Sir Thomas presented this letter to the Council on the 9th of January 1692, but they refused to give any answer, and ordered him to transmit the same to court."

The reply of William of Orange was a letter, countersigned by Dalrymple, in which, upon the recital that "several of the chieftains and many of their clans have not taken the benefit of our gracious indemnity," he gave orders for a general massacre. "To that end, we have given Sir Thomas Livingston orders to employ our troops (which we have already conveniently posted,) to cut off these obstinate rebels by all manner of hostility; and we do require you to give him your assistance and concurrence in all things that may conduce to that service; and because these rebels, to avoid our forces, may draw themselves, their families, goods, or cattle, to lurk or be concealed among their neighbours; therefore, we require and authorise you to emit a proclamation to be published at the market-crosses of these or the adjacent shires where the rebels reside, discharging upon the highest penalties the law allows, any reset, correspondence, or intercommuning with these rebels." This monstrous mandate, which was in fact the death-warrant of many thousands of innocent people, no distinction being made of age or sex, would, in all human probability, have been put into execution, but for the remonstrance of one high-minded nobleman. Lord Carmarthen, afterwards Duke of Leeds, accidentally became aware of the purposed massacre, and personally remonstrated with the monarch against a measure which he denounced as at once cruel and impolitic. After much discussion, William, influenced rather by an apprehension that so savage and sweeping an act might prove fatal to his new authority, than by any compunction or impulse of humanity, agreed to recall the general order, and to limit himself, in the first instance, to a single deed of butchery, by way of testing the temper of the nation. Some difficulty seems to have arisen in the selection of the fittest victim. Both Keppoch and Glencoe were named, but the personal rancour of Secretary Dalrymple decided the doom of the latter. The Secretary wrote thus:—"Argyle tells me that Glencoe hath not taken the oath, at which I rejoice. It is a great work of charity to be exact in rooting out that damnable set." The final instructions regarding Glencoe, which were issued on 16th January 1692, are as follows:—

"WILLIAM R.—As for M'Ian of Glencoe and that tribe, if they can be well distinguished from the rest of the Highlanders, it will be proper for public justice to extirpate that set of thieves."

"W. R."

This letter is remarkable as being signed and countersigned by William alone, contrary to the usual practice. The secretary was no doubt desirous to screen himself from after responsibility, and was further aware that the royal signature would ensure a rigorous execution of the sentence.

Macdonald, or as he was more commonly designated, M'Ian of Glencoe, was the head of a considerable sept or branch of the great Clan-Coila, and was lineally descended from the ancient Lords of the Isles, and from the royal family of Scotland, the common ancestor of the Macdonalds having espoused a daughter of Robert II. He was, according to a contemporary testimony, "a person of great integrity, honour, good nature, and courage, and his loyalty to his old master, King James, was such, that he continued in arms from Dundee's first appearing in the Highlands till the fatal treaty that brought on his ruin." In common with the other chiefs, he had omitted taking the benefit of the indemnity until he received the sanction of King James; but the copy of that document which was forwarded to him unfortunately arrived too late. The weather was so excessively stormy at the time that there was no possibility of penetrating from Glencoe to Inverara, the place where the sheriff resided, before the expiry of the stated period; and M'Ian accordingly adopted the only practicable mode of signifying his submission, by making his way with great difficulty to Fort-William, then called Inverlochy, and tendering his signature to the military governor there. That officer was not authorised to receive it, but at the entreaty of the chief, he gave him a certificate of his appearance and tender, and on New-year's day, 1692, M'Ian reached Inverara, where he produced that paper as evidence of his intentions, and prevailed upon the sheriff, Sir James Campbell of Ardkinglass, to administer the oaths required. After that ceremony, which was immediately intimated to the Privy Council, had been performed, the unfortunate gentleman returned home, in the full conviction that he had thereby made peace with government for himself and for his clan. But his doom was already sealed.

A company of the Earl of Argyle's regiment had been previously quartered in Glencoe. These men, though Campbells, and hereditarily obnoxious to the Macdonalds, Camerons, and other of the loyal clans, were yet countrymen, and were kindly and hospitably received. Their captain, Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, was connected with the family of Glencoe through the marriage of a niece, and was resident under the roof of the chief. And yet this was the very troop selected for the horrid service.

Special instructions were sent to the major of the regiment, one Duncanson, then quartered at Ballachulish, a morose, brutal, and savage man, who accordingly wrote to Campbell of Glenlyon in the following terms:—

"BALLACHOLIS, 12 February, 1692.

"SIR,—You are hereby ordered to fall upon the rebels, the M'Donalds of Glencoe, and putt all to the sword under seventy. You are to have special care that the old fox and his sons doe upon no account escape your hands. You are to secure all the avenues that no man escape. This you are to putt in execution att five o'clock in the morning precisely, and by that time or very shortly after it I'll strive to be att you with a stronger party. If I doe not come to you at five, you are not to tarry for me but to fall on. This is by the king's special command, for the good and safety of the country, that these miscreants be cutt off root and branch. See that this be putt in execution without feud or favour, else you may expect to be treated as not true to the king's government, nor a man fitt to carry a commission in the king's service. Expecting you will not faill in the fulfilling hereof as you love yourself, I subscrive these with my hand.

