

Foreign News.

ARRIVAL OF THE "AFRICA."

New York, March 31.

The steamship *Africa* from Liverpool, on the 15th, via Queenstown on the 17th, arrived this morning, bringing £11,000 in specie.

The *Saxonia* arrived out on the 14th. The Parliamentary news is unimportant.

Government despatches from the Consul at Warsaw generally confirmed the published accounts.

Mr. Gladstone proposed to introduce the Budget on the 17th of April.

The Duchess of Kent, mother of the Queen, is dangerously ill.

The London *Times* asks where the Confederate States are to negotiate the proposed loan, seeing that one-fifth of their population is pledged to repudiation, and says that President Davis is a man who laughed at the dopes in the Mississippi bonds.

A reduction of the discount in the Bank of France has produced a good effect in the money markets of France and London. Rentes advanced 68 3/4.

The Corps Legislatif continued to debate on the Address. Independent members strongly advocated the liberal amendments already published, but the first two paragraphs have been carried without amendments.

Details of the surrender of the citadel at Messina, shows that it was unconditional after four days firing. Over 5,000 men were taken prisoners, and 300 cannon.

Civitella Del Tronto is not able to resist much longer.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the assumption of the title of King of Italy.

Warsaw continued apparently tranquil, but late advices say that the excitement is unabated. The Polish Deputation said they accepted the Emperor's rescripts but were far from being satisfied.

Calcutta and China mails could hardly reach England in season to go forward by the *Africa*. Late Calcutta telegrams report improvements on imports.

LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

The Duchess of Kent died on Saturday.

The Paris conference agreed to extend the occupation of Syria till the 5th of June. The Corps Legislatif adopted the ten paragraphs of the Address.

The English steamers left Constantinople for Galatz, and took provisional possession of the arms landed from the Saradinian vessels and seized by Turkey.

PARIS, Saturday.—In the Corps Legislatif it was intimated that it might become necessary to fix a later day than the first of October for the execution of the treaty of commerce with England, in which case the Chamber of Deputies would be called upon to declare the matter.

Count Reichberg has arrived at Paris.

ARRIVAL OF THE "NEW YORK."

SABBY HOOK, 2 10 a.m., April 2.

The steamship *New York* from Southampton on the 20th, is passing this point. Her date is three days later than by the *Africa* and one day later than those of the *Borussia*.

Liverpool, March 20.—Breadstuffs are quiet but steady.

The steamship *Canadian* from Portland arrived at Londonderry on the 19th ult.

The general news by the *New York* is no later than by the *Borussia*.

LATEST.

PARIS, Tuesday evening.—The Conference assembled to day to sign a convention prolonging the French occupation of Syria to June 5th.

The Bourse had declined, and renter closed in the afternoon at 68 1/2.

PARIS, Wednesday.—The Convention was signed by all the Powers.

Rome, March 19.—In the consistory held yesterday, the Pope declared that he would have granted the concessions advised by the Catholic Sovereigns, but he could not receive the consols or unjust demands of the usurping Government.

Naples, 18. Civitella del Tronto capitulated yesterday evening, before orders from Francis II. reached them to surrender. To-day the garrison saluted the proclamation to the Kingdom of Italy. This city and the provinces are tranquil.

A despatch to the *Times*, dated Naples 19th, says that all the councillors were dismissed. The council of lieutenantcy is dissolved. Directors will be appointed in a more direct communication with Turin. There will be a Piedmontese director of finance.

This morning a grand imposing *fete* was held in honor of Garibaldi. All is tranquil.

Vienna, Wednesday. The whole Herzegovina is in revolution supported by the Montenegrins. The fighting is general.

Several Turkish villages on the frontier have been renounced the ashes.

ARRIVAL OF THE "BORUSSIA."

New York, April 2.

The *Borussia* arrived this morning with dates of the 19th.

No markets received.

The London *Times* in referring to Lincoln's inaugural, says his expressions were studiously cautious, but really amount to the fact that he will recapture the forts, citadels, &c.

