THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXVIII. KINGSTON, CANADA, FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26, 1859. NO 34

Arrival of the Asia

SANDY HOOK, Aug. 18—2 P. M.

The steamship Asia, from Liverpool on the 6th instant, has arrived off here. Her dates are two days later.

The news is generally unimportant.

The Zurich conference would assemble on the 8th.

A Bill creating a naval reserve of 30,000 men was progressing through the House of Commons.

American securities were generally unchanged. State stocks were in good demand.

Count Colloredo, the Austrian Representative, M. Des Ambrois, the Sardinian, and de Bourgueny, the French, have either reached Zurich, or were en route for the meeting on the 8th.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The English Parliament passed all the Estimates, and expected to adjourn on the 13th.

The volunteers for the 30,000 naval reserve are to enter for five years, and will be to the navy what the militia is to the army.

The steamer Great Eastern is to be delivered up by the contractors, complete, on the 18th of August.

The strike among the builders of London was getting more serious. It is expected that 40,000 will be unemployed.

FRANCE.—The Bank of France had reduced its discount from 4 to 3.

The disarming of the navy was progressing.

The 150,000,000f. unexpended, of the late loan, is devoted to international improvements.

Bourse firm and higher, 69 to 95.

ITALY.—An attempt to poison Garibaldi is reported.

Piedmont declines entering the Italian confederation if Austria forms a part.

It is said that France is intriguing to restore the Grand Dukes of Tuscany and Parma.

Naples admits breadstuffs duty free.

AUSTRIA.—It is reported that Baron Bach, Minister of the Interior, of Austria, tendered his resignation to the Emperor, who refused to accept it.

INDIA.—The Calcutta mail of July 5th was telegraphed. European troops were accepting discharges in large numbers. The mutineers at Berhampore returned to duty, except forty, who will be court-martialled. Exchange 2⅛ to 2¼

London, August 6.—Consols 95¼ to 95½ for money and account.

London, Aug 6.—The bullion in the Bank of England had decreased £132,000. Money was in active demand, and the Market slightly more stringent. Breadstuffs very dull. Provisions inactive.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS.—August 6th.—Richardson, Spence & Co. report that the weather continues favorable for the crops. Flour remained dull but steady. Wheat very dull at 2d to 3d decline. Corn also very dull at easier rates. Although there has been no quotable change in prices, Mixed and Yellow sold at 5s 6d to 6s 1d; White 7s to 7s 9d. Provisions heavy, but in improved demand. Pork dull and quotations nominal. Bacon dull but steady. Lard steady and in better demand. Sugars dull. Coffee quiet.

Arrival of the Saxonia.

New York, Aug. 18.

The steamship Saxonia arrived here yesterday evening, with dates to the 4th.

Telegraph from Paris states that all vessels at the different ports are being disarmed.

The Paris correspondent of the Times says the Sardinian Minister of Foreign Affairs had declared to Count Reiste, the French Commissioner, that Sardinia could not accede to the wishes of France so far as to make efforts to have the Grand Dukes recalled.

It is again stated that Piedmont declines entering the Italian Confederacy, if Austria forms part of it.

The Globe and the President of the Agricultural Association.

After due and attentive consideration, the Globe has favored the public with its strictures on the letter of Wm. Ferguson, Esq., President of the Agricultural Association. The Globe is a very knowing newspaper, but it nevertheless is ignorant of, or forgets several material facts connected with the subject of Mr. Ferguson's letter.

The Globe does not know Mr. Ferguson or he would not class him with office-holders and office-seekers; for Mr. Ferguson is one of the few men in Kingston or its vicinity, who has never asked or received a favor from the Hon. John A. Macdonald; and it is doubtful to us whether he ever voted for him. The municipal situation he occupies he obtained by his own merit, and he holds it by the same tenure.

The Globe forgets that the Local Committee of Management is composed of men deriving their authority from the people, and therefore of all shades of politics, viz., four members of the City Council, four members of the County Council, and the Presidents of the following bodies, the Kingston Electoral, Frontenac, Lennox, Addington, and Leeds Agricultural Societies, the Kingston Mechanics' Institute, and the Kingston Horticultural Society. There is scarcely a single politician among the whole fifteen. And the Globe also forgets that the Chairman of the Committee, who was also Chairman at the dinner, so far from being a political partizan of the Guest, is the same gentleman who took the chair at the public breakfast in honor of the Hon. Oliver Mowatt.