"ROBERT DUNCANSON."

"For their Majesty's service. To Captain Robert Campbell of Glenlyon."

This order was too literally obeyed. At the appointed hour, when the whole inhabitants of the glen were asleep, the work of murder began. M'Ian was one of the first who fell. Drummond's narrative fills up the remainder of the dreadful story.

"They then served all within the family in the same manner, without distinction of age or person. In a word, for the horror of that execrable butchery must give pain to the reader, they left none alive but a young child, who being frightened with the noise of the guns, and the dismal shrieks and cries of its dying parents, whom they were a-murdering, got hold of Captain Campbell's knees and wrapt itself within his cloak; by which, chancing to move compassion, the captain inclined to have saved it, but one Drummond, an officer, arriving about the break of day with more troops, commanded it to be shot by a file of musqueteers. Nothing could be more shocking and horrible than the prospect of these houses bestrewed with mangled bodies of the dead, covered with blood, and resounding with the groans of wretches in the last agonies of life.

"Two sons of Glencoe's were the only persons that escaped in that quarter of the country; for, growing jealous of some ill-designs from the behaviour of the soldiers, they stole from their beds a few minutes before the tragedy began, and chancing to overhear two of them discoursing plainly of the matter, they endeavoured to have advertised their father, but finding that impracticable, they ran to the other end of the country and alarmed the inhabitants. There was another accident that contributed much to their safety; for the night was so excessively stormy and tempestuous, that four hundred soldiers, who were appointed to murder these people, were stopped in their march from Inverlochy, and could not get up till they had time to save themselves. To cover the deformity of so dreadful a sight, the soldiers burned all the houses to the ground, after having rifled them, carried away nine hundred cows, two hundred horses, numberless herds of sheep and goats, and every thing else that belonged to these miserable people. Lamentable was the case of the women and children that escaped the butchery. The mountains were covered with a deep snow, the rivers impassable, storm and tempest filled the air, and added to the horrors and darkness of the night, and there were no houses to shelter them within many miles.'"

Such was the awful massacre of Glencoe, an event which has left an indelible and execrable stain upon the memory of William of Orange. The records of Indian warfare can hardly afford a parallel instance of atrocity; and this deed, coupled with his deliberate treachery in the Darien business, whereby Scotland was for a time absolutely ruined, is sufficient to account for the little estimation in which the name of the "great Whig deliverer" is still regarded in the valleys of the North.

Do not lift him from the bracken,
Leave him lying where he fell—
Better bier ye cannot fashion:
None beseems him half so well,
As the bare and broken heather,
And the hard and trampled sod,
Whence his angry soul ascended
To the judgment-seat of God!
Winding-sheet we cannot give him—
Seek no mantle for the dead,
Save the cold and spotless covering,
Showered from heaven upon his head.
Leave his broadsword, as we found it,
Bent and broken with the blow,
That, before he died, avenged him
On the foremost of the foe.
Leave the blood upon his bosom—
Wash not off that sacred stain:
Let it stiffen on the tartan,
Let his wounds unclosed remain,
Till the day when he shall show them
At the throne of God on high,
When the murderer and the murdered
Meet before their Judge's eye!

Nay—ye should not weep, my children!
Leave it to the faint and weak;
Sobs are but a woman's weapon—
Tears befit a maiden's cheek.
Weep not, children of Macdonald!
Weep not thou, his orphan heir—
Not in shame, but stainless honour,
Lies thy slaughtered father there.
Weep not—but when years are over,
And thine arm is strong and sure,
And thy foot is swift and steady
On the mountain and the muir—
Let thy heart be hard as iron,
And thy wrath as fierce as fire,
Till the hour when vengeance cometh
For the race that slew thy sire!
Till in deep and dark Glenlyon
Rise a louder shriek of wo,
Than at midnight, from their eyrie,
Scared the eagles of Glencoe.

Louder than the screams that mingled
With the howling of the blast,
When the murderer's steel was clashing,

