fore the earth is covered with snow, the frost comes with exceeding intensity, this important product, as well as fruit trees, cannot be cultivated on a large scale. Rye, oats, barley and buckwheat thrive, and in some spots, potatoes and other vegatables.

The Capital of Western Siberia is Tobolsk, situated on the river Irtysh. It has some twenty thousand inhabitants, and is the commercial metropolis of the whole of Russian Asia. Its trade carried on with the European interior of the Empire, and extending to China, is very brisk and extensive. Some fifty miles north of the Lake of Baikal, the city of Irkutsk, situated at the confluence of three rivers, of which the Angara forms the principal, is the Capital of Eastern Siberia. The site, surrounded by elevated wooded hills, is very picturesque. Irkutsk has about five thousand inhabitants, and the Goverorn-General of the Eastern Territory resides there.

Not long since the country of South Lake Baikal, embracing nearly the whole chain of the Altai was organized into a Government called the Trans-Baikalan. It is the richest country for mineral purposes in Northern Asia. The natives are gradually converted; and, as far as possible the clergy eslected from among them, the rites of the church being performed in their own dialects. Various languages, Greek, for the Pole, Latin, Russian, and so forth, are severally employed for this purpose in Siberia.

These vast Asiatic possessions have been of late increased by the annexation of a very extensive territory destined to form the jewel of Siberia. Russia has taken possession of the entire left bank of the Amour, that is, from the junction of the River Shilka and of the Araan, down to its mouth at that part of the Pacific called the Sea of Okotsk.

The country situated on the left side of the Amour, is occupied by a few nomadic bands of Tartars, no fixed settlement or any kind of cities existing there. Although nominally considered under the supremacy of China, it was, in fact, a region without a master. Many years ago Russian traders descended the river Silipdi, and some other streams running and debouching in the Amour, and visited the Ch nese towns thereon. The Celestial authorities, as well as the inhabitants, spoke of the left bank of this river as naturally belonging to Russia. The regular occupation of the territory took place in 1849. It was prepared with care and foresight. Two small iron steamers were built in Shika, a mining establishment situated on the river of the same name. These steamers laden with guns, arms, ammunition, stores and implements of all kinds served to convey the Governor-General, his staff, and some infantry soldiers. They were accompanied by about one hundred rafts and barks with Cossacks. The river, carefully explored and sounded, proved navigable, without rapids, or any other serious incumbrance At the end of thirty-three days the expedition reached the mouth of the river, and a permanent establishment was planted there. Industry and activity began. A few miles down on the opposite side is situated a Chinese town, and a good understanding exists between the two banks. The natives made no opposition whatever to the expedition nor the occupation. The Russians do not interfere with them, nor does the Government limit their roving life, or exact any kind of service. The harbor is very deep and extensive, being nearly shut out from winds by the Island Lerafin or Saghalien, which was seized by Russian navigators years before the expedition. The whole land is covered with meadows and forests full of the best kind of lumber, and excellent oak for naval constructions. The soil is fit for all kinds of culture. In all Siberia, Amour, is spoken of as the land of promise; and so it will become when agriculture and industry shall wake it into genial life.

The acquisition of this part of the country and of the mouth of the Amour, is the most valuable made by Russia during the reign of Nicholas. It gives completeness and vitality to Siberia. When the new territory is developed, Kamtschatka and the East will be independent of supplies from St. Petersburg. Trade will be opened with China, Japan, California, as the empire comes to take full advantage of its new outlet on the Pacific.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

AREA OF CANADA.—Canada extends from the coast of Labrador to the river Kaministiquia, at the end of Lake Superior, about 1000 miles, with an average breadth of 231 miles, being nearly three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland. It contains an area of about 350,000 square miles, or 224,000,000 acres.

THE FLEET OFF CRONSTADT.

July 13.—A serjeant, corporal, and six privates of the Royal Marine Artillery were ordered to embark on board each of the mortar vessels. The Vulture, Capt. Glasse, was ordered to sail in the morning with the crews of the mortar vessels for Nargen Island. A large conflagration was observed in the first watch at St. Petersburg.

July 16.—The Dapper, tender to the Colossus, captured another fishing boat with its crew, but they were not detained.

July 16 to 23, at noon.—In the fleet are many seamen, formerly Baltic cruisers, well acquainted with the sudden changes of the seasons. They state, as the result of their experience, that after the middle of August favourable weather cannot be depended on off Cronstadt, and that gales of wind and violent storms may then be of frequent occurrence. The division of the fleet under the orders of Rear-Admiral Baynes will most probably, therefore, in a few weeks, be compelled to seek a more safe anchorage, or cruise on and off this port, until absolutely compelled to proceed down the Gulf of Finland as far as Nargen Island, there to remain until October, when it will be necessary for the larger class of ships to make the passage through the Great Belt before the winter has fairly set in. Notwithstanding the vigilance of our cruisers in the Gulf of Bothnia, the people of Finland occasionally receive considerable supplies from the Swedish territory in vessels of a small class of coasting vessels, which, during the brief duration of twilight, manage to cross the gulf unperceived. Since the departure for Nargen of the three principal flagships the proceedings of the division of the fleet off Cronstadt have been of an ordinary nature.