Advices from Turkey say that the Grand Vizier had tendered his resignation, but the Sultan refused to accept it.

Holiday demonstrations occurred in the various towns of Venetia on the anniversary of the birth of Victor Emmanuel. The military were under arms at Padua, but no collision occurred.

The French Government contemplates raising 12,000,000, on five per cent bonds.

ARRIVAL OF THE PONY EXPRESS.

Fort Kearney, April 1.

The Pony Express, with Eastern advices of March 29th, had arrived at Carson Valley.

The announcement of the members of Lincoln's cabinet gives general satisfaction. Conservative men hope, and express with considerable confidence that the conservative attitude assumed by the new administration will be the means of preserving the Union without civil war.

Californians rejoice at the passage of the Daily Overland Bill.

THE TELEGRAPH TO CALIFORNIA.

All the California telegraph lines are consolidated as one company, and the new organization undertakes to extend a good substantial line Eastward by Salt Lake City, in the most expeditious manner possible. They will strive to contemplate their lines before the Eastern companies extend theirs Westward to Salt Lake City to join the California portion. Mr. Wade, general agent of the Eastern companies, who is now here starts for New York city by to-morrow's steamer, having completed all his arrangements satisfactory.

New York, April 2.—The *Tribune* correspondent says that General Scott has given assurances that their has never been any idea entertained by the Administration of abandoning Fortress Monroe. The principles announced in the inaugural will not be abandoned, and, if military necessity will be accepted as to Sumpter, it will be for reasons which will not be felt to apply elsewhere.

The *World* says that the Administration discredits the reported sailing of an Anglo French fleet for our coasts.

The *Times* says it is reported that the *Patience* has been ordered to Sumpter to take Anderson and his command off. The other Southern forts are not to be disturbed.

The Southern commissioners have advertised Jefferson Davis that Sumpter will be evacuated.

Hartford, April 2.—The Republicans have elected their State ticket by an increased majority. They have carried both branches of the Legislature, and the first and the third Congressional Districts. They have lost the second, and the fourth is not fully held from.

FROM WASHINGTON.

New York, April 1. A Montgomery despatch to the *Tribune* states that if Spain is elected Governor of Rhode Island, that State leaves the Union, and becomes the commercial depot and summer residence for Southerners.

The *Tribune* says that at several recent sittings of the Cabinet an energetic policy relative to Sumpter was urged. Ideas of reinforcement were entertained in quarters hitherto regarding it impracticable.

Several leading naval officers express the belief that the fort could be reinforced with ordinary risk by steamers in the night.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Richmond, March 31.—The house was in session all night, considering the joint resolutions relative to the movement of troops and arms within the Commonwealth growing out of the proposed transfer of guns from the Bellona Foundry. Various amendments were proposed and rejected, amid an exciting debate. The Senate's amendment was finally passed, modified by authorizing the Governor to call out the public guard to arrest the contemplated removal, and directing him to employ the needful force to resist any attempt to remove the same beyond the reach and control of the State Government.

THE SOUTH TO BE A MONARCHY.

A Southern planter has given what he declares to be a true statement, in a letter to a Tennessee paper, as follows:—

MY DEAR SIR,—I am somewhat acquainted with the secrets of the secessionists, and deem it important to the people of the whole United States Government, to acquaint them in due time of the ulterior design of the secession movement. The question is not now ever has been, the protection of the institution of slaves with South Carolina, but a desire for a change of Government, and to avoid the effects of Northern policy upon the products of the South, as it has been represented to me by one of the secret agents that has been travelling all over the country for the last six months *inco*, for the purpose of bearing up the masses in the border States to the cause of secession.

But to come at once to their policy: First, it is to adopt the Constitution of the United States, under the Provisional Government for one year, and in the mean time to get the border States to unite with them, and when that is accomplished—then, at the end of one year, to call a Convention of the seceding States and to frame a Government upon a monarchical basis—and the Ministers of the Southern Confederacy are instructed especially to so represent to the foreign Courts. Republican form of government is to be abolished, and the last vestige of Democracy to be destroyed under this new order of things.

