Alarmed by this, a nobleman present suggested that it would be well to go up to the top of the castle, and descend by the staircase which opened into Charles's room. The suggestion was followed without anybody speaking. One after the other they mounted the stairs which led to the summit, the noise of their own feet drowning all external sounds till they halted to unfasten the bolts which secured the trap-door, which was the same Captain Whitehead had in vain tried to raise from the outside. Then it was that some indistinct idea of what was going forward arose in their minds. The bolts were hastily drawn back, the door dashed violently upwards, and each man sprang on the platform with the agility of a tiger. The group of conspirators were so intently occupied in watching or aiding the efforts of Captain Whitehead to detach a stone, that three or four of Charles's friends were on the platform and had heard his cries for help before they were perceived. The conspirators had *no time to consider whether to fight or fly*, for the cavaliers were upon them, hewing and striking almost at random. The struggle was a momentary one, the conspirators being either forced over the parapet and crushed by their fall on the rocks below, or struck to the ground and left for dead. Captain Whitehead and Turner were the only two who made what could be termed a resistance, but the latter was soon overcome; a blow from an axe fell on his forehead, and the blood rushed into his eyes. He made a feeble attempt to press it out with the fingers of his left hand, but while in the act of doing it he received stabs and blows sufficient to have destroyed life in an elephant. The leader of the conspirators sold his life at a dearer rate; but he, too, fell like the rest before the number of his assailants. In the meantime some of the cavaliers, as soon as they perceived the position of the prince, had been engaged in rescuing him, which was not a difficult matter, with the aid of the rope ladder. He had managed to get his foot in the ring, and thus sustained himself without much fatigue; but his hands were bruised and bleeding from the way in which they had been crushed *between the chain and the wall*. Notwithstanding his wounds, and the effects of the terror he must have felt, he did not suffer himself to be taken down the stairs till he had examined the faces of the dead men who lay on the platform. On seeing the face of the man known as Captain Whitehead, he ordered his body to be put aside from the rest, and the next day he directed it to be taken to the nearest churchyard and buried.

I think (concluded the old gentleman), that you will agree with me, that this was one of the narrowest escapes Charles ever had. But this is not the only way in which that chain is connected with the prince. Years afterwards, Dean Bandinel and his son, who were charged with being accessories to the murder of his father, Charles I., were sent here as prisoners; and in their attempt to escape, by means of a rope fastened to that same chain, one was dashed to death and the other dreadfully maimed.

# FOREIGN NEWS.

## THE TERRIBLE FIRE AT SANTIAGO, CHILI.—THE CHURCH OF THE JESUITS BURNED, WITH OVER 2000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Panama correspondence contains accounts of the frightful catastrophe which occurred *at the Church of the Jesuits in Santiago*, Chili, on the night of the 8th December, 1863, during the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. We copy the narrative as given by various correspondents of the New York papers:—

On December 8, 1863, was celebrated throughout the Catholic world the Feast of the Conception of the Virgin. In Chili the "Month of Mary" (celebrated elsewhere in May) ends with that evening.

The church of the Campania, built the latter half of the seventeenth century, possessed a spacious nave, but a roof that dated only from fifteen years ago, of painted timber. The only door of easy access to the congregation was the principal one in the centre, the small doors leading into the aisles being opened only half way, and obstructed by screens. Near the high altar there was a little door communicating with the sacristy.

A few minutes before 7 o'clock more than 3000 women and a few hundred men knelt in that church, crammed to overflowing.

The church was gorgeously ornamented and illuminated by more than ten thousand lights. Of these the most remarkable was a crescent of gas jets at the foot of a colossal statue of the Virgin, on the high altar. It had just been lighted, and, whether from carelessness in lighting or from too much pressure in the meter, the blaze flew up to an inordinate height, and in a moment the thousand altar ornaments were on fire.

The suddenness of the fire was awful. The dense mass of women, frightened out of their senses, numbers fainting, and all entangled by their long swelling dresses, rushed, as those who knew that death was at their heels, to the one door, which soon became choked up. Fire was everywhere. Streaming along the wooden ceiling, it flung the camphene lamps, hung in rows there, among the struggling women.

In a moment the gorgeous church was a sea of flame. Michael Angelo's fearful picture of hell was there, but exceeded. Help was all but impossible; a Hercules might have strained his strength in vain to pull one from the serried mass of frenzied wretches, who, piled one above another, as they climbed over to reach the air, wildly fastened the grip of death upon any one escaping, in order that they might be dragged out with them. Those who longed to save them were doomed to bear the most harrowing sight that ever seared human eyeballs—to see mothers, sisters, tender and timid women, dying that dreadful death, that appalled the stoutest heart of man, within one yard of salvation, within one yard of men who would have given their lives over and over again for them. It was maddening—the screaming and ringing of hands for help as the remorseless flames came on; and then, while some already dead with fright were burned in ghastly indifference, others in their horrible agony—some in prayer, were tearing their hair and battering their faces. Women, seized in the embraces of the flames, were seen to undergo a transformation as though by an optical delusion—first dazzlingly bright, then horribly lean and shrunk up, then black statues, rigidly fixed in a writhing attitude.

