have paid rent as well as they could, and now seeing no prospect before them of being relieved of their burdens, they have raised an agitation which may result in evil consequences.—(*To be continued*)

THE WAR IN THE STATES.

OPERATIONS BEFORE RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG PREVIOUS TO THEIR EVACUATION.

[Correspondence of the New York World.]

HEADQUARTERS GENERAL WRIGHT,
WARREN STATION,
WEDNESDAY, 29th March.

The army in great part moved to the left this morning, leaving as great forces as before to man the entrenchments around Petersburg. The main column moved out on the Vaughan road, which leads southwest towards Dinwiddie Court House; but auxiliary detachments kept across the open country, which has been almost entirely cleared of timber. Cavalry in considerable force preceded these. They all crossed Hatcher's Run, the enemy falling back and skirmishing dispiritedly, and so passed to the right of the late battle-field, relics of which, in the shapes of cast-away blankets and boots, dead horses, and scattered graves, yet sprinkle the waste of stump and scrub. Most of the country people fled with the retreating Confederates, though a sufficient number held their bleak and ruined homes to give us novices the geography of the region. War here, as everywhere, has left its blighting testimonies; there are neither fences, nor fields, nor household goods, nor anything which makes a land worth living for. Now and then we could see a hastily thrown-up heap of earth, marking where a few ears of corn or sweet potatoes were interred, but these our stragglers resurrected and roasted in their dinner faggots. The country to the south seems to be richer and better settled than that above Hatcher's Run. Our troops moved in close and cheery order, very little loitering prevailing. Now and then a squad of prisoners, voluntary or otherwise, came in and dropped to the rear, and less frequently a solitary stretcher, borne upon men's shoulders, carried some bleeding martyr to the advance. Among these was a captain of the 4th Michigan, shot dead. General Meade was among the foremost, and kept well in front. General Grant came up from City Point close before noon, and, with his handsome escort, rode across Hatcher's Run, and stopped for the afternoon in a corn-field, short of Gravelley Run. The troops faced from this position to the north and west, lying about a mile out and covering the Quaker road, which runs from Sutherland's station, on the Southside Railway, to Dinwiddie Court House. Gravelley Run, which flows between headquarters and the front, is a tolerable creek, running between sandy, wooded hills. Our men lay on their arms in the woods, and for two or three hours there was no firing. That ominous silence, which seems all the profounder before a fight, was as marked as ever.

At two o'clock, Gen. Grant, who was newly and handsomely attired, but quiet and grave as usual, lay down awhile, covered with his india rubber, while Gen. Meade attended to the disposition of his columns. The ambulances and teams, for the most part, stopped on the north bank of Hatcher's Run.

Late in the day a portion of Gen. Warren's command, pushing up the Quaker road toward the Southside Railway, was attacked by rebel forces belonging to Porter's and Johnston's commands. The engagement was short, decisive, and attended with little bloodshed. A hundred rebels or more fell into our hands, and these Gen. Griffin sent to the rear. With Humphrey to second him, the advance column of Griffin pushed ahead, but up to this writing (9 p. m.) no more fighting has ensued. To-morrow I expect to have more startling and glorious news to send you. The campaign in this quarter may be considered fairly opened. Our troops are discreet and cheerful. The enemy seems no longer to fight with that headlong and persistent courage which has so often dismayed us. On the right the stillness of night has all day prevailed; but I hear the sound of teams and drum taps, and see that Quartermasters' men go to bed early. So, good night, for I must do likewise to be awake betimes.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Thursday, 30th.

The movement of this army initiated yesterday, but remaining undeveloped at nightfall, has been continued throughout to-day, notwithstanding a saturating rain, which set in about midnight, and pelted down almost without cessation until a late hour this afternoon. The country through which our troops have been forced to move is not, during the dryest season, at all adapted to expedite marching—being not only swampy but thickly wooded. Hence, although the greater part of the day has been spent in manœuvreing, but little ground has been gained. Again, the enemy has been found in force, strongly intrenched, close in front of some portions of our front, and obstinately insists on remaining, despite our desire to dislodge him. In fact, the advantages being all on his side, no attempt has been made to eject him. Under such circumstances, our skirmishers have been pushed well up to the enemy's works, where they are covered by light works, hastily constructed, while our main line throws up stronger and more serviceable protection against the enemy's shells and attacks. The surface of the ground once solid again, enables us to bring our artillery to our aid, and assaults will be more feasible. Last night, when I closed my letter, our left wing was formed as follows: Two divisions of the 5th corps, on the extreme left of the infantry, resting their left flank near Gravelley Run, and crossing the Quaker's Road running eastwardly, and connecting with the 2d corps. One division (Ayres's) deployed across the Vaughan road guarding against a flank attack. The 2nd corps to the right of the 5th, connecting with our main line at Hatcher's Run. The cavalry away to the left of the infantry; locality not positively known, but supposed to be somewhere in the vicinity of the Boydton Pike. Early this morning, Gen. Ayres's division took its position, causing an extension of our line to the left, and throwing the left flank completely across the Boydton road, all of which was accomplished without provoking any resistance. In fact but few of the enemy were to be seen during the morning. Such of our forces as were across the pike were now withdrawn, and, to better cover the flank, were deployed along and facing the pike, with the left toward Dinwiddie. Communication was soon after opened with General Sheridan along this road, and has continued without interruption. The 2nd corps has been simply moved forward about one and a half miles, passing Dabney's mills, and only halting when checked by the enemy's fortifications. The movement of the 2nd corps leaving a gap in our line in the vicinity of Hatcher's Run, Gen. Turner's division of the 24th corps, which, with others, were lying in reserve, was employed to fill it and re-establish connection. Meanwhile, two brigades of Gen. Birney's colored division, 25th corps, and two brigades of Gen. Foster's division, 24th corps, were pushed forward on their immediate fronts, when the enemy opened on them with great vigor, particularly on the colored troops. The fire did not check them for an instant, however; gallantly driving ahead, they forced back the enemy's pickets into their main works, and setting to work with shovel and pick, had soon secured themselves against the annoying fire of the enemy. A few hours afterwards a strong line of works were reared on the same ground occupied by the rebel pickets. So far the movement has resulted in our gaining full possession of the Boydton road; not much of a gain, to be sure, inasmuch as at the point where we seized it we were not within seven miles of the Southside road. When we commenced the movement, a large portion of our line was facing west and northwest; at present the centre line faces about north; a very huge right wheel having been described, leaving our line almost straight. What tomorrow will bring forth it would be difficult to anticipate, but the movement is not yet completed. The clouds threaten more rain, and but little more will render any further manœuvreing hazardous for the present. A division of cavalry, sent out by General Sheridan on a reconnoissance, has returned, and reports all the approaches to Southside Road in this vicinity to be well guarded. We have lost a few men to-day on the skirmish line. Six deserters came in on General Smyth's front last night. They knew nothing of what was transpiring in their army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OPERATING AGAINST RICHMOND,
FRIDAY, March 31.

