WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 25, 1866.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

H. & P., New York; S. D., Rochester; M. & P., Toronto; H. G., Ottawa.

In spite of the threatened Invasion of Canada by the Sweeney-Roberts Wing of the Fenians, the Province is in a state of perfect quietude. Nothing disturbs or agitates the public mind. The Spring business is opening rather dull, and as for politics, they are as dead as a door nail. After the fearful brags and boastings of Roberts, one would think that something would come of them, and yet no one believes it, or imagines that ought more will happen in Canada, than has happened on the borders of New Brunswick, where the few hundreds of Fenians that did assemble, are becoming smaller by degrees and beautifully less. At one time we really did think, and said so, that these boasting Vagabonds would make some demonstration in force, upon some part of Upper Canada; but after their doings in Maine, we recant that opinion, and go back to the original idea, that all that the leaders of the Fenians want is to swindle their deluded countrymen and countrywomen out of their money.

ENGLISH PAPERS.

We append the letter of the Canadian correspondent of the London Morning Star, received by the Persia's mails, on the condition and attitude of the people of this Province. These letters have helped to make our country understood and appreciated by the statesmen of Great Britain:—

Kingston, Canada, March 24.

Saturday the 17th March, saw the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, which was negotiated eleven years ago by the late Lord Elgin between the British provinces and the United States of America. It has been the fashion to say, and the assertion has been so often made that it has come to be believed by many, that the American people are our superiors in statecraft, and that they have always succeeded in over-reaching us in their treaties. The assertion is not true, and a notable instance of its falsehood was to be found in the late treaty. Under the system of reciprocal trade Canada has prospered and progressed with marvellous rapidity. Lord Elgin with great sagacity, saw the advantage it would be to a vast agricultural and grazing country like Canada to have a market for its natural productions, such as that of the United States, with a frontier actually touching by land, or divided only by water, and without any other obstacle intervening for hundreds of miles. The result showed the wisdom of Lord Elgin's calculations, and Canada has prospered and profitted greatly by the treaty. The burthens cast upon the adjoining States by the late stupendous civil war made it necessary that Congress should revise the entire fiscal system of the country. To levy upon their own citizens taxes from which their near neighbors were exempt would have been a palpable anomaly, and we have no right, in the exceptional circumstances which the country is placed, to complain of the abrogation of the treaty, however much we may have desired its continuance. But the year 1866 finds Canada stronger, more self-reliant, and more competent to work out its manifest destiny. A confederation of all the British Provinces in America, with free commercial intercourse, and ample railroad communication, has become an urgent necessity, and although the scheme propounded at Quebec may have to be revised in many of its details, the fact that an early Confederation of the Provinces will take place is recognised by leading politicians in all the provinces. It is supposed that the next conference of the delegates on Confederation will take place in London, under the auspices of the Colonial Office, and no doubt is entertained that the foundations will be laid deep and secure. Our Anglo-Saxon steadiness, caution, and stability will enable us to avoid the errors committed in the formation of the South American States, and to make the union durable and mutually advantageous every concession that can be made to the local interests and wishes of the Maritime Provinces will be made. It is supposed that the archives of the Colonial Office will afford information, and the advice of the Imperial Cabinet give dignity to the deliberation, and if all continues peaceful in the provinces the Governor-General of British North America will be present in London to take part in the proceedings. For the commerce lost to British America by the stoppage of reciprocal free trade with the United States we are endeavouring to find compensation by reciprocal intercourse with the empires of Brazil and Mexico, with the free Republics of South America, and with the British, French, Spanish, Danish, and Dutch West India Islands. There is, too, a movement in progress pregnant with important consequences, and which will embrace the entire country for forming a Free Trade League, and if Confederation becomes un fait 'accompli' few countries could adopt this policy with such advantages as the United Provinces of North America, with the finest ports on the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and the best available route across the new continent for conveying the productions of India, China, and Japan, and the rich islands of the Eastern Archipelago to the Emporiums of the Old World.

Saturday was also a day of great interest on account of its being the day on which so many seers had prophesied that British America would be invaded by a Fenian host from the adjacent States. But the day has come and has gone, and no invasion has taken place. The leaders of the Roberts-Sweeney section of the Fenian Brotherhood boasted that they had 100,000 men ready to cross the border, with a military chest well filled with money, and arms and munitions of war sufficient for the campaign. You will bear in mind that the Irish population in the United States, and those who are of Irish descent, are said to comprise between four and five millions of persons, and that owing to the inflation of the currency, and the great amount of paper in circulation, all classes of persons are flush of funds. The leaders of both sections of the brotherhood have been alike active in levying contributions upon their compatriots, the Mahoney-Killian section for the alleged invasion of Ireland, and the Roberts-Sweeney section for the conquest of Canada. The enthusiasm excited by these movements has been very great, and the amount of money drawn from the people proves how heartily they have entered into the projects. Here, too, the proposition enunciated by Mr. Bright has become painfully apparent, that wherever an Irishman has cast off his allegiance and has become the citizen of a different country, there will be found an enemy of England. It is a mournful reflection that the warm-hearted, generous and grateful Hibernian, when he leaves the Green Isle to become a settler in the Atlantic cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, or on the prairies of Illinois and Wisconsin, brings with him a feeling of bitterness and alienation to the country whose authority he has thrown off. But so it is, and our rulers may well ask themselves to what extent the Government and laws have operated in producing this feeling of alienation. For mark the contrast in Canada, where we have no State Church, no system of exclusive education, and no conflict of nationalities, the attachment to the institutions and country is equally strong in the Irish and the French, the Scotch and the English. It is a remarkable but admitted fact, that while in the United States a majority of the Irish are favorable to Fenianism, in Canada you will scarcely find a man who is not prepared to take up arms to repel the Fenian invaders; and our Irish fellow colonists have enrolled themselves as readily and as rapidly for the defence of the country as their English, Scotch and French compatriots. In one night on the call of the Government ten thousand volunteers sprang to arms. It was understood that they should be called out for continuous drill and these men are now under pay and are rapidly becoming as efficient as the regiments in the Queen's service with whom they are brigaded. It has also been affirmed that offers have been made to the Government to supplement this force with a service militia of 150,000 men, and if the militia is enrolled the Irishmen will press forward to serve with as much avidity as any other men. It is a pleasant and a proud thought that here in Canada we are a united people, and that no countenance will be given by any men or classes of men to the Fenian movement. It is estimated that the population in Canada of Irish birth and parentage, Catholic and Protestant, amounts at this moment to more than 700,000 souls, or one-fourth of the net population of the two provinces. If the leaders of the movement in the States have calculated upon finding sympathisers here they will be much mistaken. The Irish Catholic priests, as well as the French Catholic priests, have denounced Fenianism from the altar. Bishop Farrell at Hamilton, Bishop Lynch at Toronto, and Bishop Horan at Kingston, have published pastorals denouncing the Fenian movement, and it was remarked that on St. Patrick's Day in the large cities of Canada scarcely an intoxicated person was seen, and scarcely a case of assault or drunkenness was held over for investigation at the police court. There is no alarm in Canada, but our people are profoundly impressed with the importance of being prepared for whatever eventualities may arise. They know that a powerful organization possessed of large funds threatens them from an adjacent territory. The invaders did not come at the time threatened, but they have received large sums of money, and will probably have to do something to satisfy those who subscribed it. They may have drawn back to make the spring, but we shall be prepared to receive them. Mr. Seward thinks the whole movement a game of grab, which is now well nigh played out. The American press ridiculed and denounced it. But we, against whom it is directed, cannot afford to undervalue it, or allow ourselves to be taken unawares. We have confidence in the United States Executive that it will not allow the neutrality of its territory to be violated. Its Minister in London has made strong representations in regard to the neutrality which should be practised by friendly States. Its Amended Neutrality Act is specific and distinct. It declares that—