The Globe forgets, or perhaps does not know, that because the dinner was not a political demonstration, and placed at a corresponding low charge, the greater portion of Mr. Macdonald's personal and political friends stayed away from it—such gentlemen, among others, as the Hon. J. Hamilton, Hon. Alex. Campbell, Dr. Robison, Messrs. J. Morton, J. J. Burrowes, (County Attorney,) M. W. Strange, W. G. Hinds, J. O'Reilly, W. Wilson, Jas. Agnew, E. Chown, E. Berry, G. S. Ross, and Col. Jackson, all in town, and all his warm supporters.

The Globe declares the letter of the Hon. Adam Ferguson to be a gentlemanly, proper letter, and condemns the style and language of Mr. Ferguson's. The world a large will hardly arrive at the same conclusion. The Globe forgets that the first named writer was guilty of an excessive piece of incivility, by publishing his letter ere it could possibly reach the hands of the person addressed. This rudeness is amply sufficient to account for the tone of Mr. Ferguson's remarks.

The Globe forgets its own logic; for while it says that no political demonstration, per se, could be got up in this city, in honor of Mr. Macdonald, it gravely and impudently asserts, that no opponent of the present ministry can go to Kingston in October next, without running the risk of being insulted.

The Globe terms Mr. Ferguson's remembrance of the attempted political demonstration at the Toronto Show, 'a mere invention.' We have a distinct recollection of the fact, though not of its details.—When Mr. Ferguson returns from Montreal, whither he has gone with the Board of Agriculture, we shall endeavor to refresh the memory of the Globe.

The simple truth is, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, as member for Kingston, has rendered some very important services to the Agriculturists of this section of the Province, and it is not in his power to render more; consequently he received at the hands of the Local Committee the only return they could make. If the Globe does not know or forgets the nature of those services, that is not Mr. Ferguson's fault.

SEVERE GALE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC.—Advices of the 2nd instant from Pictou, N. S., state that that region had been visited by a severe gale, doing much damage, and occasioning a fearful loss of life. On the south side of Prince Edward Island especially the wrecks of vessels had been numerous, and the loss of life amounted to fifty.

CARD OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—The Superior of the Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph's, Kingston, gratefully acknowledges the receipt of fifty dollars, (proceeds of the late pic-nic), from the St. Patrick's Society to their orphanage.

THE COBURG REGATTA.

The Regatta at Coburg on Tuesday last was the best thing of the kind which has for a long time taken place on Lake Ontario. The yachtsmen who took part in the contest, have every reason to feel gratified at the care that was taken to make all the arrangements as perfect as possible, and we are quite sure that they will one and all allow us to express for them their most hearty acknowledgements to the managers of the race, and especially to Mr. Barron, and to Mr. Pentland, secretary of the committee. Nothing, indeed, was spared that could render the day agreeable to all, whether visitors or to those in charge of the yachts, and beyond one or two trifling casualties, such as the carrying away of a few bits of rigging, nothing occurred which could mar the pleasure or harmony of the whole proceedings.

The chief contestants came from a distance, principally from Toronto and Kingston, and as the trouble and expense of taking the boats there, entering them, and keeping them out for a considerable time, deterred all but the best yachts from being present, the interest of the race was considerably heightened. To the excitement of the match there was also added the enjoyment of a long sail from different parts of the lake, the weather during the whole time being most delightful. Five yachts left Toronto at various hours on Saturday, and, strange to say, after a variety of vicissitudes of wind and calm, all, at daylight on Monday morning, found themselves together off Coburg, and they entered the harbor together. Shortly after them the Belle of Kingston, generally considered one of the fastest boats on the lake, arrived, and about an hour or more afterwards the Glance, a new boat, also from this city about the size of the Prima Donna, followed. The Belle, a first-class yacht of 17 tons, the Prima Donna and the Glance of 10 tons each, are all sister boats made by the same builder, Mr. Osborne, and the Glance was built expressly to beat the other two.