Again I have to report, through the gallantry of our troops and the energy of their commanders, a successful day to our arms.—We have, after, as it were, snatching victory from the very jaws of severe reverse, gained the position for which we attacked the enemy this morning. Our objective point on this occasion was a thoroughfare known as the White Oak Road. This pike, which forms a junction on the Boydton road, between the point where our line crossed it at the Quaker Road junction and Petersburg, runs directly westward at an acute angle with the Boydton plank, and connecting with a road approaching the Southside Railroad known as the Claiborne road. To the Fifth corps was the task of winning the position allotted. The disposition of the day was as follow:—General Warren (Fifth Corps), whose troops were massed on the west side of the Boydton plank, and covered it, were to advance across the country in a north-westerly direction, and strike the White Oak road near a residence known as the Dabney House. General Mile's division of the Second corps, which had lain to the right of the Boydton road, moved to the left and held the vacant position of Warren. About daylight this morning General Warren commenced massing his column for the advance, General Ayers's division holding the right, General Crawford the centre, and General Griffin the left. At 8 o'clock all was in readiness, and in the above order they started ahead, keeping the advance well covered with skirmishers. The enemy had been keeping a sharp eye on our movements, however, and was awaiting our approach at no great distance from our late position. The result was that Warren had proceeded but a short distance ere the dripping shots from our skirmish line announced the presence of an opposition. No delay was occasioned by this circumstanc, as the enemy proved to be in small force, and fell back, slowly skirmishing all the while.

In this manner they had proceeded about two miles, when our skirmishers were suddenly checked and thrown back on the main line, which, continuing its advance, soon found it was confronted by a heavy force. No impediment of this nature could cause Warren to falter for an instant, and he dash his men ahead. The enemy counter charged, attacking on the front and on both flanks of the two first advancing columns simultaneously. The result was the same as it has been in many instances before. A general retreat ensued in the direction of our line of works near the Boydton road, the enemy pursuing rapidly, and, as the sequel will show, most incautiously. Griffin's division, which, bringing up the rear, had not become entangled, was, by some means, manœuvered to a new position from which they could hinder the movements of the enemy. At this juncture, Gen. Miles of the first division, 2nd corps, who had become aware of the situation of Gen. Warren's troops, moved to his assistance. He arrived just at the right moment. The elated Johnnies, sweeping ahead under the stimulus of their temporary success, had, most fatally for them, neglected to secure their left flank, upon which Gen. Miles fell, rolling and doubling their line into a chaotic mob, and sweeping them from the field in confusion. The batteries of Major Minks and Captain Hazelton, of the fifth corps, behaved handsomely during this affair. The rebels retired to their original position, and for a while, with the exception of heavy skirmishing, nothing was done. At half-past one o'clock, however, the 5th corps started for the second time for the White Oak road, and this time, after some heavy fighting, succeeded in reaching it, having previously forced the enemy from a light line of works, behind which they fought, and across the road. Our troops are now strongly entrenched and have connected with our main line, which stretches to that point, and there is no probability that they will be dislodged. Two flags have been captured—one from an Alabama regiment by Miles's division; the other by Major Glenn, 198th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Along the front of the brigades of Generals McAllister, Smyth, and DeTrobriand, of the 2nd corps, heavy skirmishing was maintained during nearly the entire movement, but no serious collision was brought about. Further to the right of our defences, along the fronts of Generals Turner, Foster and Birney, the second formerly of the 24th corps, and the latter of the 25th, heavy skirmishing has been kept up during the greater part of the day, and attacks constantly menaced by our troops. I saw General Grant at several points of the line during the day riding quietly along, and examining hastily, but, I have no doubt, minutely, the works and positions. We are now gradually nearing the Southside Railroad, but are yet a long distance from it. So far as we have gone, however, we have maintained a continuous line. Taking into consideration the character of the fighting, our loss has not been heavy. Two thousand will, I should judge, certainly be an under-estimate. Riding campward this evening, I met some of Sheridan's cavalry, all wounded. They tell me that a large force of rebel infantry attacked them near Dinwiddie Court House this morning, and drove them from every position they had taken through the town towards our lines on the boydtown road. Many of the wounded were left in hospitals in the town. The enemy drove them furiously so long as they were able to follow them. How much of this is true, I am not competent to assert. From a fragment of the Richmond Dispatch, of yesterday, I read that Johnson has repulsed an advance of Sherman towards that place from Goldsboro. The Dispatch has received no official notification of the affair. We shall probably have more hard fighting tomorrow. Weather clearer. Roads bad.

SUNDAY'S FIGHTING.

SUNDAY MORNING, April 2.—The great battle has opened in real earnest, and Petersburg must be ours within twenty-four hours. No troops in rebeldom at least can withstand the attack we are now making. The rebels are fighting desperately, but they contend with giants who will not be overcome. Such a cannonade as the Army of the Potomac scarcely ever before heard, was opened about midnight along the whole line, and for three hours there was one continuous blaze of four miles in extent. Our troops were put in order of attack about four o'clock, and at daybreak of this beautiful Sabbath, forever to be remembered, a general charge was ordered, and four corps at once moved grandly on the enemy's works. I cannot as yet give any details of the action, but it is understood at Gen. Parke's headquarters that we have broken the enemy's lines throughout their whole length, capturing all their heavy artillery and thousands of prisoners. In the Ninth Corps all is going on well. A part of General Potter's division made a dash before daybreak on the enemy's pickets and captured about one hundred and twenty-five prisoners, including general officers. The whole corps is more or less hotly engaged. I write this 7½ a. m., at which time we have captured three forts with most of their guns.