If any person shall within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States begin or set on foot, or provide or prepare for any military expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominions of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States are at peace, every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of high misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding $3,000, and imprisoned not more than three years.

If Gen. Sweeney calculates upon accomplishing anything material he must make the invasion in sufficient force. The situation is not the same as in the war of 1812 and 1814 or the rebellion of 1837 and 1838. The termination of railroads on different points of Canadian territory would permit the concentration of troops on those points. But the general must calculate upon having to fight his way out of the United States before he fights his way through any of the British Provinces. It has been urged by your press, and even in your Parliament, that Canadians have no public spirit; that we are provincials that have no nationality, and will look to the mother country for support. But the history of the past will show that these taunts have not been merited, and the records of the present and the future will prove that we know how to estimate at its true value the advantages we enjoy. We come of a good lineage, English and French, Irish and Scotch. The military spirit of the country was slumbering and smouldering when these Fenian threats were uttered. But we are awake, and the dull fire has been fanned into a bright flame. The quarrel has been none of ours, but if hordes of disbanded miscreants, with appetites whetted for war and rapine, attack a people who have done them no wrong, there will be no weak cry for more men from England, but every Canadian of every nationality will hasten to meet the invader, and may God defend the right.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

Explosion of Nitro-Glycerine at Aspinwall—Sixty-three Persons Killed, Wounded and Missing—A British Steamer Blown to Pieces.

The steamship Arizona has arrived from Aspinwall, bringing news of a fearful disaster at that port, caused by the explosion of nitro-glycerine, on board the British steamer European, and which resulted in the total destruction of the steamer, the freight depot of the Panama Railroad Company, and fifty persons are supposed to have been killed—twenty-six bodies having been recovered when the Arizona left Aspinwall. Only a few days ago, an account was published in the Whig of a fearful explosion that occurred at San Francisco, from the effect of nitro-glycerine, by which several lives and much valuable property was destroyed. It is now followed by another explosion, far more terrible in character and horrible in detail. The Panama Star and Herald contains a full account of the disaster. It says:—

The European arrived at Aspinwall on the morning of the 2nd instant, and on the afternoon of the same day came alongside the Railroad Company's wharf, generally used by this line, and commenced discharging her cargo. Nearly, if not all the local freight had been delivered, when about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 3rd, a terrific explosion occurred on board, which tore away the upper part of the ship, and blew several large plates off the side. The wharf at which the vessel was unloading, and which was some 400 feet long, was literally torn to pieces; the superstructure was completely demolished to within a hundred feet of the freight house, and hardly a plank remained in the entire length of the structure that was not wrenched from its fastenings. Immediately in front of where the vessel lay, a gap was cut through the wharf, piles, planking etc., all disappearing. The ship and wharf both caught fire and the latter was saved from entire destruction only by the exertions of several citizens, who got the fire engine to work, and after a few hours extinguished the flames, regardless of the risk they incurred from another explosion of the burning ship.

The Panama Railroad Co's. Freight Depot was left a pile of ruins, the entire structure being, as it were, lifted from the ground several feet. Scarcely a building in the place escaped without damage. Many homes are rendered untenable, and scarcely a whole window of glass remains in the city. The destruction of glass-ware, mirrors and crockery-ware is wonderful. At the time the explosion occurred there were a number of vessels lying near the European, but none received any serious damage, with the exception of the steamer Carribbean. The effect on board this vessel was marvellous, and shows the irresistible power of the explosive agents. Some immense iron girders, nearly twelve inches deep, were snapped asunder like pipe stems: thirteen of her frames were broken, and knees and braces of the heaviest timber were torn from their places. All her boats, and in fact everything attached to her of a fragile nature, were rendered useless.

