

the question of the Queen's neutrality proclamation which has been dropped out of sight, will be tacitly abandoned. This favorable change is owing to the discovery that England will not concede beyond a certain point, and this resolution is not likely to be shaken.

The Star is glad the Alabama discussion has been postponed. American resentment against England is likely to become weaker, and her desire to reduce the burden of the public debt stronger. The best thing for both countries is to hold their peace for awhile. No general discussion can simplify matters. The new House of Commons evidently preferred to leave the responsibility of a postponement on the Government, and the Star thinks the country will approve its prudent self-restraint.

FEARFUL TRAGEDY IN LONDON

We copy the following particulars from the Liverpool (G. B.) Mercury of a horrid poisoning case, which occurred in London on the 29th ult.:

One of the most appalling tragedies that has occurred in London for a considerable time past took place on Sunday night, or early Monday morning, at No. 15, Hoiger lane, Smithfield, where a man named Duggin, his wife, and six children were discovered lying dead from the effects of prussic acid. Whether the deaths of the children were caused by the man or the woman, or by both, as yet remains a mystery, though appearances lead to the supposition that the terrible tragedy was the work of the husband, who afterwards destroyed himself. The following is a plain narrative of the facts of the case so far as they are yet known.

At half-past eight o'clock on Monday morning the inspector on duty at the Smithfield Police-station received a letter by post, signed "J. W. Duggin," requesting the inspector to come around to No. 15 Hoiger lane (about 50 yards from the police-station), where the services of the police were required, and also stating that full particulars of what would be seen might be obtained from the brother of the writer of the letter, who resided at Bristol, at an address given. The inspector was at first inclined to treat the letter as a silly hoax, but, on second consideration, determined to act as the letter required, and, accordingly, despatched Sergeant Goodeve and another officer to the address contained in the letter.

On the officers arriving at the house, which forms a portion of the premises of Mr. Chawner, a manufacturing silversmith, and which is built over a gateway, they knocked at the door, but, obtaining no answer, they proceeded down the gateway, and, having made enquiries of some of Mr. Chawner's workmen, they were informed the only occupants of the house were Mr. Chawner's foreman, a man named Duggin, with his wife and six children. They again returned to the house and door and knocked several times, but no one came. They then procured a ladder, and gained an entrance to the house through a back window over the gateway. The first sight that met them on stepping into the room was the body of the man Duggin lying on the bed dead, with his face drawn on one side, as if he had died in great agony. On a shelf in the room were two small bottles, empty, both smelling strongly of prussic acid. The officers then went into the front room, where they found Mrs. Duggin lying dead on the bed, with one child on each side of her, and a third at the foot of the bed, also dead. Two elder children lay dead on a small bed, and a baby about three months old was also dead in a cot near the window. In the bed by the side of the woman was found a teaspoon. The officers, horrified at the sight, at once sent word to the station-house what they had discovered, and Dr. Wilson, the divisional surgeon of the police, was soon in attendance. On raising the bodies he pronounced the woman and children as being dead several hours, but that the man had not been above four or five hours. The faces of both the woman and the children presented a calm and placid appearance, as if in a deep sleep. Dr. Wilson, after examination, stated the cause of death to have been the administration of prussic acid. A telegraphic message was at once sent off to the address of Duggin's brother at Bristol, as given in the letter above referred to, and the coroner, Mr. Payne, was informed of what had taken place, so that an inquest might be held.

From inquiries made by the police, of the neighbors, it appears that Duggin and his wife were considered respectable persons, of quiet and sober habits, and extremely fond of their children, whom they kept very clean and nicely dressed. On Sunday evening, shortly after seven o'clock, the whole family left home apparently for a walk, returning shortly after dusk, after which time nothing was seen of them, except that Duggin fetched a pot of beer, which, it is conjectured, was mixed with prussic acid, which was given to Duggin's wife and children to drink. All sorts of rumors were about with regard to the cause of the poisoning, but the main reason would appear to be that a number of silver spoons were missed, and Duggin's employer suspected him of taking them, and gave him a month's notice to quit his employ and vacate the house in which he lived. His time expired on the morning of the tragedy. Duggin was a native of Bristol, and for six years employed as a foreman in a Jewellery establishment. Mrs. Duggin was a Belgian by birth, and is said to have been a remarkably quiet woman. The age of Duggin and his wife were about 40, and those of the children ranged from three months to 13 years, three being girls and three boys. They were all remarkably nice-looking children, and great favorites with their playfellows.