* Memoirs of Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

And the fires were rising fast.
When thy noble father bounded
To the rescue of his men,
And the slogan of our kindred
Pealed throughout the startled glen.
When the herd of frantic women
Stumbled through the midnight snow,
With their fathers' houses blazing,
And their dearest dead below!
Oh, the horror of the tempest,
As the flashing drift was blown,
Crimsoned with the conflagration,
And the roofs went thundering down!
Oh, the prayers—the prayers and curses
That together winged their flight
From the maddened hearts of many
Through that long and woful night!
Till the fires began to dwindle,
And the shots grew faint and few,
And we heard the foeman's challenge,
Only in a fair halloo.
Till the silence once more settled
O'er the gorges of the glen,
Broken only by the Cona
Plunging through its naked den.
Slowly from the mountain summit
Was the drifting veil withdrawn,
And the ghastly valley glimmered
In the gray December dawn.
Better had the morning never
Dawned upon our dark despair!
Black amidst the common whiteness
Rose the spectral ruins there:
But the sight of these was nothing,
More than wrings the wild dove's breast,
When she searches for her offspring
Round the relics of her nest,
For, in many a spot, the tartan
Peered above the wintry heap,
Marking where a dead Macdonald
Lay within his frozen sleep.
Tremblingly we scooped the covering
From each kindred victim's head,
And the living lips were burning
On the cold ones of the dead.
And I left them with their dearest—
Dearest charge had every one—
Left the maiden with her lover,
Left the mother with her son.
I alone of all was mateless,
Far more wretched I than they,
For the snow would not discover
Where my lord and husband lay.
But I wandered up the valley,
Till I found him lying low,
With the gash upon his bosom
And the frown upon his brow—
Till I found him lying murdered,
Where he wooed me long ago!

Woman's weakness shall not shame me!
Why should I have tears to shed?
Could I rain them down like water,
O my hero, on thy head—
Could the cry of lamentation
Wake thee from thy silent sleep,
Could it set thy heart a-throbbing,
It were mine to wail and weep!
But I will not waste my sorrow,
Lest the Campbell women say
That the daughters of Clanranald
Are as weak and frail as they.
I had wept thee, hadst thou fallen,
Like our fathers, on thy shield,
When a host of English foemen
Camped upon a Scottish field—
I had mourned thee, hadst thou perished
With the foremost of his name,
When the valiant and the noble
Died around the dauntless Graeme!
But I will not wrong thee, husband,
With my unavailing cries,
Whilst thy cold and mangled body,
Stricken by the traitor, lies;
Whilst he counts the gold and glory
That this hideous night has won,
And his heart is big with triumph
At the murder he has done.
Other eyes than mine shall glisten,
Other hearts be rent in twain,
Ere the heath bells on thy hillock
Wither in the autumn rain.
Then I'll seek thee where thou sleepest,
And I'll veil my weary head,
Praying for a place beside thee,
Dearer than my bridal bed.
And I'll give thee tears, my husband,
If the tears remain to me,
When the widows of the foemen,
Cry the coronach for thee!

FOR THE EXAMINER.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR—THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The huuble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of King's County, sheweth—

That your Petitioners, grateful to Parliament for the arrangement by which they, or many of them, have been relieved of all outstanding claims against them as *tenants*, and placed in a fair position to become *proprietors*, have to regret extremely the absence of convenient markets, or good roads leading to those already existing; in consequence of which they find it to be a perfect hardship, at least, to meet their annual engagements with Government at the proper season, and in the shape required.

That were the Government prepared (or authorised, if need be, by Parliament) to accept payment of the annual "instalments," outstanding and still due upon their farms as balance of purchase, *in grain*, your petitioners should truly consider this an inestimable advantage to them, whilst to the Government it would insure the regular receipt of said "instalments."

That this arrangement might readily be rendered still more advantageous to them in the market which it would rapidly create for the disposal of their entire surplus produce, inasmuch as the Government Grain Commissioners, appointed for its execution, would be certain to attract ready purchasers or orders for much more grain than would be required under their commission.

That, with the view to render this business of easy execution, as well as to meet the most pressing want of the place, should the Legislature authorise at once the early construction of a good *Plank Road* from the Head of Saint Peter's Bay to Grand River Bridge—a brief distance of some seven miles, and throughout which every natural facility presents itself—the undersigned could deposit then all their surplus produce at the latter point, which, owing to its safe and favorable situation for shipping, should soon become a very popular place of export.

That by accepting the labor of the people, in payment of the aforesaid "instalments," on said road, the entire expense, perhaps, of its construction would be obviated as an item of the public estimates, whilst the revenues should be largely improved incidentally with the increased prosperity growing out of this good work.

Wherefore, &c. &c. &c.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, March 24th, 1862.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE principal part of the time of the House during the past week was occupied in receiving petitions, which elicited little or no discussion. The Committee appointed last Session to report on the several petitions then laid before the House, praying for more stringent regulations in the License Law, presented their report, which was agreed to on Thursday last. The following provisions are to be embodied in the new law:—

"Licenses in the City of Charlottetown, hereafter to be issued, to be subject to the approbation of a majority of the Council, instead of two only, as at present.

"Every year when a party holding a License pays his renewal fee, he must also produce a certificate signed by two neighbouring Magistrates, that he has during the preceding twelve months conducted his Tavern in an orderly and respectable manner.

"Confirmed drunkards to be treated as Lunatics, and their property put in charge of a Committee appointed by the Master of the Rolls."

