

write letters of complaint to the clerks in the Navy Department—would do something of the same kind, though in a different direction, they would care less as to the "intolerable insolence" of the staff. We are far from meaning to intimate that the service of Great Britain is free from the blunders we admit in our own. But no one will doubt, who has seen for himself, that the standard of the profession is higher. What we find on an American frigate turned into a school-room, and the midshipmen hard at work at their studies, with the captain and the chaplain (in our service a grotesque nondescript) and some of the lieutenants superintending the work? This is the rule on English ships of war. With us, generally speaking—for of course there are exceptions—education is supposed to end when the boy turns back on Ansonials and be stows a parting "blessing" on Admiral Porter. What naval man nowadays studies thoroughly and for himself the science of international law, the want of which may present itself at any time? Three cases where this sort of knowledge come into play in an emergency occur to us in our own history. We refer to Commodore Perry's eminent diplomatic success in Japan; to Stockton on the coast of California in 1856; and last, least, to Commodore Biddle's admirable ability, first in the Brasil, and afterwards when, on the death of Mr. Everett in China, he was compelled, under circumstances of great delicacy, to act for months as Minister from the United States. We doubt very much if either Vassal or Wheaton or Kent are to be found in any frigate or fleet of ours, or if they are, are much studied. Mrs. Henry Wood or Mrs. Stowe are greater favorites.

All those serious and solemn truths we have felt ourselves under an obligation to utter. They are prompted by an earnest desire to see things change for the better, and are but an expansion of what the Secretary of the Navy has felt it his duty to say to the whole world. We are quite prepared to vindicate them against any censure.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Room to Let—Apply at the Variety Hall. Teacher Wanted—C. B. Wright. Furnished Rooms—James Cooke. Labrador Hornings—A. Rows. Buffalo Lungs—P. Thompson. Ball Goods—Garland, Mutchmor & Co. Ordnance Lands—E. Parent.

The Ottawa Times

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1870.

For interesting Reading Matter see First Page; for Oigana Markets see Fourth page.

CHEAP BREAD.

The misfortune of Ireland is that the sole dependence of the population is upon the land. The potato rather than the shamrock should be the emblem of Ireland. With the exception of a few manufacturers in and about Belfast, there is no industry but one. As with the American Almighty Dollar is the prevalent idea, the potato is the all and all of the Irishman. For a long time the Irish potato flourished. In spite of tithes and tax-gatherers, the "rist," the peakers, and a large population of beggars, who were beggars simply from necessity, because there were no loans to be had, and no such a huge spinning mills, no great furniture, and door, and window blind factories, nor even gunpowder mills, nor any shipbuilding, the people lived, and, on the whole, contentedly. It was not until the potato rotted in the ground, and the people grew gaunt with hunger, and never made their eyes roll in their very heads, and the dogs began to gnaw the remains of humanity, which humanity was too weak to bury, that discontent burst forth so terribly as to lead to the employment of extraordianarily repressive measures. The evils arising from the discontent were overcome, but no sufficient remedy was introduced to cure the discontent itself by making it impossible. Neither the Established Church grievance, nor the Tenant Right grievance, nor absent landlordism, nor any other special annoyance, were they completely got rid of, and make a people happy, the bulk of whom are steeped in the lowest poverty. It was the social condition of Ireland that was at fault. The country needed coal more than potatoes, and the only fuel yielded was peat. The county wasted iron, and could not get it in the vicinity of a forge. It wanted water power to compensate for the lack of steam, and a wanted capital to be used in the employment of labor to create and to carry on manufacturing. These things could not be had, and there was no help for it but to dig, dig, dig at the everlasting potato. It is a mistake to suppose that the whole dependence of a country is upon farm stock and farm produce. They do a great deal for a country, and is a commerce outside of it, with the full employment of both capital and labor, that give prosperity to a country. Here, by a petition from the farmers of Ontario, it appears that our producers, our potato and corn growers, and stock raisers, seek protection from the United States farmer! They want to raise and grow without competition to the detriment of the consumer in this country, who makes their reaping and sewing machines, carriages and carts, shoes their horses, supplies their coats, makes their chairs and tables, and gives them a machine for noting the time of day. They want to start out of the country such manufacturers, as there are, for an immediate benefit which must ultimately be their ruin. They depend upon the manufacturing population for sales, and although there is as yet lots of land in Canada for cultivation it will be an evil day when the cultivation of the soil is protected at the expense of the mechanic. Canada wants cheap bread; the farmer has already cheap land. The wheat which he produces is a raw material, and like other raw materials must be admitted-duty free for the encouragement and growth of manufactures. Here, luckily, the manufacturing capabilities of Canada may be said to be a fixed fact. There is coal in the Dominion, there is wood for all purposes, the sea and

lakes teem with fish, there is iron, antimony, lead, copper, silver, and gold; our doors for the digging, and the mills-powers and privileges are excessive. While Ireland is simply a wool, raw-hides, and fax producing country, without any native means of manufacture within her border, Canada has everything she needs and must necessarily prosper so long as her city populations have reasonably cheap bread. It is true the farmer will expend more in personal wants the more money is paid him for his wheat, but there are manufacturing trades which bring forth the money with which to purchase wheat, and there were mischievous interfered with consequences to the farmer might ensue nearly as disastrous as a death.

Here, no grievances can exist for any length of time, because there is constant employment for all who labor with their hands, and for nearly all who labor with their heads.

THE LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CITY SCHOOLS.

There was some slight discussion at the meeting of the Board of School Trustees, in this city, on the subject of appointing a Local Superintendent of schools. The discussion grew out of a motion to appoint to that important office a gentleman, whose moral character is unimpeachable, but whose educational acquirements are not superior to those of a bachelier. The salary, it is true, is not large, \$200 a year, to be paid to a man who is supposed to be tolerably well educated, moderately well read, and to be able to know the capacity of a teacher and the aptitude of a scholar, even in our common schools, is a very small remuneration for a man of such acquirements, and an outrageously large amount to pay to a gentleman of property but of no acquirements at all. That the Superintendent of last year was quite qualified for the position requires scarcely any proof, and we should not even allow to his abilities at all were it not decided to join his name once more upon the teachers of this growing city and upon the public. Mr. Consens is a very amiable man, but he knows nothing of Goethe, or Schiller, or Gil Bias, or Dean Swift, or Dryden, or Spencer, or Froode. He has never read Shakespeare, or Byron, or Walter Scott, or Longfellow, or Tennyson, or Bryant, or John Stewart Mills, or MacGregor, or Smith. He is ignorant of mathematics as of Hebrew, and he cannot spell English, and does not read French. He must be the laughing stock of such clever and well-read men as are now to be found among the teachers of Ottawa. Fifty years ago, Mr. Consens would have been a right man in the right place as School Superintendent at Ottawa. He might do very well yet to see that the school-houses are well heated, aired, and lighted, that the teacher was attentive, and the school orderly and well attended, but he can be no judge of progress in letters, for he can only barely read and in the proper sense of the term, cannot write at all. He signs his name. He writes a report for his quarterly salary; and he assists in levying the assessments; but it is simply ridiculous to say that he is a scholar, or to fancy that he could write anything like even an intelligible report of the state of the schools in Ottawa. He might do very well yet to see that the school-houses are well heated, aired, and lighted, that the teacher was attentive, and the school orderly and well attended, but he can be no judge of progress in letters, for he can only barely read and in the proper sense of the term, cannot write at all. He signs his name. 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