of vessels formed of steel at present only amounts to four or five; but it is thought probable that the number of vessels constructed of this material will increase—a smaller quantity of steel (indeed, not more than one half) being required to give the same amount of strength in resisting shocks and blows than is required of iron. In one case there is a combination of steel plates, with iron beams.

"It is also only a few years since the first screw steamer was constructed in England, and already considerably more than one-third of the steamers in the mercantile marine of this country are propelled by the screw. According to the return just published, the number of screw steamers at the beginning of the present year was seven hundred and ninety-two. The size of the steamers employed in the trade of England varies from 50 tons to 10,915 tons—the last being, of course, the tonnage of the Great Eastern.

"Nearly the whole of the trade between Great Britain and Ireland, and a very considerable portion of trade around the coasts of the three kingdoms, is now carried on by means of steamers. The number of steam-vessels employed in these branches of trade may be taken at something like 1800. There should also be included under this head nearly the whole of the steamers employed in the trade with France, Belgium, and Holland, and a portion of those employed in the trade with the Atlantic ports of the Peninsula, and in the trade with Germany, Denmark and the Baltic.

"The number of steamers employed in what may be called ocean traffic amounted to four hundred and seventy-seven at the commencement of the present year, and may be safely taken at upwards of five hundred at the present time. These vessels may be divided into four classes, according to their tonnage. The first of these classes consists of vessels of from five hundred to one thousand tons. These amounted at the beginning of the present year to two hundred and sixty-eight, and include a large portion of the steamers employed in the trade with the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Black Sea, the Baltic, and the Hanse Towns of Germany.

"The vessels which may be considered ocean steamers, in the strict sense of the term, are vessels of between 1000 and 4000 tons. The steamers of this class, from 1000 to 2000 tons burden, amounted to 158. In this number were a few of the steamers employed in the trade with America. When that trade commenced, vessels of 1200 tons were considered sufficiently large, and that was the size of the steamers in the original Cunard contract. But the steamers employed in the trade with America have increased in magnitude every three or four years, and there are now 50 vessels of upwards of 2000 tons employed in keeping up the communication for the mails and first-class passengers between Europe and America. The number of vessels of from 2000 to 3000 tons is stated in the return to be 48; and the number above 3000 tons is stated to be 7. But this class of vessels is increasing rapidly, and these figures fall considerably short of the real number of steamers of this class now on the ocean.

"The Great Eastern is still far ahead of all other vessels, her tonnage being not less than 10,915 tons. But she has been too unfortunate as a commercial speculation to give rise to any imitations. The largest class of steamers that have hitherto been employed with profit and advantage scarcely rise to the magnitude of 4000 tons. In the warlike marine of England one or two vessels have been constructed of the magnitude of 6000 tons."

An English paper adds that "it is impossible to consider the above facts without coming to the conclusion that the introduction of steam navigation, followed, as it has been, by the application of iron to the purposes of shipbuilding, and the introduction of the screw in the place of the paddle-wheel, have given fresh impulse and an additional security for the naval greatness of the country. Iron steamers are in future to rule the ocean in the place of those vessels built of heart of oak, in which Nelson and Blake gained their victories; and the country which carries the building of iron vessels to the greatest perfection will be the country that will rule the seas."

FURTHER REVELATIONS.—The *Courier des Etats Unis*, of the 16th instant, contains another letter showing how Massachusetts fills her quota of men for the Federal army. It fully corroborates the statements previously made, and adds that on Wednesday last the ship *Guerland*, which left Antwerp with 251 passengers, anchored outside the harbor of Boston. Three steamers with U. S. soldiers on board joined the *Guerland* there. The Belgian and French passengers on board were requested to sign a paper written in English, which was nothing else than an agreement to enlist. They were informed that they would no longer be fed on board their vessel, but that they would be sent on board the steamers lying near, where dinner was ready for them. They demanded to be landed in Boston, but this was peremptorily refused. After some twenty-four hours resistance, compelled by hunger, and surrounded by soldiers, 220 passengers signed the paper and were transported to the fort, where they had to put on uniforms, notwithstanding their unanimous protests. Three of those who had signed, persisted in their refusal to march. They were ironed and sent to an island near by. Their names are Sincrit, a Frenchman, Albrecirt and Verheyden, Belgians. About thirty refused to sign, and were landed at Boston at their own expense, where they left for New York.

AMERICA COMPARED WITH HISTORIC BATTLES.—In five days the Federals have, it appears, lost 40, thousand men in killed, wounded and skedaddled; this is about 8,000 a day, a dreadful number, certainly. But at Waterloo, the total loss of the allied army in killed, wounded and missing, was 22,976 in one day; at Crecy, we slew 30,000 of the French private men, and nearly 3,000 nobles and knights, in one day, and took three crowned kings prisoners; and at Blenheim, Marlborough slew 27,000 allies, and took 13,000 prisoners.—*Illustrated News.*

NEW ZEALAND.—Melbourne papers say that the prospects of peace in New Zealand seem as far removed as ever. After the reverse sustained by our arms the natives were so elated that they sent a written challenge to the British Commander at Tauranga. Col. Creer replied by marching out to the native position with an Armstrong gun, a six pounder, and 700 men of the 43d and 68th, and 1st Waikato militia regiments. The natives had only formed a single line of rifle pits, but they commenced the attack. The whole affair only occupied a few minutes. The loss on our side amounted to 10 killed, and 40 wounded. The Maoris had 204 killed and wounded, a larger number than has fallen in any one engagement during the war. Their principal chief and leader, Rawiri, was amongst the killed, besides several other influential chiefs.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have met, it would appear, with the chilliest of receptions from their Danish relatives. In Copenhagen there did not exist the slightest intention to accord a welcome of any sort.

