FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE KING OF BELGIUM AND HIS GRATEFUL SUBJECTS.—An interesting ceremony took place at Ostend on Saturday, that day having been appointed for laying the first stone of a palace, to be presented by the province of West Flanders to the King of the Belgians as a seaside residence. The King, who had consented to officiate at the occasion, arrived at four o'clock, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess de Brabant, and was received by M. Vambout, the governor of the province, at the head of all the provincial and municipal authorities, amid the most enthusiastic cheering of the multitude. As soon as the King and the Royal family had ascended the estrade constructed for the purpose, M. Vambout read an address expressing the gratitude of the Belgians to his Majesty for thus allowing them to offer him a testimonial of the high estimation in which they held the immense services he had rendered to their country. In reply, the King expressed his affection for the Belgian people, and for the town of Ostend in particular, and concluded with saying:—A reign of thirty-two years is already long; I shall continue to devote myself to securing the national independence, the free institutions, and the happiness of the country." His Majesty then descended from the estrade, and went through the usual formalities of laying the stone, which bore the following inscription:—"on the 8th of August, 1863, his Majesty Leopold I., accompanied by his august family, laid the first stone of this edifice, a testimonial of veneration and gratitude from a people to its beloved king."

PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF NANA SAHIB.—The following are extracts from a private letter:—"Parroquet Bungalow, East Indies, Ajmere, June 30.—You have by this time heard of the capture of Nana sahib. I am glad the villian is at last caught. I was present at his capture and had a full view of him. I will give you a few interesting particulars of his appearance, &c. In the afternoon I had occasion to pass near the Temple of Adjmere, while surveying a new road in the district, and was not a little surprised to observe a crowd of natives and others eagerly jabbering together, and with violent gesticulations pointing towards the temple. As this is usually such a very quiet place I could not conceive the cause. I requested my interpreter to ascertain the cause of the commotion, and to my utter astonishment he informed me that that veritable scoundrel and butcher of the innocent at Cawnpore—Nana Sahib—was known to be lurking with some confederates in the neighbourhood of the temple. I immediately gave up all thoughts of work for the day and dismissed my coolies, and busied myself in collecting information. I lastly returned to my bungalow to partake of a light dinner, or rather lunch, when one of my native servants came running in with eyes and mouth wide open, to inform me that Nana Sahib had at that moment been captured by Major Davidson and his colleagues. I hastened up to the temple, and there in the custody of the military, and encircled by a crowd of spectators, who intimated their desire to tear him to pieces, by loud yells and savage looks, I for the first time beheld the ruffian, and part instigator of the late disastrous rebellion. He is of middle height, and I should think about 40 years of age. He had a calm, determined, but vengeful expression of countenance. I pushed myself as near as possible to the prisoner, in order to obtain a good view of him. He surveyed the hooting crowd with proud disdain, and a smile of derision, as much as to say, 'Ah, you feared me once!' But, every dog has his day,' as the saying is—and the Nana has had his day. Now the day of retribution has come after the lapse of six long years. Murdered husbands, wives, and children will be avenged! When led away, strongly guarded, he walked with a firm step and upright demeanor. His *tout ensemble* (for a sepoy) is rather dignified. The disguise he wore was that of an ordinary sepoy. The military appeared to be exceedingly jealous of any person closely approaching their valuable prisoner, and escorted him away to prison with a strong guard. There is not a shadow of doubt as to his identity, from papers about his person, and unmistakable marks about his body. A little circumstance occured as he was being led away which illustrates his disposition; one of the soldiers just pushed him forward when they started, the prisoner instantly turned round, and with a demon's look uttered an oath, and tried to lift his arm to strike the man but he was bound. He dropped his partly raised arm, and with a dejected look proceeded on his way amid the hisses of hundreds, even of his own countrymen. The papers are once more teeming with anecdotes of his atrocities, and traits of his character, details of his capture, &c.; his name forms the subject of leading articles and gossip. What I have written you may rely upon, seeing I was an eye-witness to his capture."