The inquest on the bodies of Duggin, his wife, and their six children, was held on Wednesday last. According to the medical evidence the children were dead some time before the parents, and the jury, after a short deliberation, found a verdict to the effect that Duggin and his wife wilfully murdered their off-spring, and afterwards destroyed their own lives, while in an unsound state of mind.

A shower of good luck fell upon Mr. Thos. Cowan, a farmer in the Eastern Townships. The Huntington Globe says that while sitting at tea on the 26th of last month he was agreeably surprised to hear his bees swarming—surprised, because such early swarming is unprecedented in that part of Canada. Going out of doors he soon perceived the bees to rights, and happening to look over a fence he saw two of his ewes with new-born twin lambs at their feet. Returning by his stable he peeped in, and found one of his cows had given birth to a fine calf, and his mare to a beautiful colt. Elated with all this good fortune he ran to wards the house, and at the door met his daughter, who told him she had just got two large boilers of first-rate soap made, and to crown all, to put the cap-stone on his good fortune, his wife a little later the same evening, presented him with two thumping boys. Move over to Canada.

Another Nut for Annexationists.

The attention of Annexationists and those interested emigrants (if any) who have accepted the terms of the Minnesota Sand Agent, is directed to the following letter, which is published in the Pictou Standard:—

"Having received a letter from my nephew, who lately left this part for Illinois, one of the Western States, I think it but right to request a small space in your valuable journal, for a few extracts from my own and one or two other letters received, to publish for the information of our Annexationists, and those infected with fever of emigrating to the Western States of the Republic. These extracts are as follows:—

F. H., June 11th, 1869.

DEAR UNCLE,—It is with a mingling of grief and pleasure that I write to you, with grief that I am so far away from my friends, and the place of my birth, but with thanks to the Almighty for His care and protection during our journey. We passed through a great deal of beautiful country, and the crops look well, and every thing was in bloom. In this part the soil is good, but is much cut up with creeks, &c., and in general the roads are miserable, rough and hilly. Some of the people are well off, but at present it is a difficulty thing to get a start. Everything you want to buy is out of all reason. A span of good horses costs \$100. Cows \$40 to \$75. Lumber from \$20 to \$40 per M. No. 1 Shingles \$5 per M. Fencing \$1 per 1000, and 10 miles to haul it. Tea \$2 per lb. and miserable at that. It is a pity but those who cry for Annexation had one year's trial of this Government. Although the Tariff is so enormously high, the people do not get a cent for roads, bridges, or education. For these purposes every township must assess themselves, and the consequence is that the roads are out of repair, and, in some sections, school only half of the time.

What is most grievous is the mixed state of society. The people are a mixture of English, Dutch, and Germans, combined into a class called united brethren, so you need not wonder, if we feel lonesome when we think of the society we left. The weather is very changeable, causing a dislike to take up land in such a place and society. I hope you will pray for us, that we may be kept from all evil and danger in this lawless country. G. R.

I could give, from other letters, numerous extracts in addition to, and corroboratory of the foregoing, but as I do not wish to intrude too much on your space to publish this, I conclude with one remark, where he says that "he would sooner live in Nova Scotia a poor man, than yonder with the riches of Solomon." Truly yours, W. R.

THE QUEEN AND MR. PEABODY.

It would be difficult for any one to pay a more delicate or graceful compliment than that which Queen Victoria has just paid to our munificent countryman George Peabody. Mr. Peabody, as is well understood, left England very unexpectedly, and without allowing his departure to be known beyond a narrow circle of his friends. But the fact of his embarkation, and of his extremely feeble health, found its way into the English journals, and soon came to the knowledge of Her Majesty, who, with that goodness of heart which has always characterized her, and which Americans have never failed to appreciate and admire, gave immediate expression to her feelings in the following autograph note, which, we learn, has been received by Mr. Peabody within a few days past, and of which we have been fortunate enough to obtain a copy:

Windsor Castle, June 20, 1869.