Within a few steps of the main door, fronting upon the plaza, was a group of perhaps two hundred, from the white haired and venerable woman to the infant of tender years. On the right hand knelt a beautiful girl of some seventeen years, as yet untouched by the eager flames that poured down from above, and by her side her sister and mother, locked in each other's arms, within the reach of those without, who ever and anon dashed recklessly through the scorching doorway and ineffectually grasped the clothing or limbs of the nearest. Writhing with terror, the horrible group swayed to and fro, the weaker gradually sinking forward and falling, never to rise again, while the stronger battled with desperate energy to reach the saving hands that struggled as desperately to reach them. But all was in vain, and in an awfully brief space of time the wall of flame became impassible; the centre floor of the church was a sea of fire, fed by the clothing of the victims and intensified by the dropping lamps.

Another account says: Many had escaped; some few were saved by the superhuman efforts of those from the outside; but soon the mass of shrieking victims before the doors had become so compact that no strength of man was able to break it, and in the efforts arms were actually torn from their sockets.

The struggle within must have been fearful, since those who were saved were dragged out completely naked, and many have since died. In a brief half hour after the breaking out of the fire the whole interior of the church was a lake of flame, rising far above the heads of the shrieking sufferers, while the hundreds of bodies massed immovably together burned like so many blocks of wood.

Through the lurid flames arms could be seen extended *in supplication*, mothers folding their daughters to their burning breasts, and, while the hellish light painted up the distorted features, loud above the roar of the crackling rafters and rushing flame rose the commingled shrieks of over two thousand victims. Dante, in his wildest vision, never dreamed of such a hell as this. Had the roof fallen in now, what suffering had been spared! The fire reached the doors. Effort after effort was made to break the compact but still living mass.

Those in the centre perceived the progress of the flames first, while those nearer the doors hoping the fire would be extinguished, were unwilling to risk losing their places. The consequence was that those from the centre, rushing to the doors, came in mass upon those near the doorways while yet seated or kneeling on the floor. The latter were unable to move in consequence, the former fell over them, the next behind fell on these, and so on, until about the doors a wall of human bodies, entangled in one another's dresses, completely choked up every avenue of escape into the street. The fire meanwhile was progressing overhead as if through tinder. The paraphene lamps fell from aloft, discharging their inflamable contents on the ill-fated victims, wrapping them in an instant in flames.

Strong, robust men were seen struggling *to extricate themselves*, but *in vain*; and all this within a few feet of hundreds of spectators! Trees in the plaza were cut down and thrust in over the burning heads, but it was too late. The smaller branches were almost immediately reduced to ashes, or when the body of the tree was withdrawn, those branches taken hold of remained in the victims' hands.

It will seem scarcely credible that any yet lived; and so it was. A moment more, however, and all was over. Amid the flames blackened heads might be seen swaying to and fro, *then falling from the shoulders*. The mass near the door was now immovable in death, and hundreds of the coal-black statues retained their kneeling posture.

At last the roof fell in with a crash like mighty thunder. The gorgeous belfry still stood, and, wrapped in flames, made the scene around as bright as noonday, and then, with a dull, sodden sound, the mammoth bells fell from their high places.

The scene without the church baffles all description. Every house far and near was crowded with the dying and the dead. In one hour from *the breaking out of the flames* all was over. Of the two thousand beautiful women of Santiago there remained but a hideous mass of reeking and carbonized corpses, and not a single family in the city but was left to mourn some lost one.

Very many of the corpses were found with only the head and arms burned; but as the clothes in most cases were burned, it was impossible to recognize them.

# UNITED STATES.

## THE GREAT STORM AND SEVERE FROST AT THE WEST.

The Chicago *Tribune* of the 4th inst. devotes seven columns to an account of the blockading snow storms and intensely cold weather which have been experienced in all the Western States. The railroads were blocked in every direction, many trains being stopped midway of their journey, and the passengers exposed to great suffering from cold. A train on the Michigan Central road got stuck thirteen miles from Chicago, and the Cleveland *Herald* gives the following account of the sufferings of the passengers:

"The cars on that road were provided with patent stoves, which will burn only when the cars are in motion, and consequently when the cars stopped the fires went out. The weather was intensely cold, the thermometer being thirty-two degrees below zero, and the sufferings of the passengers became intense, particularly those of the women and children. No fire could be started for a sufficient length of time to do any good. The top of the pipe would become red hot and set fire to the car several times, which was only put out by cutting away the woodwork.

There were five passenger cars in the train, well filled—about one hundred and fifty in all, a large number of whom were women and children. What added to the dreariness of the scene, as the night wore on, was that the lights as well as the fire gave out, the cold increased in intensity, and the snow became four or five feet in depth, in huge drifts. By this time all the passengers became completely chilled through. The women and children were elevated on the top of the seats, where the air was warmer, and everything done for their comfort that could be; but without fire, lights or food, out on a bleak prairie, their suffering was terrible.

They lay there from Thursday afternoon till Friday morning, when a train on the Michigan Southern road arrived, which also became blockaded, and could proceed no further. Preparations were immediately made to remove the passengers to the Michigan Southern cars where warmth could be procured. A perfect stampede occurred, passengers fearing they would be left. Many of the women and children were unable to help themselves, and had to be carried from one car to the other. They remained on the Michigan Southern cars till Saturday night, suffering from the cold and want of food. They were finally taken off by sleighs and carried to Chicago.

There were none frozen to death, but large numbers were badly frost-bitten, some so severely that they will lose their hands or feet. The officers of both trains did everything that could possibly be done under the circumstances for the comfort of passengers, and the two conductors are thought to be so badly frozen that they will never get over it.

It was impossible to do anything to relieve the trains from the blockade, as no human being could stand the severity of the extreme cold for more than a minute or two without becoming entirely benumbed."