BRITISH COLUMBIA, ITS POSITION AND PROSPECTS.—The Bishop of British Columbia, who, as the Rev. G. Hills, was long identified with Great Yarmouth, visited his old parishioners on Sunday and Monday for the purpose of recounting his experiences of his distant diocese. On Monday a meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, when the Bishop of British Columbia said:—British Columbia was destined at no distant date to occupy a remarkable position among the dependencies of great Britain. British Columbia occupied somewhat the same position upon the western coast of North America as England did upon the western coast of Europe, and the colonists felt as to climate completely at home. Population, too, was continually spreading over the western side of the American continent. The American war had increased this movement. At this very time 100,000 people were engaged in one great exodus, with their waggons, their families and their households, and were passing over to the western side, bidding adieu forever to the eastern side. A few years since, when he first went out to Vancouver, San Francisco was the great place upon which Vancouver depended for everything her population wanted. Francisco was now beginning to be supplied from British territory, in consequence of the increased quantity of British shipping attracted to Vancouver. Last year one of our largest shipowners, Mr. Lindsay, sent round four large steamers to ply between the western coast of America and China and Japan—vast countries now opened to our trade and commerce. In addition to all these circumstances there was gold, and we know how potent an influence of gold was in drawing population to a country. As was the case, however, with most new countries, British Columbia was a very rough land, requiring hard-handed men to enter upon the work before them. He had often been struck on witnessing the hardships which men would undergo for the sake of gold, which after all perhaps they never realized. He had seen men start full of life, energy, and spirits, and he had met them returning broken-down, weary, haggard, and in tatters. When young men had called upon him in Victoria with letters of introduction, he had frequently given them advice which had rather astonished them. He had recommended them, before they started for the mines, to go and work upon the roads for two months that they might harden their hands, and find out what sort of life they would have to lead. The gold of British Columbia required men of good nerve and enterprise to work it; steady people of this kind would do well, but no soft-handed idlers were wanted. The first discovery of gold took place in 1850, in the lower part of the Frazer, at a place called Yale, just above New Westminster. People rushed in from California, and a good many made their fortunes there out of the dust, but it was nothing to all that was afterwards discovered. Near the mouth of the river gold was found in dust like bran, but higher up it appeared in nuggets from the size of a pea to an inch long. The reason of this was that gold came out of quartz which lay in the mountains of Cariboo. The action of water upon the quartz disintegrated and loosened the gold from it. The heavier fragments of gold sunk at once near where the disintegration took place, but the smaller particles, which resembled bran, floated down for a considerable distance. It was in Cariboo where the greatest amount of mining was now being carried on, and in a letter which he received from British Columbia he was told that a vast number of miners were at work there, and that the unlucky ones were getting as wages for labour £2 per day. He would leave the meeting to guess, then, what the lucky ones got (laughter). He stood by a man who was working there last year, and who was engaged in picking rock with a knife something like an oyster knife. The rock was of a soft, slaty character, and in the crevices he kept picking out nuggets of from the size of a pea to about an inch in length. After ten minutes he (the Bishop) said to this man, "Let us see what you have done in ten minutes," and he found that in that short time he had obtained £70 worth. In another case a man who had been a miner in California, and who was a partner with some others in a claim, asked to have a try at a particular crevice. Accordingly he was let down about eight feet below the surface into the claim, and in a very short time he filled a pan of gold which when washed yielded 104oz., worth something like £300 or £400. On another occasion he stood by when ten miners were washing out their day's work, and it came to £600; of these ten men, however, only three were owners of the claim, but they paid wages at the rate of twelve dollars per day to the seven others. He also visited a place called Barker's Claim. Barker was a wherryman who used to ply between Wisbeach and Lynn. He (the Bishop) had known him ever since he had been in the colony, and his claim was one of the richest in the Cariboo district. A young man named Travers, a Gloucestershire man, joined a party who sunk a shaft, and after some difficulty obtained gold. He made a resolution as soon as he got a competency to return to England, and after stopping at the spot for ten days he took out for his share £400, besides selling his interest in the claim for £2 000 more. He then got bills on England to the amount of £2,000, and carrying with him some of his gold to meet his necessaries returned home. Miners must be fed, and how was this to be done? Apparently they were fed upon the pack-horse plan, and goods were carried so up to Cariboo. Flour cost last year, at Cariboo, 6s per lb.; and even now it cost 5s per lb. Of course this was a very heavy expense, and although some reduction might be effected by better roads and waggons, still what the colony wanted was a farming population. Last year some few farmers who had settled were coining money out of the farming mine, which proved a more certain affair than the gold. One Oregon farmer started from his farm last year with fifty horses laden with bacon—each horse carried 250lb. of bacon—and the enterprising man left Oregon May 13, fed his horses on the magnificent pastures which lay along the route, and reached Cariboo July 13. He there sold his produce, which cost him, perhaps, 2d or 3d per lb., for 4s 2d per lb., clearing at least £1,000 by the venture. His name was Brown, and he was called, to distinguish him from other Browns, "Bacon Brown"—(laughter)—while his train was styled the "bacon train." He (the bishop) mentioned this to show that if a man found it to his advantage to travel 800 miles to supply the miners with the produce of his farm, what enormous profits would be made by farmers if they were to go and settle upon the lands of the colony. This was going on this year to a considerable extent, and several young men had settled down—several from Norfolk among the number—resisting the existing temptation of the gold mines, and adopting the more steady course of cultivating the land. He (the bishop) was quite sure that they would prosper, for they were steady men, and not ashamed of hard work. Another resource of the colony was the abundance of fish it possessed. Salmon were in such plenty that they lay thick upon each other in shoals—fine, big fish, such as might be seen in the shops in London. When travelling up the rivers in a canoe they had often struck against the boat, and sometimes his men had knocked one on the head and dragged it in. One of our ships the Satellite, let down the net for a draught, off San Juan, and took 600 salmon at once; while on another occasion the crew of the same ship took over 600. He had noticed, too, as many as fifty salmon all leaping and jumping out of the water at one time. Again, herring were very abundant, although at present there was a want of enterprise, and only small fish along the shore were taken. So abundant, however, were fish generally that on one occasion, when he was at a settler's house and something was wanted for a meal, a little girl was sent down to obtain a supply with a pail and a rake, the former being soon filled by the use of the latter (laughter). The right rev. prelate then addressed himself to the special work in which he was engaged, referring to the difficulties experienced from the reckless, defiant character of the miners, even the better disposed among them cursing others when they invited them to join in a religious service.

APPALLING DISASTER ON THE MISSISSIPPI—TERRIFIC EXPLOSION OF AMMUNITION ON BOARD THE STEAMER CITY OF MADISON—OVER TWO HUNDRED SOLDIERS, CITIZENS AND NEGROES KILLED, WOUNDED OR DROWNED.—The Vicksburg correspondent of the New York *Herald*, under date of 17th August, writes:—

The stillness of this beautiful evening was, but a few moments since, broken by one of the most appalling and stunning explosions ever recorded among the numerous and various disasters that have befallen men while in pursuit, carefully, of a dangerous but necessary duty. Men who had calmly surveyed the carnage of some hotly contested battle field, witnessed the paroxyms of suffering in which the mangled forms of their comrades were writhing, or cheerfully obeyed the "charge," and amid the fierce horrors of onslaught marched unterrified amid a sleet of death straightforward to the breach or the cannon's mouth, now quailed before the horrors of the awful scene which burst upon them. The unexpected occurrence as well as its completeness was its palliating feature. *Had the accident been foreseen or* even foreshadowed, the stoutest heart would have rushed in terror out of reach of the terrible agency; but a quick, piercing, reddened flash, a report, as if all the batteries of heaven were bleaching forth the wild notes of thunder, and all was over. Destruction, pain and death lay round in one mass of mangled, singed and blackened bodies, shattered timbers and the debris of buildings, vehicles and vessels. The water surged and lashed its agitated waves, like angry masses, high upon the land. The earth trembled as if moved by the force of a mighty earthquake, and, as a closing scene, overshadowing the spot hung a lowering cloud, a leaden pall of smoke, as if to wrap in oblivion, to cover up in obscurity, a spectacle too agonizing for the gaze of human eyes.

Thus briefly in outline the main features of the catastrophe have been noticed, its panoramic effect in a manner set forth. Let us turn to the particulars of the accident.

