UNITED STATES NEWS.

Nashville, Feb. 16.—Our suburbs are again threatened by small bands of rebel cavalry. This afternoon about 600 men, supposed to be under command of Colonel Withers, made their appearance in the Murfreesboro pike, about six miles from the town, and captured several wood-choppers and Government employees, and among them Capt. Stevens, of the Quartermaster's department.

Governor Andy Johnson, who has been confined to his room with a severe cold for the past two weeks, is improving, but is still unable to attend to the duties of his office.

Gen. Gillem arrived here yesterday from Knoxville, and reports everything quiet in East Tennessee.

Our gunboat Honduras arrived on the 31st, and asked permission to anchor in the harbor, but was refused.

New York, Feb. 17.

The Tribune's Army of the Potomac correspondent says he was told by a deserter that Lee left for the south on the 10th, going, it was said, to Branchville, S. C. Longstreet is said to be in command of the defences of Richmond.

The Tribune's Fort Fisher correspondent says the rebel position in front of Wilmington is next to impregnable. Their right rests on Cape Fear river, and consists of a breastwork ten feet in height, with a ditch and abattis in front. Gen Schofield brought with him, when he assumed command, a large force of veterans, and at once set at work.

Hardee repeits a repulse to our forces on James Island. On the contrary the Times correspondent shows that a gallant charge was made, and the rebel outworks, consisting of three redoubts, were captured, together with 30 prisoners. The rebels defending the redoubts were infantry, and fled pell-mell before the impetuous charge of our men. General Gilmour was present at the fight.

New York, Feb. 17.

The Herald's Washington special says: Our Consul at London has informed the Government of the sailing from Kingstown, Ireland, of the steamer Ajax, which it is not doubted is intended for a rebel pirate; her armament had gone or would go out in a sailing vessel. Notwithstanding the fact that she is small it is believed that she will be able to do much damage to American shipping if she gets started on her meditated career. It is thought that she would go to Nassau before taking on board her guns. The sealing of the port of Wilmington has been a sad blow to Nassau. All is stagnant there now.

St. Louis, Feb. 17th.—The Republican has a special despatch from Cairo, giving the following important intelligence: Late advices from New Orleans state that the Mexican Gen. Mejia, commanding at Matameras, has entered into arrangements with the rebel authorities by which all refugees from Texas are returned to be immediately conscripted into the rebel army. Gen. Mejia claims that in taking this step he is acting under the orders of the Emperor Maximilian. Gen. Canby is said to have sent word to Gen. Mejia that he will retaliate by taking and holding Mexican officers as hostages for every refugee returned to the rebels.

New York, Feb. 18.

All doubts regarding the occupation of Branchville by Shermans eem to be dissipated by a despatch from one of the Herald's Fort Fisher correspondents. The announcement of its capture on the 12th instant was brought to Smithfield, N.C., by a courier, who at great peril rode across the country with a despach from Sherman to Admiral Porter.

Wilmington papers and refugees who have reached Smithville confirm the statement.

Richmond journals of Wednesday last say their deparment has official announcement of the evacuation of Smithville, which was consequent upon the occupation of Orangeburg, north of it, on the railroad leading to Columbia, by a large force of Sherman's infantry, but they do not mention any fighting in the vicinity. They report Kirkpatrick had reached a point within 15 miles of Augusta, Ga., on the 10th and was attacked by Wheeler and driven 5 miles with considerable loss. On Tuesday last there was again a Union column within a few miles of Augusta; and more important still, they say that on Wednesday Sherman's advance had reached the south bank of the Congaree within a few miles of Columbia, which is situated on the north bank of that river, to which side the rebels had fallen back. A battle is imminent.

Further details received by the last arrival from Vera Cruz show that fighting between the Juarests and Capitalists are carried on in the interior of the country. The friends of the former state that Gen. Patoni has taken the town of El Querte, and shot Francisco Vega, the head of the Imperialist movement in that vicinity. The Juarest force is approaching Elloraill. The Juarest guerillas intend putting to death every French soldier they may catch, on the plea that any one fighting for or holding office under Maximilian is a traitor to Mexico and Mexican liberties. Many other movements in the interior are named which show the activity of the national party.

The steamer Etna, from Liverpool 4th, has arrived. News anticipated.

The steamer Geo. Cromwell, from New Orleans 11th, has arrived. She left the steamers Guiding Star and Morning Star ashore below New Orleans.

The Times makes light of the report that rebel refugees were sent back from Matamoras to Texas, and that Canby is to retaliate. The story is probably a canard.

A rebel force of 100 attacked 25 men of the 31 Massachusetts regiment, at Plaquemine. Capt. Rice and his men beat them off with a loss of one killed and two wounded.

The campaign at Caxaca, however, gives rise to undisguised anxiety. Oaxnca is now defended by Gen. Diaz, while Gen. Bazaine, in person, his leading an expedition against it, but his Vanguard had been defeated.