The transfer of the passengers to the Michigan Southern train is thus described by a correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*:

"A distance of three hundred yards, more or less, was to be traversed. The snow was deeply drifted. The snow and frost laden with wind was sweeping the path like a storm of grape. But it was announced that the passengers would be taken to the city if they would instantly make an effort to reach the Southern train. Haste was necessary in order that the engines might not freeze up before we could get started. 'Don't a man of you start without taking a woman or a child with you,' shouted Carter. 'Wrap up, wrap up, close,' shouted Butterfield, who in his anxiety for others forgot himself and froze his face, nose and ears—and women and children undertook the terrible passage. Cold as it was in the air, those who had not had occasion to expose themselves to the storm previously knew little of the ordeal through which they must pass in order to reach the other train. Strong men fell by the way—frail women dropped down unable to step, and were caught up in the strong arms of men and hurried to the cars insensible. Children, half clad, were rescued half-frozen.

Few who attempted the journey escaped being frost-bitten. White noses, ears, faces and hands marked most of the Central passengers and many of the Southern ones, who had nobly rendered aid in the transfer. The scenes in those cars, as the frozen passengers were helped in, beggars description. Men with frozen features rushed out for snow with which to extract the frost from the feet and hands and faces of the women and children, forgetting their own condition until made conscious of it by the painful tingling which follows neglect in such cases. Children were crying, women moaning and fainting, men shouting and rushing hither and thither, with snow and liquors."

A despatch to the Chicago *Tribune* from St. Louis states that on the North Missouri Railroad, 10,000 hogs have frozen to death, and an immense number of cattle have frozen along all the railroads. In the city several persons have died from a similar cause, and the sufferings of the poor reported to the authorities surpass belief. In Wisconsin trains were hedged in by snow drifts and remained for hours, unable to move. At Madison, on the 2d, the mercury was 39 degrees below zero. At Camp Randall the supply of wood became exhausted, and a large number of soldiers were badly frozen. At Oshkosh the mercury fell 38 below, one woman was frozen, and frozen hands and feet were numerous. At Milwaukee the thermometer ranged from 30 to 35 below zero, with a driving wind most terrible to encounter. Frozen ears, noses and feet are innumerable, and many persons were picked up insensible on the streets. Ears and feet were frozen while going but a few blocks. Many employes of the railroads were badly frozen and crippled for life, and railroad travel was entirely suspended.

At Springfield, Ill., all railroad communication was suspended, with no prospect of being resumed for several days. The weather was bitter cold. Several soldiers froze to death at Camp Yates. A stage driver was found dead on his box, supposed to have frozen to death.

Dispatches of similar tenor from various points in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin are published, showing the weather to have been terribly severe. In some places the snow drifted to a depth of twelve feet.

Of the storm generally the *Tribune* says:

"From the eastern boundaries of Ohio to the plains of Kansas; from the extreme south of Illinois to the northern limits of Michigan and Wisconsin, the storm has raged in uncontrolled fury. The vast expanse of territory known as the 'Northwest' has been bowed down by its visitation. Like the sirocco of the desert it has taken in its broad sweep almost a continent, and devastation has marked its course. On the level prairies of Illinois the storm has held high carnival, no natural barrier interposed to check its progress; it has levelled all before it in one fell swoop. For days—perhaps weeks—the sad record will meet with constant accessions, as from places situated outside of the regular line of railroad and telegraph communication the details will arrive. Scores, perhaps hundreds of persons will have been lost, their property destroyed, and their homes left desolate. Never since the bitter cold and snows of the winters of 1854, 1855 and 1856 have we experienced a storm anything like that whose fury has just been experienced. Indeed it has surpassed those bitter visitations, for although the snow was deeper the wind was not so strong nor the cold so severe. Then but a few persons were seriously injured. Now we have a great number who have lost the use of their limbs from the frost bite, and some have been lost."

## NAVAL AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

We notice in some of the American and Colonial papers a document which purports to be a report of the Secretary of the Navy for the Confederate States. If authentic, it certainly does not give a very encouraging view of naval matters in "Dixie." We can make room for only the following extracts:—

### REVOLUTION OF FEELING IN EUROPE AGAINST THE CONFEDERATES.

In this connection, it is proper for me to state that the great revulsion in popular sentiment, both in England and France, towards the Confederate Government, has rendered our efforts to obtain supplies from those countries almost abortive. In view of all possible contingencies, I have instructed the agents of this Department to wait a more favourable opportunity for carrying out the instructions previously forwarded. By the last I sent instructions that will shortly be made apparent to our enemies nearer home. I do not deem it advisable to communicate any portion of these plans to your honorable body at the present time, for reasons perfectly satisfactory to the President.

### CAPT. SEMMES AND THE 'ALABAMA.'

Although the operations of our navy have not been extensive, I cannot overlook the services of Capt. Semmes in the Alabama. During the year he has captured upwards of ninety vessels, seventy of which were destroyed, the others being either bonded or released.

One of the greatest drawbacks this officer reports having experienced is the difficulty he now has in procuring full supplies of coal.—The provincial English authorities have *hitherto afforded him every facility*, but recently they have interpreted their neutrality laws so stringently that our war vessels and privateers are much embarrassed in obtaining suitable supplies. I have instructed Capt. Semmes to purchase coal from neutral ship masters wherever he found it, and give them every necessary document to protect them against the effect such sale may have upon their vessels when they return to their several countries. By this means I anticipate a sufficient supply of coal will be obtained to enable him to continue his operations during the coming year.