A case of lamentable dissipation and destitution came before the Liverpool coroner. An inquest was held on the body of a man who died from pneumonia, and it appeared that the wife actually stripped the dead and sold the clothes to get drink.

CALIFORNIA SILK.—The soil and climate of California are admirably adapted to the growth of the mulberry tree in all its varieties, to the breeding and feeding of the silk-worm, and to the production of silk, more so than almost any European country, owing to the fertility of the soil and dryness of the climate, giving a peculiarly rich and nutritive character to the leaves of the mulberry tree, which imparts a higher, finer, and more delicate quality to the silk produced from them. Certificates from the highest authorities in Europe show that the California silk, after being fully tested, carefully analyzed, and compared with European silk, proves to be of the very best quality.

A HORRIBLE CRIME.—The Court of Assizes of the Oise has just tried two brothers, named Pierre and Louis Petel, the former charged with attempting to murder his own mother, a widow, residing at Venetta, and the latter with being the instigator of the crime. About three in the morning of the 23rd of May last, the guard champetre of Venetta, named Matton, was awakened by Widow Petel, who told him that an attempt had been made to murder her during the night. The poor woman being covered with blood and in a state of great excitement, Matton and his wife gave her every assistance in their power, and as soon as she was able she told them that a person had entered her bedroom at midnight, and had attempted to strangle her by putting a chord with a slip knot round her neck, but that she had managed to get her hand into the noose so as to prevent complete strangulation. She cried for help, and resisted her assailent as well as she could, but he thrust a handkerchief into her mouth to stop her cries, and then pulled the cord with such violence that she was drawn off the bed and fell on the floor in a fainting fit. The murderer, thinking her dead, took the handkerchief from her mouth and fled. She added that she believed her youngest son Pierre to be the criminal; that her elder son Louis had twice tried to poison her, and that the motive for these crimes was her sons' desire to obtain possession of her house and property. Pierre, who was in the service of a farmer in Compiegne was at once arrested, and on his person was found a handkerchief stained with blood, as were his own clothes. It was likewise proved by his master that he was absent part of the night from the farm. Before the examining magistrate Pierre had confessed his guilt, and stated that he had committed the crime at the suggestion of his brother, who had tried to poison their mother, but failed. As this confession was supported by collateral evidence, the jury found both prisoners guilty, but with extenuating circumstances, and the Court accordingly sentenced them to hard labour for life.

A frightful accident occurred in a Colliery near North Shields, England, on the 7th instant. While eighteen men and boys were at work in a portion of the Seghile Colliery, the gay suddenly fired, and in a moment they were all killed. Fortunately, the explosion did not extend to other parts of the pit, where a large number of men were at work. Up to Thursday evening the bodies had not been reovered, but every exertion was being made to get at them.

It is expected that General Doyle, who is now in the States, will visit Canada, and proceed to Washington, and perhaps to Gen. Grant's army, before his return to Nova Scotia. It is thought he will be at Quebec during the Conference. What, with Lord Lyons, Lord Monck, the General, McKay of the London *Times*, and Day of the London *Post*, there will be quite a distinguished coterie on hand at the Intercolonial gathering.

It is stated in a Canada paper that both Messrs. Cauchon and McGee have declared the question of confederation will be submitted to a vote of the people. Their ministerial declaration took place at the hustings, on the election by acclamation of the Hon Louis Renaud for Salabary Division. It does not appear whether the intimation signifies that a new Parliamentary election simply will be held, or whether every elector throughout Upper and Lower Canada will be called upon to declare his preference.

We regret to learn that the house of Mr. Samuel Hamilton, of Kemptville, County of Yarmouth, a few nights ago, was consumed by fire; and, sad to relate, his wife and three daughters fell victims to the flames.

AID FOR THE SOUTH.—The Charleston *Courier* of the 23rd ult. remarks:—"An agreement has been effected between the rebel government and a commissioner representing a certain European population, by which 30,000 soldiers will be added to the rebel armies. The consideration is a grant of lands, but where these lands are located is much in doubt. It is intimated that they will come from Poland." We were informed some months since that such an arrangement was about being made, and that 40,000 Poles would, in all probability, soon be added to the army of the Confederacy. The appeal of the Polish delegation, published in the Wilmington papers, subsequently confirmed this. We have since been told that the Confederate Government have given orders for the completion of some fifty swift steamers in England, similar to the *Colonel Lamb*, now in port, in order to bring those foreigners to the South, through the blockade.—*Halifax Paper.*

TENNYSON ON THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION.—Correspondents have ever succeeded in laying Tennyson under tribute to the cause. Here is a bunch of posies culled from "The lady of Shalott" and "Maud:"

THE CROPS OF THE SHENANDOAH.

Only reapers, reaping Early
In among the bearded barley,
Hear a song that echoes cheerly
From the river winding clearly.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Ah, God, for a man with heart, head, hand,
Like some of the simple great one's gone
For ever and ever by;
One still strong man in a blatant land;
Whatever they call him, what care I;
Aristocrat, democrat, autocrat—one
Who can rule and dare not lie.

"CONCILIATORY MEANS."—The proposal by the Democrats to stop fighting the rebels, and look sweetly at them, and talk soft words, reminds some one of the following verse from a somewhat popular work:

There was an old man who said, "How
Shall I flee from this horrible cow?
I will sit on the stile,
And continue to smile,
Which may soften the heart of this cow."

Mr. Lincoln has managed, during the three years he has been in office, to swell the public debt of the United States to about seven hundred million dollars more than the whole expenses of the Government from the Declaration of the independence to March 4, 1861. Can we afford such a President for four years more?—*N. Y. World.*

A Crystal Palace has been opened at Amsterdam with great solemnity, and in the presence of inhabitants from all parts of Holland. The model of Sir Joseph Paxton's structure of 1851 has been adopted with much success.