The steamboat City of Madison, upon which the explosion took place, was a large side wheel steamer, a little above the average tonnage of river crafts. During the time of peace, this vessel ran in the St. Louis and New Orleans trade. Since the outbreak of the war she has been engaged principally as a transport for troops; and more recently her services were called into requisition for the transportation of ammunition. On the 19th it was ordered that the City of Madison should take on board a certain quantity of fixed and unfixed amunition, together with an additional number of projectiles. The boat was lying at the wharf immediately in front of the city, ready to receive the cargo. In order to expedite the loading a heavy detail of soldiers, numbering one hundred and sixty, was made at noon from one of the regiments in the city, the members of which, owing to the confusion now raging and the speedy departure of the boat to bear this. I have not yet been able to learn. As an augmentation of this number about twenty negroes were also engaged in the work.

During the entire afternoon the work went on with unabating vigor. One continuous train of men could be seen, like so many industrious ants, moving to and from the boat laden or returning unladen, as then happened. It was early in the evening. One hundred and fifty tons of the terrific but slumbering agent were alredy on board. The men were pressing their energies to complete their task and return to the then quiet and less laborious avocations of camp.

In order to hasten the work, the party was divided into two bodies, one of which carried the ammunition to the hatch, and the other in the hold, deposited it in its proper place. At the time of the fatal slip a negro was standing in the hatch to receive the ammunition and pass it to one below, the weight being too much for one man. A shell was being passed. The soldier had given it into the hands of the negro and was walking away in the train of many others preceeding, who were returning to bring a fresh load. At the same time pressing along the gangway was a crowd of the laden hastening to deliver their loads into the hands of those below.

In the hold the men were no less active, and quickly disposed of the crowding and accumulation of business in store for them. Unfortunately the negro standing below failed to properly secure in his hands the shell handed him from the one in the hatch above. It slipped, he made an effort to regain his grasp, but it had already struck.

The shock sustained by the fall ignited the irresistable power within. No sooner came the flash than followed the report. In an instant, as if the first were merely the premonitions of the great terrors to succeed, the very city shook to its foundation, window panes fell in by the terrible force of the concussion with a deafening crash, the river boiled violently and spasmodically, and its very bottom was ploughed up by the immense rush of the element. Now followed all the horrors which ever mutilated the human form and wound it in the writhings of most painful and shocking tortures. The boat in the explosion had parted; the hull fortunately was forced immediately to the bottom of the river, going down bow first, thus somewhat lessening the immensity of power involved in the large quantity of ammunition on board, for the rushing in of the water in a measure checked the violence of a greater explosion which otherwise would have followed.

As the hull of the boat went down, the cabin, taxes, pilot house, chimneys and everything above the deck, shot into the air, over one hundred feet, in one confusion of timber furniture, machinery and bodies, and fell into the serging, hissing ruins below, with a crash that seemed in its awful majesty of appearance and sound to stop the pulsations of the heart; to free the blood of life; to chain one immovably to the earth in one wild and reeling conflict of the fearstriken, cowering faculties of the human frame.

The concussions and reverberations had almost ceased their fierce notes, and nothing but the distant lingering sound, as it was wafted far off on the waves of the atmosphere, to tell in its own language the tale of horror, could be heard, and rapidly even these expiring evidences were quieted into serene calmness of evening. Now come that most appalling of all moments of accicent. As if to hide the scene from the smiling, the quiet heavens above, a dull curtain of leaden smoke intervened the havoc below and the placid blue above.

From all parts of the city crowds of officers, soldiers and civilians, called forth by the terrific explosion, came crowding eagerly down to the scene of destruction. Officers stretched their limbs to most unmartial lengths to keep up with the wave of curious humanity as it poured along.

Little can be imagined of the revulsion of feeling when the spectacle burst into view. Every sentiment of the human heart, every function of the human frame received a check, the recoil of which stunned men—into almost fainting awe. The picture that now presented itself may now be briefly summed up. The boat was a total wreck. The buildings in the vicinity were wrenched almost from their foundations. The steamer Ed. Walsh lay with her whole side torn from her.

Men and animals were flying scattered here and there on the levee, dead, dying or suffering, powder burnt or internally injured by the intense force of the concussion. The water could be seen presenting spots of earthy substance upon its surface, or here and there small circles of blood, which plainly marked the end of some fallen victim. Then again floating bodies could be seen amidst the rubbish of the catastrophe, occasionally one popping out of the water, blackened and bloated, remaining poised on the surface for a moment and then for the last time sink to rise no more. In other places it seemed as if some still breathing body might be seen in its last paroxysm of death gasp, throw out its arms for help and then fall back into the watery depths, its couch and its grave. The scene was beyond all powers of description.

FROM MEXICO.

Latest accounts from Mexico state that the French had occupied the town of Menitallan, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and had sent an expedition against Tampico. Juarez was reported as being about to take refuge in Texas. The Mexican paper *La Estafette* recognizes the danger of a war with the United States, and thinks the only way of avoiding it is to hurry up and dispose of the remains of the Juarist army.

It is rumored among politicans in Richmond that Robert T. H. Hunter, will be sent to Mexico as the representative of the Southern Confederacy, in order to prepare the way for an offensive and defensive alliance between the Emperor of that country and the government of Richmond. It is said that gentleman has received instructions for the immediate recognition of the future Emperor of Mexico, in return for which, it is hoped, his Majesty will be led to recognize the Southern Confederacy.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 29.—The steamer Constitution's dates from the City of Mexico are only up to July 25. A portion of the united Mexican and French troops have moved sixty miles westward from the capital to Cuernavacca. The intentions of the Triumverate to recognize the Confederate States were continually foreshadowed by the Imperial press, the recognition to take place as soon as the news reached Mexico that Maximilian accepts the crown.

The news from the Juarez Government is unimportant. Juarez was understood to be busying himself in encouraging guerrilla expeditions, some of which were led by Americans.

A heavy gale raged along the coast of the United States from the 19th to the 22nd August. Its greatest fury appears to have been south of 40 degrees north latitude, and in 72 to 74 degrees west longitude. In this gale the United States brig of war Bainbridge, with about 100 men on board, foundered, only one man out of the whole ship's company, being saved. In the same gale the New York steamer George Creek also foundered, but without loss of life; and a great many other casualties are reported.