It is said that the deficit in the Treasury of the Imperial government of Mexico is $20,000,000 annually.

The Emperor has a personal allowance of $200,000.

The Pope's Encyclical letter has not been circulated in Mexico, as the government has not yet given its consent to such circulation.

The new order of knighthood, the Mexican Eagle, is to be established by the Imperial Government.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The President has recognized Henry W. Hemans as British Consul at Buffalo.

New York, Feb. 18—The Herald's Paris correspondent says he knows positively that formal propositions have lately been again made to France and England by the rebel authorities with the object of securing recognition on the basis that slavery shall be abolished and advantages guaranteed the recognizing countries; but these propositions have not yet, and from present appearances will not yet be accepted.

The jury in the case of Triery, tried for the murder of Harry Lazura, brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree.

The libel case, Count Johannes, vs. Horace Greeley, was decided in favour of the defendant.

Philadelphia, Feb. 18.—The Bulletin has the following special despatch from Washington:—Richmond papers of the 16th announce that Sherman's main column has reached Kingsville Junction, and that communication south of Florence, on the manchester and Florence Railroad, and on the Florence and Charleston Railroad, was interrupted. Beauregard is reported as being on the north bank of the Congaree River. Kingsville is no the north side of the Congaree, 40 miles north of Branchville, and 25 miles south east of Columbia.

Washington, Feb, 18.—The Star has the following despatch:

City Point, Va., Feb. 17, 8:30 p.m.—The rebel flag of truce coat William Allison, whilst on her upward trip from Coals Landing at 3 p.m., was blown up by a torpedo. The boat went down almost immediately: our pickets says there were no survivors from her. There were no prisoners aboard at the time. This catastrophe probably arose from one of the enemy's own torpedoes which has been on the post for a time.

St. Louis, Feb. 18.—The extensive Spoke factory of Woodburn & Scott, on the corner of Broadway and Colt streets, was burned last night. Loss $20,000; insured.

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The Daily British Whig

"Optifer her Orbem Dicci

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 21, 1865.

Public Meetings and Amusements To-Day.

The Curling Club Concert at the City Hall, at 8 o'clock.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

W. F., Quebec; R. S., Toronto; W. C., Gower Point.

QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BRITISH WHIG.

LETTER NO. VIII.

Quebec, Feb. 18th.

DEAR WHIG,—

As yet no one but Mr. Dorion has spoken on Confederation on the Grit side of the House. His speech, after I had heard the whole of it, I pronounce to be rapid and ineffective. It did not tell, even with his own friends; while on the part of the Ministerialists, it was simply ridiculed. It was pleasant to watch Mr. Brown, while his old chum Mr. Dorion was speaking. He took no notes of what the speaker uttered, but was either listening listlessly, or talking, and not very sotto-voce either, with his new chum, Mr. Galt. Mr. Macdougall, on the contrary, watched Mr. Dorion, as a cat would watch a mouse, making notes occasionally, and evidently was preparing himself to reply and rebut the only strong points of Mr. Dorion's argument.

All day yesterday (Friday) being a Government day, the House went early into Committee of Supply, and the resolution to defray the expenses of the Volunteers on the Frontiers was the leading grievance. In the debate came up incidentally the vote of $50,000 to pay back the money stolen from the St. Albans' Banks by the Raiders. As might be expected Messrs. Holton, Dorion and Sandfield Macdonald were the chief speakers. They all admired neutrality, but did not want to pay anything for it. A Police Force, said they, would do all that was required. Mr. Dorion wished to tack on the vote the following rider:—'But this House desires to express its decided opinion that the employment of Volunteers called out for service on the frontiers should cease at the termination of the present engagement'; but the House would not stand it, though it debated it for some hours, every man saying something pro or con. Mr. McGee took an opportunity to decry the alarm about the Fenians. Said it was a humbug got up by a few dissatisfied Grits to sway Municipal Elections, in which statement there is more truth than poetry. Mr. Thomas Ferguson knew that a great many people had been frightened about the Fenians, but that the action of a few misguided men had been much exaggerated. When Mr. Dorion's rider was put, it was rejected 86 to 15. Against the vote for paying the Banks, another set of oppositionists came forward, headed by Mr. M. C. Cameron, who having been Counsel for Burley at Toronto, seemed well posted on the subject. He said it was an illegal appropriation of the people's money. Government and Parliament had no right to declare this money illegally surrendered, pending a decision of the court. They should await a decision of that tribunal. If a Canadian bank had been robbed, and an officer had improperly given up the money, would the Province be called on to repay? In this undue carrying favor we were courting danger which we professed a desire to avoid. Some of the other opposers of the vote said it was truckling to the Yankees, to give up the money, without its ever been asked for; and among them Mr. Thomas Ferguson thought in the West, that the act would be very unpopular. Mr. John A. Macdonald came as usual to the rescue, and very shortly settled the affair. He said we were fairly bound to send the money back with the men if the men were to go back, to await the decision of the Court in Vermont. The very principle on which treaties of extradition were founded is mutual confidence that Courts would render justice in either country. Either rescind the treaty or bestow that confidence and act upon it. If the Courts there would do justice in a case of life and death, surely they would also with respect to paying over the money to the banks or back to us. He thought there seemed a desire opposite to keep up irritation on the part of the States. They were bound to take the earliest action possible to show that they acted from their own sense of justice, not on demand of the States, or on instructions from the mother country. If one of our own people suffered at the hand of our Officers or Courts, redress could be had by action for damages, but how did England act in cases of naval officers in Brazil, on the Pacific, and at Athens? She exacted compensation by force. He also made the important announcement to the House that the Government had today received despatches from the authorities at Washington, stating that precautionary measures had been taken to prevent raids into this Province. The impression produced by this announcement was most favorable, and I am sure the people at large will receive the good news with the same feeling as their representatives. To those residing along the frontier, it will be particularly gratifying. The motion was then put and was opposed only by 14 to 83. So the money is to be paid.