As may be supposed, the presence of about a dozen smart little craft, all with their crews on board, gave a lively appearance to the Port of Coburg. Besides, as there were there representatives of the yachting interests of Toronto and Kingston, between which a great deal of rivalry exists, the one swearing by the Belle and the Glance, and the other by the Wanderer, Canada, and Prima Donna, to say nothing of the Coburg people themselves, who put unlimited faith in a new and promising schooner, the Irene, built at Toronto, for Mr. Bell and afterwards sold to Mr. Wallace, of Coburg, it may be supposed that no trouble was spared to develope to the utmost the sailing powers of the various craft. The bustle did not cease until late on Monday night, and was resumed early on Tuesday.

About ten o'clock the boats took their places along the lee-side of the windward wharf, the anchorage outside not being sufficiently good to allow of a start in the usual way. The second-class boats took their places first, and after them were moored the boats of the first class. The appearance of the line of yachts, eleven in number, as they thus lay along the pier, with everything but their head-sails set, was very beautiful, and elicited unqualified admiration from the crowds who had assembled to witness the race. The start was made nearly in the following order, each boat, according to her number, being hauled out to the end of the pier, and started on her course:—Second class—Glance, Osborne, Kingston; Osprey, Coburg; Storm Queen, Grassett, Toronto; Prima Donna, Monro, Toronto; Undine, Coburg; Laurel, Charlotte, U. S. First class—Canada, Sherwood, Toronto; Belle, Gildersleeve, Kingston; Wanderer, Henderson, Toronto; Irene, Wallace, Coburg; Water Lily, Durie, Toronto. About ten minutes elapsed between the starting of the two classes, and all got away without accident or confusion, and in beautiful order.

The day was very fine, a nice sailing breeze blowing from the south-east, before which the yachts quickly made the first buoy, which was off Gull Island lighthouse. Of the second-class boats the Glance was first, being apparently very fast off the wind, but while beating up the lake again, first to the harbor buoy, and then to the western buoy, about four miles from the town, she was passed in fine style by the Prima Donna, which kept ahead of her during the remainder of the course. Of the first-class, the Canada was first around the eastern buoy, the Belle, Wanderer, and Irene, following well up together. In the beat up the Canada fell behind, and the Wanderer took the lead, followed closely by the Belle, the Irene entirely disappointing the expectations of her friends, and being the last boat in. The Wanderer and Belle soon made up the time given to the second-class boats at the start, and ran down before the wind to the harbor buoy in fine style, the Prima Donna being third, and the Glance fourth; from the very even sailing of these boats this part of the race was very interesting. From the harbor buoy there was a short run out into the lake and back. During this the Belle managed to pass the Wanderer, and to all appearances was sure of the prize, when she most unaccountably deviated from the course laid down in the chart, and went the wrong side of the winning buoy, and the Wanderer was therefore declared the winner. The Prima Donna came in a good third, taking the second-class prize. The Canada, seeing that the race was decided, did not go quite round the course, and the Water Lily followed her example, as did several others, which, of course, were not timed.

THE LEVER CONTRACT.

The Irish provincial papers are threatening rebellion or something worse. Fierce are their denunciations against Whig imbecility, and Whig mismale. The cause of this change in feeling is extraordinary. The Cabinet, evidently with the intention of damaging Lord Derby if they could, determined to overhaul the Galway contract. We believe that in his zeal to confer a practical benefit upon Ireland, Lord Eglinton forgot his discretion. He was earwigged and feted and flattered, and his enthusiastic heart was warmed by the cheers of assembled multitudes, and in the excitement of the mad he forgot the caution of the statesman. By his instrumentality the Lever grant was conceded, that is, a subsidy of £13,000 per annum for dropping a mail bag once a fortnight at Newfoundland. Now, a bargain is a bargain, and we English when we make a contract, like to keep it, no matter what loss it may inflict upon ourselves; but we expect others to keep their part of the engagement, and if they whistle that, there we double our fists and knock the money out of them.