The Queen is very sorry that Mr. Peabody's sudden departure has made it impossible for her to see him before he left England, and she is concerned to hear that he is gone in bad health. She now writes him a line to express her hope that he may return to this country quiet recovered, and that she may then have the opportunity of which she has now been deprived, of seeing him and offering him her personal thanks for all that he has done for her people.

The note was transmitted by Mr. Arthur Helps, the Clerk of the Privy Council, who adds that the Queen also commanded him "to be sure and change Mr. Peabody to report himself on his return to England."

How much there is in such an act of consideration and kindness on the part of Queen Victoria, towards one whom all Americans are proud of, to soften the asperities growing out of public controversies between the two nations! The exquisite portrait of Her Majesty, which she sent to Mr. Peabody two or three years ago, is now at the Danvers Institute in the same apartment with the beautiful gold medal presented to him by Congress in the name of the people of the United States. But a little note like this, coming so plainly from the Queen's heart, as well as from her own hand, has a significance and a value far above any mere material gifts however costly.—Boston Post, July 12.

THE BRITISH PROVINCES

Pleasant Excursion.

We would suggest to those who may be hesitating as to where they can spend their summer vacation, that a trip to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is one of the most delightful excursions which can be enjoyed. A person can leave Boston on either of the boats of the International line, which leave Commercial wharf every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at eight o'clock, and after a charming sail along the coast, touching at Portland and Eastport, reach St. John in season for a late dinner next day. A week can be spent in and about St. John very pleasantly—two days of which must be appropriated to going up and down the St. John river—to Fredericton and return. Then take the railroad and go to Shediac through a fine agricultural country, thence by boat to Prince Edward Island; then by boat and rail to Halifax, where a few days can be pleasantly spent; thence by rail to Windsor, and across the Bay of Fundy to St. John, and home by the International boats. To do the trip pleasantly will take about three weeks. It can be done in less time, but should not. It will introduce those who take it to some of the finest scenery on the continent, and to a pleasant hospitable people, who will delight to make Americans at home. Visitors must not expect to find Continental Hotels or Revere Houses in the Provincial hotels; but they will get good, wholesome fare and moderate bills.—American paper.

Mr. S. J. Scovil, of St. John, N. B., has made application to Judge Watters for examination and relief under the Act relating to insolvent confined debtors. His application was made under twelve different counts, and on eleven he got an unopposed decision in his favor, but on the 12th he was opposed, and Judge Watters decided against him.

MASSACRE IN ABYSSINIA

A fearful massacre of English travellers has taken place in Abyssinia. Mr. and Mrs. Powell, accompanied by their son, a missionary, two children and servants, and a Tika guide, started on a journey on the 17th of April, and were followed half an hour later by the gamekeeper Macarney, another missionary, and six Arab servants in charge of the heavy baggage. The gamekeeper has written a letter, from which we make extracts:—

"We started at a quarter past six o'clock, and at twelve we were attacked by a band of natives about twenty-five or thirty in number. They attacked us from behind, and killed the two Europeans at once. I was a little behind them, and saw the spears sticking in their bodies. I turned round to shoot, but I was so near to the robbers that I had no time to take aim. It was very small shot I had, and the Wilkinson gun I fired, and then had to run for my life. The servants were routed and pursued in advance of me by the robbers. There were here and there by the side of the camels. One of the servants was killed, and another severely wounded. I got to the other four servants, and I went on in search of Mr. Powell, till we were down for want of water, and the Arabs went under a tree and would not go any way or another till the sun would set. We went on to a missionary house, and we arrived there a little before five o'clock in the morning very much exhausted. The missionary sent off a party of natives in search of Mr. Powell, and they returned two days after with the fearful news that all had been killed, and that they had seen the bodies and spoke with the people."

It is reported here that the Rev. George McNeill, formerly curate of Trinity Church, subsequently of Leinster Street Baptist Church, and more recently of the Plymouth Brethren of Ontario, has accepted a situation in the Post office, Toronto. It is understood that Mr. McNeill still continues to engage in various forms of Christian work as opportunity offers.—St. John paper.

The latest curiosity—a baby eight weeks old who has crossed the continent. He will not recure on the trip for several years to come.

There are 3,500 newspapers published in the United States, of which five-sixths are issued in the Northern States. New York has the largest, and Florida the smallest number.

An old gentleman called on President Grant at the White House on Saturday who has shaken hands with every President, including Washington.