THROAT DISEASES.—We would call attention to 'Brown's Bronchial Troches.' We have found them efficacious in allaying Irritation in the Throat and Bronchia, and would commend them to the attention of Public Speakers and others troubled with affections of the Throat. They are also an excellent remedy for Hoarseness resulting from cold.—*Congregationalist, Boston.*

The statistics of the import of petroleum oil, received from Liverpool, show what a very important trade it has become. America has exported 19½ millions of gallons this year, as against a little more than 20 millions last year. A large proportion of the exports come to the United Kingdom.

RENEWED HIS AGE.—The most wonderful results are produced by the use of MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S World's Hair Restorer and Zylobalsamum, for Hair Dressing. They never fail to restore, invigorate and beautify the hair; youth renewed. No more grey hairs. The hair is restored on bald spots. It imparts a delightful fragrance. You can procure them at any Druggist's. W. R. Watson, Agent for P. E. Island.

A submarine cable between Oranto and Valona has been completed. The previous attempt in February last was unsuccessful on account of severe gales, which drove the vessel out of her course, and caused the end of the cable to be lost.

A London jeweller has bought a pearl, found in the river Esk, Scotland, for £100. It weighed twenty-seven grains.

THE WAR IN THE STATES.

BEFORE PETERSBURG.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Sept. 30.—Evening.—It having been determined by Gen. Meade to make an attack on the enemy's right flank, southwest of Petersburg, the troops selected for that purpose were massed near the Weldon Railroad for this morning. Upon reaching a point 4 miles of Petersburg, a skirmish took place, in which the Federals lost 100 men, but claim to have driven the enemy from their position.

After reforming our lines, another charge was made, when the rebels were forced back half a mile further, where they took a still stronger position and made a desperate resistance to our advance, the 9th corps having the advance. Here the rebels succeeded in throwing a force around the Pegram House on its left, and threatened to turn our flank, but Gen. Griffith's division being at hand, they were checked. The fighting was of the most desperate character, and continued until after dark, our men holding at that time all the ground they had taken from the enemy. Our loss will amount to about 500, while that of the rebels is probably not so large, as they fought nearly all the time behind breastworks. Very little artillery was used on our side, the woods being too dense for that purpose.

Contrabands who have come into our lines say that the rebels yesterday withdrew nearly all of their troops towards Richmond, but brought some back this morning, including all the Home Guard.

A heavy battle is expected to-morrow, and it is believed that we shall take Petersburg during the day, such is the confidence of our troops. The prisoners taken belong to the 7th Confederate cavalry, dismounted. Among them is a Major and six commissioned officers.

THE BATTLE AT LAUREL HILL—DREADFUL SLAUGHTER.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—The *Herald's* 10th corps correspondent, speaking of the operations of that corps in its advance on Richmond, says the corps broke camp at 3 P. M. on the 28th, and by a rapid march reached and crossed the James at daylight on the 29th. At Deep Bottom, immediately on advancing, they met the enemy and skirmishing up the roads and across the fields until near Newmarket road. This road was occupied by the enemy, who were strongly intrenched on a height, and our advance was obstinately contested. The colored troops, under Gen. Paine, were ordered to carry this position. They never halted or faltered, though their ranks were sadly thinned as they advanced. The successful accomplishment of their task put the enemy to confusion and sent them rapidly up the road towards Richmond.

Three miles above Newmarket the enemy have very strong works, but Gen. Birney pressed his advantage, and pursued the retreating rebels so closely that they could not stop to reform in this work. Two miles further on the rebels have a strong line of redoubts, perfect in their character, carrying heavy artillery, and located at such brief intervals that it is impossible to force a column of troops through them. These works cross the Newmarket road just beyond Laurel Hill Church, and their guns sweep the roads in all directions. Gen. Birney at once determined to carry such of these works as lay in his front by a general assault, reconnoitering the ground himself amid a storm of shells I have never seen surpassed. The assault was made at 2 P. M., the men cheering and starting on the run. They were met with a muderous fire of grape and canister and unceasing volleys of musketry that worked terrible havoc in their ranks; still unflinchingly they held their way. In crossing an intervening crest of open land they were exposed to a frightful enfilading fire of artillery, and the casualties were terrible. Still the line pressed forward. On approaching the redoubts they were found even more formidable than at first supposed. A perfect abattis held them at bay while the rebel infantry literally mowed them down.

The forts were surrounded by a ditch 8 feet deep, into which some of the colored troops leaped only to find themselves hemmed in with no door of escape. The works had no sally ports, and were accessible only by drawbridges over the ditches; and these of course were drawn up. The line was then withdrawn to the further side of the crest, which position was held until night, when a demonstration was made against the works of the ditch in which our men were cooped up, thus giving them an opportunity to escape.

Though an advance up the road from half to three quarters of a mile was accomplished, it cost us dearly. The corps lost over 500 men in killed and wounded.

At the same time this was going on Gen. Kautz's cavalry dashed boldly up to the very gates of Richmond, which fact he reported to Gen Butler, who at once despatched a division of infantry to his support. This division marched unresisted to within musket range of the city, and probably might have marched into the rebel city, though it was clear they could not have held it. On arriving in the suburbs of the city they found that Gen. Kautz had withdrawn for a wise purpose. The division was then ordered to return.

LATER.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—The Herald's correspondent at Butler's headquarters writes, under date of Sept. 30:—"Early yesterday morning Gen. Butler had captured all the fortifications save one immediately opposite Fort Darling, and we still hold them, notwithstanding the vigorous shelling by the rebel rams. The fact that one of our hospitals was located within three miles of the city throughout yesterday is significant.

GENERAL SHERIDAN.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Oct. 1, 1864.