Now, the Galway line of transatlantic packets was established chiefly, as we are told, to facilitate intercourse between Ireland and the British possessions in America. The emigrants were to be liberated from the awful extortionists of Liverpool, and the crimps and touters of New York. The Irish peasant had only to step on board the packet at Galway, and be landed comfortably on some portion of British America. The voyage also was to occupy two days less time, than that from Liverpool. Mr. Lever, no doubt, is a very skilful navigator, but somehow he is unacquainted with, or unable to overcome, the currents of the Atlantic. A multitude of misfortunes have occurred. Now a ship runs on a rock and bores a hole in her bottom; at another time a vessel comes minus masts and rudder, bulwarks and deck-planking; a few days since another was lost. The winds and waves seem to be leagued against the enterprise; and all this the Irish journals attribute to the selfishness and jealousy of this town of ours. Liverpool, it appears, is jealous lest the bleak rocks of Galway should outstrip her in transatlantic trade.

Let Galway try to outdo us if she can; we wish her patience and energy for the attempt; but we want to know why is it that these packets make for New York as their harbor and destination? We do not think it is necessary to pay £73,000 a year to inaugurate communication between the British Islands and New York. This has been done already, and is well done. Why are we to pay £73,000 to enable Mr. Lever to land the unsophisticated Irish peasant, not on British soil, but to throw him among the land-sharks and swindlers of New York—that city of paupers, plagues, agues and fevers! There might be some excuse for a subsidy if the emigrants were landed at Halifax, but surely it is too much to ask us to pay a large contingent for removing the bone and sinew of the country from us, and transferring both to the United States. We are sure that Lord Eglintoun was not aware that it was intended to land the emigrants at New York, and that the connexion between British America and these islands was supposed to be completed by pitching a bag of letters on a rock, when he endorsed this contract. Mr. Lever, at all events, cannot blame us if we require a thorough examination into the nature, not only of the contract, but of the way in which it has been carried out.—[Liverpool Courier.

It appears by the published speech of the Rev. Mr. Daly in the Galway Express of July 23, that four steamships are now constructing for the Galway line at Newcastle and Hull; two by Mr Palmer and two by Mr. Samuelson, eminent ship-builders, and one hundred thousand dollars have been paid to them on their contracts upon certificates from the Admiralty. The ships are to cost about four hundred thousand dollars each. Mr. Daly, who is a director in the Company, paid Mr. Palmer his instalment in person. The line is to be a fortnightly one, and will be in complete working condition, under the Government contract, in the course of six months, the monthly services being continued with the present four ships—Adelaide, Pacific, Circassian, and Prince Albert.

RUSSELL'S HOTEL.—A correspondent of the Boston Atlas, writes in glowing terms of Quebec, and thus describes the accommodation and comfort he had found at this well-known hostelry:—There are a number of hotels in the place. One only that we can commend to your numerous readers. When we say hotel, every traveller can appreciate the difference of one whose landlord has the one idea only of the amount contained in your pockets, or the pleasure and comfort of the visitors. A good table a pleasant, sociable landlord is a God-send to the tired traveller. Such a one it has been our fortune to meet, here in the person of Mr. Russell, of Russell's Hotel. We have stopped at many houses since we left Boston, and we consider this one far preferable in every respect. Mr. R. is from Vermont, and knows how to keep a hotel.'

A WESTERN PRIZE FIGHT.

DONNYBROOK FAIR WITH MISSOURI ADDITIONS.

The following descriptions of a prize fight between Byrne and Connors, of St. Louis, on an island in the river, above Alton, we cut from the Missouri Democrat. The fight took place on the 8th.

The steamers Henrietta and Elvira were chartered respectively by the Connors and Byrne parties, to convey the admiring hosts to the battle ground. Some quite needless apprehensions were expressed lest the police should prevent the excursion, and numbers accordingly left the city for the spot on Monday.

