GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Iron by Bessemer's Process.—A sample of railway bars at the Dowlais Works may now be seen at Mr. Bessemer's office by those who are curious in the matter. The rail is what is called a foot rail, weighing 60lbs to the yard, and originally made 22 feet long, but now reduced by successive sample cutting to 17 feet in length. Each length of rail was formed from a single ingot 10 inches square, which was heated twice, and passed fourteen times through the rolls; both ingots experimented upon turning out thoroughly good rails. It must be evident that the labour thus expended was little more than half that usually employed in the production of a bar of the same form by the ordinary process, and we shall endeavour on a future occasion to give the exact difference in the cost of the two processes. So far as the quality of the bar goes, we think there remains nothing to be desired. We also have examined samples of tin plate, manufactured by Messrs. Phillip, Smith, and Co., at the Dafen Tin Plate Works, Llanelly, and their appearance indicated a quality quite equal to that made from charcoal iron. We understand that specimens were submitted to the meeting of tin plate manufacturers, held at Gloucester; on the first inst., and that a very large majority of those present agreed in bearing testimony to the excellent quality of the samples shown. We believe that Mr. Smith, the the proprietor of the works above named stated that he had never before produced tin-plate so thin as the sample exhibited. The thinnest sheet iron now made is used in the manufacture of buttons, but some samples which were rolled at the Dafen Works have been shown to us, the substance being only equal to that of good writing paper. Thirty-two sheets of this material were rolled in one pile by successive doubling, but being red-hot at the time, some difficulty was experienced in seperating the sheets one from the other. Notwithstanding this, some beautiful samples were obtained, equal in size to ordinary tin-plates, and some of them, viz. those which came in contact with the rolls —present a beautiful black polish on the surface. The plates, at present, are mere curiosities, but we have no doubt that some use will very shortly be found for them, now their manufacture is comparatively easy. Nothing but the best iron could possibly stand such a test as that to which it was submitted in the product on these plates. For ornamental work of various kinds, the material seems especially adapted; and we have no doubt but that the Russians, who have, at least since 1851, been familiar with the iron paper, can give us a hint as to various purposes to which it may be usefully applied.—Engineer.

The Way to Prepare for an Imperial Reception.—Among the numerous devices to which the authorities at Milan have had recourse for the purpose of arranging a becoming reception for the Emperor of Austria, has been that of raising the wages of the labourers employed in the renovations of the royal palaces. These men are paid extravagantly, it is said, under a compact that they shall cry "God bless him!" when the Emperor appears, and they are placed under the special care of the police in order that they may not secede from their agreement. Another power which the government has invoked for its assistance is the church, and the Archbishop of Milan has sent a circular to his parish priests, calling on them to inculcate on the faithful, both from the pulpit and in the confessional, the duty of repairing to Milan *en masse* to give an enthusiastic welcome to their imperial majesties. The better to encourage the zeal of the clergy in this undertaking, Baron Burger has received discretionary powers from Vienna to distribute rewards of various kinds among them, so that you perceive no stone is left unturned to obtain a show of popularity for the imperial visitors. The servants of idols and the servants of Mammon have their passions equally appealed to, to induce them to join in what the clerical party in Piedmont has happily named an organised "claque," and it will certainly not be the fault of either Baron Back or Baron Burger if the Emperor is not oppressed by the bursts of enthusiasm with which he will be greeted. With the assistance of bribes and superstition, aided by that powerful engine, the police, it will be hard indeed if the government cannot get up a street demonstration in the city where Mazzini managed to compromise some thousands of persons in February, 1853; but if the nobility will only act in concert, with the same firmness that the artists have done, there will be no danger of his majesty being deluded by the theatrical management of his minions into the idea that the present form of government is popular in the country; there will remain no misapprehension on the imperial mind as to the estimation in which the government is held by the people of Lombrady in general. Notwithstanding the cunning diplomacy of the civil governor he will not succeed in organising a court party for the reception of his master such as the Emperor would care to be received by; for how is it possible that the members of the aristocracy, who have so scrupulously avoided all contact with almost every man clad in Austrian authority, should now prostrate themselves before the chief of that power? After spurning that innocent agent of the Vienna government for so many years, it is impossible they should now lend themselves to welcome the head and source of the oppression under which their country languishes.—*Turin correspondent of the Times.*