On Thursday afternoon the House went into Committee on the Despatch of the Duke of Newcastle, relating to the alterations to be made in the Legislative Council Bill, which despatch was lately published in this paper. A very warm debate arose on this subject, which was continued until Saturday. The principal point in dispute was, as to the qualification of persons entitled to vote for members of the Legislative Council,—the Government party contending that electors should possess property to the amount of £100 before they could vote for members of Council, while the Liberals contended that property to the amount of £50, the same as qualified a member of the House of Assembly, should be deemed quite sufficient for an elector. The views of the majority on this subject are embodied in the following resolution, proposed by the Hon. Mr. Haviland:—

"*Resolved*, That any male person of the age of Twenty-one years or upwards, who shall own a freehold or leasehold qualification of the value of One Hundred Pounds currency, and shall have been in possession of the same for a period of at least twelve months previous to the teste of the writ of Election, shall be entitled to vote for a Member to serve in the Legislative Council of this Island."

Mr. Coles moved to amend the above by substituting "fifty" for "one hundred" pounds, but the amendment was lost on the following division:

"For Mr. Coles' amendment—Hons. Coles, Wightman, Kelly, Hensley, Whelan, Thornton, Perry; Messrs. Owen, Sutherland, Sinclair, Cooper—11. Against it: Hons. Col. Gray, Haviland, Yeo, Pope, Longworth, Laird, the Speaker, M'Aulay; Messrs. Ramsay, J. Yeo, Montgomery, Howat, Davies—13. The original motion was then agreed to."

Mr. Longworth moved the following addition to Mr. Haviland's resolution before the question was finally put upon it:—

"A person owning lands, partly freehold and partly leasehold, amounting together in value to One Hundred Pounds currency, shall be entitled to the qualification referred to in the foregoing resolution."

The next resolution on this subject was moved by Mr. Haviland on Saturday, and is as follows:—

"*Resolved*, That a Candidate for election to the Legislative Council shall be thirty years of age, a British subject, and at least five years a resident in the Colony prior to the teste of the writ of election.

"Hon. the Speaker moved in amendment thereto, that the Candidate be three years a resident in the Colony.

"For the amendment—Hons. the Speaker, Coles, Whelan, Perry, Thornton, Kelly, Wightman; Messrs. Davies, Cooper, Sinclair, Sutherland, Owen—12. Against it: Hons. Haviland, Hensley, M'Aulay, Yeo, Col. Gray, Longworth, Pope, Laird; Messrs. Ramsay, Douse, Montgomery, Beer, Howat, J. Yeo—14. The original motion was then agreed to."

It is evident from the tenor of the foregoing resolutions, that if ever the elective Council Bill should go into operation — which we very much doubt—the majority of the people will have no control over it. The Council, as it now stands, is infinitely preferrable to what it would be under the elective principle based on the foregoing resolutions. It would certainly then be the subservient tool of the proprietary clique, besides entailing enormous expense on the Colony. We have not time for further comment now, but will take an early opportunity to return to the subject.

On Saturday afternoon, immediately after the adjournment, a gross outrage was offered to the Hon. Mr. Coles by the Colonial Secretary and his brother the member for Bedeque. It appears that Mr. Coles used some language in debate, in self-defence, which was particularly distasteful to the Messrs. Pope. Instead of having disposed of the matter while the House was sitting, the member for Bedeque rushed at Mr. Coles, in a most threatening and violent attitude, the moment the House was adjourned—demanding him to repeat his words, if he dared; while the Colonial Secretary—convulsed with rage, and his countenance black with passion—called repeatedly on his brother James to "wring the nose" or neck of Mr. Coles, accompanying his vociferations with curses and foul abuse. Mr. Coles was perfectly unmoved during the whole scene; and neither "James" nor William H. Pope had the courage to attempt to put their threat in execution. Quietness was restored after a little time by the Speaker ordering the Colonial Secretary to leave the floor of the House of Assembly, where he was only an intruder, having no seat there. We have long since observed that Mr. Secretary Pope appears to be dead to all sense of shame in thrusting himself perpetually on the notice of members of the House, even while they are engaged in debate, and making nearly as much use of the floor as if he were privileged to hold a seat there. We hope the Speaker's reprimand will not be wholly lost on this shameless individual.

The House have been engaged during the whole of this day, (Monday), in discussing the principles of the famous Award—Col. Gray having introduced a resolution, recommending the passing of a Bill to confirm the Award, without entering into any details upon it. Although the majority openly advocate the confirmation of the Award, they do not hesitate to express their opinions privately that their legislation on the subject will be perfectly nugatory. Indeed, there is no doubt, that the system of humbug with which the Government inaugurated their administration, will be practised to the fullest extent in reference to the Land Question, as we have already shown on many occasions; and we have now more abundant proof than ever to establish the duplicity of the Government in reference to it, which we shall do at an early day.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Dreamer," "W. D. Stewart," on the Montague Meeting, "One of the People," in reference to the Award; and "Observer," have been received.