I have given but a poor account of this debate, because, for a wonder, there was an equally long and interesting one in the Legislative Council, where I sat some time. Here Mr. Currie had proposed as an amendment to the Confederation Resolutions, this: That upon a matter of such great importance as the proposed Confederation of this and certain other British colonies, this House is unwilling to assume the responsibility of assenting to a measure involving so many important considerations without further manifestion of the public will than has yet been declared." All the speeches with the exception of Mr. Campbell's were in favor of delay, and all gave different reasons for further postponement. Mr. Dickson followed Mr. Currie, the mover, and he was followed again by Messrs. Seymour, Vidal, Bureau and Olivier. In reply to all of them, Mr. Campbell made a long speech, warmly urging that delay would be fatal to the measure. He ridiculed the unstatesmanlike manner in which the amendment was advocated, and contended that the reasons for it were trivial and unworthy, the ability of the gentleman who moved it. That gentleman had asked for a delay of twenty days, or a month, but he would like to know how it was possible for the people to pass an opinion upon the question in that time, according to any mode known to the British Constitution. He believed that those who urged delay were for some reasons of their own opposed to Confederation altogether, and, while sheltering themselves behind objections to details, were insincere when they declared themselves favorable to the principle itself. He trusted the Council would be actuated by higher and more patriotic motives in the consideration of this question, and recognize the vast advantages conferred by Confederation, and not lose an opportunity which had been long looked for, and which, if not now embraced, would perhaps never be presented again. It was past midnight when the amendment was put, but it had only 19 votes for it against 31 for the Resolutions.

Mr. Jolly is to take up the debate on Monday, he will speak in French and occupy the whole evening. The Resolutions will be carried with a good majority, but not so large a one as I at first expected. Many of the members will shy the question, and a good deal of clap trap for the eyes and ears of their constituents may be looked for. Others will oppose it boldly on pretext of the Legislative Councils not being elected. Perhaps if the measure were submitted to the people in the shape of an ordinary money vote, it might be more available, but then again delays are dangerous, and who knows what might happen! Every move made by the Government is marked by ill-natured speeches from Messrs. Sandfield Macdonald, Dorion, and Holton, and the small tail that remains to them.

Of the gossip of the city and that of Parliament I can give you but little news. In spite of the restriction of the Speaker against allowing anything good to be drunk on the premises, it is by no means difficult to get a sight of the 'striped pig,' whenever one wants to see him. How stupid it is to enact laws and regulations, without the power or inclination to enforce them. There is certainly no open drinking in the Refreshment or Committee Rooms, and consequently, there is very little intoxication visible; but any one who knows how to pull the ropes, can always get an answer when he rings. I, who am only an interloper among the nabobs here, never am at a loss to know where to spend a pleasant half hour.

AN OBSERVER.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

Kingston, C.W., 10th Feb., 1865.

Past Worthy Chief Templar
Brother JAMES CAMPBELL.

The Sisters and Brothers of Royal Lodge No. 117, British American Order of Good Templars, in contemplation of your being about to leave us for your place of settlement, cannot allow you to do so without expressing their sincere regret at losing a Brother who so long has not only proved himself a consistent Teetotaller and instilled the same principles into his family, but has always been a zealous advocate of Temperance on all occasions; but it is chiefly the warm, earnest and untiring manner you have, from the formation of our Lodge up to the present moment, worked for its interests on all occasions, that has won our admiration and fraternal love.

Brother Campbell, you leave behind you a bright example of an untiring, firm and generous character, one who has not only aided the Lodge and its members generally, but has ever been amongst the foremost to assist a distressed Sister or Brother on all occasions, thereby proving your sincerity not only in words but deeds of generosity.

