GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

HAVANA.

The arrival of the Black Warrior at New York was announced on the 3d, with a brief summary of her news. We subjoin particulars, some of which are very interesting. The *Pressa de la Habana* of the 25th of April says:

"It appears that the Anglo-American Commodore McCauley, desirous of being present last Sunday to witness the grand review, the Governor and Captain General of the island being informed of his wish, placed at the disposal of the Anglo-American gentleman his coach of state, commissioning one of his adjutants, the Count of Villanueva, to accompany the Commodore in the carriage.

"Accordingly, during the grand review on Sunday, the Anglo-American Commodore McCauley, commanding the Anglo-American steamer San Jacinto, was seen occupying the coach of state, together with the young adjutant of his Excellency the Captain-General.

"During all the time that the troops were defiling, his Excellency's coach was stationed in the square of Isabel II, near the spot occupied by his Excellency the Captain-General and his brilliant staff, and as the troops passed, the Anglo-American Commodore put repeated inquiries to the young Count of Villanueva, who answered them with that fulness and amiable politeness which is peculiar to him. It appears that the Anglo-American Commodore frequently desired to be especially informed when the volunteers should defile before him, and as they arrived, declared that they appeared like veteran troops, and in no manner differed from those of a regular army.

"The Anglo-American Commodore McCauley has been, and is treated everywhere among us, with that Spanish kindness and courtesy which all strangers acknowledge and admire, and which is so grateful to them."

There was nothing new at Havana. No new arrests had been made, and the island was returning to its usual quiet. The Havana correspondent of the Journal of Commerce says:

"It is said that the San Jacinto will remain here until she is relieved, when the Commodore gets weary of our amusements, in which, however, he does not participate much. A magnificent dinner was given in compliment to the Commodore by General Concha, when were invited some of the principal State officers; Captains Stribling and Eagle attended Commodore McCauley; and an American gentlemen of Philadelphia, commended to the attention of the Captain General by the Spanish Legation at Washington, was also present.

"The only Spanish citizen at table not attached to some branch of the public service, was Mr. Morales, the active business head of the house of Drake & Co. The entertainment was, of course, enjoyed, as there is no one so competent as General Concha, assisted by his charming lady, to give social value to the exquisite feast they cater for their guests—having the oversight of Bernard, the Prince of French cooks. We have nothing new in relation to the State prisoners. The health of Havana continues good. No questions have been asked by Commodore McCauley."

BREADSTUFFS.

At the present time, when the subject of bread stuffs occupies the attention of every person in our community, we have much satisfaction in occupying the annexed peice of news from the 'Oswego Palladium' of the 10th April. We hope sincerely the 'cautious miller's' estimate may not prove correct, but that the more cheering intelligence furnished by the 'Buffalo Republic' and the 'Palladium' may be fully sustained during the season:—

"The Rochester Advertiser is informed by one of the most oautious and careful millers of that city, that the aggregate surplus of wheat in all the region of that country in the west whose products will find an Atlantic market through the several routes of Buffalo, Oswego and Ogdensburg, will not exceed one million five hundred thousand bushels This is exclusive of what is expected from Canada.

"We are not aware, says the Buffalo Republic, what means of information the aforesaid careful miller may have, but we know that he is decidedly badly posted up.—From actual observation we know, that the amount come forward and now ready for shipment on the shores of Lake Michigan, is almost 400,000 bus. of wheat, and 100,000 barrels of flour, besides 75,000 barrels at Detroit, 30,000 at Toledo, and about 6,000 bls. at Cleverland. The amount at Sansdusky we have no means of ascertaining. We know further, that another million bushels of wheat, and an additional 50 or 100,000 bls. flour may be expected from Lake Michigan ports before harvest, together with 50,000 barrels more from Detroit, and about the same amount from Toledo and Cleveland each. Let us now see how the figures will stand on these dates. From Lake Michigan, 640,000 bls.; from Detroit, 125,000 bls., from Toledo, 100,000 bls.; from Cleveland, 50,000 bls.; making a total of 925,000 bls. flour to come forward before harvest, exclusive of Canada.