But the secessionists are to withhold this intention from the people until the new Government can be organized in such a way as to give it strength to secure its objects. If any shall doubt this disclosure, if it were possible to compel by any means, the leaders of secession to make oath as to the truth of every word above recited, the people would find every word true.

I did not promise secrecy of this disclosure, although it was doubtless implied. But I deem it important to the whole country that it should be in due time exposed. By a

SOUTHERN PLANTER & A UNION MAN.

March 26, 1861.

New Advertisements.

Letters Remaining in Richmond Hill P.O.
Vaughan Ploughing Match,
Yonge Street Agricultural Society's Meeting
First-class Salsman Wanted.
House for Sale.
To Builders and Others.
Good Collars—W. H. Myers.
A Boy Wanted.
Executors Notice.

The York Herald.

RICHMOND HILL, APR. 5, 1861.

A Word to Grumblers!

You may talk a man into anything, as was proved by some medical students, who at proper distances saluted a healthy robust man with, "Sir, how bad you look; and, dear sir, unless you at once return home, you are a dead man," which so frightened the poor fellow that he was nearly dying; and from being told he was sick actually became so. So it is with many now-a-days. They get a fit of the blues, and not only imagine themselves in a bad way, but that everything around them is going to ruin, and by the frequent use of the Devil Discontent's Microscope, everything that is good or prosperous is seen through a diminishing medium; whilst every evil assumes astonishing proportions, and with contracted souls a slight mistake becomes at once a premeditated and grievous wrong. Laboring under some such delusion, the immortal Burke once said, "The age of chivalry is gone, and the glory of Europe is departed forever;" but in spite of this rash assertion, the country over whose departed glory he was wont to weep, now stands in bold relief as queen of the nations and the glory of the world.

Thus it is with this Canada of ours. There are those amongst us who are for ever asserting that we are on the verge of bankruptcy; that we are suffering so acutely that nothing short of brute force will ever right us. Those dastardly French Canadians are lord it over us with a rod of iron. The Grand Trunk has destroyed our credit. We are taxed beyond precedent, and are in very truth in the last stage of consumption; and nothing now can save us but a dissolution of the Union, with a Joint Authority myth or Written Constitution nostrum. These things are stated day after day, and week after week with unabated earnestness, and the consequence is, that we really begin to imagine that after all, and in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, there is something really "rotten in the root of Denmark." But we have only to calmly look around us, and we see at once the fallacy of our forebodings and the causelessness of our fears; for we maintain, in spite of all assertions to the contrary that we are in a far healthier condition at this moment than any other country under heaven.

We have excellent laws, which with rare exceptions, are enforced in an impartial manner. We have no privileged aristocracy sucking our life's blood; every avenue of life is open without restriction to all. Our population has more than doubled within the past few years; where once was the stately forest, there is now the cultivated field, and is heard the robust laborer whistling at the plough. A few years ago we were few in number and unknown. Our churches were the pine stumps, or the rude log shanty; and our schools resembled nothing so much as pig pens; and of the teachers, it might be said that by teaching others they themselves learned to spell. We had no roads, no markets, and no commerce; and now how do we stand? Our farmers are, as a class, populous and even opulent. The rude log hut has been exchanged for the brick house. Our daughters dress in silks; our farms are cultivated well; our harvests are reaped, not with a sickle, but reapers that will cut their ten, twelve or twenty acres per day. We have Universities taught by scholars of eminence. We have schools in every section of the country; and our teachers are, as a class, as intelligent as can be found in any land. We have Railways nearly everywhere; good roads also; and Canals, Steamboats, &c., which in spite of severe winters, give us a market for every kind of produce all the year round. We respectfully ask, is there in all this any indication of wide-spread ruin? If there is, we would like to know what are the signs of health and prosperity.