The Telegraph learns that Mr. S. J. Scovil was discharged from Kingston Gaol on Wednesday last week, after an imprisonment of nearly eight months.

Six persons were burned to death on the Erie Railroad on the 14th instant. The cars were thrown off the track and got on fire. Two of the passengers are from New York, one of them is supposed to be the Rev. Benj. B. Halleck, pastor of a New York Church who resides in East Fourteenth Street.

In twenty years the number of post-offices in Minnesota has increased from six to six hundred. Brigham Young thinks that he can get iron to Salt Lake City cheaper via San Francisco than via New York and Omaha.

A girl in Philadelphia, having been punished by her mistress, put some arsenic in the flour which was used to make bread, and nearly poisoned the whole family. She was committed for trial.

The Eastern Chronicle, published in New Glasgow, says:—

On Monday night, in this town, a series of diabolical tricks were committed by a number of Jack-asses, no doubt dressed in boy's clothing. Shutters were pulled off shop windows, barricades placed against shop doors, and a moving machine placed across the railroad track. What a pity it is the perpetrators cannot be found out, as for this last feat, they might be immortalized, by being sent to the Penitentiary for fourteen years.

St. John papers announce the sudden death on Sunday last of the Rev. Samuel Richardson, formerly of Nova Scotia.

SHOCKING.—About two o'clock this morning a child, two or three years old, was seen lying asleep on the seat of a wagon before one of our hotels, while the husband and wife who had left it there were inside—he drinking, and she drunk.—Amherst Gazette of 23rd.

We copy the following from the Halifax Chronicle:—

The Lord Bishop held a confirmation at the Five Mile River Church, near Maitland, on Sunday last, and purposes holding confirmation at River John and Tatamagouche, on Sunday, August 1st, at Wallace on the following day, and at Peggwash on Tuesday, August 3rd. His Lordship will cross by Pictou to Charlottetown, on Tuesday 5th, preparatory to his Confirmation tour through Prince Edward's Island.

After a stormy debate the Republicans have introduced a resolution into the Cortes, expressing disapproval of the Duke de Montpensier in Spain, and demanding his return to Portugal.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Post says that the Honorable John Rose has accomplished nothing definite regarding the Reciprocity Treaty. The question, he states, has been informally discussed, but adds, "Mr. Rose is not sanguine of success at this time."

What they say of the Island.

The Proprietor of the Halifax Express recently made a tour from Halifax to Pictou thence to this Island, across to Shediac, to St. John, and home by way of Digby, N. S. He highly recommends the route to any wishing to make a summer excursion. They will find it comfortable without being tiresome, no portion of the journey occupying over six hours. Writing of the Island, he says:—

"At the Railway wharf you take the steamer and cross the Straits of Northumberland to Charlottetown, the capital of Prince Edward Island, which lies almost direct opposite Pictou, at a distance of 45 miles. The run from Halifax to the Island can be made in about eleven hours. Charlottetown, like the rest of the British Provinces, is rapidly improving, and recently has had some handsome structures added to its buildings. It is well laid out with fine, broad streets. The Provincial Building, Government House, St. Dunstan's College, St. Patrick's Hall (just completed), the new Episcopal Church, cannot fail to attract the attention of the visitor. A few days at Charlottetown can be spent very pleasantly, the drives in its vicinity are charming, and the climate is most salubrious and invigorating. Leaving this city you reach Summerside by a well-appointed stage, and over a capital road, for the small sum of one dollar and fifty cents, the distance is forty-five miles. At the "Clifton House" good hotel accommodation is afforded. Summerside being the place of arrival and departure of the line of steamers connecting New Brunswick with the Island, it is growing in importance, besides it has several shipyards where this branch of trade is carried on to a considerable extent. Taking the Princess of Wales in the morning, you steam across the Straits to Point du Chene, thence by rail two miles to Shediac, N. B., and if stopped, on the distance is twenty miles. At the "Clifton House" good hotel accommodation is afforded. Summerside being the place of arrival and departure of the line of steamers connecting New Brunswick with the Island, it is growing in importance, besides it has several shipyards where this branch of trade is carried on to a considerable extent. Taking the Princess of Wales in the morning, you steam across the Straits to Point du Chene, thence by rail two miles to Shediac, N. B., and if stopped, on the distance is twenty miles. 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