The other operations of this department have been chiefly confined to making such preparations for naval operations as circumstances might permit. From time to time I have caused surveys to be made upon steamers running the blockade, with a view of purchasing such as could be made available as war vessels. Several have been bought, and are now being transformed into ships of war. For the armament of these vessels it will be necessary that Congress should make an additional appropriation. Appropriations will also be required to conduct our naval operations during the coming year. The estimated expenditure of the department for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1864, will amount to $27,249,860, in addition to $14,024,016, remaining to the credit of this department in the Treasury. Since my last annual report, the expenditure for the navy has been $25,412,645. The great disproportion of officers in our service to the seamen enrolled is a matter requiring the legislation of Congress.

The total number of commissioned officers at present attached to the Confederate navy is three hundred and eighty-three. The petty officers number one hundred and ninety-one, while the roll of sailors gives a return of eight hundred and seventy-seven, not including those on board vessels now at sea, accurate rolls not having been transmitted. In conclusion, I must add my testimony to the gallantry and efficiency of our navy, who have nobly sustained our cause under many trying circumstances. The proud spirit of our officers chafes at the inaction they are compelled to endure; and I trust Congress will make provision for increasing the efficiency of this department, and permitting it to undertake more offensive measures against the enemy.

### 6 TURRETTED IRON-CLADS WANTED.

In conclusion, I would recommend the immediate passage of an act authorising the construction of at least six turretted iron-clads for harbour operations. The experience of the past year has demonstrated that such vessels are absolutely necessary, if we expect to break through and destroy the blockade at present established by the enemy.

THE IRISH IN THE NORTH.—The opinion held of Irishmen in the North—the men who have done the best part of the fighting against the South—is thus indicated by the Chicago *Tribune*, an organ of the radical party:—The negroes, without bounty and with half the pay of white soldiers, have put more men in the field than the Irish, twice or thrice over. When the war is over and the Union is saved, the honor and glory of preserving free institutions, and maintaining the great republic intact will be parcelled out among the different classes of men. The native arms will get a share large enough to satisfy *their utmost desire*; the Germans will come in for a slice; so of the Scandanavians and the Scotchmen; and the poor and despised negroes will have a large niche set apart in the shining temple to hold their part of the glory. But the smallest of all, in proportion to their numbers, will be due to the Irish."

ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.—It is said that this great man had for eight or ten years past been a great sufferer. A body, naturally robust, seemed, when health was once interrupted, to give way with unusual rapidity. It is the natural constitution of man that the mind sympathises with the body, and the later public utterances of the distinguished Archbishop have not been up to the mark of his former sparkling newspaper contributions, nor of his pulpit eloquence.

Wilkes' Spirit of the Times, at the close of a long, lachrymose and abusive article, pays the following tribute to King:

King is the sole person who comes out of this most disgraceful muddle entirely unsullied. It may be said, so far as he is concerned, he gained the victory fairly on his merits, and that in his triumph the best man won. Modest, brave, loyal to his backers, he went into his task duly impressed with the gravity of the performance. He did not allow himself to be discouraged because he got a few hard thumps about the head, or even because he was knocked into a trance; but facing danger always, fought at it and through it like a dutiful young fellow, brought safely back to his friends, the large sum with which they had entrusted him. That was the result of pluck, and we say all credit to him.

APPREHENDED ATTACK ON SAVANNAH.—The Richmond *Whig* says:—"Some of our Southern exchanges are apprehensive of an attack on Savannah as part of the enemy's programme on the coast during the winter. This is inferred from certain recent movements at Hilton Head, which seem to indicate a concentration of force for that purpose. Others are of opinion that the movements on which the apprehension is based are designed as a feint, and if a blow is intended it will be delivered elsewhere. The most plausible reason in favor of an attack on Savannah is, that it would constitute a base of operations against Charleston."

THE WILMINGTON BLOCKADE.—The loss of the blockade-running steamer Dare, of Wilmington, is confirmed. The Richmond papers say the vessel had on board a valuable cargo, a considerable portion of which was intended for the Virginia Military Institute, the State Armory, and the Capitol. Thesestores consisted of cloth, boots and shoes, stationery, emery, sand paper, &c. The part of the cargo intended for the State was purchased in Europe by a special agent of the State government. The loss to the Virginia Military Institute alone amounts to £2000 English currency.

A writer on the present condition of Ireland says:—"In England there are 62 individuals to every 100 statute acres, and in Ireland only 34 to the 100. If we were a food-producing country, as we ought to be, we could employ 62 individuals to every 100 acres, exempting women and children from the number employed. The property and income charged in 1861 was—in England, £253,647,054; Scotland, £24,952,471; Ireland, £22,746,343, making in England, £12 12s. 10d a head; Scotland, £8 3s. a head; and Ireland, £3 18s. 6d a head. It is evident from these figures that Ireland, for fiscal purposes, is badly worked, and, like one of her own neglected farms, *yields a much smaller crop of taxes than she ought*. Taking population for our basis, we find the income of Ireland, with even her present diminished numbers, ought, in the ratio of Scotland, to be at least £48,000,000, and in the ratio of England £73,000,000, instead of £22,000,000, as at present. Suppose the latter. What an important reduction it would effect in the rate of taxation in the United Kingdom! For instance, an extension of the basis of taxation from £301,000,000 to £350,000,000 would reduce our present income tax of 7d. in the pound to 6d. Moreover, our indirect taxation would be lessened, as there would be a considerable increase in Ireland in the consumption of tea, sugar, and other articles which are the media of indirect taxation. All this is matter for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the taxpayers of the United Kingdom.