It is with proud satisfaction we congratulate you, that after a period of 25 years service, you leave the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment an example of strict honesty and sobriety, with the warm wishes of its Officers and Men for your future health and prosperity.

We shall long remember your manly conduct and virtues, and we cannot allow you to leave us without some proof of the esteem in which you and your family are held by us all. Our Lodge therefore, through its Committee, have purchased this indispensable article in a Canadian home, which we now present to you (a $22 Cooking Stove) as a tangible proof of our esteem and admiration. To your daughter, our esteemed Sister, we also present, as a token of our regard, a bound volume of the "Sunday at Home" for 1864, and to your second son, Brother Gilbert Campbell, a volume of the "Leisure Hour" for 1864, trusting they will be received in the same spirit in which they are given, namely, as tokens of our esteem.

Your eldest son, Brother James Campbell, Jr., who remains with us, we trust will emulate and follow the good example of his father as a strict member of our Order and a faithful soldier to our beloved Queen.

Brother Campbell, we one and all wish you, Mrs. Campbell, and your family health and happiness in whatever station it shall please Almighty God to call you to fill, trusting you will, as often as convenient, write us of your welfare and bear us in kind remembrance.

On behalf of Royal Lodge No. 117, British American Order of Good Templars.

Thomas Polden, Worthy Chief Templar and Deputy Grand Worthy C.T.
J. F. R Comer, Past Grand Chaplain and Past Deputy Grand W. C. T.
Daniel McCartney, Past Vice Templar.
George Creeggan, Vice Templar.
John McLean, Past Chief Templar.
Henry Crowther, Worthy Treasurer.
Charles E. Stuart, Worthy Secretary.
William Coulbridge, W. Financial Sec'y.
William Perry, W. Asst. Secretary.
Thomas Barns, W. Marshal.
James Campbell, Jr., W. Dep. Marshal.
Peter Hunter, W. Chaplain.
Phillip Smith, W. Inside Guard.
Henry Cook, W. Outside Guard.

In answer to the above Address Brother Campbell replied:—

Worthy Chief Templar, Brothers and Sisters—

I had heard that some testimonial was to be presented to me this evening, but my heart is too full to express my feelings in receiving your generous and handsome acknowledgement of my humble endeavours to save my fellow man from the Degradation of Drunkenness. You all know I am a man of a few words as a public speaker. I cannot talk much, but I endeavour to work for the Cause and for the Royal Lodge in particular. I should be ungrateful if I did not express in my humble way my thankfulness for your kind wishes for my welfare and that of my family, and for the handsome Presents you have made us. Believe me, my heart will ever be with you. God grant you may go on and prosper.

While I am speaking, I wish to say I am happy in seeing our esteemed Adjutant, David Miller, honouring our Lodge this evening with his presence. I have long wanted to express to him publicly my thankfulness in that to him I owe an everlasting debt of gratitude, that to his endeavours I am what I have long been, a sober man. May God bless you all!

CANADIAN ITEMS.

An Indian living near Buckhoon, county of Kent, killed another Indian by stabbing him. The murderer is in jail.

Mr. Dunkin's bill has been sustained in Bowsanville. The vote at the close of the second day stood, for the bill, 169; against, 112.

The township of London has rejected Mr. Dunkin's temperance act by a vote of 655 to 435. St. Mary's (town) has also rejected it by a vote of 134 to 124.

It is stated that the military authorities have received orders to rent the barracks for another year; therefore—if this rumor is reliable—there does not seem much probability of the 47th Regiment being removed "westward."—Hamilton Times.

It is said that several young men who have studied in the Provincial military schools have tendered their services to the Federal government, and are now serving in the northern army. A bad return for the money spent on their education.

Six soldiers of the 60th Regiment were taken in a freight car on Thursday from Point St. Charles to Island Pond. There the American Customs' Officer opened the door, and the soldiers were received by a party evidently waiting for them. Where they entered or who assisted them, is a mystery.

On Wednesday four Frenchmen the worse of liquor drove through the toll-gate at St. Martin's, near Montreal without paying. Roger the toll keeper, followed, when Mr. Larocque, becoming excited, left the sleigh, went back to the toll keeper, and a fight resulted. The others returned, paid the tolls, and there found their companion dead. An inquest was held and a verdict returned "died from natural causes." The explanations were very unsatisfactory.

Lower Canada is becoming satisfied with Mr. Brown. The Mercury says of him:—"Mr. Brown was long supposed to be malignantly inclined towards Lower Canada, and filled with illiberal prejudices towards the people of that country. His manly and straightforward speech on confederation, which we publish to-day, has shown him to hold far from such sentiments, and proved on the contrary that he possesses those liberal feelings which are worthy of a Canadian statesman." Mr. Brown's bid for Lower Canada support is producing the desired effect.