The fighting on both sides is desperate. General Potter, who commands one division of this corps, is reported severely wounded. Our losses are already heavy. As I close this hurried dispatch, word comes giving assurance of the great victory won yesterday afternoon by Sheridan and Warren. It is reported, on what appears good authority, that more troops have been sent to Sheridan this morning. The navy is evidently doing something, for there has been heavy cannonading in their direction for three hours. Our hearts jump with the possibility that Porter and Weitzel may be moving on Richmond. It is almost impossible to write or think calmly, but surely it does not seem wild or enthusiastic to prophesy that Petersburg and Richmond and a large part of Lee's army must be ours within the present week, perhaps within two days.

General Thomas Francis Meagher was suspended from command on the 10th inst. by Gen. Schofield, under orders from the War Department of the United States.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR:—

In your able and humourously sarcastic article on the *Posse Comitatus*, in last Monday's paper, you make use of the following language:

"We have no reason to blame Mr. Sheriff Morris for the part he took in it. He acted under the express authority of the Government."

Now, Sir, had you been summoned (as the writer of this was) to form one of the *Posse Comitatus*, I think you would have found very great "*reason to blame* Mr. Sheriff Morris for the part he took in it."

It is undoubtedly a fact that the Sheriff was authorised by the Government to call out the *Posse*; yet I am firmly impressed with the idea that it was congenial work in which Sheriff Morris engaged. He could not, in this enlightened age, have acted more arbitrarily and partially than he did, as I will endeavor briefly to show. While the Government had the *power* to authorise the Sheriff to call out the *Posse*, yet they could not dictate the *manner* in which the whole affair should be conducted. This lay altogether within the province of the Sheriff, and he alone is responsible for the method he chose to adopt in carrying the matter to a conclusion. In the outset Sheriff Morris issued his summons to a list of gentlemen who subscribed in aid of the Tenant Union Fund, amongst whom were several foreigners. For weeks previous to the issuing of the summons, it had been hinted that the gentlemen mentioned were particularly selected for the *Posse*. In addition to these, and to make a show of impartiality, a few Proprietors' Agents were also summoned. And to swell the *Posse* to the required dimensions, other gentlemen were summoned, who confidently believe that their being placed on the list was dictated by personal pique. One individual—not a subscriber to the Tenant Union Fund—was summoned because "it was understood" that he wrote for a certain journal.

I contend, Sir, that Sheriff Morris has no right to pronounce judgment upon persons in this community for their acts. We are all as free-born as he is, and have a right to contribute our means to any institution or cause we choose, and to follow any vocation which is lawful, that we may select. When applied to, to set aside the arbitrary mandate of the Sheriff, on the ground that there was no necessity for resorting to so obnoxious and obsolete a practice as calling out a *Posse Comitatus*, the Government officially announced that the Sheriff is supreme in the matter, and there can be no interference on their part. Therefore, I repeat, the responsibility of conducting the affair of the *Posse* to a termination rests solely with Sheriff Morris. Had he reluctantly carried out the wishes of the Government, he would not have partially selected the gentlemen for the *Posse* that he did. With two or three exceptions, they were all from the business portions of the town—the back-bone of the community—and to whom the loss of a day or a week would be of serious consequence to themselves and their business. Sheriff Morris should have drawn the *Posse* from the community by lot, and the gentlemen who actually composed it would have been only liable to serve with others of the town. Had the Sheriff pursued this course he would have escaped much odium.

Another arbitrary proceeding lay in the manner in which the *Posse* were summoned and, as I contend, inhumanly treated. We were summarily ordered to meet the Sheriff in front of his residence on Friday morning, April 7th, without one word of explanation as to why or wherefore except that we were "to form a *Posse Comitatus* to enforce Her Majesty's laws." When, how, where, or against whom we were to proceed, were left to conjecture. We met at the appointed time, and were ordered to report to the Sheriff at Southport. Still there was no explanation. The roll was called, and then we were notified by the Sheriff to meet him at Adams's, Vernon River; and he immediately jumped into his carriage and proceeded to the appointed rendezvous. We were not allowed one half minute to make preparation for the journey. We were given to understand that we should bear our own expenses while absent, and although the roads were execrable, and we were human beings who need nourishment, yet we were not given a moment to obtain conveyances, or to fill a knapsack with provisions for the journey. My humble opinion of the transaction is, that there is but one man on this Island who could or would have perpetrated such an act of tyranny.

It is true that many of the *Posse* liberally provided themselves with all necessaries for the journey, although there had been no official intimation what the length of the journey would be, or the time required for the performance of the requirements of the Sheriff. Others, however, made no preparations, considering the whole thing a farce, which would end at Southport.

ONE OF THE POSSE.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, April 17, 1865.

MURDER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE telegram which appears below was received here on Saturday afternoon to the consternation of every one in the community.

Sad and shocking as are the events recorded in the telegram, they are, in our opinion, matters rather of painful regret than surprise. "The divinity that doth hedge a king" reflects no halo of protection on the person of him, who, though elevated to the highest position in the gift of his fellow citizens, is still but one of themselves, and the prominence of his position only renders him the more conspicuous as an object of attack. That we abhor the violent acts thus brought to our notice—that we believe them worthy of the utter denunciation of all right minded men—that we hope the immediate actors and all their aiders and abetters may be brought to summary and condign punishment—we need scarcely declare.

We have intimated that the occurrences have excited in us more regret than surprise. When it is borne in mind that, in addition to the violence of passions naturally evoked by the protracted civil war in the United States, that the authorities themselves overrode the law of the land—that personal liberty was disregarded—the free expression of opinion crushed—arbitrary arrests and confiscations of property made, we might say, the rule—it is no matter of wonder that some of those who were educated in such school should have improved upon the lessons of their teachers.