Polygamy in Bengal.—A very remarkable address has been presented to Mr. J. P. Grant, member of council, by a large body of Hindoo gentlemen. In it they thank him for his exertions in behalf of the act permitting widows to remarry, and urge him to continue his efforts for the abolition of polygamy. Petitions by the dozen reach the legislative council on this subject. They are all of one tenor, praying for the abolition of polygamy by penal statute. A more remarkable movement, perhaps, never occurred among an Oriental people. It shows conclusively how little those most familiar with the people can understand the under-current of thought which is permeating all Hindoo society. The measure I have so frequently mentioned will probably in a few weeks be introduced.—*Calcutta correspondent of the Times.*

Trade Brisk up the St. John.—In an acquaintance of almost a quarter century with these central districts we never witnessed such extensive preparations for a winter's business as those now in progress. Every six to seven steamers are day and night discharging their heavy supply freights from St. John at Fredericton; and should the water rise a little higher before the closing of the River the arrivals will again take the place of the large *fleet* of Tow-boats for Woodstock and the Grand Falls. The freights up the Grand Lake, and to the intermediate stations, have also been large. What a pity that this stream of produce is not, as it should be, turned the other way, as it might be with proper management!

We believe there is not a country from which the great variety of our supplies is now imported which slightly could compete with our own in producing the great necessaries of life, with many of its comforts and luxuries; but every year that passes, our principal employment—if we may use the figure—is found cutting down the flowers, and *smothering* the industrious bees from which alone, in mutual dependence upon each other, the sweets of our position and resources can be realized. We want to plant men, settlements, communities, in the heart of the country, instead of cutting away its valuable forests; for although the general system may receive a temporary benefit from lumbering, as in desperate cases the human system obtains relief by bleeding neither the one nor the other can ever again find favor in connection with our domestic or physical economy.

There is however no doubt that a large business and a large revenue will be the result of the present lumber mania; and gladly would we hope that the money circulation thus initiated—to be again of course replaced by a periodical depression, may in the mean time leave a few of its benefits by the way.—*Reporter.*

Wolves in Belgium.—King Leopold has proceeded for a few days' shooting to his domains at Ardennes, attended by Viscount Conway, and a physician in waiting. The preserves are well stocked with pheasants, and the dingles celebrated as the resort of woodcocks. The King's favourite sport is wolf-shooting. Indeed, it is complained by the holders of neighbouring property, especially near the royal domains on the Prussian frontier, that the wolves find protection in his Majesty's covers, whence they sally forth, and commit ravages at some distance, and then return to their lairs. A formal complaint was addressed to the head-keepers of the King's woods, contiguous to the Eifel districts, on this subject, by the chief Prussian forester of that division.

Telegraphic Communication with India.—A letter from Constantinople, dated the 9th inst., and published in the *Semaphore* of Marseilles, says:—"Yesterday, Mr. Gisborne, who is soliciting from the government the concession of a submarine telegraph from Suez to India, by the Red Sea, had a definitive discussion of his plans in presence of the council of the Tanzimat. It is said that the report made to the government by a committee which had before examined the project, is favourable to the undertaking: and it is said, that the council also approves of it with some slight modifications. The affair may be therefore considered as settled. This concession is intended to complete that granted last year to a brother of Mr. Gisborne for a submarine line from the Dardanelles to Alexandria, and a line by land from Alexandria to Suez."

The New Law Reform Bill.—A London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* states, that in the best-informed circles it is believed, that Viscount Palmerston is availing himself of the leisure afforded by the recess, to mature and perfect a scheme of reform measure. The writer adds:—"The Premier may not go so far as Lord John Russell, who in his Reform Bill of 1852, proposed to reduce the borough franchise from a rating of £10 to £5, and to abolish the property qualification. But Lord Palmerston's government will, it is hoped, introduce early in the next session a Reform Bill which will satisfy the just expectations of the country, and be supported by the united and energetic action of the Liberal party. If the bill should be thrown out, Lord Palmerston can then appeal to the country, and the politicalle of the nation, which has somewhat languished of late through the war and other causes, will again be aroused by the appeals which will then be generally made to the friends of progress and the opponents of legislative improvement and reform."