To Major General Dix:

The following despatches from Major Gen. Sheridan, detailing his successful operations since the last report, have just been received:

HARRISONBURG, Va, Sept 29, 7 30 P M.
To Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant, Va:

In my last dispatch I informed you that I pressed Early as closely as I could through Newmarket, at the same time sending cavalry around his flank, that he gave up the valley and took to the mountains, passing through Brown's Gap. I kept up the pursuit to Port Republic, destroying seventy-five waggons and four caissons.

I sent Gen. Torbett, who overtook me at Harrisonburg, to Staunton with Wilson's division of cavalry and one brigade of Merritt's. Torbett entered Staunton on the 26th, and destroyed a large quantity of rebel government property, harness, small arms, hard bread, flour, repair shops, &c. He then proceeded to Waynesboro', destroying the iron bridge over the south branch of the Shenandoah, seven miles of track, the depot building, government tannery, and a large amount of leather, flour, stores, &c.

At that place he found the tunnel defended by infantry, and retired via Staunton.

My impression is that most of the troops which Early had left passed through the mountains in Charlottsville. Kershaw's division came to his assistance, and I think passed along the west base of the mountains to Waynesboro'.

I am getting from twenty-five to forty prisoners daily, who come in from the mountains on each side and deliver themselves up.

From the most reliable accounts Early's army was completely broken up. Kershaw had not reached Richmond, but was somewhere in the vicinity of Gordonsville, where he received orders to rejoin Early.

The destruction of the grain and forage from here to Staunton will be a terrible blow to them. All the grain, forage, &c., in the vicinity of Staunton was retained for the use of Early's army. All in the lower part of the valley was shipped to Richmond for the use of Lee's army. The country from here to Staunton was abundantly supplied with forage, grain, &c.—

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General.

The statement of Sheridan and the account in the Richmond papers, concerning the affair at Brown's Gap, do not agree. Both cannot be right. Here is the Confederate account:—

DEFEAT OF SHERIDAN.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—The Richmond *Examiner* of the 28th says, a man who left Early's army on Monday night reports that Sheridan attacked Early at Brown's Gap on Monday, and was repulsed. The rebels then assumed the offensive, and attacked and drove Sheridan's force back six miles, to Port Republic, and it was believed, across the Shenandoah river. This statement, the *Examiner* says, is confirmed by a large number of persons from Greenwood and other points nearest Brown's Gap; still there was no official intelligence of the fact. Brown's Gap, or Cove, is in the Blue Ridge, directly east of Staunton, and was a hole, or stronghold, into which Jackson always withdrew whenever the Union forces pressed him dangerously, and the *Examiner* says he always emerged from it to conquer.

THE FEDERAL DEFEAT AT RICHMOND.

IN THE FIELD NEAR AIKEN'S LANDING—Oct. 7—6.40 P. M.—Quite a severe engagement took place this morning between a force of the enemy and our (Federal) troops, on the north side of the James river, in which we suffered considerable loss in men and material, including two batteries of four guns each, besides being driven back from the advance position gained ten days ago. It will be remembered that our troops crossed the James river at that time, and succeeded in driving the enemy from the lower part of Chapin's Bluff, taking several guns and a number of prisoners. An attempt was afterwards made by the rebels to recapture the lost ground, but it failed. Our army at once entrenched itself there, and since that time has considered its position perfectly secure.

A force of cavalry under Gen. Kautz cooperated in all the movements there, and was reported at one time as being within a mile or two of Richmond, but had to fall back. Since then he has been protecting the flank of the army, his men being so strung out that they presented rather a weak line to the foe.

About 6 o'clock this morning a sudden attack was made on this cavalry force from nearly every direction, and although they were completely taken by surprise, it is said they made every effort to hold their ground, but were finally forced to retreat, leaving two batteries without support, the guns of which fell into the enemy's hands. They were the 4th Wis. and battery B of the 1st United States. The latter was commanded by Lieut. Hill, who is said to have fired all his ammunition, and then finding that he could not get all his guns off, spiked them. The engagement commenced on the Darbytown road, and was continued on the Newmarket road, near which the right of the 10th corps reached. The result on this part of the line was so desperate that it also was forced back some distance. But the ground was afterwards recovered with heavy loss to the enemy. This ended the engagement, although picket firing continued all day.

Our losses are not known, but must have been considerable, as some of our cavalry were completely surrounded. Gen. Cautz is said to have been captured, but succeeded in making his escape. The enemy's loss is severe. We took about 700 prisoners, mostly belonging to Longstreet's corps. Some of them are fine looking young men, and present the appearance of having been lately called into the service.

FROM SOUTHERN SOURCES.

A rebel despatch dated 4th instant, says it is positively reported that Hood holds the railroad between Vining and Marietta, in the rear of Sherman. Military men at Griffin say Sherman will be obliged, in a few days, to abandon Atlanta and fight his way out. A Union prisoner reports that no trains had arrived at Atlanta for six days.

Gen. Echols, commanding the rebel force in Southwestern Virginia, claims a victory on the 2d inst. over the Union forces under Burbridge at Saltville. Echols says Burbridge left his killed and wounded behind. Among them was a brigadier general and a good many officers. The Union forces numbered six thousand, among whom were several negro regiments, which were badly cut up. He says his forces on the 3d were in hot pursuit.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 6th says: "Early's advance is beyond Mount Crawford, the enemy retiring to Harrisonbrg. The Yankees are in strong cavalry force at Rappahannock Station, and are rebuilding the railroad bridge, and it is estimated that Sheridan intends taking Gordonsville by suddenly withdrawing from Early's front. The rebuilding of the Rappahannock bridge is to furnish communication with the depot of supplies at Alexandria or Manassas.

The rebel Col. Witcher has returned from a raid into West Virginia, with 300 prisoners, 500 horses and 200 beef cattle. He destroyed a million of dollars worth of Yankee stores at six different towns. He sustained no loss.