WE have had no Mails from abroad since our last issue. The violent storms which commenced about ten days ago, and by which the roads have been most effectually blocked up, have no doubt been the means of interrupting our regular communication with the postal departments in the adjoining Colonies.

CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY INSTITUTE.—The lecturer being unavoidably absent on Thursday evening last, a debate took place on Education. The audience was large and respectable; and eight or nine gentlemen present entered upon the discussion of matters relating to education generally, and the educational system of the Colony, with considerable spirit and ability. Some of the points advanced and discussed were as follows:—1st. That it is absurd to establish expensive Colleges, where there exists no intermediate schools between them and the districts. 2nd. That the study of classical languages is a comparatively useless waste of time. 3rd. That instead of one School Visitor for the whole Island, one Visitor, with smaller salaries, should be appointed for each County. 4th. That the Normal School is an unnecessary burthen to the Colony. 5th. That persons should not be allowed to teach school until they are 21 years of age. 6th. That female teachers of district schools should receive as high salaries as male teachers. 7th. That music should be taught in the district schools. 8th. That parents should be compelled by law to send their children to school. Some of these points elicited different views; others were generally supported by the speakers. The debate was well sustained, drew forth some interesting and important facts, and was courteously conducted throughout.

On Thursday evening next Mr. Donald James McDonald, of St. Dunstan's College, will lecture on "The Progress of the Mechanical Arts."

PRESBYTERIAN TEA MEETING.—The Tea Meeting held in the Temperance Hall on Friday evening last, and given by the Ladies of the Queen Square Presbyterian Church, was quite a successful affair. Above three hundred persons were in attendance, among whom were several members of the Legislature. The tables were tastefully and abundantly spread with good things to satisfy the most fastidious taste, and the tea had the merit—a rare merit in public tea meetings—of being hot and strong. After the tables having been removed, the Hon. Donald Montgomery took the chair, and the Rev. Mr. Falconer opened the intellectual part of the proceedings in an easy humorous manner, showing that such meetings were beneficial, inasmuch as they promoted friendly feeling and that union which should be the aim of all true Christians. Revds. Messrs. Barker, Nicholson, Davis and Knight followed in the same strain, and with out any effort to be witty or eloquent were very happy in their remarks. We may remark that Mr. Falconer was warmly complimented by the speakers on the spirit as well as the style of his preaching in the Queen Square Church. Several pieces of music sung by the choir, and accompanied by the Melodeon, added greatly to the pleasure of the audience. Hons. Messrs. Longworth and Coles made a few appropriate observations. Mr. Laird and Mr. W. McGill made the concluding speeches. The former gentleman spoke ably on the influence of the ladies, the latter eloquently on the blessings of civil and religious toleration.

A very pleasant evening was thus spent, besides realizing the handsome sum of £18.

SHOCKING MURDER.—A horrible and heinous murder took place on Wednesday in Cavetown district, Washington county, Md. A respectable man named Frederick Smith had for several months been paying his addresses to Miss Agnes Tracey, a young lady of very respectable parentage, but with no successful result. On Wednesday she was on her way to visit the sick child of a neighbour, having some rice in her hand. Smith met her at a distance from any house, and urged his suit in strong terms. On her refusing the offer, Smith drew a revolver, and saying she should never marry any one else, deliberately fired, the ball taking effect in her left breast, killing her instantly. The murderer, taking the rice from her, carried it to the parents of the sick child, and told them the above details of his hellish act, on whose evidence he was arrested, and now awaits his trial in the jail at Hagerstown. The murderer had always maintained an excellent character for sobriety and morality.

