

Prussia, a Sergeant of Artillery having fired a pistol at His Majesty at Berlin, on the 22d ult., which, fortunately, caused only a flesh wound in the arm. The man was instantly arrested.

Indian news, brought by the Overland Mail, speaks of further disasters and troubles on the frontiers, and of atrocities committed by the Affredies. A gentleman of the medical profession—an European—was lately murdered by those savages. The Commander-in-Chief has taken the utmost precaution to ensure tranquillity in the Punjab and on the frontier, but the outposts, nevertheless, continue to be harassed.

The Emperor of China died on the 24th of February. A youth of nineteen, his eldest son, named Tih-Chu, succeeded to the Throne.

#### A COWARDLY ASSAILANT.

A SHORT time since we took occasion to express the opinion which we formed, from the perusal of his correspondence, of the character of an individual, calling himself "an Elector," who has addressed several letters to the *Islander*. We then expressed our conviction that none but the most consummate coward would put on the mask which he wears, and gather from the files of forgotten papers the utterly base, false, and malicious charges he brought against us. We declined to reply to them in detail, on that occasion, because we are well aware there is not an individual in the community, whose good opinion we desire to preserve, that does not remember how those charges were formerly fabricated by the late Collard, and rebutted by us. But the latest and most convincing proof of the cowardice of "an Elector" is to be found in his letter dated 25th May. He therein makes charges against Mr. Le Lacheur which he knows to be false—libellous in the highest degree,—and which he did not dare, to publish so long as Mr. Le Lacheur remained upon the Island. That gentleman having left the country, "an Elector" thinks he is safe—thinks he may indulge with impunity his ferocious and pusillanimous disposition,—Mr. Le Lacheur is not here to prosecute the *Islander*, or to compel its proprietor to reveal the name of its correspondent; but we hope the friends of that gentleman will call the attention of the Assembly to the matter, to the end that proceedings may be commenced, for this outrage upon its character, in the person of one of its members. The corrupt set who relish nothing in the *Islander* but its falsehoods and its slang, are indebted for their last *treat* to the cowardice, and the cowardice alone, of "an Elector."

We forgot to notice in Wednesday's paper that Donkey Maclean has deliberately falsified in the "Express" an observation lately made by us, in alluding to the fact that the proprietor of the *Islander* was so hard up for subscribers as to reduce his subscription charge one half. He attempts to make it appear that we said, "if 100 per cent. be discounted from 15s, the sum of 7s. 6d. will remain." We never said any thing of the kind. Donkey is so inordinately vain of his little talent for figuring, that, in his eyes, any one else who attempts the practice, must be a cypher. He boasts of the "increasing circulation of the *Islander*, and the decline of THE EXAMINER." We are not so mean and narrow-souled as to grieve over the prosperity of the *Islander*, nor indeed over that of any lawful employment; but if Brother Typo is so very fortunate with his publication as Maclean asserts, it is singular he should be sending begging letters through the country, asking people to take it at half price, as we know he has done. As to the decline of THE EXAMINER, it is easier for Maclean to make the assertion than to prove it. Had his impudence not been equal to his ignorance and total disregard of truth, we should now have no occasion to express the very reverse of his statement, and to assure him that our paper, so far as we can learn from reliable sources, commands a wider circulation than ever the *Islander* did, or is likely to do; and that we have no occasion to write letters to Catholic clergymen, or to others, asking them to use their influence in obtaining us subscribers—and offering them the paper, free of charge, for themselves,—being perfectly satisfied with the subscription list we have obtained without effort or solicitation.