The selected ground was gained about two o'clock. Some fifteen hundred people gathered to see the show. At half-past three, Byrne 'shied his castor' into the ring, and was at once followed by Connors. The friends of each were sanguine, and bet freely in behalf of their champion. Connors was accompanied by his backer, who immediately offered to wager $200 that Shanghai would win. Byrne coolly came forward with a bag of silver and accepted the bet. Connors' seconds were Billy Denny and Valentine McKinney, while those of Him were Quinn and Looney. The men were at once stripped and at work in the ring. Byrne was knocked down in the first round. In the second, there was much sparring with little hitting. Connors saved his face very skillfully, and watched his chance warily. The third was worse for each, but closed with Shanghai down. The fourth, fifth, and sixth were concluded by a heavy fall of Connors' on Byrne's ribs. The former kept himself uncrattered, while his adversary was less successful. The remaining rounds were contested with dauntless spirit on each side. During the fourteenth Shanghai was brought to his knees, and while in that position was struck. There rose at once the cry of 'Foul play!' and the referee re-affirmed that decision. The victory way thus awarded to Connors. When this decision was announced, Byrne fiercely remonstrated. Some five or six hundred outsiders then burst into the ring, and a general row ensued. Byrne seized the referee, Moreland, by the throat, saying, 'Do you mean to say I've lost it?' Moreland was then attacked by Byrne's principals, was struck and kicked, and had a portion of his face gouged out with a stick. Connors, with the most of his party, immediately drew off to their boat, while the balance remained fighting with the Byrne men, the most of whom gradually followed to the Henrietta. Stripped, bloody and enraged, Byrne dared Connors to come out and finish the fight, which he declined under the circumstances to do. Then many of Connors' men rushed on shore and joined their comrades, and a scene of riot and murderous attack which baffles description. Knives were freely used, bottles, sticks, and rocks were hurled, and at last one shot was fired. This was the signal for a general drawing of pistols, and some one hundred shots were rapidly fired. Those who had not pistols resorted to their boats, which at the same time began backing off from the shore. There was then a heavy rush to get off board, and some forty persons were instantly in the river. Certain skiff-men pulled away in terror, leaving the victims to swim to drown as they might. One or two fights actually occurred in the water. The swimmers at length scrambled on board, not knowing how many had sunk or had been drowned. Probably three or four perished at least. The Henrietta was soon following the Elvira, both boats leaving numbers behind them on the island. It was about 4½ o'clock p.m. When quiety had tiresomely succeeded disorder.

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ing, having leaped overboard to save a man who appeared helpless, and being himself drawn out by his son, the son also succeeded in saving the man. One wretch, who was shockingly cut, had been with great difficulty rescued by getting on a plank.—The most of the Henrietta party may be inferred from the fact that some twenty fights were waged on board before she reached Alton! Whiskey reigned. There were robberies and complaints of roberies of watches, pocket-books, &c., which had to be rectified by attacking the robber or the robbed. One victim, accused of having stolen a purse of $20, was assaulted by several persons with such fury that he sought his revolver. His intent being perceived, there was a cry of 'Kill him, kill him!' and a fresh onset was made upon him. In response he bit, kicked, gouged, tore and scratched his opponents in a style which should entitle him to the laurels and stakes of the glorious day. By nearly tearing off his pants, the pistol was taken from him—and also, as he alleged, $40 of his hard earnings. Finally he was kicked senseless, dragged to the hurricane deck, and left to revive or die. Shortly came off a fight for the possession of a pistol, between John Monaghan and John Ryan, which resulted in the casual discharge of the weapon. Its contents passed into the abdomen of Ryan, inflicting a shocking and probably fatal wound. Monaghan was at once subdued by this incident. He sat down and wept over the wounded man, declaring that Ryan was one of his best friends. An impression to some extent prevailed, that a pistol was actually fired by Ryan. In ten minutes afterward, Monaghan jumped overboard, and swam toward the Illinois shore, then nearly two miles distant. When last seen from the boat he was still swimming, about half-a-mile from the bank. The shooting of Ryan caused a temporary tranquility on board, but in half-an-hour the demon of fight was again raging. Many were cut and otherwise injured, but no more pistols were fired, nor do we learn that any one was dangerously stabbed. To avoid a collision with the party of the Elvira, the Henrietta prudently made fast near Anderson's Mill, in North St. Louis. Her passengers passed off upon a raft, and thence to the shore. Thus appears to have progressed, but scarcely yet to have terminated, one of the most thoroughly disgusting and disgraceful affairs which ever brought dishonor upon any city.

Phrenology in Canada.