The assassin of the late President, as far as our present information enables us to form an opinion, has not been conspicuous as a supporter on either side of the great civil war, which is now happily drawing to a close. We incline to the belief that the slain and wounded have been the victims of a conspiracy, the members of which have been drawn by lot to perform the accursed duty, which alas! has been, in the cases of Mr. Lincoln and the son of Mr. Seward, but too efficiently fulfilled.

The fact that the late President took up his abode but a few days before his death, at the residence of the Southern Chief, Mr. Jefferson Davis, in the city of Richmond, in the streets of which he went to and fro unattended and unmolested—weighs much in support of the supposition that an organization existed, having his murder as one of his objects, and that the time and agents had been only appointed.

On the complications to which this deplorable occurrence may give rise, we will not at present speculate further than to remind our readers that all history goes to show that out of the ruins of a shattered democracy a military despotism will arise, as Minerva, ready armed, issued from the head of Jove. Who will be the American Cromwell, it is not yet for us to surmise.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN IN WASHINGTON!!

DESPERATE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF SECRETARY SEWARD!!—ASSASINATION OF HIS SON!!

GREAT CONSTERNATION THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC!!

(*By Telegraph to the Examiner.*)

NEW YORK, April 15.

President Lincoln was assassinated last evening at Ford's Theatre while sitting in a private box with Mrs. Lincoln. The assassin suddenly entered the box and shot the President through the head, then leaped upon the stage, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre. The President died this morning at eight o'clock.

About the same hour an assassin entered Mr. Seward's house under pretence of having a prescription for him. After mortally wounding Mr. Seward's son, and disabling four persons in attendance, he stabbed the latter, who was in bed, two or three times on the throat and on the face, then left the house and escaped.....J. Wilkes Booth, an actor, was the murderer of the President.....Mr. Seward still lives. His son died this morning.....There is universal mourning all over the country. No business transacted to-day.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

WE make the following selections from the report of speeches delivered during the debate in the House of Commons, on the evening of the 13th ultimo, upon the Defences of Canada and the relations of Great Britain and the U. S.:—

The hon. member for Horsham (Seymour Fitzgerald) told us that he did not see any evidence of hostility in the course pursued by the American Government with regard to the arrangement as to the number of vessels to be kept on the Lakes in times of peace. With regard to the Reciprocity Treaty, when notice shall have been given by the U. S., Her Majesty's Government will not lose a moment in endeavoring to renew negotiations on a subject of such importance to both the U. S. and this country. The hon. gentleman has referred in just terms to the cancelling by President Lincoln of the order issued by General Dix, and to the uniform courtesy manifested towards this country by the U. S. Minister in London. I cordially agree with him in respect of what he has said of the excellent conduct of Mr. Adams, and I must say that in selecting their representatives in this country the Government of the United States have always paid us the compliment of choosing from among their first citizens. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman, after speaking in this mode in the early part of his speech, then passed, with a rapid transition through which I was unable to follow him, to a consideration of the dangers which he sees in the future. He thinks that after the present civil war is over there is imminent danger of hostilities between the U. S. and this country. ("No, no!") I *don't believe that in using the* expressions to which I refer the hon. gentleman meant to give his sanction to the demands made by the U. S., and which my hon. friend the member for Bradford and every one else in England disapproves; but I understood him to say that the U. S. complained, not without reason, that their commerce had been interfered with. ("No!")—Well, whatever may be the hon. gentleman's opinion on that point, I will admit with him that whatever may be the prospects—and I hope the *prospect of relations between* the U. S. and Great Britain is not one in which we are obliged to see hostilities—it is not on the justice or goodwill of any other country, nor on the forbearance of any other country, we are to calculate for our self-defence. (Hear, hear.) It is on our own position, on our own means of defence. (Cheers.)

* * I have the satisfaction of stating that in Canada large bodies of officers are being trained to take command of the militia in time of emergency; that the number of training places has been increased, and is still being augmented; and that other preparations are being made to bring a large number of militia into a state of active efficiency. This being the spirit in Canada, and the mother country acting in unison with this spirit, I think it may be said very confidently that defences are being provided for Canada. (Hear, hear.) But I hope that *nothing will ever occur* in our relations with the U. S. to make it necessary that Canada should be defended against an enemy. (Hear, hear.) I cannot express the feelings of regret with which I should view any controversy between the U. S. and the subjects of the Queen. I should look upon it as a calamity unequalled by anything that the world has ever seen, and I sincerely trust that, however much we may debate among ourselves these questions of the defences of Canada and of the relations *which subsist between that colony* and the mother country, we shall be careful so to employ our language as not to irritate temporary differences, not to expand into great disputes questions which might shortly pass away, and to believe that the same kind and just feelings which we know to be prevalent among the educated classes and among the members of the Government of this country are equally prevalent in America.—(Loud cheers.)—*Mr. Cardwell, Col. Secretary.*