A correspondent of the News writes:—A young man, a British subject, crossed from Kingston to Cape Vincent on business, provided with a regular passport. On his arrival he was hailed in the street by a saloon keeper of that place, who after persuading him to accompany him to his house, asked to see his passport. On examination he declared it to be incorrect, took the young man to a private room and called in his bar-tender, whom he represented to be an officer in the United States Army. The two then and there tried the poor simpleton for a violation of the passport law, found him guilty, and sentenced him to five years in the States prison, with a promise of pardon if he would enlist. The dupe, frightened nearly to death, consented to the condition, and is now gone to be food for powder, the crimps pocketing all the bounty money.

EUROPEAN ITEMS.

The Surry Theatre in London was burnt during a performance. The audience escaped without loss of life.

There are now 204 post towns in the United Kingdom which send a day mail to London, 73 towns which send three day mails, 15 towns which send four day mails, and 6 which send five day mails.

An innovation of no small importance as a precedent is about to be attempted by the University of Oxford with reference to the privilege which enables the universities, in the matter of printing the Holy Bible, to overlook the monopoly of the Queen's printers. We are informed that the Oxford authorities have contracted to issue an edition of the Bible without the translators dedication to King James. The Queen's printers did not feel themselves at liberty to risk their patent by agreeing to a similar demand.—Record.

THE NAW IRISH JUDGE.—The vacancy on the Irish Bench caused by the death of Mr. Justice Ball will be filled by the present Attorney-General Mr. O'Hagan, whose conspicuous professional attainments will qualify him for his new position. While we congratulate him on his well deserved advancement, we cannot but express our regret at the departure of the right honourable gentleman from the House of Commons, where his high acquirements and knowledge of Irish affairs made his presence of great value to the interests of the country of which he was the parliamentary representative in legal matters. Mr. O'Hagan will be succeeded in the post of superior law office by Mr. Lawson, the present Solicitor-General, who will turn be replaced by Serjeant Sullivan, now law adviser to the Irish government.

RUMORED RETIREMENT OF THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.—PARIS, JAN. 29.—The Memorial Diplomatique says it has received from a high authority at London the assurance of Lord Palmerston having tried in vain to induce her Majesty the Queen to appear again at Court and perform the ceremonies of State. Of course we know not on this side of the water how far such an assertion is founded on fact. The same journal speaks of a regency, and says that the Queen will probably retire to Cobourg, and there spend the remainder of her days. The absurd reports indulged in about the Emperor and Empress of the French in London, you observe, full an echo here, the Queen being the subject of gossip and confecture.—Correspondent of the Morning Post.

AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY.—The London correspondent of Saunders' News Letter says, "A most extraordinary story has just got into circulation here. It is so extraordinary that I only vouch for its currency, and am quite bewildered by the apparent reasons which have been furnished to me for believing it to be true. It is asserted that a few days ago two brothers, the younger sons of a nobleman of exalted rank, lately deceased, quarrelled.—From words they proceeded to blows, and from blows to resort to knives, which unfortunately lay handy. In the scuffle one received a dangerous wound, which from the first assumed so serious an aspect that the assailant was counselled at once to leave the kingdom. He did so, and but just in time, for it is rumored that the injured man died last night. If this terrible tragedy be true, of course it will be speedily confirmed; if it should turn out an idle canard, I can only assure you that the account of it has come before me in so credible a form that I could not hesitate in informing you of it."

STRANGE DISCOVERY OF A MURDERER.—A most curious account of what we may call "natural photography" comes to us from Florence. On the 15th April, 2nd June, and 22 August of last year occurred murders of three house-keepers in Florence, committed apparently precisely the same conditions, by some one who had access to each house when the woman of the house was alone, who cut his victim's throat from ear to ear, and who left a pocket handkerchief of his own on each occasion beside the corpse. After each murder the superintendent of the police, Leopoldo Vili applied to have the eyes of the dead woman photographed, but only in the last instance was the request granted. Alinari, the first photographer of Florence, made the photograph and then greatly enlarged it, when there became visible in the enlarged photograph a dim outline of a human face, supposed of course to be the murderer—which had been, that is the theory, printed on the retina as the dying eye glazed. These photographs were made under the direction of the Judge, Signor Marshotti. In the meantime suspicion had fallen upon a man named Benjamino di Cosimo who was apprehended and property of all three murdered women found, with a bloody knife, and the image left on the dead woman's retina is said to be a likeness of this man. The correspondent of the Morning Post, who tells the story, and had himself seen the enlarged photograph and the prisoner, says he will not answer for the identity, but all marked features in the dim photograph and the prisoner are the same, a peculiar dilatation of the nostril, a depression in the lip where two teeth had been lost, an unusual elongation of the chin, a wide cheek-bone, and the outline of a whisker. If this be true, we suppose all dying eyes photograph the last images left upon the retina—nay, perhaps that every eye, living or dead, is like a photographer's plate, when one picture has been taken over another so as to obliterate it superficially, but leave its record deep in the plate nevertheless—it would be a strange incarnation of the law of memory.