SUPPOSED WRECK OF A PILGRIM SHIP AND LOSS OF 400 LIVES.—It is feared that a most calamitous shipwreck has happened in the vicinity of Aden, by the loss of the ship Boyne, with four hundred pilgrims on board. The Boyne left Bombay bound to Luddah and when near Hoodidah the ship is reported to have struck on a rock, and remained fast. The pilgrims were landed on an adjacent island, and soon afterwards the vessel was got off, leaking badly, but the passengers in spite of the warning of the Nacoda, immediately re-embarked, and the ship was got under way, but the water gained so rapidly on them that they were compelled to abandon the vessel, and in the rush to escape nearly 400 of the pilgrims are said to have been drowned in the wreck.

BOSTON THE RICHEST CITY IN THE COUNTRY.—The valuation of this year shows Boston to have taxable property to the amount of $302 000,000. Even this does not approximate to the real value of the wealth of the city, but imperfect as this may be, it shows Boston to be one of the wealthiest cities in the world, and per capita, much the richest in this country. New York city with its population of nearly one million, has a valuation this year of $594,000,000, while Boston with a population of less than 200,000 has a valuation of more than half that of New York.

COLONIAL NEWS.

"THE MILITIA FARCE."—Under this title the *Westmorland Times* irreverently speaks as follows of the Muster in that town on Wednesday:—

"Muster-day is past, and the town is safe!—Yesterday being the day appointed for mustering the second division of the first battalion Westmorland Militia, the great turn out took place in front of Printing House Square, and resulted, as was expected, *to the entire satisfaction* of all concerned, and the great improvement of Her Majesty's loyal subjects of Moncton in the arts and mysteries of martial science. There were about five hundred good and true men on the ground, *and their appearance* was equal to anything of the kind seen here for the last forty years. Indeed we have no right, *and certainly no desire*, to say one word except in commendation of the orderly conduct of the men. The officers are, for the greater part, elderly gentlemen who belonged to the last generation, and may at one time have had *some* slight knowledge of military matters, but with the exception of Adjutant Botsford, we could not *discover* that a single officer belonging to the battalion attempted to display the slightest acquaintance with any part of an officer's duty. All this is natural enough and only helps to prove what a burlesque and a *humbug the present law is.*"

In the course of some further remarks upon "Colonial Defences" generally, the *Times* tells *some home truths*:—

"But on looking at New Brunswick, what do we find? Nothing but a farce and a burlesque of the most contemptible kind. Their is neither drill nor organization, nor any attempt at such. *Men are called away from their daily employments*, they know not why; they stand for a few hours looking at each other in the most unmeaning attitude; they ask each other the question why they came here, but nobody knows anything about it. They did not come for drill or military exercise, for no one present has any knowledge of such things. The loss of a day's labor, however, is a matter of certainty without a shadow of benefit of any description. Perhaps they see some one on horseback with a sword dangling by his side, who passes along and speaks of soldierly appearance and military display, *but he might* as well talk Greek or Hebrew. And all this is the effect of having a law on our Statute Book which appears to be perfectly powerless except to tax people directly and indirectly some thousands of dollars for *no good purpose* whatever that we have yet been able to discover."

The Hamilton (C. W.) *Spectator* says:—"The crops generally throughout Western Canada promises to be the best we have had for many years. Both classes of wheat, winter and spring, are of the most cheering character, except in particular localities, where it has been affected with the midge and rust, but which is a very small percentage on the area sown."

The last number of the Hamilton Spectator quotes the following from the Boston *Pilot* of Aug. 8:—

"When we have the revolt put down we will turn our swords on Britain, the main cause and extent of the duration of the revolt. A successful repression of the rebellion is impossible without this. Decency demands it; justice demands it; national pride demands it; national malice demands it; our own future safety demands it; our immense standing army *and our great navy* demand it. When causes like these are united they must have their effect. It is to be lamented that Canada is the frigid, ice-bound, sleet-driven, miserable, beggarly, inhospitable country it is. *But such as it is, our soldiers* will ravage it, desecrate it, drag through its horrid impenetrable surface of ice and snow the accursed flag of England, hold it in absolute military despotism for a time, and then fling it back to its original hoary possessors, eternal frost and snow."

The Toronto *Leader* of the 26th ult. says:—"Intelligence of a most startling character has been received, to the effect that a treasonable correspondence has been discovered, the object of which is to invite the Federal Government to invade Canada *and overthrow British supremacy!* Mr. Archibald, the British Consul at New York, has communicated the facts to the British Government."

THE WAR IN THE STATES.

COM. MAURY ON THE PROSPECTS OF THE SOUTH.

A long letter on "the prospects of the Confederates," by Commodore Maury, appears in the *London Times* of the 2d. He concludes that it is the policy of the South simply to act on the defensive, for it is fighting to be left alone, and not for conquest as is the case with the North. It is obvious that as the Union is gone, and neither party can subjugate the other, the war is not to be ended by the sword. He then cites as among *the agencies that are to end the war* the dissensions that are arising among the people of the North themselves. All the embarrassments with which the peace party can surround Mr. Lincoln, and all the difficulties that it can throw in the way of the war party in the *North* operate directly as so much aid and comfort to the South. He points to the riots in New York, the conduct of the Pennsylvanians during Lee's invasion, to the organized resistance to the war in Iowa, etc., as proof that the war is becoming more and more unpopular. He turns to the military situation and shows that *the North is unable to follow up* its successes in the South West. He then says:

"Thus the military tide which set in with so much Federal promise on the young flood in July, and which has so damped the spirit of our English friends and depressed Southern securities, appears suddenly to have slackened, and to be on the point of again turning in our favour, and that, too, under auspices which seem more propitious than ever. * * * *

"*Indeed, so straightened* is Mr. Lincoln at this moment that his partizans are resorting to a desperate game. They are endeavouring to raise the war cry against France and England, hoping thereby to rally the people to arms, and intending, if successful, to send the dupes to fight their brethren in the South.

"Nay, *more; there are rumors* of a peace party in his Cabinet, and of a proposition there to revoke the Emancipation Proclamation and propose terms to the South. The leading newspapers of the North mention this, and not with disapprobation.

"Nor are these all the agencies that time and events are *bringing into play on* the side of peace and the South.