The most awful part of the catastrophe is the dreadful loss of life and the suffering attending it. Of the number killed and missing no correct estimate can be given, but the number can safely be put down at fifty. There have been buried, up to the present time, 26; missing from the ship, 12; missing from the shore, 8; seriously wounded, in hospital, of whom 5 will probably die, 17; total, 63. Besides this number there were many wounded carried to their homes. Of the 41 men comprising the crew of the European, 9 have been killed and 12 are missing. Two clerks engaged on the wharf—Mr. Swainson, of the W. I. and P. Steamship Co., and Mr. Calvo, of the Panama Railroad Co.—were both instantly killed, and of 13 natives or Jamicans employed on the wharf and in the freight house, none are supposed to have been saved; besides it is believed a small gang of native laborers who had gone on board the unfortunate steamer have met the fate of the others. It will be several days before a correct estimate can be made of the loss. Many bodies were no doubt thrown into the water and picked up by sharks, whilst others are still buried beneath the ruins of the freight house and wharf, or went down with the ill-fated ship. The scene in Aspinwall after the first explosion cannot be described—it was harrowing in the extreme. Whilst the ruins gave an air of desolation to the place, the mangled and lacerated bodies to be met with in every direction for a great distance around the ruin of the disaster were heartrending, and the sufferings of the poor mortals crushed and bruised, in whom life was not extinct, was really dreadful.

Fears being entertained that another explosion would occur it was thought advisable to tow the burning vessel away from the city, and the Royal mail steamer Tamar, Captain Moar, immediately got up steam for that purpose. He had scarcely made fast to the wreck when an explosion occurred, supposed to be the Magazine, which contained a small quantity of powder for the ship's use; the explosion however, was not of sufficient force to cause any injury. The Tamar then started with the European in tow, but had scarcely reached the other side of the bay when another explosion occurred, and the unfortunate vessel went down immediately—the top of her smoke stack being the only part now visible.

At first the cause of the explosion was wrapt in mystery. A boiler explosion was known to have been impossible, as there was no steam in the main boiler. Gunpowder seemed to be the most plausible, but there was known to be only a few pounds on board. At last it was discovered that some seventy cases of glonoin or nitro-glycerine, one of the most powerful explosive agents known at the present day, was on board under an ordinary bill of landing. This compound is used for blasting purposes, and was shipped from Liverpool to California. It appears that the explosive substance had been shipped under a false bill of lading, under the head of "merchandize." Not a word of explosive material is mentioned, and the cases, 73 in number, were stowed between decks, and amongst other cargo.

The total loss of property by this explosion is estimated at one million dollars.

NITRO-GLYCERINE—WHAT IS IT?

Glycerine is the sweet principal of oil, and is extensively used for the purposes of the toilet; but it has now received an application of rather an unexpected nature. In 1847 a pupil of M. Pelouse's, M. Sobrero, discovered that glycerine, when treated with nitric acid, was converted into a highly explosive substance, which he called nitro-glycerine. It is oilly, heavier than water, soluble in alcohol and ether, and acts so powerfully on the nervous system that a single drop placed on the tip of the tongue will cause a violent headache, which will last for several hours. The liquid seems to have been almost forgotten by chemists, and it is only now that M. Nable, a Swedish engineer, has succeeded in applying it to a very important branch of his art—namely, blasting. From a paper addressed by him to the Academy of Sciences, we learn that the chief advantage which this substance, composed of one part of glycerine and three parts of nitric acid, possesses, is that it requires a much smaller hole or chamber than gunpowder does, the strength of the latter being scarcely one-tenth that of the former. Hence, the miner's work, which, according to the hardness of the rock, represents five to twenty times the power of the gunpowder used, is so short that the cost of blasting is often reduced by fifty per cent. The process is very easy. If the chamber of the mine presents fissures, it must be lined with clay to make it water-tight; this being done, the nitro-glycerine is poured in, the water after it, which, being the lighter liquid remained at the top. A slow match with a well charged percussion cap at one end is then introduced into the nitro-glycerine. The mine may then be sprung by lighting the match, there being no need of tamping. On the 7th of June last, three experiments were made with this new compound in the open part of the tin mines of Altenburg, in Saxony. In one of these a chamber thirty four millimetres in diameter was made perpendicularly in a dolomitic rock, sixty feet in length, and at a distance of fourteen feet from its extremity, which was vertical. At a depth of eight feet a vault filled with clay was found, in consequence of which the bottom of the hole was tamped, having a depth of seven feet. One litre and a half of nitro-glycerine was then poured in; it occupied five feet; a match and a stopper were then applied, as stated, and the mine sprung. The effect was so enormous as to cause a fissure fifty feet in length, and another twenty feet.

CHEMICAL NATURE OF THE COMPOUND.

The Blasting Oil, or Nitro-glycerine of Mr. Nobel, is a chemical compound of six equivalents of carbon, five equivalents of hydrogen, three equivalents of oxygen, and three of nitrogen.

Practically it is a composition of 75 per cent. of nitric acid and 25 per cent. of glycerine oil.

A scientific calculation of the volume of gases, developed by the combustion of this compound and the combustion of good gunpowder, proves that nitro-glycerine, compared with gunpowder, possesses thirteen times its power, when volumes are compared, and eight times its power for equal weight. Therefore, where eight pounds of gunpowder are wanted, one pound of nitro-glycerine will be sufficient to produce the same effect.

ESCAPE FROM KINGSTON JAIL.—Two prisoners, named Chas. Burt and Chas. Duff, in for larceny and horse-stealing respectively, a year each, made their escape on Saturday last, between eleven and twelve o'clock in the day time. They were in the yard, and jumped the fence. Can anything more clearly demonstrate the imperative necessity of a high wall round the jail? And yet the County Council won't build one.