TRAFFIC IN NEGROES IN NEW YORK.—The New York correspondent of the Times writes under date of Jan. 13—There is an aspect of the negro question in which, notwithstanding all the philanthropy of Mr. Lincoln's proclamations and the debates in both Houses of the Federal Congress, the North does not show to advantage as compared with the South. The South is at all events honest, even if it be in error in its treatment of the negroes; but the North, which claims to be so much holier than its Southern brother, permits the infliction of the most grievous wrong against able-bodied black men, without taking so much as the petty trouble of remonstrance. It is at this moment and has been for the last six months positively unsafe for a young male negro to walk the streets of New York. If he be a sailor just arrived in port from the West Indies, Cuba or Brazil, he is hunted by ruffians at all hours of the day and night, and if captured sold into the slavery of the naval or military service of the United States. A recent case only one of scores that are every week brought under the notice of the consular authorities of England, France, and Spain will show the modus operandi. Four colored sailors of a British ship from Jamaica were walking through the river side streets at the lower or Battery end of New York, unconscious of danger and unsuspicious of treachery, when they were set upon in broad daylight by half a dozen crimps, bounty jumpers or other scoundrels of the same class and accused of being deserters from the Federal army. In vain they protested they were sailors and British subjects. The gathering crowd took the part of their assailants, and on the promise that they would be immediately liberated by proper authorities if their story were found to be true, the men consented, with the exception of one who contrived in the confusion to make his escape, to proceed quiety to headquarters with their captors. All trace of them has since been lost. General Dix on being appealed to by the British consul has promised to do his best to discover and release them, but with the compact and well organized system of robbery opposed to his efforts, will find it difficult if not impossible to effect their liberation. Such 'prizes' are entered on the books of the military or naval depot that receive them under names that are given to them by their captors; and each prize of the kind is worth from $500 to $1000, according to the state of the bounty market at the time. Not a cent of the money ever reaches the victims of this new slave trade, but is distributed at a rate agreed upon among the captors, the examining surgeons and the military or naval officials, who wink at the iniquity.

ANOTHER SPANISH OUTRAGE AGAINST PERU.—The settlement of the long standing difficulty between Spain and Peru has been marked by the same bullying, offensive conduct on the part of the Spanish authorities, that first led to a quarrel which secured for the Peruvians the sympathies of civilised nations. It appears that Spain arrived at the conclusion to compromise the difficulty on payment of three millions of dollars to defray the expenses of the expedition for the piratical seizure of the Chincha Islands. The Peruvians naturally demurred to a compromise which reversed the relative position of the two governments, and placed them in the wrong by requiring them to pay the expenses of their own spoilation. But the Spanish Admiral had an ultimatum ready in the shape of war ships, and threatened to bombard Callao if his terms were not acceded to within forty-eight hours. Of course the Peruvians had no other alternative than to submit. Thus Spain has again covered herself with ignominy, by enforcing a peace which is, if possible, a greater outrage than the act that first provoked complaint. It is to be hoped that this conduct will have the effect of strengthening the project for a Confederacy of South American States for purposes of protection against foreign aggression. Their safety lies in Union. Weak and divided as they now are they lie at the mercy of every bullying European Admiral on their coasts. But by uniting for mutual assistance and protection they may defy the world.—New York Sun.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE C. C. C.—The Concert of the Curling Club comes off to-night, and an excellent House is anticipated. An Amateur Concert is not a Professional Concert, therefore perfection should not be looked for; but the musical talent engaged is the best the City affords, and this is quite equal to that of any other place in Canada. In fact Kingston has reason to be proud of its musical celebrities.

THE CARNIVAL ON THE KING STREET RINK.—The Carnival on Tuesday evening next, promises to be a better success than the former one. A longer notice being given will materially assist in the quality of the dresses, and the admirable arrangement of allowing none but those in costume on the ice will ensure a Carnival in real earnest. Mr. Lester is now in town, at the Burnett House, with a quantity of Splendid Dresses on hire, but he has to leave town for Belleville on Friday morning, so no time should be lost in engaging them. The Carnival in Belleville unfortunately happens on the same night as that of Kingston. The Rink is open to the public.

☞ A correspondent suggests that the Committee of the King Street Rink offer a prize for the best sustained character at the Carnival on the 28th inst.