"The fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson was, according to those who were stirring the North-Western people up to war, to open the way to *market for them.* Every English house in the American trade knows that the bread stuffs of Ohio and the North-West had, *for years before* the war, nearly ceased to pass by New Orleans on the way to markets abroad. They went uy the Lakes, and so, via canal and rail, to Boston and New York for exportation to foreign countries. *Can any one* in the trade pretend that England would have taken a shipload more of American flour had the Mississippi been open all the war? Chicago and not New Orleans has for years been the grand grain market of the West, and except London it is the greatest in the world.

"There was on the lower Mississippi a large trade in bread stuff and *provisions from* the States above. This trade was chiefly with the planters of the South. But they have been despoiled, their plantations laid waste, their stock taken away, their houses burnt, and they themselves banished. In short, those fighting farmers of the Upper Mississippi are likely soon to find out that it is Lincoln and his lieutenants, and nobody else, who have killed their goose of the golden eggs. Those 'cute "Buckeyes," "Suckers," and "Hoosiers," as the denizens of Ohio and her sister States are called, are bound before long to discover this. And will the discovery be more likely to incline their hearts to peace, or to revive in them the war fervour? Not the latter, certainly.

"This disappointment will come upon these farmers with redoubled force by reason of the financial bearing there of the abundant harvest here. This is a point of view upon which I wish you would dwell with me for a moment.

"Before this war the South sent annually to England some 12,000 or 15,000 shiploads of stuff, consisting chiefly, as is well known, of cotton, rice, tobacco, naval stores, and the like. The war put a stop to all this. But since the war the crops have been short until now — so short as to give employment to nearly the whole fleet of ships in bringing meat and bread here to your people from the Northern States. Notwithstanding the withdrawal from its regular business of the immense amount of shipping which was required annually to get Southern crops to market, and notwithstanding the loss to commerce of that trade, neither the Custom-house receipts of the nation, nor its shipping interests, nor its dock revenues, show any corresponding falling off in its great business of fetching and carrying by sea. The receipts from the Liverpool Docks, from the Bristol Docks, and from all the docks on the island, I believe, show larger figures this year than ever before, and that in despite of the very considerable *reduction in the rate of charges.*

"Now this shows plainly enough that while the trade of the South has disappeared it has been made up from other quarters, and that more ships have been docked in Liverpool and other British ports since they lost the Southern trade than ever before. And it is to be accounted for in this way. By a rather *singular coincidence*, it so happened that as the markets of the South were shut off from the world, the harvests of France and England fell short, and the cotton ships were required to fetch bread from the North. As a cotton *freighter from the South the same vessel* could not carry more than two cargoes a year, but, as a provision ship from the North, she could make five or six trips. Thus dock receipts were increased.

"The full harvest here, in Ireland, and in France, and the like of which has not been known for many years, will mightily reduce this corn trade of the North. It is already a losing business, and the grain which is to come will be in the category of coals to Newcastle.

"Hence I infer that, notwithstanding the opening of the Mississippi, the North-Western people will find a poorer market than ever for their corn. With the falling off of this trade, the New York merchants will be no longer able to pay off their British creditors in grain; they, will therefore, have to part with their gold; it will go up, and greenbacks will come down, and so raise a voice from the lower levels of society that will be trumpet-tongued for peace. To smother that voice, even now, Mr. Lincoln has to keep an armed force, not only in New York and Kentucky, but in Ohio, Indiana, and other States. He is even now marching one up into Iowa, to put down there a cry for peace. He is likely to have occupation for all the recruits his conscription will give in keeping down his own people.

"Never were the prospects of the South brighter. All that we have to do is to maintain the defensive, watch our chances, and strike whenever there is an opportunity for a good stroke either with the sword or with the pen."

MATTERS IN VIRGINIA.

The Richmond "Enquirer" of the 29th ult., speaking of the demonstration at Bottom Bridge, says that it was made by a portion of Meade's army, and that Gen. Meade being afraid of Lee's advance set it on foot with the object of diverting men from Lee's force and preventing his advance. The "Enquirer" says this scheme will prove a failure, as plenty of troops can be detailed to repulse any Federal raid that may be made in the neighborhood of Richmond without detaching a man from the army of Virginia. But men are detached from Lee's army for some *purpose*, as the same authority tells that no mail was received from the front on the day of publication, on account of the Central railroad being monopolized for the conveyance of troops southward. Quoting some statements made in the Northern papers concerning an apprehended advance by Lee, the "Enquirer" says;

"When the advance *does* take place, Meade will quickly betake himself to the fortifications of Washington. There will be no battle at Manasas, for Meade will make no stand this side of Washington. Gen. Lee will have to cross the *Potomac, to get a fight out* of the Army of the Potomac. The 'decimated condition' of that army really invites an advance; but as they can reach Washington before Gen. Lee can possibly intercept them, such advances may be useless unless we can enter Maryland.'.

CAPTURE OF GUNBOATS SATELLITE AND RELIANCE.

The Baltimore "Sun" gives the following particulars of the capture of the gunboats Satellite and Reliance, at the mouth of the Rappahannock:

"It appears that both vessels were captured with very little resistance by those on board. It has been common for negroes escaping from Virginia to take refuge on the government vessels, and on the night of the capture four boats, each containing about 25 men, approached the steamers and got on board without exciting suspicion that they were other than negroes.

The crews of two boats boarded each steamer, when two or three pistol shots only were fired. They approached from the direction of the Piankstank, and had no difficulty in reaching the vessels. As soon as the Reliance was captured, Mr. McCauley, the engineer, disabled the engine, and Chas. Clark, the coxwain of the Satellite, jumped overboard and swam to Windmill Point, where he was subsequently captured by Confederate cavalry. After the capture of the steamers the captors also took two schooners which had made harbour in the mouth of the river, and moved up the Rappahannock, the Satellite towing them and the Reliance as far as Port Tobago.

The capture occurred on Saturday night, the 22d inst., and on Monday the gunboat Commodore Barney started in pursuit. She proceeded up the river about 60 miles, and it is said heavy firing was subsequently heard from that direction. The Reliance is a small gunboat, and belonged to the flotilla which cruises about the mouths of the *Potomac and Rappahannock.* She carries a 32-pounder Parrott gun and 12-pounder howitzer.