The Governor of Alabama, in his message to the Legislature, says: "This fearful struggle now going on in Georgia, is no idle spectacle to Alabamians. If Georgia is permitted to be overrun and devastated by Sherman's ruthless columns, the fate of Alabama will be read in the desolated homes and starving women and children of our sister State." He therefore recommends the amendment of the militia law, so as to include all persons exempted from the Confederate service able to bear arms, and all between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five.

Gen. Lee reports that 900 prisoners were captured from General Grant in the fight at Peebles' Farm, on Friday, 30th ult. The *Examiner* affirms that the Confederates did not lose more than 400 men killed and wounded in the attempt to recapture Fort Harrison on Saturday.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

The New York *Herald* gives the following picture of affairs in that region:—

We have important and exciting intelligence from General Sheridan. He commenced moving back down the valley from Harrisonburg on Thursday last, and was followed by the rebel cavalry under Rosser. On Saturday he deemed it best, he says, to make one day's delay, in order to "settle the new cavalry General." An attack by Union cavalry was, therefore, ordered at daylight, and was most handsomely executed. The rebels were driven back as before the force of a tornado by the impetuous onset of Custer's and Merritt's men, and three hundred prisoners, eleven pieces of artillery, cassions, battery forge, forty-seven wagons, ambulances, &c., were taken from them. The headquarters wagons of the rebel Generals Rosser, Lomax and Colonel Pollard were among the captured. The enemy were followed by our men on the jump for twenty-six miles. The eleven pieces of artillery captured make thirty-six in all taken from the rebels by Sheridan's soldier's since the commencement of the campaign, on the 19th ult. His army is now at Stratsburg, after having overwhelmingly defeated the enemy in every engagement he has had, and made pretty complete destruction of everything in the way of subsistence throughout the valley that could be of service to them. In a despatch from Woodstock, on Friday last, he describes his recent operations.

He says that he has destroyed in the Shenandoah, Luray and Little Fort valleys, over two thousand barns filled with wheat, hay and farming implements, and over seventy mills filled with flour and wheat. He has obtained a very large number of horses, has driven four herds of stock before the army, and has killed and issued to it about three thousand sheep. This destruction and this spoliation are in accordance with the instructions of Gen. Grant, who finds in these severe measures the only preventive of the enemy's perodical incursions down the valley, which he is determined shall be stopped. General Sheridan says he has rendered the entire country through which he has passed untenable to the rebel army, and has made the inhabitants sick of the war, which before they were not, owing to the abundance in the midst of which they were living. These are the people, many of whom had protection papers from former commanders of our forces, who have for some time been bushwhacking every Union train and small party passing along their roads. Railroad communication through from Alexandria to Stratsburg will be completed in a few days. The soldiers in Sheridan's department have suffered considerably from the cold weather of the past few days. Snow fell to the depth of three inches at Cumberland, Md., on Saturday last.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

EUROPA AT CAPE RACE.

BY TELEGRAPA.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F. Oct. 10.—*Europa*, for Halifax, at Cape Race at 8 o'clock on Monday evening..... Politics unimportant..... Financial crisis still prevails in England, but no actual panic..... *Morning Post*, in an editorial on American affairs, remarks—it is certainly singular that the Peace party in the North has not been enabled to put forth a candidate especially pledged to pursue peaceful policy. The fact is, however, it cannot do so, and circumstances tend to confirm the conviction almost unanimously entertained that some time must elapse before the Northern population will admit the necessity of putting an end to the war..... Retirement of George Peabody from active life took place Oct. 1st, in conformity with long expressed intention. *Times'* city article remarks—It is certain no one has completed a business career which has commanded more universal respect from the commercial world. The business of the house, the prosperity of which has been uninterrupted, will henceforth be carried on by the two remaining partners..... Dissolution of British Parliament will take place next Easter, and general election about three months afterwards..... Manchester *Guardian* publishes evidence that employment is again becoming more scarce in the manufacturing districts..... There was continued depression and sensitiveness in financial and commercial circles. Numerous additional failures are reported in connection with the Leeds Banking Co., and on the London Stock Exchange the fortnightly settlement led to three suspensions among the brokers. Included in the failures are A. Glee & Co., East India Merchants, liabilities half a million sterling; Early & Smith, Export Clothers, London, eighty thousand; Hull & Jones, Sugar Brokers, Liverpool, half a million..... Demand for discount very heavy, but Bank rate unchanged..... Confederate loan on the the 30th ult. fell to 57, but rallied, closing at from 62 to 64.

FRANCE.—Weekly returns of Bank of France show an increase in cash of over two and a quarter million francs..... Bourse quiet—55, 75.

SPAIN.—The *Clamor Public* urges settlement of the St. Domingo question, by Spain preserving only the towns of Santo Domingo, Sameruil and Puerto Plato, abandoning the rest of the Island and terminating the war.

LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday evening.—No change in monetary affairs—no more failures reported..... United States steamer *Kearsage* was spoken Sept. 10th, in lat. 24.47 North, long. 35.43 West, under canvas, in search of the *Florida*..... Terrific gunpowder explosion this morning at Dartford Powder Mills. Forty persons reported killed and wounded. The shock was felt in London, a distance of 25 miles..... Queenstown, 2nd—Loss of life by gunpowder explosion much less than reported..... Paris Bourse dull. Rentes closed at 69.95..... British Government has determined to reduce the Militia establishment about 30 per cent..... Brazil Mail arrived in England. Federal steamer *Onward* was cruising on Brazilian coast in search of rebel vessels. Crops of Cotton in Brazil much less than expected..... Queen Christiana arrived at Madeira: she was well received..... Advices from Japan, via France, say that two English vessels have been fired into by batteries belonging to Prince Chotein..... Consols 88¼ a 88½..... Bullion in Bank decreased £50,000..... Breadstuffs firmer, with an upward tendency..... Provisions quiet..... Europa has 131 passengers and £39,000 in specie. All well.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

His Excellency Governor MUSGRAVE arrived at St. John's on the 3rd instant. His Excellency was accompanied by his two children, two sisters, and his brother, and will be sworn into office with the usual formalities to-day (October 5.)