"On the opening of the navigation consider- quantities will be shipped to Lake Superior and the lumber regioms, and some to Pittsburgh, &c., but it is fair to estimate at least, the quantity reserved at the lower lake ports from the West at 800,000 barrels. We have no means of estimating the amount expected from Canada, but we have heard the quantity put down at from 250,000 to 1,000,000, barrels flour, by gentlemen well calculated to judge, and whose means of information are extensive. Dividing the estimates we shall have something like, 1,500,000 barrels from the West and Canada, equal to the number of bushels which the cautious Rochester miller has allowed us, an amount amply sufficient to satisfy home wants, and any ordinary foreign demand, for the space of five months, or until the next harvest. Our readers must also bear in mind that flour cannot now be exported, without loss of from two to three dollars per barrel, and that European prices must rise, or American decline to that extent, before we shall be called upon to send our supplies to a foreign market."

A later paper contains the following paragraph:—

"Since the opening of the navigation, there have arrived at Oswego from Canada 50,000 bls. flour, 110,000 bushels wheat, and 500,000 feet lumber.

QUEBEC.

The prospects for the future are gloomy and uncertain, and must continue so until a change takes place in the affairs of Europe; at present there are indications of a limited business. The stock of timber of all kinds wintered over is about 12 1-2 million feet of which 7 1-2 millions are white pine, to which, probably 12 to 15 millions will be added, giving a supply of 22 1-2 million of feet of this article. The export last year was about 19 1-2 million feet. There are 14 vessels building, comprising about 15,000 tons, upon which, at present prices, a loss of £3 per ton is estimated. A great number of persons have been out of employment, owing to the cessation of this branch of business, but happily not so much suffering exists as was anticipated, the high wages received last year, with frugal habits, having enabled them to provide for their wants, which would otherwise have been severely felt. The winter now drawing to a close has been remarkable for its dulness, commerical, social, and political. That unwelcome guest, 'hard times,' is to be met with everywhere, but, he may teach some useful lessons before he leaves us. Large balls and grand entertainments have given place to small social select parties. The reduction of the garrison and the removal of the seat of government will effect a great change at Quebec, perhaps, in some respects, for the better. The prices of provision are enormously high, and the markets miserably supplied. The grand undertaking by the corporation of giving the citizens an abundant supply of pure water and efficient drainage, is proceeding satisfactorily towards completion, and Quebec will, ere long, stand unrivalled in these privileges, by any other other city on this continent. The labour has been immense in prosecuting this great work, cutting trenches several feet deep for long distances through solid rock,—the constant blasts and general appearance of the city giving one some idea of the siege of Sebastopol.

Effects of the Reciprocity Treaty.—Large quantities of produce and lumber are constantly arriving at Oswego, N. Y., from Canada, exhibiting the effects of the Reciprocity Treaty. Since the opeing of the navigation, the arrivals at that port foot up 60,000 barrels wheat and nearly half a million feet of lumber. Immense freight trains are transporting these products to the interior and New York city as fast as possible.

The Railway.—We are gratified to be able to state, that letters received by the last mail brought the pleasing intelligence, that the slight misunderstandings concering our Railway matters—which some of our contemporaries have taken much pains to magnify—are removed, and that no difficulties need be apprehended. Mr. Giles returns by the next Halifax steamer, leaving Liverpool to-day, and it is our opinion that shortly after his arrival, the whole road will be let out to sub-contractors in 20-miles sections to be finished within the time fixed in the contract.—Of one thing the public may be assured, that our Railway affairs are, all things considered, in the most satisfactory position, and that the road will be completed within the time specified in the contract.—*Freeman.*

The Cholera.—This scourge is beginning to make its appearance in the West.—The Chicago Tribune of the 3d inst., states, that every boat which reaches St. Louis from below, has buried at almost every landing and woodyard some of the victims of this scourge, or landed them at the Quarantine station there to die. The Galena, Dubuque, and St. Paul papers, and the journals from the Missouri river bring us similar tidings.—Although the sickly season upon these streams has not yet commenced, the deaths from cholera have already been numerous.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Hungry Carpet Bag.—The Buffalo *Express* relates an amusing incident which occurred at Erie a few days since. A gentleman left Cleveland for New York at an early hour in the morning, without his breakfast, and being very hungry, upon the arrival of the train at Erie, entered the dining room, and placing his carpet bag upon a chair, sat down beside it and commenced a valorous attack upon the viands placed before him. By and by the proprietor of the establishment came around to collect fares, and upon reaching our friend, ejaculated, "Dollar, sir!"