The fact is, as a people we have much to be thankful for, as we have peace in our borders and plenty in our midst; and they are no well wishers to the country that assert the contrary; and we would seriously advise our readers to shun those who are constantly prognosticating evil, as in nine cases out of ten the wish is father to the thought. Observe, we do not pretend to say but what we need some reforms; those

reforms that are needed we have in former issues pointed out. But before we believe in the cry of French domination ruining us, we would like to ask for the signs of ruin, as we confess we can see none, but quite the reverse; and we would also like to know how it is, that when there are only fifty French Roman Catholic members in our Canadian Parliament out of one hundred and thirty, they can rule us; and besides, the party that thus French Catholic oppression in our ears had more Catholic members of its cabinet than the present Ministry; and not only that, but is still in alliance with the Catholic—more power to the Pope—McGeer. The spouting and the action of the Grits certainly do not tally. But in the fall we must have a general election. We would therefore earnestly advise our readers not to be led away by the frothy declamation of amateur politicians. Let each one think for himself, and when told we are going to destruction, let him demand some proof. If the bribery and corruption incident to railways is mentioned, let him ask where are the signs of decay consequent thereon. That speculation is wrong we do not deny; but, we ask will dissolution, joint authority, written constitutions, or any of these wild theories remedy railway fraud. No. What is wanted is not such remedies as these for any of our wrongs, but wise and constitutional reforms, not indeed to keep us from bankruptcy, but to give an impulse to our onward march of prosperity.

Richmond Hill Fair.—The usual monthly fair was held on Wednesday last, at the Masonic Hotel. There was a good show of Cattle, Calves and Sheep, and plenty of buyers on the ground; so that stock quickly changed hands, although prices did not range so high as on former occasions.

The first of April was ushered into existence with a storm of snow, the wind blowing nearly a hurricane. The storm lasted all day with unabated fury, and it seemed impossible to believe it to be spring time, for it had the appearance of being January. But since then the weather has been mild and fine, rendering our roads (with the exception of Yonge street) all but impassable. The winter has been a long one and cold—but the abundance of snow has, we doubt not, protected the wheat from all harm. Therefore, although we shall have a late spring—yet if there are no more frosts, but genial weather—there is nothing to fear. In spite of the good crops of last season the money market has been very tight, and business as a whole, has been very dull; thus proving that we are far from having recovered the lost ground occasioned partly by the mad speculation of former years, and the failure of the crops about two years since. Still there is no doubt that times have much improved, and should we be blessed with an abundant harvest this year, we think we may safely say that we shall fully recover from the shock we then suffered.

We have received an original Tale from the pen of an esteemed correspondent. It is entitled "How Dougall got his wife," founded on fact, and what makes it more interesting, it is said to have occurred in our own neighborhood. Will appear next week.

Vaughan Council.

The Vaughan Council met at the Town Hall. All the members present.

By-law No. 121, appointing Poundmasters, Poundkeepers, and Fence Viewers for the present year, was passed.

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Cook, that the Treasurer be, and he is hereby authorized to pay the following accounts:—

To Alex. Scott, for printing, &c., \$21 25
" J. A. Franks, for work done at Town Hall, 5 00
" President of Vaughan Plough Road, 30 00
—Carried.

The Clerk was instructed to advertise for tenders to re-erect the Stable and Shed at the Town Hall, such tenders to be delivered to him on or before the 13th May.

The Council then adjourned to the 13th May, on which day all appeals against the Assessment Roll will be heard.

List of Pathmasters, Poundkeepers and Fence Viewers.