THE BATH ROAD.—The gates on this road were sold by Mr. Linton, on Monday, to the same parties who held them last year. No. 1 sold for $455, an increase of $35. No. 2 sold for $305, a decrease of $15.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ARRIVAL.—We learn that the Governor General will arrive here on Saturday, and take possession of Rideau Hall. His Excellency's servants are to reach town to-day, to put the new residence in order.—Ottawa Times.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. P.P. Harris, Manager of the Montreal Bank branch in Kingston, being about to take his departure for Quebec, to assume the management of the branch in that city, a number of the customers of the Bank, and private friends of Mr. Harris, resolved to pay him a compliment upon the occasion of his departure, and for that purpose purchased a set of four elegant silver side dishes, which were presented by Sheriff Corbett in behalf of the subscribers on Saturday last at Mr. Harris' residence. The following address accompanied the presentation:—

P. P. Harris, Esq., Manager Bank of Montreal, Kingston.

DEAR SIR,—We are deputed by your friends and business connections (while here as Manager of the Bank of Montreal, and now about leaving,) to present you with the accompanying pieces of plate, as a small token of esteem and respect for the affable, friendly and gentlemanly intercourse enjoyed during your short residence amongst us. While regretting your departure, we cannot but be pleased that you leave on promotion to a larger city, where your business talent may be more extensively exercised in the interests of the Bank. Permit us, dear sir, on behalf of your numerous friends, to wish you and your family every happiness.

Mr. Harris, on accepting the plate, begged the subscribers to accept his warmest thanks for the very handsome testimonial they had presented to him, and which he assured them he should always prize as a cherished memorial of their good will and esteem. It was very gratifying to him to receive the assurance that, during his short residence in Kingston, their official intercourse had been of so pleasing a nature, and that he had, while endeavoring to discharge his duty to the Institution he represented, succeeded in obtaining the personal regard of those with whom he had been brought into business connection. Although he was removing to a distant part of the Province and should have but few opportunities of revisiting Kingston, he should always be pleased to hear of the prosperity of a city which possessed so many natural advantages, and whose business men have always borne so high a character for integrity and uprightness. He begged on behalf of his family to thank his friends cordially for the good wishes they had expressed for their welfare and happiness.—News.

MR. SEWARD WARNS AUSTRIA.

New York, April 23.

The Post's special says that Mr. Seward has sent important instructions to Mr. Motley, Minister at Vienna, in reference to the project of sending Austrian troops to the aid of Maximilian. A strong protest against such action will be made.

THE CHOLERA AT NEW YORK.

New York, April 23.

Health officer Bissell reports from board the hospital ship Falcon, last evening, that since the last report ten deaths occurred on board that ship from Cholera. Twenty new cases were received on board from the Virginia, and two deaths on board the England, but not from Choler. There are seventy-three cases of cholera on board the hospital ship.

Weekly British Whig

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 26, 1866.

LETTERS & TELEGRAMS.

P. W., Erinsville; E. C. & Co., New York; D. K., Wilton, with rem.

REMINDERS.

AUCTION SALE by James Linton, of the furniture in the British Empire Hotel, this morning at ten o'clock.

AUCTION SALE of the 'Buckley Building' at noon to-day, by James Linton.

LAUREATION in Queen's College at three o'clock this afternoon.

We have on hand a couple of good letters from a practical man, on the Culture of Fruit Trees in Canada. We give one of them to-day, and shall give the other next week:—

LETTER FIRST.

Gananoque, April 20th, 1866.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

For many years I have observed through the country, and especially from Prescott to the head of the Bay of Quinte, that the Orchards of Apple Trees are everywhere decaying, particularly those of long standing. Many of them are dead, others have dead branches, small and knarled fruits. Scarcely can a tree be seen on any old cultivated grounds in a healthy and luxuriant state, except it be at the side of a fence or upon some steep and rocky side hill, where the plow has never disturbed it. Similar cases everywhere. I have a knowledge of these facts, with close observation, together with an experience of better than half a century, during which time I have carefully read and duly considered the writings of every author, from the writings of 'Forsythe,' of the Royal Gardens at Kensington, down to the present day's publications.

The most important principle in the art or science of bringing the Fruit Tree to perfection, more especially in this climate, and with a luxuriant and healthy growth, and superior fruit, has never been noticed by any author, viz., 'the Virgin Soil,' which is not surprising, as all the authors who have written on the Culture of the Fruit Tree, have been of that class of persons, who perhaps had never known soil in its original state of nature—only having known by actual experience lands which had at some time been turned over with the plow—and this great error of bringing land into a perfect state of cultivation, before setting their fruit trees, has been almost universally believed as essential to success in bringing their orchards to a healthy state of perfection. The greatest pleasure a farmer can have is an orchard of healthy Fruit Trees, but the attempt has so often failed, that many have finally abandoned the trial altogether.

Now my present object is to make some remarks on the soil. I have found that the Fruit Tree can only be brought to perfection on the virgin soil. Almost every farmer can find on his farm some piece of wood land where the plow has never been used, nor has the grass ever grown upon it. Let the wood be removed, but be extremely careful to have no fire on the surface, but leave all the rubbish, leaves, and chips on the ground to decay and decompose, as decomposed vegetation is the best food for the growth of the tree. Then without any delay set your trees, distance from each other about fourteen or fifteen feet apart each way. Then see carefully to the fence, that it may be made perfectly secure against all cattle whatever. Horses and pigs alone may possibly be allowed to enter. Good, healthy grafted trees should alone be set, certainly not deeper than when in the nursery.

Thus can a piece of land for an orchard be selected which has never been entered by the plow or the spade, but in a perfect state of nature—nor may the plow or spade ever enter it—let the grass be kept perfectly clear from the trees for about five or six feet, which can be done, and must be done twice in the year, by the hoe. After eight or ten years this may be dispensed with, if thought too much trouble.

After transplanting the trees for a few years, they require to be closely but judiciously pruned, being careful not to cut off any main or leading branches, nor any so large as not to heal easily over, nor to use the amputating saw.

Land in a perfect state of nature is congenial to the growth of the tree—but never to be disturbed for a single instance by cultivation, or the plow to enter it, then it will forever retain its bright porous nature, and the trees will grow most luxuriantly bearing a fair, large and plentiful supply of fruit.

But after the land has once been plow'd the porous nature of the soil is forever changed, and all the operations of modern science combined cannot bring the land back again so as to produce the same luxuriant, healthy, full bearing, fruit trees, as the undisturbed virgin soil would have produced.