"A dollar! responded the eating man, "a dollar—thought you only charged fifty cents a meal for one—eh?"

"That's true," said meanness, "but I count your carpet bag one, since it occupies a seat." (The table was far from being crowded.) Our friend expostulated, but the landlord insisted, and the dollar was reluctantly brought forth. The landlord passed on. Our friend deliberately arose and opening his carpet bag, full in its wide mouth, discoursed unto it saying "Carpet bag, it seems you're an individual—a human individual, since you eat—at least I've paid for you, and now you must eat,"—upon which, he seized every thing eatable within his reach, nuts, raisins, apples, cakes, pies, and amid the roars of the bystanders, the delight of his brother passengers, and discomfiture of the landlord, phlegmatically went and took his seat in the cars. He said he had provisions enough to last him to New York, after a bountiful supply had been served out in the cars.—There was at least $8 worth in the bay—upon which the landlord realized nothing in the way of profit. So much for meanness.

Honolulu is said to enjoy the quietest Sabbath on the face of the whole earth. This penal code of the Sandwich Islands declares that the Lord's day is *taboo*; all worldly business, amusements, and recreation are forbidden on that day; and whoever shall keep open his shop, store, war-house, or workshop, or shall do any manner of labor, business, or work, except only works of necssity and charity, or be present at any dancing, public amusement, or taking part in any game, sport, or play on the Lord's day, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding ten dollars.—*W. C. Adv.*

BABYLON.—TOWER OF BABEL.

The French government, two or three years ago, sent three gentlemen to make scientific and artistic researches in Media, Mesopotamia, and Babylonia. One of them, M. Jules Oppert, has just returned to Paris, and it appears, from his report, that he and his colleagues thought it advisable to begin by confining themselves to the exploration of ancient Babylon. This task was one of immense difficulty, and it was enhanced by the excessive heat of the sun, by privations of all kinds, and by the incessant hostility of the Arabs. After a while M. Oppert's two colleagues fell ill, so that all the labours of the expedition devolved on him. He first of all, made excavations of the ruins of the famous suspended gardens of Babylon, which are now known by the name of the Hall of Amran-ibn-Ali; and he obtained in them a number of curious architectural and other objects, which are destined to be placed in the Louvre at Paris, and which will be described hereafter. He next, in obedience to the special orders of his government, took measures for ascertaining the precise extent of Babylon—a matter which the reader is aware has always been open to controversy. He has succeeded in making a series of minute surveys, and in drawing up detailed plans of the immense city. His opinion is, that even the largest calculations as to its vast extent are not exaggerated; and he puts down that extent at the astounding figure of 500 square kilometres, French measure, (the square kilometre is 1196 square yards.) This is very nearly eighteen times the size of Paris. But of course, he does not say that this enormous area was occupied, or any thing like it; it comprised within the walls huge tracts of cultivated lands and gardens, for supplying the population with food in the event of a siege. M. Oppert has discovered the Babylonian and Assyrian measures, and by means of them has ascertained exactly what part of the city was inhabited, and what part was in fields and gardens. On the limits of the town, properly so called, stands at present the flourishing town of Hillah. This town, situated on the banks of the Euphrates, is built with bricks from the ruins, and many of the household utensils, and personal ornaments of its inhabitants are taken from them also. Beyond this town is the vast fortress, strengthened by Nebuchadnezzar, and in the midst of it is the royal palace—itself almost as large as a town. M. Oppert says, that he was also able to distinguish the ruins of the famous Tower of Babel—they are most imposing, and stand on a site formerly called Borsippa, or the Tower of Languages. The royal town, situated on the two banks of the Euphrates, covers a space of nearly seven square kilometres, and contains most interesting ruins. Amongst them are those of the royal palace, the fortress, and the suspended gardens. In the collection of curiosities which M. Oppert has brought away with him, is a vase, which he declares to date from the time of one of the Chaldean sovereigns named Narambel, that is, somewhere about one thousand six hundred years before Jesus Christ*; also a number of copies of cuneiform inscriptions which he has every reason to believe that he will be able to decipher.—*Literary Gazette.*

THE DISMAL SWAMP.