July 18.—The Majestic, Edinburgh, and two gunboats weighed in the forenoon. While standing along the north shore of the bay they captured a coasting vessel laden with butter, flour, and other provisions. The Impericuse, accompanied by her tender the Starling gunboat, reconnoitred the south shore, and, on returning to her anchorage, made signals that the enemy's movements were unimportant.

July 19.—The Cossack, Captain Fanshawe, arrived at 10 a. m. with despatches for Rear-admiral Baynes. Rear-admirals Dundas, Penaud, and Seymour, with nine sail of the line, several steamers, mortar vessels, and gunboats, were at anchor off Nargen, superintending a series of experiments with the mortars, the greatest range of which had not exceeded 4,300 yards. The Cossack having taken on board letters and parcels for the Arrogant and Magicienne, employed cruising off Wyborg, sailed at 6 p. m. The Bulldog was despatched towards Cronstadt, under a flag of truce, for the purpose of landing two prisoners—fishermen. She was met by a Russian steamer of war, the captain of which stated that on the night since an extensive fire had broken out at St. Petersburg, whereby several houses and much valuable property had been destroyed. A violent storm, which continued upwards of an hour, passed over Cronstadt and the bay of St. Petersburg. The rain fell in torrents. The flashes of lightning were of the most awful description, followed by loud peals of thunder. After the storm had ceased, the oppressive feeling of the atmosphere was abated and a cool refreshing breeze set in. At 9 p. m. the Bulldog was ordered to keep in readiness for night service.

July 20.—This morning a man was observed on top of Tolbukin Lighthouse, making some signal to the fleet. Two of the gunboats, in charge of Captain G. R. Mundy, of the Nile, were immediately despatched towards the lighthouse; sent boats thereto, and brought the prisoner off to the Retribution. He is a deserter from the enemy, an officer of inferior rank in the Russian service. One of the steamers came out of the harbour to intercept the gunboats, but the Bulldog, according to their assistance, immediately put back. The Dappen, tender to the Colossus, having got ashore on the west coast of the bay, the Bulldog, followed by the French gunboat Tourmente, and the Redwing, went to her assistance, and got her off without having sustained any injury. A fatal accident occurred to a midshipman on board the French screw steam ship Duquesne. While superintending the loosing of sails in the maintop, the maintopsail, suddenly inflated by a gust of wind, struck him violently and precipitated him on the deck. The unfortunate young officer was instantaneously killed.

July 21.—The Tartar, screw corvette, Captain Hugh Dunlop, rejoined Rear admiral Baynes at two p. m. from Nargen. The Commander-in-chief, in conjunction with Rear-admirals Penaud and Sweaborg. They approached the former port within half a mile of the forts, and ascertained that the defences have been materially strengthened by the construction of various earthen works, in which have been placed some of the largest guns from the stone batteries. While standing close into Sweaborg in the Merlin three of the infernal machines, containing a much larger quantity of powder than those deposited off Cronstadt, were exploded, but without effect, the steamer having just previously passed over the precise spot where they were laid down.

July 23.—The Tartar is appointed to sail at noon with the overland mail, via Dantsic. No epidemic disease is prevalent in any of the ships of the fleet. The average number on the sick list is under four per cent. The majority of the cases are of a trifling nature. Weather extremely fine.

UNITED STATES.

SHARP PRACTICE.—A man in Brooklyn advertised, on Wednesday, for clerks to go to New Brunswick. He had plenty of applications, and made an engagement with two young men for one year. They were to start the next morning, and in order to feel assured that they would not disappoint him, he requested them to leave their watches and they complied. The young men left, and so did their "employer."—*State of Maine.*

CALIFORNIA.—The following is the summary of news received by the last arrivals at New York:

Col. Walker was at Realejo, where he had retreated from San Juan del Sud.

Capt. French arrived down by the last steamer from San Francisco to join the government party.

Col. Kinney, with twenty men, arrived at San Juan del Norte on the 10th ult., in the brig Montress, of Philadelphia. They were engaged in erecting a building in San Juan. Dissatisfaction is said to exist among them.

The mines in California were yielding better than for several years past. Gold in large quantities is said to have been discovered near Puget Sound.

The Fourth of July was celebrated with much enthusiasm at San Francisco.

Elworth, the pedestrian, had completed the task of walking one thousand miles in one thousand consecutive hours, at Sacramento.

A desperate fight occurred on the 9th of July, at Cave City, and another at Calavertal, in which three men were killed, and Justice Reems wounded.

The grasshoppers were disappearing, after committing frightful ravages on the crops.

About 20 houses on Kearney and Bush streets, San Francisco, were burned on the 4th. Loss $100,000.

Capt. Doran of the British ship Nazarine, was under arrest for shooting three boarding house runners who attempted to board his vessel and entice his crew away. The men were badly wounded, and the Captain held in $6000 bail.