A fearful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by a gale from the north, with hailstones the size of swanshot, passed over this city on Thursday last, in the course of which a "ball of fire" was observed to fall from the clouds into the harbour near the Narrows. Some seamen on board a vessel at MacBride's were injured by the fluid, and some children at Signal-hill were slightly scathed; but as yet we have heard of nothing fatal from the effects of the storm—the fiercest, for the short time it lasted, that we ever witnessed.

The dwelling house of a man named Cleary, situate on the White Hills, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The fire was communicated by a spark from the chimney lodging on the roof, which the high wind prevailing wafted into a blaze.

The accounts from the Labrador Fishery are conflicting. It is believed that the catch will be under an average.

LATER.

The codfishery has been a failure this season. The shore voyages are over, resulting in the smallest catch on record, and news from Labrador show that the catch is far below the average. The Herring fishery at Labrador is also a complete failure, the catch being very inconsiderable. The exports look larger this year than last, but then the greater part has been old fish. Breadstuffs are scarce and rising in price.

EROM BERMUDA.

The Royal Mail steamer *Alpha* arrived at Halifax on Wednesday afternoon, with Bermuda dates to the 1st inst.

The statements made in the papers relative to the fever are unsatisfactory. In some parts of the Island the epidemic seems to be dying out, while in other places it is raging with violence. The *Advocate*, published at St. George's, remarks:—

"As far as our Town is concerned, we are happy to be able to repeat the news of last week. This makes the second week during which St. George's has been without a single case of fever. The last that was sent to the hospital was on the 2d instant. A few cases are occasionally to be found among the shipping, and the utmost precautions must continue to be observed in reference to the examination of vessels entering the port. The best proof of the vast improvement which has taken place among the military may be found in the fact that on Monday the number in the Military Hospital was just twenty-three. The cases in the Pendle Hill Hospital are three. In short, if the troops are kept in situations where they can enjoy a free percolation of air until the hot days have ceased, and for some time after, and if due vigilance is exercised over vessels entering the port, we may fairly consider that St. George's will rapidly regain its ordinary condition of health. But whilst we are losing the pest, the rest of the Islands seem to be picking it up. Hamilton, there is no doubt, is severely."

H. M. ship Barracouta, from Jamaica, via Bermuda, arrived at Halifax on Saturday night last. We regret to learn by the arrival of this vessel, that the yellow fever continues to rage extensively in certain portions of the Island. The fever is very bad at Ireland Island and Hamilton, and the deaths averaged about four a day at the Naval Hospital. Dr. Richards, who volunteered from H. M. Ship Galatea, died four days after that vessel left Bermuda for Halifax.

The fever is reported to have got in amongst the negroes, who have hitherto escaped the ravages of this fearful epidemic, and it is feared that there will be a considerable loss of life among them. It seems strange, but nevertheless it is a fact, that while the approach of cold weather is favourable to the white patient, it has a directly opposite effect on the negro, and that is the reason fears are entertained for the colored population. The Barracouta brought no papers, consequently the intelligence we give has been received from gentlemen belonging to the ship.—*Halifax Express, Oct. 10.*

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE STATES.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

BOSTON, Oct. 10, 1864.

The Rebel General Price has failed in his proposed capture of Jefferson City, Missouri. Official despatches announce his defeat with severe loss, and a close pursuit by the Federals. Wilmington papers say the Federals appear to be making preparations for a determined attack on that place. A number of vessels have recently been added to the blockading fleet..... The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 6th instant favours the making soldiers of Negroes, and giving such soldiers their freedom if they escape the casualties of battle. It urges upon the Confederate Congress to purchase 250,000 Negroes, present them with their freedom, and arm and drill them..... Gold 198.

BOSTON, Oct. 11

Gen. Grant reports the entire Federal loss in the attack on his lines on Friday will not exceed 200 in killed, wounded and prisoners. The rebels lost 1000, including Major Gen. Gregg, killed, and Gens. Bratton and Haskins wounded..... Steamer Constance, 5 days from Halifax, in attempting to run the blockade into Charleston, struck on a sunken rock and sunk in five minutes. One man drowned..... An official despatch from Harper's Ferry says, on Sunday Gen. Sheridan attacked the enemy beyond Fisher's Hill and whipping them, driving them beyond Mount Jackson, capturing 11 pieces of artillery and 350 prisoners. The rebels scattered into the woods and mountains..... Gold 199.

BOSTON, 11th, p.m.

Despatch from Army of Potomac says rebels opened on 2nd corps last night, at midnight, and continued to fire on them for half an hour. No damage was done, however..... A special despatch says Grant will issue an order soon to shoot every guerilla, burn every house, and drive out every man from the guerilla infested region of the Shenandoah Valley. Everything is progressing well in the west, though there is nothing to-day of moment..... Gold 198.

OCTOBER 12th.

State Election took place yesterday in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio. Returns from Pennsylvania show result doubtful. Democrats claim 5,000 without soldiers vote. Republicans concede close vote, but claim soldiers will give them 15,000 majority. Ohio and Indiana carried by Republicans..... Southern papers predict speedy attack on Wilmington. Orders issued by Confederate Government for conscripting all white men and negroes in Georgia and Tennessee..... Gold 200.

BY TELEGRAPH FROM QUEBEC.

To Mr. Charles Hyndman, Charlottetown.

OCT. 11.—Delegates from the Lower Provinces arrived here last night—all well..... Heavy Snow storm on Saturday—snow still on the ground.