# COLONIAL.

GENEROUS.—The Hon Edward Kenny has given the munificent donation of £100 to the Society of St. Vincent of Paul, in this city, for the relief of the destitute poor visited by its members.—*Halifax paper.*

A good deal of sickness prevails in this city among adults as well as children, occasioned probably by remarkably sudden transitions in the weather from mild to frosty.—*Halifax paper.*

The Hillsboro *Advocate* states that the Right Rev. Dr Sweeney, Roman Catholic Bishop of St. John, has commenced work on his Reformatory. "His Grace has secured a fine farm on the Memramcook and the services of a trained and efficient staff for its management, and it is expected the Institution will be put in operation in the Spring." This looks like business.

The Windsor (C. W.) *Herald* records a terrible catastrophe which recently occurred in Sandwich East, where there is a settlement of colored people planted under the auspices of an Emancipation Society. A poor colored woman, with five children, the eldest nine years of age, occupied a log cabin, and a few days before the sad calamity occurred the mother was seized with the small-pox. The neighbours would not go near the house, and left the little ones to provide for themselves during the extremely cold weather. On New Year's Eve, the hut caught fire, and so great was the fear of the disease amongst the neighbors that none would venture to assist, but left the unfortunate inmates to their fate. The mother and two children were burned to death; two were frozen to death at the ruins of the house; while the eldest girl escaped from the burning shanty and ran towards a neighbor's house, but before she could reach any place of refuge she sank under the influence of cold and froze to death. When the body was found it was perfectly naked.

MURDER IN CAPE BRETON.—On Friday last, the 15th inst., a sad occurrence took place at the Glace Bay Mines, (15 miles from Sydney,) of which Henry Poole, Esq., is the Agent. It appears that there has been a quarrel of some standing between Donald McPhersen and Peter Ellworth, both natives of Cape Breton. They happened on the night of the day in question to meet accidentally at one of those grog shops where so much crime originates. They both indulged somewhat freely in liquor, and then left for their respective residences, within a short distance of each other. About midnight, cries were heard outside of Neil Stewart's house, where Ellworth boarded; and almost at the same time Ellworth obtained admittance, and Stewart saw outside a body lying on the ground. Ellworth brought in the body of McPherson, which was placed on the hearth, and on close examination, the face was found to be horribly mutilated by some severe blows, which Ellworth admitted to have himself inflicted with the heels of his boots—life was extinct. Ellworth effected his escape, although there were two or three men in the house, who had not the presence of mind to secure *him*. After acknowledging his guilt, he went deliberately into another room to his trunk, whence he took a pistol.

A Coroner's inquest was held over the body on Saturday last, and a verdict of Wilful Murder was returned against Peter Ellworth. He is still at large, and the efforts of the constables have been thus far fruitless. He is a young man, of about 25 years old, and his reputation has always been bad. The victim was about the same age.—*Halifax Reporter, Jan. 23.*

# LATER FROM EUROPE.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Jan. 19.

*Columbia*, from Galway, 6th, arrived at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

*Times* publishes letter from secession correspondent, Spence, Liverpool, in which writer admits North has made progress, but not in proportion to cost. He contends next campaign will reveal greater difficulties for North, and that financial policy must sooner or later collapse.

Palmerston unable to attend the Cabinet Council, 2d, owing to attack of gout.

Anglo Chinese fleet fitted out by Capt. Osborne was returning to England for sale, Prince Kung having refused to carry out bargain. Stated Parliament will meet Feb. 4th.

At a meeting relative to Great Eastern, it was said projected lottery for ship at Frankfort was proceeding with great spirit, shares rapidly taken up in England. It was also said French and American Governments were expected to bid for ship at auction 14th January.

Announced that four first class screw steamers, 2,500 tons, are to be placed on the line between London and New York by British and American Steam Navigation Company in March.

MEXICAN QUESTION.—*Memorial Diplomatique* confidently re-asserts that Archduke Maxmilian will accept and occupy Mexican throne. Understanding between Archduke and Napoleon is said to be excellent, and it is said that capitalists overwhelm Archduke with offers of money on the simple gurantee of his accession to the throne.

*Daily News* says it is understood extraordinary mission of Marshall Forey to Washington had for its result an understanding on the part of United States Government not to disturb new Mexican Monarchy. In return it is believed promises were made by France with regard to attitude of that country towards Confederate States. *Daily News* also states that Archduke and Archduchess are expected very shortly to visit Napoleon at Paris, whence they proceed to St. Nazaire to embark in an Austrian frigate, attended by a French man-of-war, for Vera Cruz.

HOLSTEIN QUESTION.—Danish troops completely evacuated Holstein, including the six villages north of Eiber, which are geographically part of Schelswig but had been incorporated with Holstein.

London *Times* remarks that scarcely can it be said that peace is yet unbroken. Federal execution in Holstein distinguishable only by most discrimination from reality of war, and is impossible to tell how long this shadowy distinction may be maintainad.

Austrian proposal to Federal Diet that Prince Augustenberg be immediately summoned to leave the Duchies was rejected, nine to seven.

King of Denmark reached Flausburg on visit to his army in Schleswig.

POLAND.—Russia imposed on Poland fresh contribution of six million roubles, of which two and a half millions fall on Warsaw.

LATEST.—*Copenhagen*, 5th.—Danish Government called out 14,000 reserve troops. Proclamation of King to army says, "New Year finds you in arms for defence of country. Our motto is honor of country, and it shall be upheld with peace, or if necessary by force of arms. No life too precious for salvation of Fatherland. From former struggles army retained experienced leaders whom young troops will follow with enthusiasm. Courage, not numbers always lead to victory.