I am not here to-night to impute, and I have never imputed anything against the conduct of the Government of the U. S. throughout this great struggle; but, on the contrary, I am now prepared, after further experience, to repeat what I said two years ago, that, under circumstances of almost unprecedented difficulty, that Government has conducted itself with great *energy and discretion.* (Hear, hear.) I am not of opinion that in the event of the termination of the American war we should be placed in any immediate danger of coming into collision with that Government owing to our connexion with Canada. (Hear.) I do not pretend now to express any opinion as to what may be the termination of the present contest, as it appears to me to be quite foreign to the question under discussion; but, even assuming that the result may be such as is anticipated by the hon. member for Bradford, *I do not believe that the citizens of the* U. S. of the North, even if entirely and completely victorious, will feel inclined to enter immediately into another struggle with a Power not inferior in determination and in resources to the Southern States of America. (Hear, hear.) I form that opinion because I believe that the people of the U. S. are eminently a sagacious people. (Hear, hear.) I don't think they are insensible to the glory of great dominion and of extended empire, and I give them equally credit *for being influenced by passions* which actuate mankind, and particularly nations which enjoy such freedom as they do. (Hear, hear.) But they are a sagacious people, and I don't think they would seize the moment of exhaustion as being the most favourable for the prosecution of an enterprise which would require great resources and great exertions. (Hear, hear.) There are other reasons which also induce me to dispute that opinion. I have not been influenced in forming my judgment upon points of such vast importance by that sort of rowdy rhetoric (laughter and "hear, hear") which has been expressed at public meetings and in certain journals in America, and upon which some people in this country found their conclusions as to the possible character and opinions of the American people. I look upon these expressions of opinion as I should look upon those strange and fantastic drinks of which we hear so much, and which are such favourites on the other side of the Atlantic, ("hear, hear," and laughter,) and I should as soon suppose this rowdy rhetoric was the expression of the real feeling of the American people as that these potations formed the aliment and nutriment of their bodies. There is another reason why this violent course will not be adopted. The democracy of America must not be confounded with the democracy of the Old World. It is not formed of the *scum of turbulent cities,* neither is it merely a section of an exhausted middle class, which speculates in stocks and calls that progress. (Loud cheers and laughter.) It is a territorial democracy, if I may use that epithet without offending the right hon. gentleman opposite. ("Hear," and laughter.) Aristotle, who has taught us most of the wise things we know, never said a wiser one than this—that the cultivators of the soil were the least inclined to sedition and to violent courses. (Hear.) Now, being a territorial *democracy,* their character has been formed and influenced in a manner by the property with which they are connected, and by the pursuits they follow, and a sense of responsibility arising from the reality of their possessions may much influence their political conduct. (Hear.) And I believe they are very much more inclined to welcome the returning labourers to their fields, to see around them the products of the earth, and to behold happiness in those households to which they are so much attached than to plunge them into the miseries of a new and terrible war. [Hear, hear.]

* * It is impossible, notwithstanding what hon. gentlemen may say about the character of the U. S. to conceal that there is a feeling among those influential landowners, to whom the hon. gentleman the member for Bradford referred with regard to Europe, of a peculiar character. I will not say that they look to old Europe with feelings of jealousy or vindictiveness, because epithets and words of that kind *ought not to be unnecessarily* used with respect to the relations between nations; but it is undeniable that the U. S. look to old Europe with a want of sympathy. They have no sympathy with a country that is created and sustained by tradition; and the only country to which they look with sympathy is that part of old Europe which is new. I have always observed this in their conduct. (Hear.) It is quite clear, then, it is impossible to know what relation may exist between the U. S., this country, and H. M.'s dependencies on the other side of the Atlantic. Taking these larger views, then, we ought to consider that—not to-morrow or next year—but that we are on the eve of events of very great importance. The question we have to ask ourselves is, is this country prepared to renounce her American dependencies and colonies, or are we to retain that tie? Now, *if these colonies* expressed a wish to separate the connection, and if they preferred to be absorbed by the United States, we might terminate our connection with dignity and without disaster. But if, on the other hand, those views are just which are more generally accepted—if there should be on the part of Canada and the other North American colonies a sincere and deep desire to form a considerable State and develope its resources, and to preserve the patronage and aid of England until that mature hour when we shall lose our dependency, but gain a permanent ally and friend—then it would be the greatest political blunder that can be conceived for us to renounce, relinquish and avoid the responsibility of maintaining our interests in Canada at the present moment. (Hear, hear.) If, from considerations of expense, we were *to quit the possessions that we now occupy* in North America, it would be ultimately, as regards our resources and wealth, as fatal and disastrous a step as could possibly be taken. Our prosperity would not long remain a consolation to us, and we might then prepare for the invasion of our country and the subjugation of our people. I infer that hon. gentlemen opposite do not express these views, which have, however, found utterance in other quarters; but that they take a truly patriotic and English view of this subject—namely, not to force our connection on any dependency; but if, at a moment of revolution in North America, we find our colonies asserting the principle of their nationality, and if, foreseeing a glorious future, we find them still depending on the faithful and affectionate assistance of England, it would be the most short sighted and *suicidal policy, to shrink from the duty* that Providence has called upon us to fulfil. (Hear, hear.) What is the course which we ought to take under these circumstances? I cannot doubt that it is our duty to place our North American colonies in a state of proper defence.—*Mr. Disraeli.*

The difficulty now before us is that there is an extensive colony or dependency of this country adjacent to the United States, and if there be a war party in the United States—a party hostile to this country, that *circumstances affords* it a very strong temptation to enter without much hesitation into a war with England, because it feels that through Canada it can inflict a great humiliation on this country. At the same time, it is perfectly well known to all intelligent men, and especially to all statesmen and public men of the U. S.—it is as well known to them as it is to us—that there is no power whatever in this United Kingdom to defend successfully the territory of Canada against the U. S. (Hear, hear.) We *ought to know that, in order to put ourselves right* upon the question, and that we may not be called upon to talk folly and to act folly.