PATHMASTERS.
Henry White, Robt. Gordon,
Geo. Charlton, Daniel Hoaman,
Wm. Lane, John Howard,
Benjamin Hard, John Pickering,
John Vello, Jr., William Graham,
George Leat, John Vello, Sr.,
J. B. Lawrence, J. R. Arnold,
—Basingstow, Jas. Scott,
Edw. Shephard, Jan. Gideon Hishop,
Daniel Smith, Thomas Hishop,
John Hart, William McDougall,
James Pearson, John Charlton,
Peter Rury, David McQuarrie,
James Morrison, Daniel Kinney,
Wm. Davies, John Mallor,
John Elliot, William Dalziel,
Nathaniel Wallace, Samuel Snider,
John Maynard, Wm. Jackson,
James Ewart, Jacob Smith,
Wm. Marwood, Isaac Murray,
Thomas Chapman,
James Stevenson,
James Livingston, Wm. Dalziel, Jan.
John White, Duke Jarrett,
Wm. Cameron, Fras. Bunt, junr.,
John Wilson, Wm. Cosmable,
John Porter, Amer. Matthews,
John Ramm, James Hyslop,
George Wallace, Henry Sheffer,
Thomas Smith, Henry Akain,
John Armstrong, Peter Witherspoon,
John Beaton, James Graham,
Wm. Andrew, Jacob Stump,
Geo. Witherspoon, John Phillips,
Michael McLeach, John Fleming,
Thomas Smith, Matthew Gowan,
Thos. McAlister, Tarpia Cobham,
Geo. Arkey, John Wood,
Thos. Banks, Henry Paul,
Aaron Proctor, John Fair,
John Jeffery.

FENCE VIEWERS.

Geo. Charlton, Josh. Mathewson,
Benjamin Hard, Brigham Wilkinson,
Wm. Powell, Wm. Cole,
Wm. Cosmable, Jacob Harkholder,
A. McMurphy, George Pearson.

FOUND-KEEPS.

George Shephardson, Joseph Gaby,
John Campbell, Robt. Thompson,
Wm. Elliot, B. McMahon,
Walter Dalziel, Peter Frank,
John Phillips, Egan.

The Northern Railway traffic for week ending March 23, was \$8,419, against \$6,523, for corresponding week last year, being an increase of \$1,896. The receipt this year is \$70,571, and the corresponding time last year \$49,762, an increase of nearly \$21,000. These figures are certainly very satisfactory, for although the receipts of 1860 were largely in advance of 1859, the earnings this year exhibit a greater advance over 1860.

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Correspondence.

We wish it to be distinctly understood, that we do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents through our columns.

THE Township Societies of Markham and Scarborough united with the East Riding York Agricultural Society, will hold their Spring Fair Plowing Match, on Wednesday, 1st day of May, 1861. Place to be named hereafter—when committee report selection of a suitable field.—Com.

AURORA CORRESPONDENCE.

There is nothing of any moment stirring here. The merchants seem to be doing a good business—Machell & Fiel leave for Montreal to-morrow to buy their Spring stock; Lepper, Boyd, Mosley and Smith have received part of their's. The Messrs. Todd are about opening a general store. The roads in this neighborhood are almost impassable. Very little travel. There has been a great deal of wood taken here at the R. R. station, which has a tendency to keep up the price of wood in the village. Mr. George Graham has purchased and furnished the Wellington Hotel in the style of a first-class house, and is deserving of a share of the patronage of visitors. There is no local news. Mr. Jacob Wells, of this place, had three head of cattle run over last week, and killed by the freight train moving north on the Northern Railroad. I hear that the same train killed no less than seven head on its route north the same day. Mr. Wells has applied for redress.

K.

Aurora, April 2, '61.

[For the York Herald.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

An examination of the School in Section No. 8, in the township of Markham, under the tuition of Mr. A. F. McDonald, was held on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at which I took occasion to be present. Notwithstanding the very unfavorable state of the weather, a goodly number of those interested in the school assembled, and appeared to be highly delighted with the day's proceedings. In the absence of the Rev. Mr. Ill, L.S., examinations were carried on by the Rev. Mr. Strauss and others. The manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves, and their ready answers to many difficult questions in the various branches, were really gratifying, and reflected great credit, not only on the pupils themselves, but also on Mr. McDonald's abilities as a teacher. Having gone through with the examinations, and the pupils having proved themselves to be very proficient in Grammar, Geography, Geometry, and Algebra, as well as the more common branches, the next that attracted our attention was the Penmanship. The writing of the younger pupils was very neat, without a blot perceptible in any of the books; while that of the more advanced we have seldom seen equalled. There were also several specimens of Ornamental Penmanship exhibited, which elicited many expressions of admiration. It was a very common remark among the spectators, that it seemed impossible for them to do anything in a better manner; and to do justice to the teacher and pupils, we must say that, although we have seen many specimens of the kind, we have seldom seen them equalled, and never surpassed. We were also shown quite a number of beautifully colored Maps, some of which were scarcely discernible from the original, and all were gotten up in a very creditable manner. To enliven the proceedings and