VERY LATEST VIA GALWAY.—Confirmed Maxmillian will visit Paris and reach Mexico before end of March with requisite reinforcements.

Holstein question shows increasing embitterment.

*Times* continues to take gloomy views: says Germans are watching still upon events, while events threaten more and more to be master rather than guide.

Address to Napoleon was introduced in Corps Legislatiff 4th. It expresses hopes beneficent results may speedily be derived by France from Chinese and Mexican expeditions; is very pacific in tone towards Russia on Polish question, and loudly extols Emperor's scheme for Congress.

Rebel steamer *Florida* completed repairs at Brest, anchored about 200 yards from *Kersage*, will sail in February. French will accompany each at 24 hours interval.

Indictment against King and Heenan removed into Court of Queen's Bench.


# The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 1, 1864.


# LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

BY STEAMSHIP *CANADA*.

THE R. M. S. *Canada* arrived at Halifax, on Monday evening last, 25th January, after rather a long passage. Her latest dates from Liverpool are to the 9th, from Queenstown to the 10th. There is not much important news, except as regards the increasing probabilities of a war from the unsettled state of the Holstein question.

Princess of Wales gave birth to a son at Frogmore 8th; all going on most favorably.

Frankfort Senate refused authorization to draw lottery for 'Great Eastern' steamer and demanded from Frankfort consul at Liverpool an account of his connection with the scheme.

Dr. Turton, Bishop of Ely, died 7th.

Parliament formally prorogued till 4th February, then to meet for despatch of business.

Investigation into stranding of steamer 'Anglia' in Galway Bay concluded. Court, though blaming Capt. Prowse somewhat for running in at night, had pleasure in returning his certificate.

FRANCE.—Four suspected conspirators were arrested in Paris. They had arrived from England. Three are Italians named Tambuco, Greeco, and Imperatorio; fourth assumed name, evidently false. Asserted one made complete avowal of criminal object of conspiracy.

ITALY.—*Garibaldi's resignation of seat formally* communicated to Italian Parliament 7th, several members urged its non-acceptance, but it was finally accepted together with resignation of other members of the "Left."

London *Morning Advertiser* states on the best authority that the recent proclamation attributed *to Garibaldi is a forgery*, and Garibaldi disowns it.

## LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

The ten men charged with piracy and murder on board the "Flowery Land," were brought up and remanded.

PARIS, 9th.—The four Italian conspirators arrested came from Italy not from London.

India Mail from Bombay, Dec. 14th, Calcutta, Dec. 5th, forwarded per "Canada." Asserted disaffection on Punjaub frontier greatly exaggerated; is mere repetition of trifling frontier war such as fought twenty times since annexation of Punjaub.

## PROSPECTS OF WAR.

The orders which have been given by the First Lord of the Admiralty, for the return of the Channel Fleet to a port in the United Kingdom, are generally regarded as an indication that we may be immediately involved in a war in which our navy may have to play a prominent part. Lord Wodehouse is coming back from Copenhagen, the main object of his mission unaccomplished, and the state of affairs between Germany and Denmark looks more and more unsatisfactory. If diplomacy has no more resources in reserve, there may be a winter campaign in Schleswig. The Germans do not believe that England will go to war with them for the sake either of Denmark or of the Treaty of 1852; they believe France to be indifferent, and Russia slack in the matter, and so they do their utmost to drive things to a climax. If Astræa, the Goddess of Peace and Justice, before she took leave of the earth, had left behind her an epistle for the guidance of the human race, then about to plunge into that era of war and strife in which they have ever since been more or less busily engaged, she could hardly use terms more pacific, more conciliatory, and more re-assuring than those which we find in the Address of the French Legislative Chamber. If France be really eager for the maintenance of peace, why does she not summon the European Powers to abide by the stipulations of the Treaty of 1852? Why does she not warn the German States contiguous to her frontier, over whom she can always exercise a most powerful influence, to pause in the wicked and senseless act of lighting a conflagration which must sooner or later involve all Europe in a blaze? The Emperor of the French shows no inclination. England will have none of his Congress, and he in return will have none of hers. The wheel of time has quickly brought round its revenges, and in order, perhaps, to gratify a feeling of wounded self-love and to retort on an uncourteous ally, the safety of Europe is fearfully imperilled. Whatever be the motives of the Emperor of the French in adopting an ultra-pacific tone and a policy for the moment of non-interference, there can be no doubt that such a line of conduct at this time is much more than any other favourable to the darling schemes of French ambition. Once let the Powers of Europe be involved in a war with each other, and the day has arrived when France has nothing to do but to put forth her strength in order to attain any object of her policy which she may desire.

Some of the German Powers appear to think that the attitude of the Pretender, the Duke of Augustenburg, will tend to thwart their own projects. The *Vienna Gazette* publishes, under the form of correspondence from Dresden, a complete indictment against the Prince. It accuses him of having tried to disturb, in a territory of the confederation, the state of possession guaranteed by Article 20 of the final agreement, and of erecting for a private individual a personal government, which has not received Federal sanction. Moreover—and this is the offence which at Vienna will be pardoned the least—he is reproached with speaking in the name of legitimacy and of nationality, whilst he relies on the agitating committee established at Frankfort by the Abegeorduetentag, and is eager to obtain the intercession of a foreign sovereign in an affair which Germany wishes to settle *en famille*. In Holstein the federal commissioners seek to regain the authority which had escaped them. A telegram published by the *Presse* of Vienna says that they have received new instructions enjoining them to tolerate no act of Government on the part of the Pretender, and no demonstrations which would tend to anticipate the future decisions of the Diet.