New York, Oct. 13.

Republicans claim Penn. by five thousand majority on home vote. Soldiers vote is seven to one for the Administration. Democrats have lost several Congress men in the three States. Chief Justice Tanney died last night. No war news..... Quebec despacth says, resolutions passed unanimously in Conference affirming the desirability of Confederation. Brown's Resolution laying dwon basis for Constitution being discussed..... Gold 204.

VERY LATEST.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.

Confederates attempted to pierce Grant's lines on Tuesday by an attack on 2nd corps, were repulsed with severe loss..... Republicans carried Pennsylvania, gaining three members of Congress. Returns from Maryland indicate anti-slavery constitution defeated..... Richmond *Examiner* predicts that Grant will soon make a grand attack on that City..... Guerillas captured a Federal Paymaster in Virginia with 200,000 dollars..... Gold 213..... European dates to the 5th received..... Gold flowing largely into Bank of England. Believed the financial pressure is over. All classes of stocks advanced. Consols 88⅞..... New Italian Ministry accepts Convention with France for the evacuation of Rome..... Mace and Coburn prize fight indefinitely postponed..... Breadstuffs quiet, steady.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

By Telegraph to the Halifax *Chronicle.*

QUEBEC, Oct. 12.

It is understood that the resolution declaring the desirability of a Federal Union passed yesterday unanimously. The second resolution, it is said, if Confederation succeed, contemplates the jurisdiction of general subjects to the Federal Government, and of local subjects to the Provincial Government, and the admission of the North West Territory, Columbia and Vancouver's Island. Hereafter the meetings will be as private as those before commenced. Telegraphic information will therefore be approximately reliable.

By Telegraph to the St. John *Telegraph.*

QUEBEC, Oct 14.

It is rumoured that the principles of Federation are agreed upon. The Lower House, representation by population. Upper House to be by fixed representation for each of the Provinces. The details of general Constitution are now under discussion. The utmost harmony prevails.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, October 17, 1864.

THE INTER-COLONIAL CONFERENCE IN CANADA.

QUEBEC, MONDAY, Oct. 10, 1864.

In obedience to a summons from His Excellency the Governor General, Delegates from the Maritime Provinces arrived in Quebec, and met, in the Parliament Buildings, in Conference today. The whole Canadian Ministry were present, and the Premier, Sir Etienne P. Tache, was unanimously chosen President. Sir Etienne is a very venerable French gentleman, of perhaps more than 70 years—of most pleasing manners—of great business habits, and evidently of considerable ability. His colleagues in the Government are gentlemen, on the whole, distinguished, but especially Messrs. J. A. McDonald, Cartier, McGee and Brown. The Delegates from all the Provinces are as follows:—

CANADA.

Sir Etienne P. Tache, Premier.
Hon. J. A. McDonald, Atty. Gen. West.
Hon. G. E. Cartier, Atty. Gen. East.
Hon. Wm. McDougall, Prov. Secretary.
Hon. George Brown, President of Executive Council.
Hon. A. T. Galt, Financial Minister.
Hon. A. Campbell, Comr. of Crown Lands.
Hon. Oliver Mowatt, Postmaster General.
Hon. Hector Langevin, Solicitor General East.
Hon. James Cockburn, Solicitor General West.
Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, Minister of Agriculture.
Hon. J. C. Chapais, Commis. Public Works.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Hon. Dr. Tupper, Provincial Secretary.
Hon. W. A. Henry, Attorney General.
Hon. R. B. Dickey.
Hon. Jonathan McCully.
Hon. A. G. Archibald.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Hon. S. L. Tilley, Provincial Secretary.
Hon. Mr. Johnston, Attorney General.
Hon. Peter Mitchell.
Hon. Mr. Fisher.
Hon. E. Chandler.
Hon. W. H. Steeves.
Hon. John H. Gray.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Hon. Fredk. Carter, Speaker of the House of Assembly.
Hon. Ambrose Shea.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Hon. Col. Gray, Premier.
Hon. Edward Palmer, Attorney General.
Hon. W. H. Pope, Provincial Secretary.
Hon. T. Heath Haviland.
Hon. George Coles.
Hon. Edward Whelan.
Hon. A. A. McDonald.

This day was chiefly occupied in making the necessary preliminary arrangements for the due management of the Conference. Several speeches were made, and amongst the rest, two very excellent ones by the Newfoundland Delegates, in which they gave their unqualified adhesion to the principle of Federation. The Hon. Mr. Cartier, Attorney General East, spoke very eloquently and at considerable length, on the same subject, of course in favour of the principle. Mr. Cartier's speech was in support of a resolution submitted by the Attorney General for Upper Canada, declaring that a Union of all the Colonies, under the British Crown, would promote their best interests, if established upon principles just to all the Provinces. The Attorney General from Upper Canada will speak in support of this resolution to-morrow, and define what he believes should be the basis of the Federal Constitution.

The Delegates from the Maritime Provinces are to dine with the Canadian Ministry this evening, at the Stadacona Club. This is a Political Society, of great influence, conducted in the best manner, on the European plan, where members of all parties, I believe, associate together, and enjoy themselves with the feast of reason and the feast of something else, and the flow of the bowl as well as the flow of soul. I have had the honor of being elected an Honorary Member of the Club, and indeed all the Delegates from the Lower Provinces have had the like honor conferred upon them. I will give the readers of the *Examiner* a further and fuller account of the Club in a subsequent Letter; and I will also give, although it will not be in regular chronological order, an account of my very pleasant voyage along the glorious old St. Lawrence.

TUESDAY, OCT. 11, 1864.