make the affair still more interesting, several pieces of music selected for the occasion, were sung in an admirable manner. Several interesting and amusing dialogues were also introduced at intervals, eliciting much applause. At the close of the examination, the teacher distributed a number of excellent prizes among the deserving pupils; after which the Rev. Mr. Strauss, in a lively and appropriate manner, addressed the school, congratulating them on the progress they had made, and in the fortunate possession of a teacher of Mr. McDonald's abilities, and exhorting them to pursue the only path which leads to true honour. The proceedings were then brought to a close, all highly gratified with the entertainment.

Yours, &c.,
JULIUS CRESER.
Burlington, March 27, 1861.

[For the York Herald.
Usury Laws.

Enactments for the purpose of regulating the interest of money have from the earliest times formed some portion of the legislation, of almost every commercial people; and still it remains to be shown that such enactments have accomplished their object, or have in general been attended by beneficial results. Canada has been no exception to this general practice, nor to its universal failure. We have had the legal rate fixed at 6 per cent, and those guilty of receiving more made subject to severe penalties. Then we had the abrogation of the penalties, and 6 per cent fixed as the maximum rate reconcilable at law. At the present time all parties are left free to make their bargains as they think proper. But some of our members of Parliament, who think themselves more competent to determine the amount that each merchant shall pay for the loan of money than he is himself, appear determined to force upon us another usury law. No less than three separate bills on this subject have been introduced. Mr. McMichael and Mr. Cauchon have each given notice of "a bill to regulate the rate of interest," and Mr. Bourassa proposes to bring forward a measure to fix a uniform rate of 6 per cent. There appears to exist among a certain class of people a sort of undefined feeling of prejudice against the money lenders, for which it would be difficult to assign a sufficient reason; and any proposition made for the purpose of diminishing the amount of his ill-gotten gain, meets with their warmest support. There was a time when it was thought necessary to fix the prices of certain commodities, as well as that of labor. Such laws, however, invariably failed to accomplish the objects for which they were enacted, and political economists are pretty well agreed that they were not only useless, but positively pernicious in their tendency. It does not require a very profound knowledge of the science of political economy to be convinced of the justice and propriety of allowing each individual to dispose of his goods or property to the best advantage. The farmer would consider that law to be arbitrary and unjust, which would compel him to sell his produce for a lower price than its real value, or to pay a higher rate of wages to his labourers than their services are actually worth. Such laws were once in existence, and the principle on which they were founded, are identical with those of which the advocates of usury laws complain. Why should money be made an exception to a rule, which is generally admitted to be correct? Why should not the price of money, like the price of every other commodity, be regulated by supply and demand. It is not unwise to attempt to regulate the price of labor by law, it is not equally unwise to fix the price of money, which is but the representative of labour? The value of money, like that of wheat or potatoes, is affected by cases which no human wisdom can foresee. Perce or war, a good or bad crop, may increase or diminish the price of any of these articles very materially within a very short period. Money may be worth 8 per cent now, and 12 per cent six months hence; or to an individual in difficulties, it may be worth a higher rate than to another not so situated. The borrower is the sole judge of the rate he can afford to pay, based upon the profits or other advantages he expects to realize from its use. It may happen that a merchant of the highest integrity, by the force of circumstances, is unable to meet his payments. His honor and business reputation are at stake, and it is a matter of the greatest consequence to effect a loan, although he should pay enormously for it. In order to save himself from bankruptcy, and restore himself to a position of safety, it would be to his advantage to pay 12 or 15 per cent, if money could not be procured cheaper. But suppose a law to exist restricting the rate to six per cent, and the money-lender finding it more profitable to speculate in land than to lend at that rate, and being a law-abiding person, refuses to lend. The merchant, for want of temporary relief, is obliged to suspend payment, and ruin is the consequence. It is true there may occasionally be cases of great suffering arising from high rates of interest, but such instances are not unfrequently the result of a want of prudence and foresight, or of causes which no legislation can control. A manufacturer or farmer, we will suppose, becomes involved, and runs starve him in the face. He borrows on mortgage, and the lender taking advantage of his necessities, charges 12 or 15 per cent. He hopes, however, that a turn in business, a good crop, or better times, will enable him to pay off his debts. But the interest accumulates so rapidly that he is unable to overtake it; his property is sold, and he is left penniless. This may appear to be a case of extreme hardship; but the arguments drawn from such instances can with equal propriety be cited in support of restrictive regulations in reference to produce or labor. During a season of scarcity the poor man with a large family may be obliged to pay double the price of ordinary years for his bread or flour. If his wages have not increased in proportion to the price of food, he must either run into debt or starve. He pre-