Messrs. A. A. Cohen, late receiver of Adams, & Co.'s assets, and J. C. Woods, a member of that firm, have been charged with frauds to the amount of $400,000, by Judge Chambers, of the late firm of Page, Bacon & Co. The Judge charges that Adams & Co. have been engaged during the last four years in palming inferior dust upon Page, Bacon & Co.; that a regular band of disguised accomplices were maintained in the various mining districts where gold is bought and sold. The defendants had been held to bail. They published a card promising to refute the charges.

Oregon dates to the 9th of July, and Washington Territory to June 28th are received.

Reports of recent gold discoveries near Fort Colville are confirmed.

All the available U. S. troops which have been stationed at Vancouver and the Dalles have gone out upon the plains under the command of Mayor Haller, for the purpose of looking after Indians.

Sandwich Island dates are to June 16th.—News unimportant.

Via Acapulco, extraordinary news from Mexico had reached San Francisco.

A letter dated Acapulco, July 2d, states that Santa Anna had resigned the Presidency, and that Generals Alvarez and Comonfort had marched on the Capitol with 30,000 men. Our dates from Mexico are to July 19th, and make no mention of any such occurrence.

The Sierra Nevada arrived upon the 14th July, with cholera on board. There had been thirty two deaths on board of her.

COLONIAL.

LITERARY SQUABBLE.—Messrs. Hincks and Howe have entered into the foolish enterprise of attempting to entertain the British public, with a personal controversy. A few copies of a pamphlet from the pen of Mr. Hincks have arrived by the last steamer, in which the severest castigation possible is administered to Mr. Howe in return for some slurs he was pleased to cast upon his Canadian opponent.

The transport "Emma Eug nia," is under orders to convey detachments from this garrison to England, as follow:—1 officer, 1 sergeant, 50 privates, Royal Artillery, (from Bermuda.) 2 sub officers 76th Regiment, 3 officers, 4 sergeants, 1 drumaer, 4 corporals, 140 privates, 3 women, 6 children, Foreign Legion.

POPULATION OF CANADA.—The new census of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, shows a large increase of population since 1851. At that time the population of Upper Canada was 952,000, that of Lower Canada 890,261—the round numbers 60,000 less than the numbers of the Upper Province. The population of Upper Canada is now in round numbers 1,332,000; the Lower Province has 1,050,000; total 2,381,000.

The business of shipping coal has been proceeding briskly during the past week at South Picton. On Monday 2029 chaldrons were shipped, being the largest amount ever shipped in one day. The whole amount shipped during the week is 4630 chaldrons. There is now a larger number of vessels in port than at any previous date the present season, about one hundred of all sizes having arrived within the past eight days.—*Eastern Chronicle.*

RAILWAY LOAN.—Mr. Howe, it is reported, having arranged the preliminaries, was just at the point of concluding a treaty with Messrs. Barings for advancing all the money that may be required for completing the Rail Road, on the day the *Asia* left he England.—*Halifax Recorder.*

The brig Eclipse, Kennedy, master, of and from P.E. Island, bound to Liverpool, G. B, timber laden, struck a ledge in St. Peter's Bay, and having become leaky, was run into Little Bastine, near Louisburg, on the 2d inst. where she now lies. The vessel and cargo were sold on the 6th and brought over £600.

REMOVAL OF THE CANADIAN SEAT OF GOVERNMENT FROM QUEBEC TO TORONTO.—It has been decided to send to Toronto, during the present month such portions of the records, library, &c., connected with the Legislature and Public Department as can be sent without interfering with the public business. It is considered expedient to limit for the present year, the number of books to be removed to the Records of Parliament and Books of Parliamentary reference; and that the remainder be deposited in the Chateau Building, in charge of a librarian. The officers of the Legislative Council and Assembly must be prepared to have packed up and forwarded all public property under their charge and order, and the heads of departments are instructed to take steps to have ready for packing such portion of their furniture, &c. as can be removed without interfering with business. The Clerks of the Council and Assembly, as well as the Heads of Public Departments, will prepare and transmit to the Board of Public Works, a schedule giving the name of all officers and employers in each Department, to be removed; their salaries and the number of baths, children and servants directly composing the family of each, in order that an estimate may be prepared for the allowance to be made to each for all costs of removal. —*Quebec Mercury, August 9.*

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE TO THE COLONIES.—Our colonial readers will rejoice to learn, by this day's mail for America, that for the reasons set forth by Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury, in this day's debate, the newspaper colonial postal rights and privileges contended for by Sir Cusack Roney, in his recent correspondence with the secretary to the General Post office, but so unwisely resisted by that functionary, have been conceded, or rather restored. Today and henceforth the colonists will receive the journals of the mother country at the postage rates they have been accustomed to. Had it not been for the remonstrance with the post-office, and the publicity which that remonstrance obtained, the colonists would have been most arbitrarily subjected to an impost amounting to a virtual prohibition of English newspapers amongst them. They will know how to appreciate the timely and judicious release made in their behalf, and the redress so promptly secured to them. The right man has certainly been in the right place on this occasion; but as certainly that man has not been Mr. Rowland Hill, nor has the place been St. Martin's-le-Grand.—*English paper.*