Last Fall, Prof. L. N. Fowler, of our establishment, visited, by invitation, the principal cities in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and gave courses of lectures on phrenology, before large and intelligent audiences, with the greatest acceptance During the last winter he lectured in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. More recently, he has given courses of lectures in New Haven, Hartford, Providence, and Boston. He spent the entire month of June in the latter city and vicinity, where he delivered some twenty or more lectures, to audiences varying in numbers from five hundred to three thousand. It is said that more interest was manifested in these courses than in any other similar or purely scientific lectures ever before delivered in those cities.

And now, after having visited all the chief cities in the United States—having travelled upwards of 30,000 miles—not, twice over the same route—by rail, river, and sea, from New York to New Orleans, thence through the South-western States, to the great lakes in the north, and so on to Newfoundland—he is now invited to revisit some of the larger and growing cities in Canada. He may extend his route from Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, to some of the other larger cities, such as Kingston, Ottawa city, Hamilton, etc. Prof. Fowler will, we presume, "report progress" from time to time, and when at leisure give the world some account of his scientific observations on Man and Woman kind, as he found them, in the different latitudes they inhabit, from the Arctic to the Tropics. He will obtain, as well as communicate, some valuable information during his lectures and journeyings.—[Life Illustrated

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS IN KINGSTON.

[To the Editor of the British Whig.]

DEAR SIR,—Will a few words from a stranger be deemed impertinence, if penned with good intent and honest purpose? I hope not, and should you find room for the insertion of this hasty scrawl, purchance some of your readers may find my remarks more pertinent than impertinent. I am, as a glance at my signature will show, on a Musical and Theatrical Tour through Canada, and previous to starting from Boston, I had my line chalked out for me by an eminent operatic agent in New York. Kingston was omitted. I asked why? The answer was, 'Because nobody goes there to sing.' My reply was, 'Then that's the place for me.' The reason for was, 'There is no place to sing in, except the City Hall, which is so bad that nobody goes there twice.' Having the bump of obstinacy, phrenologically largely developed, I naturally paid Kingston a visit, and moreover sang twice.

Now for the impertinent part of my letter. Let me advise all (and from experience I know there are many) who would encourage periodical visits from artistes worthy of the name to the city of Kingston, to lay their shoulders to the wheel, and erect a good Music Hall. A room 60 feet by 28 would be ample. Though on the occasion of my second entertainment I succeeded by wood and canvass in deadening, to a certain degree, the unpleasant reverberation, so painful to the singer and listener, which makes the City Hall thus objectionable; still the difficulty of articulation was not overcome, and we have to thank the appreciative kindness of our audience on both occasions for the manner in which they received our efforts.

Should these remarks have any weight, and there be any wish on the part of the lovers of music in Kingston and its neighborhood to offer attraction and support to the professors of the art, Miss Lucette and myself will be happy, on our return from the West, to give our services gratis, in an entertainment, as our subscription towards so desirable an object. I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully and obliged,
MORTON PRICE.

British American Hotel,
Kingston, August 17.

BLONDIN'S LATE FEAT.—When Blondin first announced that he was going to walk on a rope across the Niagara, he was believed by few, and disbelieved by many. He accomplished his feat, however, and people made up their minds never to be again incredulous. But they were incredulous when the agile little Frenchman, declared himself ready to carry a man on his back across the perilous chasm. The offer was thought to have been made because no one was likely to accept it. It was, nevertheless, by several persons, and had M. Blondin been larger than he is he would no doubt have been ready to carry them all across together. This being impossible, Mr. Henry Franconi was selected, and Tuesday last appointed for the feat. Large numbers of people, from different parts of Canada and the states, flocked to Niagara; the steamer Zimmerman taking from Toronto alone, upwards of eight hundred passengers. M. Blondin narrowly escaped his usual trip from the American to the Canada side, owing to Franconi upset the apparatus, and commenced his perilous return. For twenty-five minutes the immense mass of people were kept in suspense as to the success of the undertaking, and a feeling of great relief was experienced when M. Franconi was safely deposited on terra firma. The task, besides demanding the greatest skill, was a most arduous one. Four times did Blondin stop to rest, and each time did he deposit his rider upon the rope until enabled to resume his journey. This alternate sliding down and climbing up was the most exciting part of the business; the slightest slip, or momentary unsteadiness of foot, eye or hand would have hurried both men to inevitable destruction. The feat was accomplished in safety; and though it is at present doubtful whether Blondin has his match as a tight rope performer, it is certain he has found an equal in courage. M. Franconi weighs upwards of 140 lbs. and is about 5 feet 8 inches in height. Besides the passengers who left by the Zimmerman about one thousand persons went by the cheap excursion on the Great Western Railway. The Zimmerman reached her dock at Toronto shortly before twelve o'clock at night. There were upwards of 15,000 persons on the ground at Niagara Falls on Tuesday.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Orillia and the Severn.