* * I rest in the most perfect security that as the war in America draws to a close, it happily we shall become more generous to them, they will become less irritated against us, and when passions have cooled down, I don't see why Lord Russell and Mr. Seward, Mr. Adams and, I hope, Sir F. Bruce, should not be able to settle these matters between the two nations. (Hear.) I have only one more observation to make. I apprehend that the root of all the unfortunate circumstances that have arisen is in a feeling of jealousy which we have cherished with regard to the American Union. It was very much shown at the beginning of this war, when an hon. member whom I will not name, for he would not like it now (a laugh), spoke of "the bursting of the bubble republic." Well, I recollect that Lord J. Russell, as he then was, turned round and rebuked him in language worthy of his name, character, and position. (Hear, hear.) I beg to tell that gentleman and any one else that talks about bubble republics that I have a great suspicion that a great many bubbles will burst before that bubble bursts. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.)—Why should we fear a great nation on the American continent? Some fear that a great *nation would be arrogant and aggressive. But that* does not at all follow. It does not depend altogether upon the size of a nation, but upon its qualities, and upon the intelligence, instruction, and morals of its people. You fancy that the supremacy of the sea will pass away from you and the noble lord, though wiser than many others, will lament that "Rule Britannia," that noble old song, should become antiquated at last.—Well, but if the supremacy of the sea excites the arrogance of this country the sooner it becomes obsolete the better. *I don't believe it to be for* the advantage of this country or any other that any one nation should pride itself on what it terms the supremacy of the sea, and I hope the time is come—and I believe it is—when we shall find that law and justice shall guide the councils and direct the policy of the Christian nations of the world. (Hear.) Now, nature will not be baffled because we are jealous of the U. S. The laws of nature will not be overthrown. At this moment the population of the United States is *not less than* 35,000,000 souls. If the next Parliament live to the age of the present, the population of the U. S. will be 40,000,000, and you may calculate that the rate of increase will be at rather more than a million per year. Who is to gainsay this; who is to contradict it? Will constant snarling at a great republic alter the state of things, or swell us islanders to 40,000,000 or 50,000,000, and bring them down to 20,000,000 or 30,000,000? Hon. members should consider these facts, and should learn from them that it is the interest of this nation to be one in perfect courtesy and perfect amity with the English nation on the other side of the Atlantic. (Hear, hear.) I am certain that the longer the nation exists the less will our people be disposed to sustain you in any needless hostility against them or in any jealousy of them; and I am the more convinced of this from what I have seen of their conduct in the north of England during the last four years. (Hear, hear.) I believe, on the other hand, that the American people, when this excitement is over, will be willing, so far as regards any aggressive acts against us, to bury in oblivion transactions which have given them much pain, and they will probably make an allowance which they may fairly make—that the people of this country, even those high in rank and distinguished in culture, have had a very inadequate knowledge of the transactions which have *really* taken place in that country since the beginning of the war.—Now, it is on record that when the author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was about beginning his great work, David Hume wrote a letter to him, urging him not to employ the French but the English tongue, because, he said, "our establishments in America promise a superior stability and duration to the English language." How far the promise has been in part fulfilled we who are living now can tell. But how far it will *be more largely and more completely* fulfilled in after times we must leave for after times to tell. I believe, however, that in the centuries which are to come it will be the greatest pride and the highest renown of England that from her loins have sprung a hundred—it may be two hundred—millions of men to dwell and to prosper on the Continent which the old Genoese gave to Europe. (Cheers.) Now, Sir, if the sentiment which I have heard to-night shall become the sentiment of the Parliament and people of the United Kingdom, and if the moderation which I have described shall mark the course of the Government and people of the U. S., then, notwithstanding some present irritation and some fresh distrust—and I have faith, mind, both in us and in them—I believe that these two great Commonwealths may march on abreast, parents and guardians of freedom and justice wheresoever their language shall be spoken and their power shall extend. (Cheers.)—*John Bright.*

However long this discussion may have been, I cannot regret that it has taken place; for by the majority of members in this House two opinions have been expressed which cannot fail to be useful in the quarters to which they relate. The first opinion is that which has been peculiarly dwelt upon by the hon. member who has just sat down—namely, an earnest desire that the most friendly relations should be maintained between Great Britain and the U. S. of America; and next, the opinion that we should maintain the connexion which exists between this country and our provinces on the North American continent, so long as the people of those provinces are desirous of maintaining their connexion with the mother country. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member who has just spoken has made what in one respect may appear a paradoxical, but what, I think, as human nature is constituted, was a very conciliatory speech towards the U. S. Though he reviewed a long course of events to prove that the U. S. have been most grievously ill-treated by this country—I don't agree with him *in any one of* these points—(hear, hear)—it is no doubt a part of human nature that you cannot please any man or any set of men better than by telling them they have been exceedingly ill-used. ("Hear," and a laugh.) I won't follow the hon. member when he complains that we admitted the belligerent rights of the South—an *admission* which was the result of necessity and not of choice; I will not follow him into the discussion of the *Trent* question, which I thought had been fully disposed of, and into the questions which have arisen between the Government, or rather, I should say, the people of some parts of Canada and the U. S., because, as he admitted himself, the conduct of the Canadian Government has been such as to be acknowledged gratefully by the Government of the U. S. as a full and complete fulfilment of the duties of friendly neighborhood. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman says there exists in this country a jealousy of the United States. Sir, I utterly deny that assertion. (Cheers.) We feel no jealousy of the U. S. On the contrary, I am sure that every Englishman must feel proud at seeing upon the other side of the Atlantic a community sprung *from the same ancestry* as ourselves, rising in the scale of civilization, and attaining every degree of prosperity—aye, and of power, as well as wealth (Hear, hear.) I therefore entirely deny that there has been in this country any feeling of jealousy as regards the U. S. Undoubtedly there are men who, differing from the hon. gentleman in their theory of government, cannot see with the same approbation which he feels the trial on the other side of the Atlantic of a system of government which we do not think is the best or the most conducive to the happiness of those for whom it was established. (Hear.) But that is an entirely different thing from the feeling which the hon. gentleman has supposed. [Hear, hear.] No doubt, during this contest in America, there has been experienced, and probably felt, both in the North and in the South, some irritation against *this country.* But that irritation was caused by the natural feeling which two parties in a quarrel have, that a third party, who does not espouse either side, is to a certain degree doing both sides an injury, or giving them some causes of complaint or of jealousy. [Hear, hear.] The North wished us to declare on their side; the South wished us to declare *on theirs*; and, as we maintained a perfect neutrality between the two, some slight degree of irritation arose on both sides against us. [Hear, hear.] But I am equally persuaded, with the hon. gentleman, that among the great bulk of the people of the U. S. there are feelings deeper than that irritation—feelings of good will towards the *country* with which their ancestors were connected [hear, hear]; and I am satisfied that when this unfortunate contest shall have ceased, whatever its termination, the natural feeling of good will and relationship, which ought to prevail between the two nations, will take the place of any temporary irritation which the war may have occasioned. [Hear, hear.] I am quite satisfied also that England will not give to America any just cause of complaint—that war will not proceed from us; and if war does not *proceed from our side*, and if, as the hon. gentleman thinks, it does not proceed from theirs, then we may have a well-founded expectation that in spite of adverse appearances for the moment, and in spite of the prognostications of many, the friendly relations between this country and the U. S. will not incur any real danger of interruption. (Hear, hear.) But that is no reason why we should not use the means in our power to place our fellow-citizens, if I may so call them, in Canada and the Northern Provinces in a state of defence should they be attacked. (Hear, hear.) There is no better security for peace than strength to resist attack if attack should come. (Hear, hear.) That is no provocation. It is an abuse of terms to say that, when you employ means to prevent danger, you are provoking danger and irritating the party against whom those *precautions may be taken.* (Hear, hear.) If no animosity exists these precautions can have no effect, except that of inspiring confidence in the party in whose favor they are made. (Hear, hear.)—If, on the other hand, there be a disposition to attack, that disposition is sure to be lessened in proportion as the chance of success is diminished. (Hear, hear.) Now, *I cannot agree with my* right hon. friend (Mr. Lowe) in thinking that whatever are the difficulties—and difficulties undoubtedly there may be—in successfully resisting an attack, if it should be made by America, we should regard the defence of Canada as an undertaking which we could not succeed in accomplishing. I think, *on the contrary,* that Canada may be defended, and I also feel that the honor of England and the good faith which is due to our loyal fellow-countrymen in these Northern Provinces *require that, at all events,* we should make the attempt successfully to defend her. (Hear.)