THE DEUCE TO PAY IN HESSE CASSEL.—There has been the very deuce to pay in Hesse Cassel. As to the British public, the majority of their number is in a pleasing state of uncertainty as to where Hesse Cassel is, and who the potentate may be who rules over it. There are so many Hesses. There is the Hessian Landgrave who keeps the gambling-house, and the Hessian Prince who is about to become a son-in-law of England. There is one magnifico who resides at Darmstadt, and is a Duke; and then there is the Elector of Hesse, who has lately got into such a terrible trouble, and made such a pother in the minor German mind. The capital of the Electorate—although we are not at all sure about it—is Cassel. Beyond this, and an indistinct idea that all things Hessian are in some way connected with boots, Hesse fades away into a kind of shadowy land of pumpernickel, saur-kraut, bad oysters, Hof-Kammerers, armies twenty-seven strong, with as many field-marshals as soldiers, royal revenues of five hundred a year, and coats of arms with five hundred quarterings—a kind of German country of Cockayne split up into Wolfenbuttels and Schaumberg Lippes, and Saxe Everythings. Unless we are misled by the *Almanach de Gotha*, electoral Hesse is at this moment ruled by a sovereign called Frederick William I., who ascended the electoral chair in 1847, and who is now in the sixtieth year of his age. Very lately the Elector of Hesse, perambulating his palace, strolled into his wife's boudoir, and discovered her Effulgency the Electress—if that be her proper title—greedily devouring the contents of the Prussian *Punch*, the current number of which contained some comments not altogether complimentary to her lord. His Serene Excrescence—if that be *his* proper title—felt, like Mrs. Bond of the nursery ballad, and *in re* the sage and onions, in "a very very great rage." German potentates have always been remarkable for upholding their matrimonial rights by the strong hand. Frederick William I. of Prussia used to cane his wife and birch his daughter Wilhelmina. In emulation of this famous example, Frederick William I. of Hesse proceeded to have what our French allies term a "*facheuse explication*" with the Electress, but what in England subjects unbelted husbands to the risk of six months' imprisonment and hard labour. We don't know exactly how the Hessian Bluebeard went to work—whether he corrected his consort with his sceptre—if he have one—or, according to the spirit of the old common law of England, with a stick no thicker than his thumb. At all events, he proceeded to the most unmistakeably violent exercise of the *Faustrecht*. Piercing screams were heard from the electoral apartments, and an adventurous flunkey ventured to the scene of contention. Here the story grows mystified. Perhaps the flunkey was a kind of Teutonic Ruy Blas, with the livery of a John Thomas but with the soul of a Cid. Perhaps he sympathized with beauty in distress, repudiated his plush and asserted his dignity, and with retributive fists impressed on the Elector the truth of the apopthegm that "He who would lift his hand against a woman, save in the way of kindness, is unworthy the name of a man." Perhaps Frederick William essayed to kick the audacious menial from the apartment—these pantomime potentates are always kicking their subjects—and stumbled or tripped himself up in doing so. Under any circumstances there arose what in the Gallic tongue is termed a "*rixe*," and in ours a "shindy." A table and a mirror were overturned and smashed, and, worse than this, the Electoral body was brought to the ground, the Electoral countenance was lacerated and bruised, and the Electoral entity had to be conveyed to bed, there to have its anguish assuaged by vinegar and brown paper, or such substitutes for these homely medicaments as the court physicians of Hesse Cassel could provide for so illustrious a patient. A cock-and-bull story was hashed up that the Elector's foot had caught in a carpet, and that his fall was due to the carelessness of the footman. It was said even that grave jurisconsults had been called in to know whether the neglectful lacquey could not be criminally prosecuted. But the real truth of the matter soon oozed out; and it became known that the palace servants had been threatened, not with prosecution, but with dismissal, if they revealed the real cause of the down-tumbling of this Royal Humpty-Dumpty. The secret was, however, as well kept as palace secrets generally are, and at this moment all Germany is chuckling at the misadventures of the Elector of Hesse, and the burlesque tragedy which has just been played at Cassel. A political moral, not altogether devoid of significance, may be derived from this tempest in the Electoral teapot. Are not these and similar scandals which have of late years occurred among the half-crowned heads of Germany, calculated to shake our faith in the wisdom of the Germanic Federation, which continues to tolerate the existence of these trumpery little principalities, bringing power into contempt and monarchical institutions into derision?

TAXATION IN THE STATES.—The Philadelphia *Daily News* thus moralizes on the subject:—

"We have taken a calm and deliberate view of this question, and while we are satisfied that it is true policy to act promptly and energetically, we do not think it wise to impose greater burthens upon the people now suffering from the derangement of ordinary business, than the emergency makes necessary; and we are sure that it is not patriotic to scare timid men by exaggerating the wants of the Government. If we suppose that, to bring the war to a successful close, there will be wanting $1,000,000,000, and if it be all procured at the average rate of the recent loan, it will be seen that the annual interest on that sum, at 7 3-10 per centum will amount to $73,000,000; and we have frequently heard it asserted in Congress that an economical administration of the Government would reduce its ordinary expenses to $50,000,000.

If, therefore, to these sums we add one per cent. of the amount of the public debt, as a sinking fund, say $10,000,000, we shall have an aggregate of $133,000,000, which is all the present Congress should be expected to raise, and as such a sum is, it will not be a serious burthen to the country when peace and prosperity are restored to the people.

We cannot understand the efforts of the New York Press, unless they be intended to add to the embarrassment of Congress, and to create panic in the minds of the people. The English element which pervades that city, of course, sympathizes with their home Government; and with the prospect of trouble between the two countries, it will bear a little watching."

SOUTHERN LAMENTATIONS OVER THE FALL OF FORT DONELSON.—The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 19th instant has a leader on the capture of Fort Donelson, which represents the rebels there as having been opposed by tremendous odds, and forced to give in from sheer exhaustion, after "the most desperate fighting," and says that the result entails no dishonor on the rebel cause, and will only animate to the most stern and undying resistance every Southern heart.

"If," it says, "these bloody barbarians, whose hands are now soaked to the elbows in the life blood of men defending their own homes and firesides, dream that they now are one inch nearer the subjugation of the South than when they started on their infernal mission, they prove themselves to be fools and madmen as well as savages and murderers. They have taught us a lesson, we admit; they have admonished us to be more wary and circumspect, to husband with greater care our limited resources, and not to underrate our enemy.