DEFEAT OF THE ANNEXATIONISTS.—We were often amused, during the past two years, at hearing Mr. Maclean assert in our Assembly, and out of it—and at seeing the same story repeated in his published writings,—that the mischievous effects of Responsible Government in Canada were producing disaffection to British connexion, and a yearning for independence. We find, on reference to Canadian papers received last week, that the mischievous tendencies of Responsible Government, so far as they are indicated by the feelings

alluded to, have been extremely slow in developing themselves; for we learn that the leader of the annexation party, or, at all events, the most conspicuous man at present connected with the movement—Colonel Prince—presented a Petition to the Legislative Assembly, in favor of addressing Her Majesty to "relieve Canada from her dependent state," and allow her "to become an independent Sovereignty,"—and on a motion that the Petition be received, the annexation or independent party (which are all the same) could muster only seven votes in a House of 84 members! This must have been extremely encouraging to the enemies of Responsible Government, who are the promoters of disaffection, and shews what little reliance is to be put upon the testimony of such a person as D. Maclean, whenever he feels inclined to give his opinion as to the working of Responsible Government in Canada; and now that this same system of Government is in full operation in Canada, we learn that that Province has never enjoyed such a year of prosperity as the present one is likely to be.

THE CANADIAN LOAN.—We cut the following paragraph from the *Toronto Globe*, May 23. Duncan Maclean is always reminding us, in the *Islander*, that since the introduction of Responsible Government into Canada, that Province has been going to ruin,—bankruptcy, broken-down credit, scarcity of money, and discontent, being the prevailing characteristics of life in Canada, at present, and all resulting from the substitution of British Constitutional Government for the rotten old tory regime. Facts such as the following are worth a cart-load of arguments and assertions from the pen of D. Maclean, as to the good or evil effects of Responsible Government in Canada:—

"We are happy to learn that the whole of the half-million Provincial loan has been taken up in the London money market at par. This will place the finances of the country, already in sound state, in a most flourishing condition, and make money easy in the Province for some time. The amount will be applied, we understand, in paying off claims on the government, in liquidation of debentures falling due, and in the completion of the public works. We are glad to learn that the Customs' Revenue for 1850 shows an increase over the corresponding period for 1849 of £50,000. It is also said that before the new loan was placed at his disposal, the Inspector General was in funds to pay an instalment of £75,000 towards the sinking fund of the Lord Sydenham loan."

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN QUEBEC.—Property consisting of six or seven houses, occupied as a Brewery and different work shops, and valued at about £2,500, was consumed by fire in Quebec, on the 26th ult.

WE read a very stupid and contradictory article in last Tuesday's *Gazette*, which appears to have been written to pacify "An Elector," who assumed the right to dictate to the press about the publication of the Assembly Debates—wherein most of the old arguments that have been offered, and refuted, in justification of the Lieut. Governor's opposition to Responsible Government, are dressed up afresh. If we do not happen to sicken or sleep over a second perusal before Wednesday next, we shall demolish the absurdities of the *Gazette's* editorial, and would endeavour to do so to-day but that our space is pre-occupied with news.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last Wednesday evening Mr. PATRICK CURRAN, of Newtown, delivered the first Lecture of the Summer's course. The subject chosen was the "Progress of Philosophical Science." The style was close and argumentative, but without any of that dogmatism which so often renders didactic discourses repulsive. Mr. Curran treated his subject with becoming modesty, fortifying his opinions, whenever he found it necessary either to praise or consult, by the most unexceptionable authorities. We should be glad to hear occasional Lectures in our Institute on the Philosophy of the Mind. The field is not so barren as some would have us believe. Besides, whatever tends to superinduce habits of close reflection and strict attention to the matter in hand, cannot be other than highly useful. And assuredly all who desire to reason well must not neglect to exercise their minds on subjects in which they will be untrammelled by religious or political prejudices.—We hope the Committee will see that the Lectures commence at the proper time. This, while it will be but simple justice to those who attend early, will afford sufficient time for discussion.

#### CALIFORNIA.

The following observations are taken from a letter addressed by an adventurer in California to a friend in Canada, and published in a Canadian paper:—

The arrivals here are as numerous as ever from all parts of the Globe, and of course of all kinds, though very few women. I am sorry the poor fellows are arriving at a very bad time, for there are thousands here who cannot get work of any kind, and of course, the more arrivals the more suffering. Very few arrive with any money, and no work is to be obtained, added to the other impossibility of getting to the mines, or of doing anything after they arrive there, during this wet