Not concurring, therefore, in the argument of my right hon. friend that Canada cannot be defended, least of all do I concur in his conclusion that assuming defence to be impossible, we ought forthwith to withdraw our troops. I neither admit the argument nor assent to its *conclusion*; and I am anxious that there should be no mistake on the subject, and that it may be fully understood that it is not the intention of the Government *to follow the advice of my right hon.* friend and withdraw our troops from Canada. (Cheers.) On the contrary, I feel that the honor of England demands, and that our duty as a Government binds us to do everything—moreover, that we shall have the sanction of the British nation in doing everything—that we can to defend our fellow-countrymen in Canada. (*Hear, hear.*) As I have already said, I am persuaded that the tone of moderation which has prevailed in this debate must be useful both in Canada and the U. S.—(Hear, hear.) No doubt there are those who have endeavored to persuade the people of the U. S. that there exists in this country a spirit of hostility towards them, and that we are looking out for grounds of quarrel. There can, however, be no real just grounds for quarrel between us.—We certainly shall not seek such grounds, nor shall we invent them; and *if the speech of the* hon. gentleman who has just sat down be a true and faithful exposition of the sentiments of the people of the U. S. there can be no well-grounded apprehension that the peace happily prevailing between us is in danger of interruption. I can confirm the statement of my hon. friend, that the present relations between the two Governments are perfectly friendly and satisfactory. (Cheers.) We have no complaint to make of the Government of the U. S. (hear, hear); they have acted in a fair and honorable manner in all the matters that may have arisen between us. No doubt there are claims which they have put forward, not urging them at present, but laying the ground for their discussion at some future time. No doubt, also, we have claims upon them which we do not put forward at present, but have announced to be claims which at some future time may be discussed. But I should trust that we both feel it to be the interest—aye, and for the honor of the two countries, that peace should be preserved, *and that matters of this sort ought* to be capable of a friendly and amicable adjustment. (Cheers.) All I can say is that the Government, as long as they continue to be chargeable with the conduct of affairs, will do everything that the honor and interests of the country permit them to do to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and friendship between the two countries. (Loud cheers.)—*Lord Palmerston.*

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

REJOICINGS OVER THE EVACUATION OF RICHMOND.

By the arrival of the steamer *Commerce*, we have Boston papers to the 4th inst. It appears that Lee got away with his army before Grant was ready for fighting. Richmond was probably evacuated many days before the Federals took possession of it. The Boston *Post* says, editorially:

"Gen. Grant may not have intended to begin his movement until Sherman had captured Raleigh, and was well on his way to Danville, and Thomas was much further advanced from Knoxville to Lynchburg; but he unquestionably discovered that Lee was in the act of abandoning Richmond in order to unite with Johnston, and he saw the need of precipitating the final struggle without further delay."

The Boston *Journal* says:

"The impression is quite prevalent that the President of the United States, who will doubtless be among the first to enter Richmond, will avail himself of the fitting occasion to issue a proclamation, expressing the leniency of the government towards those who may now renounce the palpably ruined fortunes of the rebellion. Whatever action of this nature commends itself to the judgment of the President, would be satisfactory to all loyal men."

A telegram from New York, dated April 3rd, shows how the news was received in that city:—

"The joyful excitement continued in this city all the afternoon and evening. Very little business was transacted; many merchants closing their places of business. The meeting in Wall-street was continued until past four o'clock. The petroleum board, the drug merchants, and the tobacco exchange, all of which met at the Merchants' Exchange in Pine-street, adjourned with enthusiastic cheers. The produce exchange was deserted, and the stock board had but few present. The gold room was almost entirely empty. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested by all our citizens. Teams are ornamented with flags, the streets have been crowded all the afternoon, and salutes have been continually reverberating from all points—the battery, the forts, and the parks. An immense meeting is going on this evening in Union Square. Cannon are roaring all over the city, fire-works are being sent up in profusion, and illuminations are being made by hundreds of citizens."

A special telegram from Washington says—Saturday's Richmond papers virtually admitted that the capital would fall, but denied that the Confederate cause was hopeless.

The *Commercial's* special Washington dispatch says:—

"Intelligence received from the headquarters of our forces warrant the assurance that Mobile is now in our possession. Important positions had been taken which promised to place the city at our mercy. It is said that a great battle remains to be fought in Virginia, and that Gen. Lee has still the means of making a formidable resistance; but it is believed that the war is substantially ended, and that humanity will induce the enemy to end the contest. It is reported that Major-General Robert Potter was dangerously wounded."

The Montreal *Telegraph* says that the Hon Robert J. Walker is in that city, "engaged in sounding *the views of the Canadians relative to* union with the United States," and that "he is empowered to assist an annexation movement with federal money to the extent of a hundred millions."