But they have also placed between them and us a gulf that can never be crossed by their arts or arms, and a universal determination to die, if die we must, for our country, but never permit her to be subjugated by the most malignant, the most murderous, the meanest of mankind, whose name is at this very moment such a by-word of scorn and reproach throughout Europe, for their combined cruelty and cowardice, that their own ambassadors cannot stand the scorn of the world's contempt, and are all anxious to fly back to the United States.

Their success at Fort Donelson, gained only by vast superiority of numbers, will only have the effect of converting the whole population of the South—men, women and children—into an immense army, who will resist them at every step, and everywhere 'welcome them with bloody hands to hospitable graves.' The glorious valor of our troops at Fort Donelson is not dimmed in the slightest degree by their inability to hold their ground against overwhelming odds, but on the contrary, shines through the black clouds of disaster with a radiance which will kindle the whole South into a blaze, and surround their own names with a halo of imperishable honor."

THE ROMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EXHIBITION.—The Commissioners of the Pope are desirous of exhibiting the works of Roman contributors for five or six days at the Exhibition Rooms, on the Pizza del Popolo, before sending them to London, but they will hardly have time for this. Besides works of painting, sculpture, mosaic, cameos, and silk, the Roman department will comprise some magnificent services of silver plate, made in Rome, and belonging to Roman princes.

A new branch of industry is about to be established by the Emperor Louis Napoleon. In every part of France immense reservoirs are to be dug for the purpose of breeding fish for the consumption of the navy, as well as for the sailors of the merchant service. An immense revenue is anticipated from the adoption of the system.

THE RED SEA CABLE.—Four electricians have been despatched by the last mail by Messrs. Bright and Clark, the engineers of the Telegraph to India Company, in order to make the arrangements for the Red Sea cable.

It is calculated that there are 1,500,000 Catholics in England and Wales.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The battle of Roanoake Island is acknowledged by the Confederates to have resulted in a most complete and overwhelming defeat of their forces. The whole army are made prisoners—all their armed vessels captured or destroyed—Elizabeth city deserted and burned—such is their own account of the disaster which has befallen them. The number of prisoners is stated at 2500 or 3000, which probably includes only the troops upon the island. It has been reported that General Wise, with about 5000 men had taken up a position at a place called Nagg's Head on a narrow strip of land which separates the Atlantic from Roanoake Sound, to the westward of which only a few miles distant is Roanoake Island. What has become of this body of troops does not appear from the accounts received, although it appears that their commander retired beyond the reach of danger.

The New York *World* thus remarks upon the recent capture of Fort McHenry:—

"The capture of the fort, which is situated just upon the Tennessee border, secures us a foothold in the rear both of Columbus and Bowling Green—the two strongest positions of the rebellion. Manasses excepted. Moreover the command of the Memphis and Ohio railroad, which it has given us, cuts off all communication between the two strongholds, except by the extremely circuitous route through North Alabama and North Mississippi, over a portion of the great Virginia and south-western route, already overburdened by its army service. The Confederate forces at Columbus number about fifty thousand men, and those at Bowling Green about forty thousand. A considerable portion of these two armies consists of sixty days' men, of little discipline or practical efficiency. Neither of the two strong holds can space anything like the number of good soldiers that would be required to retake Fort Henry and drive back the iron gunboats, that now run freely up the railroad bridge across the Tennessee. If the heavy detail should be made from Columbus, it would at once expose that point to be captured by our large force at Cairo, acting in conjunction with gunboats on the Mississippi. If the detail should be made from Bowling Green, General Buell's large army, now at Mumfordsville and vicinity, would sweep in irresistibly. Yet to permit our forces up the Tennessee river to strengthen themselves, would be to incur the risk of being completely hemmed in on the rear, and losing both armies completely. Therefore an abandonment of both of these great positions is, in order to give us battle on our own ground, or in order to escape without fighting, must quickly become a military necessity. A battle given against the tremendous force we could at once concentrate, could hardly fail to result in their overwhelming defeat; and retreat without battle would be just as disastrous. The effect in both cases would be clearance of both Kentucky and Tennessee from the rebellion."