Prince Matternich has handed M. Drouyn de Lhuys a despatch from Count Rechberg, stating, in reference to a proposition from the English Cabinet, that Austria is disposed to agree to a conference at Paris to regulate the affairs of Denmark. Some days back the Chevalier Nigra is also reported to have placed in the hands of M. Drouyn de Lhuys the reply of the Italian Government to the proposal of a restricted Congress with a defined programme. The reply accepts, but King Victor Emmanuel bases his acceptance upon the condition that accomplished facts in Italy since 1859 shall be admitted, and that the rights of Italy shall be accepted in principle—referring, it is believed, to Rome and Venice.

Advices from Venetia state that thousands of proclamations, signed by the Comitato d'Azioni are in circulation in the towns of the provinces, and positively announce a general rising for the 6th of January.

They call to arms every man capable of bearing them and of contributing to the expulsion of the barbarians. They say that a numerous Italian Army will enter Venetia, and that the invincible Garibaldi will plant his banner upon the ramparts of Verona. The papers say that the inhabitants pay little attention to these appeals, the general opinion being that the Comitato d'Azioni is the victim of a hoax.

## THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESNION.

CAUTION BY AUSTRIA TO THE GERMAN STATES.

The semi-official *General Correspondenz* (Vienna) publishes an article cautioning the minor German States against acting against Denmark. It expresses doubts regarding their power to undertake attacks upon the integrity and independence of States belonging to the Confederation, and says:—"The mission of protecting the Confederation against any chances which might result from European complications belongs only to the great German Powers, and the minor States are mistaken if they think to be able to carry out attacks against Denmark and her possible allies on their own risks."

THE ENGLISH NOTE TO THE GERMAN POWERS.

It is stated on reliable authority that on the 28th December the British Government addressed a note to the great German Powers in reference to her position in the Schelswig-Holstein question. The note says that in the opinion of the British Cabinet, it was only while the King of Denmark reigned as absolute monarch that he was in a position to fully satisfy the demands of the German Diet with regard to Schleswig. Since he has been bound in Denmark by a constitution he must take into consideration the wishes of his Danish subjects, and is unable therefore to satisfy the demands of the Diet to their full extent. As regards England she insists upon two points—namely, the integrity of the Danish monarchy, which in the interest of Europe must not be attacked, and the protection which should be given to German subjects in Schleswig.

THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

The *Constitutional*, in an article signed by M. Limayrac upon the Dano-Germanic question, refers to the proposition of a restricted Congress, made by England, and says:—"France will offer no impediments or obstacles to the plan, but every day shows inefficaciousness, and proves the practical utility of the European Congress proposed by the Emperor." The *Temps* says:—"It is rumoured that France will accede to the proposition of England for a conference on the question of the Duchies."

## THE LAND QUESTION.

No. 5.

As respects the Royal Land Commission itself, we are satisfied, that, perhaps, no other three men in British North America, or any where else, could have been found better qualified to discharge the duties which their appointment imposed upon them than the three gentlemen who actually composed it; and we doubt not that, in prosecuting the difficult and delicate enquiries arising out of it, and in arbitrating upon the important interests involved in those enquiries, they were actuated by a sincere desire to do justice to all parties concerned, and "*to restore peace to our disturbed Colony.*" But yet, in nicely considering the composition of the Commission, as representing three several interests, it does appear to us that it was not framed with due regard to those strict principles of equity which ought to have regulated its construction. The separate interests involved in the arbitration were not duly balanced; and the wronged party—the deceived, the oppressed, the shackled tenantry—whose interests ought to have been chiefly regarded in it, had not a representation in the Commission equal to either that of the Proprietors or of the Crown; for those of the Proprietors and those of the Crown were, in a great measure, common or identical. It would, indeed, have been difficult to separate them. As it is quite natural that the party conferring a franchise or privilege should defend the party upon whom it is conferred, in the exercise of it; so it is equally so that the recipient of the favor should stoutly assert and defend the authority or power to confer it of the party from whom it was received. Thus, therefore, he who represented the Crown, and he who represented the Proprietors in the Commission, were mutually bound to support the assumptions and pretensions of each other. As the Commission was composed, it was, in fact, two to one, as against the people; and that this must have been the case, the Award itself fully proves. The interests of the many thousands of the people, dependent upon the adjudication of the Commissioners, appear, by the result, to have been but very lightly regarded when put in competition with those of the Proprietors and the Crown; for, by the Award, every claim or advantage in dispute has been conceded to the Crown and the Proprietors, to the prejudice of the people; and even were those recommendations made in the Report, which, by our Local Government and many of its adherents, are said to be favourable to the tenantry, now, or at any time herefter to be adopted, their operation, as we have, at different times, clearly proved, would scarcely in any case afford a shadow of justice, and would, in most, prove a positive and most serious injury, where they purport to have been intended to confer a boon.