THE EVACUATION OF RICHMOND AND THE SURRENDER OF GEN. LEE AND HIS ARMY!

News by Telegraph of the above important events having reached this city last week, J. H. Sherman, Esquire, the United States Consul of this place gave a splendid entertainment to his American fellow citizens and other friends at his residence on Monday evening last. Fireworks and rockets of the most Magnificent kind kept up a constant illumination in front of the Consul's residence, where were assembled large browds of our citizen's to witness the pleasing scene. The Volunteer Band was also in attendance, discoursing sweet music. Every window in front of Mr. Sherman's residence was tastefully illuminated; and his tables were loaded with rich fruits and sparkling champagne and wines of all kinds. Enthusiastic *speeches and national toasts received* hearty responses from every generous heart. The whole affair reflects great credit on Mr. Sherman and his aimable Lady, whose benevolence and kindness are justly appreciated in this community.—*Com.*

☞ We are assured, upon the best of authority, that the report in extensive circulation, to the effect, that offensive remarks upon the British Government and people were made at the house of the American Consul, a few evenings since, *are entirely destitute of the truth!* The meeting was composed of British, Colonial, and American subjects. The *only* international toast given during the evening was by an American gentleman, and was this:—"Great Britain and the United States, may their present friendly relations never be disturbed."

FIRE!

Another fire occurred in the old spot on Hillsborough street, which has so bad a reputation for accidents of this kind, on Saturday evening last. Mr. Joseph Taylor's workshop was the only property destroyed—the Fire Companies and the citizens were vigilant in saving the adjoining properties, and the time and weather favoured their operations.

THE ENGLISH MAIL,

WHICH reached Halifax, per R. M. S. *Europa*, on Friday morning last, was received here on Saturday. The European news, so far as we have been able to learn from our files, is of no public importance.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Preparations are going on for the seal fishery, and experienced sealing masters consider the prospect good. The herring fishery has not been successful, one reason being that many thousand barrels were hauled for the French during the autumn.—The loss of men on the banks the past summer was three hundred. A great many wrecks have occurred in Fortune Bay. There were about twenty-five American vessels buying frozen herrings in Fortune Bay in February, in poor success.

The outfits at St. John's the present season for the seal fishery amount to 43 vessels, and from the outports to 142. The steamer *Ariel*, which arrived at St. John's from the western coast, brought intelligence that fair prospects existed for a successful winter codfishery. The herring fishing in Fortune Bay has resulted favourably. Since the first of January the export of fish has been 57,873 quintals short of that of last year, in the same period. Imports are on a small scale, and in consequence flour is very scarce, and has advanced in price. The quantity imported shows a deficiency of nearly 25,000 barrels as compared with last year. Pork is short of about 2,400 barrels, bread 3722 cwts., butter 762 cwts., rum 272 puncheons, molasses 1150 puncheons, sugar 2800, and tobacco 77,000 pounds. A statement laid on the table of the House discloses the fact that during the past 5 years 3563 sheep, 30 cows, 8 calves, 8 horses and 26 goats, were destroyed by dogs in various parts of the island.

NASSAU AND BERMUDA.

We give an extract from a private letter from Nassau, dated March 10, which says:—

"You have no idea of the destitution that has prevailed here since the blockade business suspended. Hundreds of stout, able-bodied men were literally starving. Things became so bad that the Governor had to call a public meeting and address the men, and since then about 200 have been shipped off at Government expense for the United States and England. Almost all the merchants here are closing business and reshipping their goods, and the harbor is almost bare."

These few sentences give an accurate picture of the condition of Nassau at the present time, and to a certain extent the port of Bermuda. Seldom has there been instanced such a striking example of the precariousness of trade as in these islands. Up to the outbreak of the American War, the trade of New Providence and Bermuda amounted to little more than was necessary to meet the wants of the inhabitants and the garrisons stationed there; but suddenly, with the commencement of the blockade business, a new era dawned, and the quiet spots of earth, where a little arrow-root and a few vegetables were raised, resounded with the hum of extraordinary business activity. Steamers and sailing vessels swarmed in the little harbors, the wharves were piled with cotton and merchandize, and active with seamen and laborers; lines of vessels communicated with other West India islands and with ports on both sides of the Atlantic; large first-class hotels were erected and could not begin to accommodate the guests who applied, although their charges were exorbitant; every nook and cranny was filled with adventurers, all of whom, who desired it, readily found employment at unusual wages; shops were repeatedly emptied of their stores of goods for shipment to the Confederate States; immense fortunes were quickly realized, and the people had certainly fallen upon "flush times." But all this has now passed away. The closing of the Confederate ports was a death-blow to the trade and prosperity of the ports. They enjoyed golden gains, but these were fleeting and transitory. The change that has taken place is striking beyond comparison. Those who were employed as seamen, labourers, &c., by the blockade-runners, are experiencing great distress, and their escape to the United States scarcely improves their condition, for, by a recent proclamation of the United States authorities, they are liable to arrest and imprisonment as soon as they land. Bermuda will suffer less than Nassau, for it has long been the resort of invalids and tourists, and, besides, is a way station on the Royal mail line between the West Indies and England, via Halifax. The prospects of Nassau now are discouraging enough.

ACCIDENT BY FIRE.—The residence of John Archibald McDonald, Esqr., Glenaladale, Township No. Thirty-five, was destroyed by fire on Friday, the 14th, at the hour of 3 o'clock in the afternoon, by a spark falling from the chimney on the roof. Many articles of furniture were saved from the ruins by the kind assistance of the neighbours who flocked to the spot.

The Halifax Evening Express of the 7th says:—

"A despatch dated March 18, 1865, received by the last steamer from England, and laid before both branches of the Legislature this week, states that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received from Her Majesty's Charge d' Affaires at Washington, a copy of a note from Mr. Seward, expressing the wish of the United States Government that the labors of the Fishery Commissioner, established under the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, may be terminated as soon as possible; and Lord Russell has consequently instructed Mr. Howe, the British Commissioner, to report how soon it will be possible to close the Commission."