SALE OF OIL PAINTINGS.—To-morrow afternoon, Mr. Gale, who has been exhibiting some beautiful Oil Paintings (copies of the best masters) in Kingston, intends to offer some of them at Public Auction, in the store in Princess Street, occupied by Messrs. Stratton & Co., Auctioneers, &c. We recommend lovers of the art to attend this auction, and they may have reason to thank us for reminding them of it. See advertisement.

GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF CENTRAL CANADA.—This lodge meets to-day in Perth. A number of members left here yesterday by railway as well as in sleighs. The election of officers does not take place till to-morrow.

DRILL IN THE DRILL SHED.—The Course of Drill is fairly entered upon in the new Drill Shed, which is of such use that it is a wonder that such a one is not provided for every district. The Brigade Major, Lieut. Col. Shaw, is bestirring himself in seeing that everything is as it should be, and is endeavoring to raise our Volunteers to a proper standard. The order of drill in the Shed is:—Every Monday evening, battalion drill of the 14th Volunteer Rifles; every Tuesday and Saturday evenings, Officers' drill; and every Wednesday and Thursday, Company drill. Thus every evening is taken up. The other Companies are drilling regularly. Capt. Drummond's Field Battery of Artillery is drilling regularly every week in Pittsburgh. Captain Duff's troupe of Cavalry began its season's drill on Saturday. The Naval Company on Garden Island drill on the ice near the Island every evening, the weather permitting. Capt. Hamilton's Storrington Company drills regularly every Saturday afternoon, and the Portsmouth Rifle Company is bestirring itself in the right direction. New uniforms arrived on Friday for Companies 1 and 6 of the 14th Battalion, which were much needed.

ATTEMPT AT GAOL BREAKING.—On Monday morning another attempt at breaking the Gaol here was made, but the programme was interrupted before the escape was affected. Mr. Corbett, Governor of the Gaol, on making his usual rounds at two o'clock found three of the cell doors open and the prisoners collected together in one of the cells, as if ready to break the bars and clear. The men were taken on surprise, and were securely locked up in other cells without trouble. It appears that Duncan Mackenzie, in Gaol on a charge of assault with intent, managed to unscrew the locks of his own door and then those of two others, and was determined to release the prisoners. It must have occupied some time, for it is a rather difficult job. These attempts show how necessary it is to have an assistant Turnkey to the Gaol, for if one was appointed, a night watch could be kept which would frustrate any attempts made.

HAMILTON ELECTION.—Mr. Magill's majority at the close of the contest—on Saturday, was 602, the entire vote cast being only 808. The election was very slow throughout and very little interest was shown on either side.

BELL RESPITED.—Respite has been granted in the case of Captain Bell, who was to have been hanged on Governor's Island on Saturday last.

THE THREATENED RAID.—The city was excited last evening by some rumors of a Raid from Yankeeland. On making enquiries nothing was to be learnt as to the truth or falsehood of these rumors. A canard or not, the city was well prepared for anything to happen.

Secretary's Office,
Quebec, 18th February, 1865.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointment, viz:

Thomas Aishton, Esquire, M.D., Associate Coroner, County of Lennox and Addington.

LATE FROM QUEBEC.

ANOTHER RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

IMPORTANT MILITIA ORDER.

Quebec, Feb. 18.

Considerable alarm prevailed here in consequence of the night train from Montreal having been thrown down an embankment eight miles this side of Richmond this morning. It having been known that Mr. George Brown and others having friends here were on the train, Mr. Brown telegraphed here that the accident was a bad one, but nobody was seriously hurt. This relieved every one. The passengers reached here by the train about 6:30 to-night. They report nobody seriously hurt.

The following General Order, issued by the Lieutenant General, Sir W. F. Williams, is published by order of the Commander in Chief:—

Headquarters,
Montreal, Feb. 3, 1865.

GENERAL ORDER No. 5.—As inconvenience has lately arisen from soldiers of the Militia Force, now called out for service in the Province, having been found at considerable distance from their station without proper passes signed by their commanding officers, and as expense has been incurred by their apprehension as deserters by some of the look-out parties on outpost duty for the purpose of preventing desertion; the Lieut. General commanding, although believing that the absence of these men from their corps or detachment without proper passes doubtless arose from ignorance of the customs and usages of the army, desires to caution, in the most public manner he can, not only them, but the militia force generally, who are now called out for duty, as well as to warn their friends throughout the Province, who might from ignorance of the serious nature of the crime of absence without leave on the part of the soldiers, prevail upon them from mistaken friendship or kindness to absent themselves, and of the dangers these men hereby run of being apprehended and tried by court-martial for desertion. The Lieutenant General has been informed that some of these men who have been taken up were not dressed in their proper uniform; therefore, if men who absent themselves from their corps without leave, and who are taken up thus improperly dressed, were tried by court-martial for desertion, there is little doubt but that they would be convicted. The Lieut. General Commanding, in issuing this general order, is not only most anxious that the men should be cautioned against absenting themselves in an irregular manner from their regiment or detachment but that likewise if they do so, they should at the same time not be ignorant of the risk of the penalty they incur.