NEWS FROM BRAGG'S ARMY.

The Holston (Tenn.) *Journal*, speaking of the condition of affairs in East Tennessee, says:—

"What of Bragg? We do not know the strength of his army, and if we did it would be improper to make it known; but we may say that, taking the present status of his antagonist into account, and his well known sagacity and adroitness, he will find his situation a most hasardous and perplexing one, unless there is greater energy and promptness shown than now seem to exist in this department.

"*It is apparent that Rosecrans intends to flank* him upon both sides; that he will, no doubt, throw a massive column into Northwestern Georgia, and another into East Tennessee, by way of Sparta. Suppose the former ensues, what other security has Bragg than to fall back to Atlanta, and, if he does this, what will become of East Tennessee?"

HOW TO CONQUER PEACE.

The Richmond *Whig* of August 21st says:—"The loss of Vicksburg and the failure of Gettysburg are the two events of the year which seem to render highly probable a long and almost indefinite continuance of the war. Apart from the victories we may achieve in the field, there are but two means of *counteracting* the baneful effects of these events and bringing hostilities to any early close. These are either foreign intervention or a determined and successful war by the conservative masses of the North to the abolition faction, which has the control of the government at Washington. A long and protracted war would prove *a great evil, wholly unmixed with good*; for the longer the war continues the more thoroughly saturated the Southern heart would become with the whole Yankee race and Yankee institutions. We want the aid of France. We are able to pay for it. Let us do it. We shall then have peace or the power to wreak a rich revenge on our foul foe."

ARMING OF SLAVES BY THE SOUTH.

The Washington *correspondent* of the N. Y. *Tribune* says he has seen a letter from Richmond which throws material light on the recent statement that the Southern government is prepared for the wholesale arming of slaves. This design, he says, was first ascertained during Gen. McLellan's advance on the Peninsula. But the *Southern successes* that then followed *drove* the matter out of the heads of the authorities, until it was revived by their recent disasters in the South-west. In the meantime, Beauregard, supported in this by the opinion of the Government of South Carolina, had been asking *for authority to arm* a few negro regiments for the defence of Charleston, and Gov. Shorter of Alabama, pressed by the necessity of providing for the defence of Mobile, has addressed the same request to Richmond, and recommended, in a public proclamation, the arming of negroes in his own State. Encouraged by this *practical breaking of the ground*, Jeff. Davis determined to bring the matter to a conclusion. The correspondent continues:

"By his order, every Governor in the rebel States was consulted concerning the propriety of arming slaves for the war, and was invited to Richmond to confer with the President on that subject. This *invitation* was, it seems, immediately complied with, and after fifteen days of close conference between the Governors of the States and the members of the Cabinet, it was decided that the salvation of the country required the *arming of the slaves*, and that a call of 400,000 blacks, one from every eight inhabitants, should take place forthwith.

"Outside of military and social considerations, the importance of which cannot be fully estimated *now, one of the motives which urged the adoption* of this measure is, I understand, the effect it is likely to have upon European powers. While the discussion on the measure was going on, a member of the Cabinet removed all the objections raised by stating that the enlistment of the blacks in the Confederate ranks, and the gift of their *freedom and a portion of land as their reward* for their services, would cause the great majority of the European people, adverse to slavery, to become friends of the South, and force their governments to interest themselves in its behalf. It would, at the same time, show that the black, who had been represented as the enemy of his master, was in reality his friend; and the greatest mark of this friendship was to be found in the confidence the white man has in the obedience and fidelity of the black, who, by his call, was suddenly elevated to a position of trust and confidence unparalleled in *the history of the world.* All these considerations could not fail, it was said, to engage the attention of the European public, and to place the Southern Confederacy upon higher political and moral ground. It was these remarks, I am told, which destroyed all *opposition*, and led to the unanimous adoption of the measure.

"The proceedings I have just related have been kept secret, and will not be divulged until Jeff. Davis's proclamation, submitting the whole matter to the people, is issued."

OUTBREAK IN ILLINOIS.

The Chicago *Tribune* has the following dispatch giving an account of a successful resistance to law by Illinois Copperheads:—

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 28.—As far as I can learn, the fatal affray at Vandalia, Fayett county, arose from the arrest of deserters and the attempt of the Copperheads to rescue them. On the 25th inst., Provost Marshal Summersville, with part of a troop of cavalry was engaged in arresting deserters, when the party was fired upon by a band of the K. G. C's. The Marshal was badly, some say mortally wounded, but the party succeeded *in capturing a number of deserters* and the father of one or two of them, but they were again attacked and fired upon.

The cavalry returned the fire and killed three and wounded several of the assailants. Subsequently the K. G. C.'s, to the number of 400 or 500, took possession of the *fair grounds of* Vanalia, which they fortified and demanded the fathers of the deserters, threatening in case of refusal to burn the houses and destroy the property of the Union men in the town.

I regret to learn *that* the authorities were overawed by the armed mob which besieged and threatened the town, and were compelled to deliver the party asked for.

NEW ORLEANS.

We have received despatches from New Orleans to the 9th—the first that have yet come by the Mississippi river since navigation was opened—which bring interesting news. Large numbers of troops are concentrating around there, for what purpose was not known.

FROM TEXAS.

Reports from Texas state that there are at least one hundred vessels loaded with contrabands cargoes for the rebels off the Rio Grande. Several of them are British steamers, waiting for cotton which the rebel government have contracted to deliver at Matamoras, to the extent of nine thousand bales, during the month of August.

WILMINGTON BLOCKADE A FARCE.

According to intelligence received from Beaufort, N. C., the blockade at Wilmington is a mere farce, regular lines of packets for Nassau being duly advertised and the hour of sailing announced.

DEFEAT OF UNION FORCES.

A telegram from Major General Jones, of the rebel army, to President Davis, dated White Sulphur Springs, August 27, reports a battle between a brigade of his force and a *Union force* under General Averill, which resulted in the defeat of the latter, and one hundred and fifty prisoners and one piece of artillery captured. We have had no intimation, however, of such a transaction having occurred.