The principle and importance of the Virgin Soil may be fairly tested by any person who may wish to prove the same in the following simple manner viz:—

Go anywhere into the primative wild woods where the soil has never been disturbed, and where a healthy growth of trees are actually growing, and dig a hole, say ten or twelve inches square, and as deep as the soil extends, and place the whole excavated soil in a box without wasting any; then turn in a bucket or two of water, and thoroughly stir and mix it together—then turn the whole of the mixtures back into the same place from which it was taken, and it will only fill it about half full.

The reason is obvious—the Virgin Soil until it is turned over by the plow or the spade, is light and porous as an honeycomb, and will remain so for centuries undisturbed. The trees in such soil will extend a great distance near the surface, and will cause the trees to thrive with a luxuriance which in cultivated ground all the art and science of modern Professors cannot equal. As land is continually cultivated it grows harder and less congenial to the growth of the tree. To this cause may be attributed the many failures of our farmers, in their endeavors to plant an Orchard.

GANANOQUE.

THE FENIANS IN IRELAND.

A FENIAN SOLDIER SENTENCED TO BE SHOT—FRESH ARRESTS—MORE DESERTERS AND NEW ARMAMENTS, &C, &C.

(Dublin (April 5) correspondence of London Times.)

Sergeant Darragh, of the English army, tried by court martial for Fenianism and planning a mutiny in Cork garrison, had been found guilty and sentenced to be shot. Her Majesty had, however, commuted the sentence to penal servitude for life.

The police yesterday morning arrested a man named John Harrison, and lodged him in Lilmainham jail without troubling the magistrates. They had good reason for doing so, for although he called himself a compositor, he was prepared to distinguish himself in a different field of labor. At his lodgings, in No. 3 Harmony Row, they found concealed behind the window shutter, in the space for the pulley lines and weights, three seven chamber revolvers, new and of the best make, a sword and three bullet moulds, with a quantity of cartridges and bullets. They found also in possession of the prisoner the 'Life of Robert Emmett,' the 'Battle of Aughrim,' and a number of seditious songs, which plainly indicated the use he intended to make of the arms and ammunition. As in all similar cases, the arrest was made in consequence of private information conveyed to the detectives. Mr. J. Slattery, owner of the public house near Dublin Castle, in which a number of persons were lately arrested on the charge of Fenianism, has been permitted to go out on bail. The Lord Lieutenant has also authorized the release of Mr. Grace, a prisoner from Thomastown, county Kilkenny. His father applied to Mr. McDonnell yesterday, to see whether Mr. Hort, the resident Magistrate of Kilkenny, might take the securities there, but he was told that the bill must attend at the Mountjoy prison. Two more persons - Michael Byrne and a private of the Tenth Hussars—were brought up yesterday by the detectives as deserters. The latter was given over to the officers of his regiment and inquiries are to be made about the former, whose regiment is in England. William Burrows, a tax collector, No. 4 Lennox place, was charged at the head office yesterday with having a sword and bayonet without license. He said he intended to have them registered. He was discharged on bail, but the arms were detained. John Barnes, taken up for using seditious language in a singing saloon, having excused himself on the plea of drunkenness, was liberated yesterday on his own recognizance. Mr. O'Brennan, of Castlebar, proprietor of the Connaught Patriot, who was re-arrested a short time ago, has been released on his own recognizance in £100. The Limerick Reporter states that two more national schoolmasters—Murray and O'Leary—have been arrested at Croom, in that county, on a charge of Fenianism, with a person named Thornhill, said to be a relative of the postmaster. The Kilkenny police made a discovery of arms and ammunition near the city of Waterford, in a public house, on Tuesday. In one of the rooms they found a beautiful revolver (American pattern) and a dagger. On searching in the garden they dug up an immense chest, filled with rifle bullets, ball cartridges and a great quantity of powder. The owner of the house was arrested, and further arrests in that quarter are expected. Kilkenny county reaches to the city of Waterford. A man named Quinn, said to have been actively employed in promoting the Fenian cause in Scotland, has been arrested in Sligo on a warrant from the Lord Lieutenant. A cooper named Horgan, has been arrested in Cork as a suspected Fenian. The grand jury of the city of Cork have expressed their warm approval of the conduct of the government in putting down the Fenian conspiracy.

THE CHOLERA.

THE DISEASE AT HALIFAX.—Dr. Slayter, one of the Physicians who volunteered to attend the cholera patients on the England, was taken ill on Monday morning and died of that disease on Tuesday night. The other Halifax medical men who were in the quarantine hulk Pyramus, containing the patients, report the disease to be Asiatic cholera in its worst form. Two other Doctors, Garrie and Gossip, were attacked with the disease, but have recovered.—Eight of the passengers made their escape from the quarantine ship, and it was feared they might spread the disease. Three cases of cholera have been reported at Halifax. The Rev. Mr. McIsaac, a Catholic Priest of that city, had an attack, but at the last dates by mail was recovering.

STRANGE COINCIDENCE.—A peculiar feature of the cholera which is worthy of special attention, is, that when the Virginia arrived in the same latitude in which the passengers of her sister ship, the England, were attacked with the cholera, the first unmistakable symptoms of the real nature of the illness of those on board were made manifest. This, if true, would seem to prove the old doctrine so often strenuously, advanced by many prominent medical men that certain currents of air on the ocean are deathly in their effects in causing cholera; while the atmosphere a mile distant from the particular spot, that, if known, would be avoided by vessels pursuing a course running through it, is free from any contagion. Another remarkable circumstance concerning the spread of the disease on the vessel was that the German passengers were the first to show any signs of the epidemic's existence on board. To this fact the surgeon's are directing their attention, with a view to the finding out of the primary cause of the whole plague.

THE DEERING MASSACRE.

ARRAIGNMENT OF ANTOINE PROBST.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The arraignment of Antoine Probst, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, took place on Friday afternoon. Punctual to the moment the van arrived, and the criminal was hurriedly placed in court to avoid a popular excitement.