The bias or effect which this "*two-to-one*" composition of the Commission seems to have been calculated to give to their deliberations, appears to be chiefly exhibited in that part of their Report in which they dispose of the question of escheat. After having set forth therein that "constitutionally a Court of Escheat has always existed—that Escheat is incident to the power of the Crown in the administration of the public domain"—and that "repeated applications have been made, at different times, to Her Majesty's Government to consent to measures to deprive the proprietors under the original grants of their estates, on account of their having escheated to the Crown, by reason of the non-fulfilment of conditions," and that "the applications have been resisted on grounds with which the correspondence between successive Secretaries of State and Lieutenant Governors of Prince Edward Island," have rendered all concerned 'sufficiently familiar'—they "report and award, that at the present time there should be no escheat of the original grants for non-performance of conditions as to settlement." And the grounds on which they justify and sustain this Report and Award are, that although "the original grants were improvident and ought never to have passed; although they were all liable to forfeiture for breach of conditions with respect to settlement and might have been escheated; although all the grants might have been practically annulled by the enforcement of quit rent, and that the lands could have been seized and sold by the Crown at various times, without the slightest impeachment of its honor"—and although it were "even admitted that the Sovereign was ill-advised, and that the policy adopted from time to time was too lenient and injudicious" (all this, be it observed, the Commissioners themselves most fully admit) "still the Sovereign having not only overlooked the laches of the subjects, but, in express language, having repeatedly confirmed the original grants, it is impossible to encourage any delusion upon a point so important, or to treat the grantees in any other manner than as the lawful possessors of their lands."

If this is sound argument—it this is a fair or rational deduction from the premises—we must confess ourself to be altogether ignorant of logic. What is it but saying that a stubborn persistence in a course of wrong-doing converts it into one of rectitude? What is it but declaring that, though an act was originally wrong and indefensible, and though it has, again and again, been complained of, and redress of the evils which it has inflicted been again and again demanded, yet, since the party from which the wrong originally proceeded, and which all along possessed, and still possesses, the power to redress the evils which have arisen from it, has not only always refused to make the reparation justly demanded of it, but has also, by repeated subsequent acts at different times, upheld and endeavoured to justify the original wrong—therefore it must now be acquiesced in and submitted to as if it had originally been perfectly just and proper. If this is reasoning, it may surely be called *transcendent*: at any rate it far transcends our comprehension. Had the Commissioners said, that though the original grants were improvident, and ought never to have been passed—though the indulgences extended to the grantees, their heirs and assigns, were excessive, and impolitic, and ought never to have been made—and though the grants were liable to forfeiture for breach of conditions, yet, since the Crown had thought proper, for nearly a century, not only to overlook the non-fulfilment of conditions and the various laches on the part of the grantees, their heirs and assigns, whilst having the power to enforce the forfeiture during all that period, but actually had declared that performance should not be required, and had confirmed the grants when liable to forfeiture—we, having duly considered the question in its several relations and bearings, report and award the forfeiture of the original grants to the Crown *for the direct and immediate benefit of the people*; and that the Crown be required to afford, by parliamentary *grant*, such compensation to the proprietors for the deprivation of their estates as on a due consideration of their case it shall seem they are fairly entitled to; no party could justly have complained of their decision.

Such an award as this would have been in perfect accordance with the principles of justice; whereas that which has actually been made, seems to be little or no better than an attempt "to establish mischief by a law."

We are not now advocating the establishment of a Court of Escheat: far from it. But we do say, in contemplation of its being ever found expedient for the well-being of the Colony to create such a tribunal, that it surely could not be found a task of insuperable difficulty so to provide, by previous or anticipatory legislation, for its equitable operation, that not only the interests of the tenants, but the rights of the small freeholders, should, in every instance, be duly protected.

In taking leave of our subject for this week, we will conclude by recording one fact in connection with it; which, remarkable and worthy of being noted, as it is, has, we believe, never yet been brought before the public. It is this: that all the opponents of Escheat, not excepting even the Land Commissioners themselves, appear, in their arguing against it, to have fallen into the very great error of regarding the *public* territory or domain of Prince Edward Island as if it were the *private* property of the Sovereign; and of which the Sovereign, unfettered by any *public* obligations whatever, could, therefore, justly claim a right to dispose as might best suit his own *private* will and pleasure. Whereas—as we have already shewn on most unquestionable authority—Prince Edward Island—a *public* domain, that is *a domain of the people*—cannot *justly* be disposed of by the individual power of the Sovereign, or indeed by any *other power whatever*, in any way which is not evidently for the direct benefit and well-being of the people; any more than the Trustees of the estate of a *public* institution can dispose of that estate or make an appropriation of it, to or for any other end or purpose, than that for the support and furtherance of which it was especially set apart and designed when created. And yet, notwithstanding the positive interdict of the law, which prohibits the diversion of trusts of any and every kind from their specific objects, the *trust* of the public domain of Prince Edward Island, although in the high keeping of the Sovereign, has been diverted from its legitimate destination—*the benefit of the people*—and they, whose duty it was and is to protect and assert the public rights, have been and still are the persons who, on this head, are their most determined opponents. Let the people see to it. On this question, the interest of one is the interest of all; and, if now—even at this late hour—they resolve to be firmly united, and to act in concert, that measure of justice which they have so long and earnestly, but fruitlessly, craved, will not be much longer withheld from them.

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS IN ARMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

WE find the following short article, with the resolutions therein embraced, in *Ross's Weekly* of Thursday last. We heard long since of the large meeting described, and of the determination to offer forcible resistance to the Sheriff and his Officers; but this action having been taken by Government supporters, we felt confident that the matter would be hushed up as much as possible, and we despaired of ever seeing the resolutions in print. We knew they would not be sent to us for publication, and we therefore admire the spirit which prompted Mr. Ross to give them a place in his journal.

The conduct of the Murray Harbour Government belligerents requires not one word of comment from us. They have been so long under