weather, they have no alternative, but drag out the time here as best they can. Hundreds are without any shelter from the rain, and with nothing to eat, who have been here for the past six months. One poor fellow told me yesterday that he had not tasted a mouthful for two days; there are thousands of such instances. All distinction of rank are thrown aside, the Professor, Merchant, Doctor, and Philosopher, come under the same head, though they may have been of the first families at home, or in the best of circumstances, it makes no difference, and as a sample, I might state a few cases, which have come under my own observation. Upon my arrival, I was much surprised to find Colonel May, who distinguished himself so highly at Mexico, hauling a hand-cart round town as a carter of trunks, &c.! another case of one of the judges, in Louisiana, peddling jack-knives, combs, cigars, cakes, &c., round on a large server! another of an Englishman, who was surgeon in the navy, and is now wheeling dirt! I will now close, requesting you to remember me to all friends in Canada. I send enclosed a description of the overflow at Sacramento, which place I was obliged to clear out of very abruptly. The account does not convey one-half the misery and suffering endured there. I return to-morrow, as the water has gone down somewhat. Not a man that I have heard express his opinion, but wishes himself back again, but like myself intend, now they are here, to do the best they can, and as soon as practicable leave the country.

#### EXPEDITION AGAINST CUBA.

SAVANNAH, May 25.—The expedition left the Islay del Contoy, on the north-east corner of Yucatan coast, on the 16th, and landed at Cardenas on the 19th inst. They lost some time in landing, which gave the authorities time to send an express to Colozo, about ten miles distant. The expedition entered the town, and attacked the jail, supposing it to be the barracks! The Jail guard, composed of fifteen men, stood fire like old soldiers. Troops were seen at this moment crossing the plaza. They were hailed, and answered by firing upon the troops. After this, some soldiers went to the Government House, which was attacked. The house was well defended, but it was finally burned. The few troops surrendered themselves.

The town of Cardenas remained in peaceable possession of the invaders. The troops, however, being dissatisfied with their warm reception, and having lost time in getting the wounded and fuel on board the steamer Creole, which was to return for reinforcements, became disheartened, and insisted upon going to Key West.

They were closely pursued by the Spanish war steamer Pizarro, but escaped.

CHARLESTON, May 25.—The following is the extract of a letter dated Cardenas, May 20, 1850:—"General Lopez, accompanied by about 500 men, landed at this place, from the steamer Creole, between two and three o'clock on the morning of the 19th of May. After a short struggle with the Government troops stationed here, they took possession of the town, and they besieged the house of the Governor, and met a good resistance. They set fire to his house. He was consequently either forced to give up, or to be burned to death. The invaders kept possession of the town until yesterday, when they left about eight o'clock, carrying with them our Governor, and one or two officers, besides the money they had robbed from the public treasury. They had a second action with the troops before leaving, and several were killed on both sides. This unfortunate occurrence has caused a momentary check in business."

SAVANNAH, May 26.—Much excitement was produced here last night by the arrest of General Lopez, by the U. S. Marshal, acting under orders from the President of the United States. His aid, Major Sanchez Essnaga, was also taken into custody. They were carried before Judge Nichols, of the District Court. The Court room was densely crowded. No evidence being adduced to justify commitment, the parties were discharged about quarter to twelve last night, amidst great cheering among the spectators, and General Lopez was conducted to his lodgings at the City Hotel by a large escort of citizens. Being loudly called for, he came out before the people and made an animated speech, interrupted by the plaudits of the multitude. He declared it to be his inflexible purpose to persist in his enterprise, and was determined, until Cuba was free and disenthralled from the yoke of Spain, at all risks, and at every hazard. (Cheers.)

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM GUADALOUPE.—NEGRO INSURRECTION.—A gentleman in this city received a letter, Martinique, the 13th April, containing news of a violent insurrection among the negroes on the adjoining Islands of Guadeloupe. The substance of this letter is, that the insurgents had burned the Government House and the plantation of Monsieur Beauvallon—had committed many other excesses—and had made an attempt to break open the prison and set the convicts at liberty, in which they were successfully resisted by the Governor and Council. The Governor of Martinique, with a body of troops, had left for Guadeloupe to aid in putting down the insurgents.—*N. O. Delta*, 10th.

One hundred and sixty thousand Russian troops, fifty thousand of which are Cossack, Baskir, Tscherkess, and other horsemen, are now concentrated on the Prussian frontier.