ARRIVAL OF A VALUABLE PRIZE AT THIS PORT.—British steamer Cronstadt, an iron propellor of about 400 tons, hailing from Hull Eng., arrived at this boat on Sunday, a prize to the U. S. steamer Rhode Island. She was captured while attempting to run the blockade, bound from Wilmington, N. C., for Nassau, and came here from Port Royal in charge of William Williams, Acting Master. Her cargo consists of 601 bales of cotton, 400 barrels turpentine, 600 boxes tobacco, &c., valued at somewhere about $200,000.—*Bost. Post.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, August 29.—The five substitute deserters, condemned to death, were executed today—25,000 persons were present; two of the prisoners were Protestants, two Catholics, and one Hebrew,—one of them was a Hanoverian, two Prussians, and two Italians. The spectacle at the execution was a most unusual one—the Protestant, the Catholic, and the Hebrew stood side by side, each uttering prayers for the departed soul.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.—The smack Pacific, with Bermuda advices of the 24th, arrived to-day. The rebel steamer Gladiator, from Wilmington, was going into Bermuda on the 24th. The rebel steamer Robert Lee arrived at Bermuda on the 23rd. She reports having been chased by one of our cruisers, and threw overboard 300 bales of cotton to escape. On the 26th, in lat. 37, lon. 67, the Pacific passed the pirate Florida with a ship in tow.

Steamers Fannie and Jennie, from Halifax, and the Florida from Nassau, had arrived, consigned to Bourne, the well-known rebel agent. The rebel steamer Phantom, from Wilmington, with cotton, arrived on the 10th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—This morning, I went to the Post Office here for the purpose of posting a letter, the postage of which amounted to the sum of *ten-pence*, which I counted down in coppers to the Postmaster in person, Mr. Benj. Rogers, who refused to take coppers for postage. I now wish to ask Mr. Owen, the Postmaster General, through the medium of your columns, if it is compulsory to pay the postage in silver or gold? Your insertion will oblige

Yours respectfully,
GEO. W. HOWLAN.

Alberton, Sept. 10th, 1863.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

MR. EDITOR,—

I notice in your last issue some remarks on the great Delegation, now on its way to England, to set the affairs of Europe to rights, as well as to settle the long vexed question. The Delegation would have been complete, if the "Hon. Cornelius Howatt" had proceeded on his errand of *Peace* for the struggle in the neighbouring Republic.

You seem to speak in *terms of negative* praise, concerning one of the gentlemen who compose this Delegation—Hon. Mr. Palmer. The people in this vicinity have no faith in his sincerity for the good of the Tenantry; and his name in connection with our rights is disgusting to the people of this neighbourhood, from the fact that Mr. Palmer with a *posse comitatus from* St Eleanor's composed of the Hon. Alexander Anderson and a Mr. Hunt, attempted to arrest the lands from many parties holding their farms by right of possession, to which he had no more right than Lord Palmerston. The parties who held the land told Mr. Palmer that if he could shew a good title that they would at once attorn and take a lease from him; but Mr. Palmer's only reply was that the land was his, and that he would make them take a lease—and swore like a madman, and called us all sorts of hard names, d——d pirates, &c., that he would weave such a net around us, we would never get out of, if we did not at once take a lease. Mr. Palmer insisted on running lines across lands held by the occupants for a number of years; we warned him of the danger if he attempted to do so; the stakes he and his party put down were immediately pulled up and thrown away. But the best of the joke is Mrs V., whose lands were invaded, repelled them with a weapon which smelled so strong that they were glad to beat a retreat, not, however, before one of the Hon. gentlemen sustained considerable damage to his *outer garments, and had to be thoroughly* washed in the nearest stream before he could join his companions. Mr. Palmer, who swore that he would have us all in jail before a month, has not been heard from since, although it is now over three years. We have an idea that he is now weaving the celebrated nett and has gone to England for twine.

JOHN MATTHIAS.

Lot 3, Prince County, Sept. 10, 1863.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

"A silk purse cannot be made out of a sow's ear."

MR. EDITOR;—

The above old saying was vividly recalled to my mind on reading in the *Islander* newspaper of the 11th inst. a notice of my appointment to the office of City Surveyor. The article was furnished by the learned Recorder, who was pleased to offer some remarks complimentary to myself as a road-maker, which remarks, it appears, were distasteful to Mr. Ings's establishment, for by one fell blow they would destroy the effect of the entire laudation. (You gentlemen of the Fourth Estate can hit tremendously when you like.) The blow was aimed at the head itself, and was designed to knock out its brains, by the substitution of the word "Scavenger" for that of "Surveyor," so that it would appear that your humble servant was appointed to the honourable post of "*gathering together and removing dirt and filth*," or that he was "a villain and a wicked wretch," according to Walker's definitions. Pretty good, you will say; yes, rather rich, and a little too good for the public taste, as soon became evident to those high minded gentlemen, who then vainly endeavoured to exculpate themselves. It appears that the article was set up by a young man named Bertram, whose antecedents have not been of the most happy character, either in point of courteous carriage generally, or grateful returns for favors received; but, on the contrary, he, Bertram, repaid with insolence and ingratitude the services of one who for years gratuitously instructed him. This young hopeful, after he had substituted the word Scavenger for Surveyor, conversed with his shopmates about it; but although Mr. Lawson, the writer of the article, *came into the office* before the papers were issued, yet he (Bertram) never called Mr. L.'s attention to what might have been an inadvertent error, but allowed it to pass both the writer and the proof sheet reader without a single remark to either. And why, if his attention was so forcibly directed to the impropriety of the word, as to cause him to name it to his fellow workmen, why, I ask, did he not minutely examine the manuscript? Echo answers why! Whether there was a collusion between the parties or not, I know not; but this I do know, that had I been in Mr. Ings's place I would have sent a correction of the error and an apology to the *Protestant*, which was published the following day. This would have been an honest and an honourable course; but this did *not comport* with Mr. Ings's views of either honesty or honour. Some people entertain queer views, and it brings to one's mind an ancient proverb found in the Book of Proverbs, 27 ch., 22 v. As to Bertram, it may be said that "water will always find its own level," and again, "we are never surprised to observe a striking resemblance between the scion and the parent stock;" and, in conclusion, I would beg to remind both my friend Ings and the fellow Bertram that a "Silk purse is not to be made from a sow's ear."