Orillia, 15th August, 1859.

MY DEAR WHIG,—When I read Professor Chapman's 'Song of Charity,' last fall, dedicated to his Orillia friends, I knew nothing of the place from which I am now writing, not even by repute. As little did I then expect, in so short a time afterwards, to be writing sonnets in the Orillia woods, or to pass a few of the pleasantest weeks of my life in so charming a locality. Orillia is reached from Toronto first by the Northern Railroad, fifty miles to Bell Ewart; through a fertile, grain-producing country, thence by steamer across Lake Simcoe, leaving Toronto at seven in the morning, and arriving at Orillia by three in the afternoon. It is also reached from Barrie by stage. This latter is the winter route.—Nothing could be more pleasant than the trip across Lake Simcoe. There is little variety—little change of scenery—but on the whole the lake is admitted to be, and certainly is, one of the finest in Canada.—Passing out of Lake Simcoe you enter Lake Couchiching, through a rather shallow channel, which the government have dredged sufficiently to admit of the passage of a good-class steamer through 'the Narrows.' It is to the present county member, Mr. Angus Morrison, that they are indebted for this necessary improvement. In turning a point of the mainland you come suddenly in view of Orillia, the first view of which is very much in its favor. It has a quiet, subdued appearance, the houses being nearly all white, a back ground of dark green forest running down to within a few yards of the village. To the right, as you enter, the green fields below and the neat family residences on the verge of the slope, heighten the general effect, and give the place that air of serenity which the tired wayfarer best knows how to appreciate. Along the bank of the river are several retired gentlemen's residences, those of Mr. Corbould, Captain Wilson, and Mrs. St. John, in particular, having from the distance a fairy-like repose, nestling as they do, amid clumps of greenery, slightly removed from the shore, and relieved by the long line of wavy woods that stretch for many miles down the river as far as the eye can reach on the way to the delightful Severn. The prospect from these residences up and across the river is remarkably fine. The dwelling of Mr. Thompson, on the left as as you enter, is also conspicuous, and were it nearer the point of the mainland would be particularly so. Not must we omit the villages of Atara and Atherly; the former an Indian village, and the situation of the latter being, decidedly picturesque. From the windows of the room where I write, I can command as fine a view of nature in repose as artist could wish to look upon. Rockridge, the residence of the Sheilains and of Dr. Corbett (nephew of the worthy Sheriff) stands on the most elevated, and certainly the most desirable site in the village, being neither in nor out of Orillia proper, but separated from it by a couple of grain fields of trifling extent. Beneath me lies Orillia, white and gleaming in the sunlight; quiet and thoughtful-like beyond expression, with very little of that business air that goes to mark a thriving place.—And yet there are fortunes made in it in very few years, and men become rich beyond their expectations in a much shorter time than it takes to get fairly under way in most other places. Wide grain fields lie calmly at the foot of the slope, extending nearly to the water's edge; and on either side and behind the woods wave their dark green masses in striking contrast to the scene below. At the shore is an old mill, partly hidden by the shrubbery, and that last penalty of the crime of drunkenness—the last resource, and sometimes reformatory haven of the inebriate—the Lunatic Asylum, stands a little lower down. It was originally intended for a hotel, but having been found too extensive for the present wants of the place, is being erected by Government into an asylum. The Lake (Couchiching) has scarcely a ripple on it at this moment, and yet in five minutes it may be dashed with foam, so sudden are the gusts of wind that come sweeping off the mainland. But it is a charming lake, as seen from this particular spot, from two to three miles wide at different parts, with points of land piercing it here and there, and islands in deep shade resting peacefully on its breast, showing the entrances to several bays, where good fishing abounds, and affording a slight glimpse into Lake Simcoe. On the main shore opposite, and almost within sight, is the Indian village of Ramah, its few scattered houses standing out boldly from the green bank, and the unpretending church gleaming in and flashing back the beautiful sunlight that gilds its glittering spire. At this moment there is an immense and gorgeously tinted rainbow hanging its broad messes of rosy light on Ramah. The effect is strikingly fine. This lake is very beautiful in the full glare of day; decidedly lonely in the early morning light, when the shadows of the points and islands are broad and deep and well defined, and the sun is flinging its first beams of light across the sleeping waters; but, like Melrose Abbey, you must view it by the pale moonlight to partake fully of its quiet beauty, its thoughtful and undisturbed repose. Your readers may think I am romancing, and that I have strayed into the domains of fairyland for adjectives and similes to give a fanciful colouring to the scene; but the opinion I have expressed is not mine alone, every one praises the place and lauds its beauty and delightful site in proportion as they are capable of receiving impressions of the beautiful, or realizing the quietude that nature ever gives to the thoughtful mind in its periods of repose.