The *Press*, of Saturday, says:—"The only banner which it seems practicable for the Conservative party to display at the present time is administrative efficiency combined with practical reform and social amelioration!"

We understand that several benevolent gentlemen of this town contemplate forming a society to support the efforts of the anti-slavery party in the United States, and to assist, when necessary, the escape of fugitive slaves.

At the forthcoming Lord Mayor's show, Mr. Mechi has arranged that Boydell's locomotive is to clatter through the streets, drawing after it reaping-machines and threshing-machines, for the delight and edification of admiring Londoners.

We understand, says the *United Service Gazette*, that the flagstaff of the Redan, with the wheel of the carriage of the gun on the right hand of the breach, with several shell, have been brought home by Captain Cumming, at the evacuation of Balaklava.

The clergy of St. George in-the-East, London, have adopted the plan of preaching from the steps of the parish church, and large congregations have been collected, consisting of persons who it is supposed would not enter the building itself. The people who thus assemble pay marked attention to the sermons.

The *Stamford Mercury* states, that a few days ago hundreds of persons assembled in and around Wellingborough churchyard, to witness the funeral of two brothers, named Benjamin Cooper, aged 65, and William Cooper, aged 67. They were married at the same time, died at the same time, and and were buried at the same time.

Canada.—Mr. Patton, Conservative, has been elected to the Legislative Council for the Division of Saugeen. His competitors were Beaty, Independent, and McMurrich, Clear Grit. Dr. Laterriere, Ministerialist, has been elected for Les Laurentides Division over M. Gagnon, Rouge. There is but one more Division yet to be heard from. Mr. G. H. Simard, Ministerialist, has been elected member of the Lower House, for the city of Quebec without opposition.

Much interest is manifested by the Canadian press in the proceedings of the "Aborigines Protection Society" of England. This Society aims at rescuing the Indians of the Northern part of this continent from the Egyptian-like bondage in which they are held by the "Hudson's Bay Company," and bestowing upon them the blessing of civilization. They propose throwing open for settlement the extensive cultivable portions of the Hudson's Bay Territory and have resolved to petition the Canadian Parliament to co-operate with them in carrying out their projects. From the feeling which has been growing in Canada for some time past, towards the "Hudson's Bay Company" and their monopoly, there can be little doubt that this co-operation will be heartly given.

M. Alfred Xavier Rambeau, advocate and editor of the La Patrie, Montreal, died on the 30th ult.

Surveys and plans have been made for "two fortifications and two towers" at St. Lambert. One fortifications and one tower will be in the immedate vicinity of the Victoria Bridge; the other fortification and tower, just below the works of the St. Lawrence and Champlain railroad. These military works will form a defence to Montreal on the south. We recently mentioned that great additions and improvements were being made to the fortifications of Quebec. We now understand that at Niagara also and other important points along the frontier, the military works are being put into an efficient state. It is not probable, that there will be any falling off in the activity shown in this respect after the result of the last Presidential election becomes known in England.

Newfoundland.—By the arrival of the Ospray, on Thursday night, we have St. John's dates to the last inst. The news of the fire in that city as previously reported by telegraph, is fully confirmed. Upon the property destroyed, valued at from £10,000 to £12,000, there was over £7,000 insured.

The fishing season is now over, and has been attended with more than average success. Indeed the catch upon the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts is reputed greater than for twenty year past. The prices of fish and oils keep up and the prospects of the Colony for the winter are considered good. The potato disease was rapidly spreading.

A few days ago, upwards of 100 bakers of Madrid waited on the constitutional alcaldes to represent that they would be obliged to raise the price of bread. The civil governor, considered this act a coalition, caused seven of the more influential bakers to be arrested, and ordered for trial.

Prince Napoleon is about to publish a book illustrated with numerous engravings, giving an account of his recent tour in the north of Europe.

The Aftonbladen, of Stockholm, states that a large number of cannon are at the present time casting for Sardinia at the royal foundry of Akers.

Dr. Weiss, the celebrated professor of geology and mineralogy at the Berlin University, died last week at Egar, in Bohemia.