Probst was dressed in the convict shirt and pants he had worn at Coroner Taylor's inquest, having on, besides, a dark cloth coat. He sat in the prisoner's dock stolid, morose, sullen. Throughout the whole time his eyes were staringly fixed a few paces beyond, as though he were sightless. When arrested, his high cheek bones were alluded to in these columns, but since then his face has fallen in. Remorse or terror has ploughed a deep furrow on each of the outer wings of the nose down to the mouth, and his countenance is haggard and anxious looking.

The news of his presence in court spread instantly and widely. The people gathered in crowds, the ill-arranged court room was speedily and densely crowded, and a staring wall of peering faces rose against the windows from the outside; but through all this the prisoner remained immovable.

Antoine Probst was ordered by the clerk (Geo. W. Moore) to stand up and hold up his right hand. He complied, his eyes staring vacantly before him, though a murmur ran through the room as the fact of an absent thumb was noticed.

Clerk—"What say you, prisoner, guilty or not guilty?"

Antoine Probst did not plead, by direction of his counsel, who asked a stay in the proceedings, that the prisoner might have time to plead, which was granted by the Court.

The other bills, identical save only in changing the names of the stolid, unmoved criminal, and the same legal formality was enacted by counsel.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The above unfortunate class of patients will be pleased to learn that Dr. Malcolm, one of the physicians referred to in the following letter, which we copy from the Toronto Leader, will be in this city at the British American Hotel for consultation on Wednesday, May the 2nd:—

[To the Editor of the Leader.]

SIR,—Allow me, through the columns of your valuable publication, to give the public a short account of my late illness and recovery by the use of treatment by inhalation.

About two years ago, I caught a severe, cold, which left me with a cough that was very troublesome, and accompanied by an expectoration which, after some time, showed streaks of blood. I had pain and soreness in the chest, cold chills, hectic fever, night sweats, shortness of breath, loss of flesh, loss of appetite, sore throat, and in fact all the symptoms of a well-marked case of consumption.

By family I am strongly predisposed to consumption, several members of both my parents' families having died of it.

In this condition I applied to Dr. Robert Hunter about one year ago, who, upon examination, found extensive disease of both lungs, and gave it as his opinion that my cure was doubtful. But on trial of his remedies I soon found myself improving rapidly, and after about six weeks became so much better that I discontinued their use, believing that Nature would complete the cure. In this I was mistaken, for after lingering for some time in partial health, without becoming strong, I was obliged to obtain more medicine from Dr. Malcolm, Dr. Hunter being absent from the office at the time.

On resuming the treatment I began to improve again, which improvement continued until the disease wholly left me, and I am now in the enjoyment of good health, and able to resume my business. This, after having been considered by nearly all who knew me as being a hopeless case of consumption, is, indeed, very satisfactory to me, and I take great pleasure in recommending this treatment of Drs. Hunter and Malcolm to the afflicted, believing that it, through the blessing of God, will effect cures of consumption where no other system of treatment is of the slightest benefit.

With much gratitude to the above-named physicians for their kind care and attention to my case, and many thanks, Mr. Editor, for your indulgence, I remain,

Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM G. SWAN.

Yorkville, Toronto, 14th Sept., 1864.

A STUBBORN IRON-CLAD.

The new British iron-clad ship Northumberland is giving trouble at Millwall.—She refuses to "take to the water," and puts her foot down most stubbornly. She is the heaviest vessel ever built, her armour being of great thickness, and the timber backing proportionately light. As she stands on the ways, her weight is estimated at 8,000 tons weight. On the 17th of March she was to have been launched, but only got half way into the Thames when she took firm hold of her ground ways, and, though unheard of appliances have since been used to induce her to complete the journey, she resolutely refuses to move. Fearing that her immense weight would carry her with too great momentum into the water, or into the opposite bank, the managers of the launch lessened the slope, and disappointed the visitors and the public generally. On the 3rd instant, the high tide having come, bringing with it a depth of 24 feet of water at the stern and six feet at the bows of the monster ship, a second attempt at launching her was made, but completely failed. Ten large pontoons were placed under her stern, and two vessels alongside, hydraulic rams were used against her bows, and huge battering rams brought to bear to give her a start, but she moved not.—Cables broke, chains snapped and timbers were crushed under the immense power brought to bear, but the Northumberland gave an exhibition only of steadiness under the most trying circumstances. The failure to move her is largely attributed to an unfavourable wind having kept the tide fully a foot lower than the almanac-makers prophesiedt Further effort was postponed until the 16th of April, on which day the tide was expected to attain its highest point for the year. In the meantime more affective machinery of all kinds was to be put in position to operate, the capacity of the pontoons and the power of the hydraulic rams doubled, the ways covered with a fresh coat of grease and two steam frigates lashed astern at low tide, in such a manner as to exert an immense lifting power, while allowing them to cast off instantly and get out of the way when the great ship commences to move.—Globe.

PRICKING THE FENIAN BUBBLE.

The first overt act of the Fenians consists of the burning of a British American custom-house; a cowardly and wanton act, by which no object could possibly be attained. It could only tend to increase the vigilance of the Federal authorities in taking precautions to prevent their entering on any formidable raid. Instructions were sent from Washington, on the 10th instant, to the collector at Eastport to take measures to prevent an infraction of the United States neutrality laws:

Treasury Department, April 10.

SIR,—I am advised through the State Department that a scheme is on foot by the Fenians threatening to violate the neutrality laws, and that men and arms are passing through your port for this purpose.

You will exercise due vigilance in preventing by all lawful means within the scope of your official duties any infraction of the neutrality laws of the United States, and when you have any doubt as to your authority or official duty confer with the United States District Attorney of your udicial district, and be governed by his advice.

H. McCULLOCH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Toronto, April 24.

His Honor Vice-Chancellor Spragge pronounced judgment in the following case:—

WEIR VS. MATHESON.

In this cause a decree had been made by this Court, restraining the Trustees of Queen's College, Kingston, from, in any way, interfering with the plaintiff in the discharge and performance of the duties of his office of Professor, and from withholding his salary.