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.
JOHN WILLIAMS.

Sept. 12th, 1863.
To the HON. E. WHELAN,
Editor of the Examiner.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, September 14th, 1863.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND MILITIA.

WE learn from our Colonial papers that considerable stir is being made in the neighbouring Colonies, with the view of having the Militia reorganized, the Volunteer movement having proved a remarkable failure wherever it has been tried, on this side of the Atlantic. Judging from the accounts we read in the various papers that come to hand, the attempts at mustering the Militia are extremely futile, and lead to far more indicrous exhibitions than were ever presented by the Volunteers. In this Island, the failure of the Volunteer system has been more deplorable than elsewhere; and we understand it is the intention of the authorities to put the old Militia laws in force again, with some amendments and modifications. We feel confident that their efforts in this direction will prove abortive, as much so, if not more, than similar efforts in the adjoining Provinces; and we shall not be sorry if it be the case.

The Volunteer system was a huge imposition on the people of this Island, who have been required to pay several hundred pounds a year, for no other earthly object than to gratify a morbid taste for military displays on the part of a few individuals, who imagine they look very captivating in military attire. The most intolerant nonsense ever uttered in support of the Volunteer Force is, that it would be an effectual protection to the Island against invasion. We believe that in the heyday of its prosperity the Force never had more than about a thousand men and boys—chiefly the latter—enrolled, and we doubt if the Force could at any time have turned out half that number,—indeed, we do not remember that any occasion ever occurred when so many as five hundred appeared under arms. But what is the condition of the Force now? A few weeks ago, Colonel McKinstrey, of the Regular Army, came here expressly, and gave notice of his coming, to inspect the Volunteer Force. We heard of no review or muster, to enable him to carry out the object of his visit, except at Summerside, where the Prince County Volunteers mustered to the extent of six men, officers and privates all told. A short time after, Major General Doyle, Commander of Her Majesty's Army in the lower Provinces, also honoured the Island by a visit, in order to inspect our Fortifications and Militia. Whether he found any Fortifications, we have not heard. He certainly found no Militia; and as to the Volunteers, about one dozen individuals of that Force *mustered on the wharf to receive* him on his arrival; but we have been informed that the gallant soldier was heartily ashamed of the turn-out, and manifested his displeasure in no ambiguous words. *Regarding Fortifications*, we should like to know whether Col. Gray, the Leader of the Government, explained to Major General Doyle, on the occasion of his visit here, the remarkable theory which the gallant Colonel entertains with the view of defending this City in the event of an invasion. When the Government were passing their Bill to sell the Barrack Square, so as to put a few hundred pounds in their exhausted Treasury, the great Military Genius who leads the Administration scoffed at the idea that the place known as St. George's Battery, a part of the Barrack Square, could be of the least service for defensive operations. He said that the only proper place for a fortification to defend the City, is at Braddock's Point—*about five miles up the East River!* The House was taken by surprise, and passed the Bill immediately to sell the Barrack Square; but we have not been told whether the Government have yet purchased Braddock's Point, to build a Fort thereon.

When on the 28th March last, the Government asked the House of Assembly for £400 towards the support of the Volunteer movement, Col. Grey advocated the vote in a speech which, though short, was more than usually nonsensical. Mr. Conroy opposed the vote, stating that it would be better to give the £400 for the purchase of agricultural implements. The Hon. Leader of the Government, in replying to Mr. Conroy, relieved himself of a fit of indignation in the following style:—

"Hon. Col. Gray would ask if the hon. member was prepared to give up the arms, worth some thousands of pounds, which the Colony had received solely on account of that movement, and *to send a letter to the Queen saying that we would not defend our hearths and our homes.* This money was not to pay the officers or men, but to keep the arms. This Colony, without a Volunteer force, was at the mercy of any and every privateer that might come into our harbours. £266 sterling a year was not much for such an object."

Our readers will understand the trick of stating the amount in sterling at £266, the object of which was to make the sum appear as small as possible in the eyes of the people. But what balderdash for a Leader of the Government to utter about "sending a letter to the Queen, saying that we would not defend our hearths and our homes"! Our homes would be miserably defended, indeed, if we trusted to the few Volunteers who are scattered over the Island, and who, even if they were ten times more numerous, could not prevent a "privateer" from coming into our harbour, and knocking our houses about our ears in a very few hours. The arms, upon which so high a value has been set, and which have led many young men to waste their time, and plunge into the most reckless dissipation, after a worthless review, or an equally worthless drill, have lately been happily called in; and we understand they are not likely to be taken out again, to the same extent as before, as the Captains commanding will not renew bonds for their forthcoming. And yet, *forsooth, in order to keep* a lot of old rifles in the Colony, which would no more serve to keep a foreign enemy at bay than a bundle of old sticks, this overtaxed and impoverished Colony must pay £400 a year! If, in the event of a foreign war, this Colony, as well as the sister ones, should be threatened by a foreign foe, the British Government will not leave them to their own resources for defence. If, however, we should be cast off, as unworthy of the care and protection of the Crown, we do not believe that our condition would be any worse than it is at present, while the probability is that it would be *much better; for the proprietary yoke*, which creates so much dependence, poverty and misery in the land, would soon be snapped asunder, when the Proprietors would no longer have the Colonial Office to protect them. The people of this Island are under no obligations to take up arms to defend it against an invader. The British Government, by its improvidence in a former day, in granting away its township lands, made the *country one of the poorest spots in Christendom*; and it is likely to remain so while the leasehold tenure is continued. Connection with the British Crown does not, under present circumstances, promise a hasty extinction of that tenure; and we cannot see why we should be extremely solicitous to remain in a condition under which we can be certain of nothing but poverty and slavery. The Land Proprietors are the parties who would suffer most from a successful invasion. If they will not protect the Island, or if their patrons, the British Government, will not do it for them, we cannot see why their poor slaves, the tenants, should spend their money and waste their time in a ridiculous attempt at soldier playing, which only provokes contempt and laughter, besides demoralizing their young men. No foreign foe can ever come to this Island who will do more mischief to it than the proprietary body. If Yankee privateers should take up the case of the Proprietors under their peculiar consideration, we think the tenantry should not distress themselves about taking a part in the quarrel.