During the summer months Orillia is the resort of many families, who, tired of city life, come hither from Toronto and other places to enjoy the country air, and partake of the delights springing from the observation of unusually good scenery and that spirit of quietude only to be found in places like to this. It should be more generally known that within half a day's journey of Toronto, the one of the finest spots in Canada, where a month or two can be passed as agreeably as in any other place in the Province. There is capital fishing among the islands, and large numbers of maskinonge are taken in season, as well as an unlimited supply of trout and bass. The lake is as pleasant to row on as any one can reasonably be desired, and boats and canoes are plentiful at the hotel. There are several Toronto families here at present, several others have left, and others still are coming, so very popular is the place with all those who have any knowledge of it. Since I commenced writing a storm of wind has sprung up, and is sweeping over the lake. These freaks of Master Zephyrus are very uncertain and frequently, one would suppose, are highly dangerous, and yet no accident has occurred for years, notwithstanding that the lake is generally dotted with sail boats and canoes, the latter of the very frailest description, but much the safest when properly and carefully managed. The soil round about Orillia is very sandy; there is no mud; fifteen minutes after a heavy shower has passed off you can walk dry-shod everywhere.

This is a decidedly 'Indian' part of the country; the Indian names are retained in most cases, and many battle grounds are pointed out where the red men fought and fell in mortal strife with that indifference to death which is one of the most remarkable characteristics of the race. The terrible Ojibwas, whose dreaded presence was the signal for death and desolation in their most appalling forms, are said to have passed through here like a tornado, decimating and scattering the braves of other tribes like so much chaff before the wind. A short distance from Orillia, at a place called 'The Quarries,' a very remarkable formation of table limestone, are several Indian paintings yet to be seen, representing the movements of the tribes; these, through all the wear and tear of centuries, are still perfectly distinct on the flat surface of the rock. They are fast falling into decay, however, and it is unpardonable that some means have not been resorted to to preserve these relics of a by-gone age and an almost extinguished race of men, brave beyond dispute, and a perfect mystery, deeper and deeper still, as regards their origin, to each succeeding generation. I could not look upon these rude symbols—these hieroglyphic writings, without feeling that they of awe likely to be induced while dwelling even for a moment on so perplexed and perplexing a theme. There are many huge caves, too, in different parts of the country, filled with skulls and other remains of the red race, with proofs of their being many centuries old; and Indian relics in abundance are dug up at many of the encampments and battle grounds. The geological student, also, will find Orillia a fair ground for his investigations.

A pleasant party of eight of us, four of whom were ladies, started one fine morning for the famous River Severn, and spent a couple of days very pleasantly in passing down as far as Sparrow Lake, where we camped and fished. This trip to the Severn, which I intended to have made, is a matter of some difficulty, from the numerous portages, and the time consumed in passing the entire distance in canoes; but it will well repay the labor a thousand times. Passing out of Lake Couchiching over a delightful sheet of water, and