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The excitement which has prevailed for some weeks past relative to the American difficulty has been the means of again directing the attention of electricians and capitalists to the possibility of establishing telegraphic communication between this country and America. The question is now seriously asked whether there are any really insuperable difficulties in laying a submarine telegraphic cable across the Atlantic. It may be useful at this time to ascertain what are the facts that affect this question of submarine telegraphy. A short time since a joint committee was appointed by the Board of Trade and the Atlantic Telegraph Company to inquire into the whole subject, and their report will be found to contain much useful information on the subject. The report stated that at the date at which the committee concluded its labour, 11,364 miles of submarine telegraph had been laid, and that of this extent about 3000 miles were actually at work. Of the total quantity laid 3074 miles were in shallow water, 8290 were deep sea cables. The failure of the Atlantic cable was due in a great measure to its most defective construction, and the inefficiency of its insulation. The Malta and Alexandria cable, which has recently been laid at the cost of the Government, was manufactured with great care, and under the supervision of engineers appointed by the Board of Trade. That line is in working order, and has been so from the time of its submergence. This affords reason for believing, that with care and caution, and the use of the best materials that can be obtained for the purpose, deep sea cables may be laid for great distances and worked with efficiency. Upon a careful consideration of all the facts bearing upon this important question of submarine telegraph, we think there is yet a prospect of success for deep sea lines, and we believe the time is not far distant when renewed attempts will be made to connect by telegraph the old and new world.—*London Observer.*

MEXICO.—The latest advices from Mexico, January 28, state that Commissioners of the allies and of the Mexican Government have had a conference for the purpose of negotiating a treaty, and that some arrangement has probably been made, although its terms had not then been disclosed.

We learn that a private letter dated January 28, from an intelligent American gentleman now residing in Mexico, has been received in this city, which gives the terms of this treaty, which are substantially as follows: That the Spanish force is to leave the country forthwith; that an English and French force consisting of 18,000 infantry and ten batteries of artillery are to remain in Mexico; that those Governments are to loan the Mexicans forty million dollars; that they are to control all the Mexican custom houses, retaining two-thirds of the revenue, and paying the remaining third to the Mexican Government; that they are to control the Tehuantepec route; that this treaty is to remain in force five years, or until the foreign claims are paid.—[Boston Courier.

THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT'S ILLNESS.—The 'Medical Times and Gazette' says:—"There can be no objection to the publication of the details of the symptoms and treatment of the late Prince, provided it be done at such a time and in such a manner as not needlessly to wound the feelings of his nearest relatives. These details would probably be commonplace enough. Every practitioner knows how insidious are the symptoms at their invasion, and how, with a deranged state of the blood and concurrent debility, brain or lungs may suffer from rapid congestion, or effusion, or hæmorrhage. There is really nothing unusual in the Prince's fate, dreadful as it is—and until the whole population are as thoroughly imbued with the dangers of sewer gases as they are with the Ten Commandments, and until all sewer systems shall be carefully and scientifically worked, so long will the most valuable lives—those of men in the prime of life—continue to be frequently in jeopardy.

HORRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—One of the most deplorable casualties ever known in this region, occurred on Monday. A switch engine on the New York and Erie Railroad, while crossing a road near the Dunkirk station, ran against a sleigh occupied by Mr. James of Sheridan, and his wife. The latter jumped to the track immediately in front of the engine, and was instantly crushed beneath it. Mr. James escaped harm, but on seeing his wife thus mangled, leaped from his sleigh, exclaiming: "You have killed my wife!" and fell to the earth, dead.—*Buffalo Commercial.*

CHILD ATTACKED BY A RAT.—Between one and two o'clock yesteeday morning, a little girl, daughter of Mrs. Yielding, residing on Front street, was attacked by a rat while in bed. The mother heard the child cry, and on making enquiry—was informed that the girl was bitten by some animal. A light was speedily procured, and a large rat was seen to leap out of the bed in which the mother and daughter had been lying. The child was severely bitten about the head and arm, and a large quantity of blood had flowed from the wounds.—*Toronto Globe.*

SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON THE EASTERN RAILROAD.—The Newburyport 'Herald' gives the following account of a serious accident upon the Eastern Railroad on Saturday:—A freight train, consisting of forty cars, drawn by two engines—the longest train for years, that extended the whole length of the Newburyport bridge—passed over the road for Boston on Saturday morning. When within about a mile of Parker river, the wheel of a car broke, which was not noticed until striking the bridge, where about twenty cars were thrown from the track upon either side of the bridge. Seventeen pairs of wheels were noticed in one pile. The cars were loaded with a variety of merchandize, such as cotton and woollen goods, rifles, staves, felt hats, potatoes, beef, eggs, &c., all of which were more or less damaged by water.

REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.—The Montreal *Gazette* of the 7th inst. says that between two and three o'clock on Thursday morning a bright red light, having the shape and appearance of a sword, was seen in the Western part of the heavens and remained visible for some minutes. It had a very striking appearance, and by many was looked upon as an omen of evil portent.

CAPTURE OF BARK NEAPOLITAN BY THE SUMTER.—We have been favored with a letter from Capt. Andrew Burdett, states the Traveller, master of the bark Neapolitan, to her owners, Messrs. Joseph Holmes & Son of Kingston, giving an account of her capture and destruction by the Privateer Sumter, off Gibralter on the 13th ult. The letter, which gives the first particulars of the affair received in this country, is dated Gibraltar, Jan. 21, and is as follows:

"I left Messina on the 29th of December, and on the morning of Jan. 19, I was in the Straits of Gibraltar, within