The decree was appealed from, and the argument of counsel, and the judgment of the Court of Error and Appeal, have already been reported at great length in our columns. The decree was reversed, and it was referred back to this Court to carry out the order of the Court above. The Chancellor had directed that a certain sum of money be paid to the plaintiff, upon the application of the defendants to stay proceedings in this Court, pending the re-hearing of the cause—being six months' salary—without prejudice to either party.

A motion had been made in Court, to make the decree of the Court of Appeal an order of this Court, and for such further order as would carry out the decree in Appeal, and placing the parties in the same position as before this Court erroneously assumed jurisdiction.

It was admitted by Counsel that all salary paid, or paid into Court, was to be refunded; but as to the amount above mentioned, it was contended it stood on a different footing, and was the price of an indulgence, and should not be refunded.

The present judgment decided that, as the Court above had decreed that this Court had no jurisdiction to grant the Major relief sought, it had no jurisdiction to grant the Minor—that the money referred to should be repaid, and "the parties reinstated in the position they would have occupied if this Court had assumed no jurisdiction.

NOTE.—A question arose on this motion as to whether it was properly a Chambers or a Court motion. The position taken by counsel being, that if the motion had been merely to make the order of the Court of Appeal an order of this Court in its terms, that such a motion might be made in Chambers; but inasmuch as in the present case, something was yet to be done by this Court for which an order must provide, that it was properly made to the Court. As no allusion is made in the judgment to this question, it is assumed that the above rule is the correct one.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WEST.—The Hon. John A. Macdonald will leave home to-night, or to-morrow early, to be present as Minister of Militia, at a Review of all the Volunteers at Prescott and vicinity, (500 men). After the Review the hon. gentleman will proceed to the Seat of Government.

☞ BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—An important Meeting of this Board took place in Toronto last week, and lasted a couple of days. No notice of this meeting is taken either in the Globe or Leader, newspapers generally so attentive to what is going on in that city.

THE 14TH BATTALION.—The Volunteer Rifles drilled again on Tuesday evening in the Drill Shed. Part of the Companies were paid up after drill, and the remainder were paid up yesterday.

LAUREATION.—The graduates in Arts of Queen's College for the session of 1865-66 will have Degrees conferred on them this afternoon at three o'clock, in the Convocation Hall. This being the close of the session, the distribution of prizes and election of Fellows for the different Faculties will also take place to-day. The annual Converzatione given by the Students came off last evening in the College, the elite of the city being present.

MR. HARRIS—MONTREAL BANK.—We copied something from the News yesterday, complimentary to P. P. Harris, Esq. the Manager of the Montreal Bank at Kingston. It was with mixed pleasure and regret that we did so; pleasure, because it is pleasing to see uniform kindnees blended with discrimination appreciated and honored in the person of a Bank Manager; and regret, because the gentleman who has received this token of public approbation is about to transfer his services to some other locality. But what is our loss is other people's gain; for we feel satisfied that the business men of Quebec, whither Mr. Harris proceeds, will experience the same considerate treatment as those of Kingston and other cities where he has sojourned.

SILVER SERVICE SET.—The Members of the Garden Island Naval Company, officers, non-commissioned officers and men, presented Mrs. Breck on Saturday last with a handsome silver service set, in token of their regard for her endeavours to provide for the comfort of the Company whilst on duty during the late excitement. Mrs. Breck, liberally provided refreshments for the guards night and day, and the company appreciated her kindness, and rewarded her in the handsome manner mentioned above.

TESTIMONIAL TO P. P. HARRIS Esq.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

I have seen in to-day's issue of your paper, that the Manager of the Branch Bank of Montreal here is about to leave for Quebec, where he goes to assume the management of the Branch in that city. It is very much to be regretted that the citizens were not more generally made acquainted with the intended departure of Mr. Harris, as many of them have been thereby deprived of the pleasure of adding their testimony to the high esteem in which Mr. Harris was held as a Bank Manager.

Mr. Harris is a gentleman of courteous manner and great business tact, and his management of the Montreal Branch Bank here, has won for himself numerous friends, and for the Bank increased popularity.

I am sure that I express the sentiments of all persons here who came in contact with Mr. Harris, either privately or officially, when I say that he has their most distinguished regards, and their best wishes for the prosperity of his family and himself in his new and extended sphere of influence.

Yours truly,
A CITIZEN.

Kingston, April 25th, 1866.

GAOL BIRDS.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

MR. EDITOR,—When you made the remarks concerning the Gaol Birds, you must have forgotten that the Gaol contains three unhappy female lunatics, and as it does not afford the accommodations of an Asylum, they cannot be prevented from raving and singing out of the windows.

CHARLES H. CORBETT,
Gaoler.

Kingston, April 25th, 1866.

. This is all very well. But it is hard to believe that the poor unfortunate lunatics, whom it has been God's pleasure to deprive of sense and reason, could utter such vile language as emanates from the degraded prostitutes in the gaol, hardened to crime and blasphemy. It would be doing these women a good turn to put a stop to their wicked tongues, and performing a public service to the citizens living in the vicinity of the gaol, to keep them continually under restraint.

SEIZURE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS IN OSWEGO, N.Y.

A FENIAN EXPEDITION FOILED.

Oswego, April 23.

This usually quiet city is to-day the theatre of a regular Fenian excitement, consequent upon the seizure, last night, by the United States Deputy Marshal, Stephen Ried, of about one hundred and forty Springfield rifles, which were secreted in a barn near the city, and destined for the use of the Fenians. These arms were brought here by railroad in boxes marked 'machinery,' and directed to Patrick Regan, a prominent Fenian.

In making the search, the Deputy Marshal was assisted by a squad of the United States regulars from Fort Ontario, and the guns are now securely stowed away in the fort. It has been ascertained that nine hundred rifles have been sent here, of which only three cases have been secured by the Deputy Marshal. Two hundred guns were distributed among Fenians last week.

The seizure is mainly due to the exertions of a few British detectives, who have been in this city two or three weeks.

All sorts of rumors are afloat; and great excitement prevails among the Fenians, who are vowing vengeance for this interruption of their plans.