The Conference met at 11 o'clock precisely. The venerable President announced, on taking the Chair, that he had received a telegram from the Mayor of Toronto, inviting the Delegates from the Lower Provinces to a Public Entertainment in that City, on any day to be named by themselves. I believe the invitation will be accepted. Montreal, I understand, is preparing to give them a grand reception. They are to dine at the Vice-regal Palace, at Spencer Wood, on Thursday next. The Dinner at the Stadacona Club, last night, was a very brilliant and sumptuous affair. If the Delegates will survive the lavish hospitalities of this great country, they will have good constitutions—perhaps better than the one they are manufacturing for the Confederation.

Mr. Attorney General McDonald made an able speech to-day, in Conference, on Federal Union. As all the deliberations are conducted with closed doors, the same as at Charlottetown, Halifax and Fredericktcn, I did not take notes of it. It was, I may say, without violating confidence, an argumentative and statesmanlike exposition of the views of the Canadian Ministry on the Consolidation of the British American Provinces under the Crown of England. The Hon. gentleman referred, in his speech, to a printed statement of the views of the Canadian Government, which had been circulated semi-officially, and which, having read it, I find coincides with the views enunciated by Mr. McDonald. It was prepared by one of the Canadian Ministers from Upper Canada. The following is the principal passage which bears upon the question:—

The Canadian Delegates were deeply impressed by the great material resources and the gratifying industrial prosperity of the Maratime Provinces. There is not one of them who does not subscribe heartily to the conclusion arrived at by the Conference, that a federation of all the Provinces would be highly advantageous.

Thus far nothing definite as to the details of the scheme has been agreed upon; notwithstanding the discussions of the last three weeks, every point will be open to unfettered inquiry by the Quebec Conference. No one, however, could have failed to gather from the newspapers of the Lower Provinces, the general outlines of the scheme under consideration at Charlottetown.

It appears to have been suggested that the Confederation might consist for the present of three sections—namely: Upper Canada; Lower Canada; and the Maritime Provinces, coming into the union either collectively or separately: and that provision might be made for the admission into the Union hereafter on equitable terms of the North-West Territory, British Columbia and Vancouver. The whole country might have one name, say Canada or Acadia.

It appears to have been suggested that each of the Provinces should have a Local Legislature and Executive, charged with the control of all local matters; and that in a General Legislature and Executive should be vested the control of affairs common to the whole country. It seems to have been held as indisputable that the functions of the General and Local Governments, and the subjects delegated to each, must be clearly defined in the Constitution so as to prevent collision and give security for local interests—the whole to be embodied in an act of the Imperial Parliament.

In regard to the constitution of the General or Federal Legislature, the representation in the Lower House must be based on population, and that of the Upper House on sectional equality. The mode of selecting the members of the Upper House is a fertile subject of discussion. Some favour election for a term of years by the people; others prefer to have their election vested in the Local Legislatures; while others again advocate their appointment for life by the Crown, upon the advice of the Ministry of the day. The solution may be found in a compromise of these views.

The Federal Government would be constituted as now—The Representative of the Crown being advised by an administration possessing the confidence of Parliament.

To the Federal authority thus constituted would obviously be committed all questions of Trade, Navigation, Currency, Banking, General Taxation, Bankruptcy and Criminal Law. It would have control of the Militia and Defence, of Coinage, Weights and Measures, Light-Houses, Sea Fisheries, Letters Patent and Copyright, Naturalization, the Census, the Postal Service, Immigration, Intercolonial Works, &c.

The manner in which the Local Legislatures should be constructed, affords scope for debate. There are those who advocate for each section two Legislative Chambers, while others prefer one Chamber. Some are for an Executive Government responsible, as at present, to the Legislature; while others are in favour of the Lieutenant Governors and other Chief Officials being elected by the people. It would, of course, be desirable that all the Local Governments should be constituted on some uniform plan; but this does not seem absolutely essential, in the event of serious variance of opinion arising.

As to the powers and duties to be committed to the Local Governments, there is also room for much discussion. Manifestly, however, Lower Canada will insist that all judicial and legal matters—in fact the whole body of Civil and Municipal Law, with the exception of Criminal Law—must be vested in the Local Legislatures. It is equally clear that Upper Canada and New Brunswick will contend that the wild lands of the several sections should be vested in the Local Governments. The control of Roads, Bridges and Harbours—with the exception of international Works—of Inland Fisheries, of Education, of Prisons, Hospitals and Charities, of Agriculture, and all other local matters, would naturally be committed to the Local Bodies. It has been suggested that provision should be made for the educational interests of the minority in each section.

A difficulty would manifestly arise in committing these duties to the Local Legislatures, from the absence of local revenues to meet the necessary expenditures. It has been suggested that an allowance from the Public Revenue might be distributed for Local purposes according to the population, inasmuch as the General Government will, by the federative arrangement, be relieved from charges now borne by each province, and will have absorbed all the sources of Revenue from which they are now defrayed.

It is very fortunate that little or no difficulty seems to present itself on the subject of the Federal Finances. On the consummation of the union, all the debts and assets of the several Provinces would of course be assumed by the Federal Government; and a close examination of the Financial position of each Province shows that no injustice would be inflicted by this arrangement. The debt and the annual burden now borne by the people of the several Provinces are pretty nearly equal, and the Public Exchequers of all of them show a surplus.

The Hon. Mr. Galt is now addressing the Conference, on Financial affairs generally. He is certainly thoroughly at home on dry matters of fact of this description. But we have not yet the information we desire respecting the financial affairs of Canada. Mr. Pope, (who, I should have stated, is Honorary Secretary to the Conference in conjunction with the Provincial Secretaries of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick,) has applied for this important information, and which I will communicate to the *Examiner* when I have an opportunity for doing so.

The reason for conducting the deliberations confidentially is simply this: The Conference are unanimous, I believe, regarding the desirability of the Federation; but there is great diversity of opinion touching the details; and so many absurd reports are abroad concerning these details, that the Conference deemed it best to have them settled in private, and to make the result