fers the former, and as a consequence, is left for years perhaps with the incubus of a heavy debt pressing upon him; on his creditors, seize upon his little all to satisfy their claims. It might with apparent propriety be said that Government should not permit the miller or the baker to demand a higher price for flour or bread, than the poor man can afford to pay. If legislation is necessary to fix the price of money, we can see no reason why flour or bread should be omitted. If the borrower of money is to be protected, why not the poor laborer as well, who is far less able to protect himself? But all such laws are not only unjust in principle, but they are inoperative in practice. The means adopted for setting them at defiance are numerous and well-known; the difference between the legal and the actual value of money being made up under the names of premiums, bonuses, discounts or exchanges; and in the end the borrower is the chief sufferer. In fact the direct result of usury laws is to raise rather than to reduce the rate of interest. Those who lend money at a higher rate than the legal percentage, run a certain amount of risk, which of course must be repaid by the borrower; so that the very persons that such laws are intended to benefit are those who suffer most by their operation.

THE BERLIN DEFALCATIONS.

The evidence taken before the police magistrate in the Davidson case, supplies proof of the most extraordinary carelessness on the part of the head of the money order department in Quebec. The facts are so plain that Mr. Dewe, the Inspector, acknowledges the correctness of the inference. A close inquiry into the circumstances is absolutely essential to the restoration of public confidence in the management of the department, and we trust that no political favoritism will prevent the Government doing their duty in the premises. It seems to us that the officers of the department are pressing rather hard on parties whom we believe to be innocent agents of Davidson. There is not a little of evidence to show that those who drew the money for the orders, shared in the plunder ultimately effected by the Berlin postmaster. It is alleged that they must have known that fraud was intended, from the peculiar circumstances of the case; but this allegation, if a well-founded one, tells tremendously against the officers of the department. If the circumstances were so suspicious, why were they not inquired into long before? It must be remembered, in dealing with the conduct of Davidson's agents, that that person was supposed to be wealthy, and actually was of good reputation—almost the last man to be suspected of the practices he carried on. No doubt, he drew the original orders for the purpose of raising money to stave off pecuniary difficulties, and ultimately found himself unable to provide for what was deficient. His agents in Toronto and Hamilton may have thought that he was raising money at a very dear rate, but the orders were genuine, and their confidence in Davidson's resources might induce them to go on doing his work without remonstrance.—Leader.

AN ATROCIOUS MURDER.—The

Charleston correspondent of the *Tribune* gives an account of a lynching in Georgia. He says:—"I have just left a Georgian, hailing from a small town, midway between Macon and Augusta, who tells me a tale of horror which I have no right to keep back. It occurred in the town, or rather village, of which I have already spoken, only four weeks ago; at home he dared not speak of it, and he has no correspondence in the North. The victim of lawless and barbaric cruelty in this instance was a printer who had been for some time employed by an Atlantic newspaper; he was noticed by the ruffians to speak to a negro man, probably only requesting to be directed to some house; he was seized, a rope was placed round his neck, and he was several times drawn from the ground, and dangled between earth and heaven; after tormenting him for half an hour, and threatening him with further punishment unless he confessed that he was a abolitionist, the villains gave him another jerk