It is said that the arms were destined to be used in a Fenian expedition up the Bay of Quinte by means of sailing craft and steam tugs, having for its object the capture of Picton and Belleville, and the raising of the green flag in a situation almost impregnable by nature against assaults by land or water. The Galiou Islands in Lake Ontario, which are at present inhabited only by sea-gulls, are stated to have been pitched upon as a place of rendezvous and base of supplies. Expeditions were to move simultaneously from other places on the frontier.

The Boston Traveller states that the munitions of war seized by the U. S. Government on board of the E. H. Pray, belonging to the Fenians, comprise about 1500 stand of arms, of the Springfield and Enfield pattern, and look as if they had been used, together with a quantity of ball cartridges, haversacks and canteens.

THE FENIANS IN MAINE.

Calais, April 23.

There is a good deal of excitement in town to-day. A Fenian dressed in U.S. uniform, was prevented from crossing on the bridge to St. Stephens, N. B., according to regulations. He pulled out his pistol and fired at the sentry, but missed him. He was arrested by the U. S. guard.

Eastport, April 24.

The British despatch boat is said to bring the news that Stephens and Roberts will arrive here to-night on the Portland boat. They are expected by the Fenians; but Stephens, by last accounts, was in Paris. A large seizure of Fenian arms amunition and clothing, is said to have been made by Gen. Doyle, who is in command at St. Andrews, N. B.

De Sota, U. S. gunboat, arrived here last night with troops.

Earthworks are going to be thrown up on Indian Island, and volunteers to be placed there.

Special messengers were sent from here to Calais, by Fenians, to demand the release of the Fenian arrested there yesterday.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

New York, April 24.

The steamship America, from Southampton on the 11th inst., has arrived at quarantine.

The ship Eliza from New York for Bremen, was ran into and sunk off Portland, England. All hands but one man perished.

Liverpool, April 11, a. m.

Sales of cotton for two days were 8,500 bales including 1,750 to speculators. Market is irregular, owing to Fenian difficulties and excessive receipts, and a decline of 1d per pound has taken place.

FROM CORNWALL—POSTPONEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION.

Cornwall, April 24.

The examination of 'Mike' Murphy and his associates will not take place to-morrow, and probably not before the closing of the Court of Queen's Bench, which commences on Thursday next, and will likely last for some days, there being indictments for murders for trial and some other criminal and civil business.

CABINET COUNCIL.—A meeting of the Executive Council has been summoned for Ottawa on Friday next, when all the members are expected to be present.

A resolution was recently introduced into the House of Representatives providing for the admission of Canadian barley free of duty, but was peremptorily voted down.

ARRIVALS FROM EUROPE.

Sandy Hook, April 25.

The steamer City of Boston, From Liverpool 11th, via Queenstown 12th, has arrived. Her advices are only day later than received per America.

The steamer Kangaroo, from New York arrived out on the 28th.

It is asserted that Prussia has decidedly refused to comply with the Austrian request to withdraw her order for the mobolization of her corps d'armee.

COMMERCIAL.

London, April 12.

Consols closed at 86½ to 86¾ for money. U. S. 5-20's 71½ to 71¾. Ill. C. 80¼ to 81. Erie 54½ to 55.

Liverpool, April 13, p. m.

Cotton sales for three days 16,500 bales, including 4,500 bales to speculators and exporters; the market is very dull and almost nominal, with a decline of 1d to 2d per lb., and in some cases even more; middling uplands 16½d, the market to-day closing steadier. The Manchester market is heavy and declining. Breadstuffs market firmer. Flour quiet but firm. Wheat firm and advanced slightly. Corn steady; mixed 28s 6d to 29s 6c. Provisions dull.—Beef dull and easier. Pork flat and prices weak. Bacon steady. Butter easier. Lard dull; 72s for American. Tallow quiet and steady.

POLICE COURT, Wednesday.—There were no prisoners to bring before the Police Magistrate this morning. Richard Barner, who keeps a small grocery on Wellington street, was charged by Mr. Mostyn with selling liquor without license. Only one witness was examined, who deposed that the liquor was generously given to him by the defendant, on purchasing groceries. The case was adjourned to procure other witnesses.

MORE BUTTER SEIZED.—The Clerk of the Market yesterday inspected the butter offered for sale in the Market, and found all of good weight with the exception of two rolls, which purported to weigh two pounds each, but were seven and a half ounces short on the aggregate. While Mr. Smyth was about to secure the farmer's attendance at court, to have a fine imposed, the latter put the whip to his horses, and was outside the city limits inside of five minutes. The butter, however, having been confiscated, was sent to the General Hospital.

COMMERCE AND MARINE.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 26, 1866.

GOLD closed in New York yesterday at 126¼

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(Special Telegram to the British Whig.)

Montreal, April 25th, 1866.

William Nivin & Co., Commission Merchants, Corner of St. Nicholas and St. Sacrament Streets, Montreal, report:—

Flour—Superior Extra, 8,25 a 8,75; Extra, 7,75 a 8,25; Fancy, 7,00 a 7,25; Welland Canal Superfine, 6,50 a 6,70; Superfine No. 1 Canada Wheat, 6,70 a 7,00; Superfine No. 1 Western Wheat, 6,50 a 6,70; Superfine No. 2 Western Wheat, 6,00 a 6,25; Bag Flour, 3,50 a 3,75. Wheat—Canada, 1,35 a 1,40; Western, 1,30 a 1,35.—Oats—per 32 lbs, 34 cents a 35 cents. Barley, 48 lbs, 55 a 60c. Butter—Dairy, 27 a 30c; Store Packed, 25 a 27c. Ashes—Pots, 5,85 a 5,90; Pearls, 6,90 a 7,00. Gold in New York at 12 o'clock, 126¼.

Flour—receipts light; market quiet but firm. Wheat—none offered. Peas—wanted. Oats—fair demand. Provisions—Butter very scarce. Pork—quiet; mess easier; prime firm. Ashes—Pots easier; Pearls unchanged.