I have lately had the gratification of seeing the far-famed Dismal Swamp. It certainly is a dismal place, but, contrary to my preconceived opinions, very healthy. One would naturally suppose it to be the abode of chills, fevers, and other diseases of a warm, damp climate. There are two kinds of inhabitants that thrive exceedingly in the Dismal Swamp. Runaway slaves and mosquitoes find a safe asylum in its dark recesses, One can scarcely conceive of a more gloomy. sombre place than the Lake of the Dismal Swamp. The animals are in keeping with the place—huge bull-frogs, as large as a man's foot, with smaller specimens of the same genus, open a grand concert every night. Great, indolent herons, and other aquatic birds, sit round on the trees. Swarms of mosquitoes and sand-flies fill the air. At about sundown and after, all the animal life is in motion. Every throat is musical. The croaking of bull-frogs, buzzing of insects, cooing of turtle doves, and the sounds from a thousand musical instruments, pitched on as many different keys, make an assemblage of harmony and discord that defies description.

The vegetation of the Swamp is more luxuriant than I have seen in any part of the world. The timber is pine, oak, sweet-gum, black gum, holly, the beautiful tuliptree, the tall cedar, the cypress, loaded down with its long festoons of moss, the mistletoe-bough in dark green bunches grown about on many different trees, with different kinds of timber that no one could give me the name of. Immense cane-breaks are so thickly interwoven with vines, that one might as well attempt to walk through a wall as to force his way through these.

A canal is made through the Swamp, and part of the way it goes through the lake, on its bank runs the State road. Snakes, lizards, scorpions, chameleons, and other reptiles abound in grea numbers. The captain of the steamboat Star, said he was going up the Blackwater one day, and he came along where three men were in a boat fishing. To avoid the steamer, they went up under the bank, and as they hit some bushes near the shore, three or four moccasin snakes fell down from the branches in the boat.

EMIGRATION.

It is probable enough that emigration from the United Kingdom may be diminished in consequence of the demand for able-bodied men for various purposes connected with the war; but a much larger proportion than formerly of those destined for America, especially from Ireland, will prefer the St. Lawrence route. The causes of this expectation are the Know-Nothing movements in the United States, and the stringent regulations enforced at New York and other ports, together with the heavy capitation-tax. In fact, very awful accounts concerning the ill-treatment and destitute condition of Irish Emigrants in the States, and the determined spirit manifested against them have reached Ireland. Some of our readers may have seen a very vehement appeal to the Editor of the "Times," from an Irish gentleman imploring that powerful journal to advise his deluded countrymen to remain at home, and mentioning the difficulty and misery which thousands of their countrymen had to undergo in the great repuplic. But the rate of increase of emigrants from Germany to the North of Europe has been of late so rapid and great that it will, doubtlessly this year much more than cover any defalcation from other sources. "During the last three years (says the writer of the leading article of the Montreal "Pilot,, of the 16th inst.,) we have traversed Germany and seen with our own eyes how the thoughts and affections of the German nations are turned towards America; we believe that emigration thence will go on increasing in a more rapid ratio than any one imagines . . . The route by the St. Lawrence is now known and appreciated in Germany, and the leaders of the German emigration recommend it, and recommend Canada as a permanent place of settlement." The number of emigrants who arrived at Quebec from continental Europe last year, was upwards of 18,000, being an increase of 11,000 over the former year; whereas at New York Mr. Bellingham states, there landed nearly 170,000 Germans. This number is sufficiently large to admit of a very considerable increase by the St