Mr. Clark, Solicitor for the Town of Prescott, is here opposing the Ottawa and Prescott Railway amalgamation with the Grand Trunk, on the ground that it amounts to confiscation of that town's advances of $200,000. The Grand Trunk gets unlimited powers under the Amalgamation Bill to spend moneys for improvements, and contributes besides interest and sinking fund on the Ebbw Vale Company's bonds, as first mortgagee before the towns of Ottawa and Prescott as joint second mortgagees. Prescott dispairs of ever realizing anything by this arrangement. It now pays 2s 3d on its taxes annually for these railway obligations. Prescott contends likewise that the alteration of the gauge will injure it by destroying its present American connections, preventing interchange of cars. It, besides, opposes amalgamation, on the high ground of damage to the public interests. Prescott holds that the Grand Trunk has a good bargain, and ought to become responsible for its debt of $100,000 to the Municipal Loan Fund, created for the railway. The claims of the judgment creditors are wiped out altogether by the Bill. It has passed the second reading, and goes before the Railway Committee. Here, as in the case of Brantford, Upper Canada is interested in retaining the double security of the railways and towns for the Municipal Loan Fund liabilities.—Globe.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

RUMORED EVACUATION OF CHARLESTON.

Washington, Feb. 18.

Richmond papers of the 16th have been received here.

The Richmond Despatch contains the following:—There was a cannonade of several hours' duration on our left near the Appomattox on Wednesday evening. With this exception nothing of moment occurred. On the Petersburg line picket firing has, by the tacit consent of both parties, very much slackened within the past few days. The enemy are quiet in their entrenchments on Hatchet's Run.

Throughout Tuesday night the rumbling of waggon and artillery was heard in Grant's in the neighborhood of Deep Bottom. It was supposed that Grant was transferring a heavy body of troops to the north side. This may be simply the return of the troops sent over to Petersburg to participate in the Hatcher's Run affair.

Hitherto the Yankee press have represented Gen. Terry as about to march toward Wilmington, with the confident expectation of taking that place, but Fort Anderson has proved a more effectual obstruction than they had anticipated.

Scouts who came into Kinston on the night of the 11th inst. report that Gen. Foster is in command at Newbern, and that 2,000 of the 18th army corps have arrived there, making the number of troops at the post about 5,000. It is reported and believed in Kinston that the enemy have landed two locomotives and two cargoes of railroad iron at Morehead City. It is not apprehended in Kinston that the enemy design an early movement in that direction.

No official message was received from any part of South Carolina yesterday. At last accounts, as we stated in yesterday's paper, the enemy held Orangeburg, on the Columbia branch railroad, and our forces were falling back towards Columbia.

There was a rising report here yesterday which we could trace to no reliable source, that there had been skirmishing on Tuesday morning within six miles of Columbia. Our forces abandoned Branchville on Sunday night.

Washington, Feb. 20.—It is reported all over the city that additional good news has been received from Sherman, and the possession of Charleston is mentioned in this connection. If this be true, the fact will probably be announced in an official bulletin. This morning at nine o'clock a salute was fired by order of the military authorities, in honor of the recent glorious victory.

Washington, Feb. 20—The President has approved the bill for mail steamship service between San Francisco and the ports in the Chinese empire, touching at Honolulu, and the ports in Japan, by means of a monthly line of first-class American sea-going steamships, making 12 round trips annually. The Postmaster-General is authorized to contract with the lower responsible bidder for a term of not more than ten years. No bid amounting to more than half a million dollars a year is to be considered.

Washington, Feb. 20—The Navy department has received information from the west blockading squadron, of the destruction, on the 22nd ult., of the schooner Delphina, in the Caloosahatchee river, by an expedition from the United States steamer Lehocura, under command of Lieut Commander R. W. Mead, jr. She had a cargo of 150 bales of cotton, which was thrown overboard by the crew previous to her destruction by our men, some of which floated out to sea and was picked up.

Washington, Feb. 20, War Department.—To General Dix:—The evacuation of Charleston by the rebels is announced in the following telegram just received from General Grant:—City Point, Va., Feb. 20.—E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War: The following despatch has just been received:—To U. S. Grant, Lieutenant-General:—The Richmond Examiner of to day, just received; It says that Charleston was evacuated on Tuesday last.

(Signed) G. Weitzel,
Major General.

Fort Monroe, Feb. 18.—The steamer City of Hudson arrived this morning from City Point, with Mrs Gen. Ord, and a party of of ladies, and two officers of the general staff. There is no news from Gen. Grant's forces, the roads are in a very bad condition, preventing army movements. The steamer Blackstone, that arrived here yesterday from Savannah and Hilton Heard, with despatches from Gen. Sherman, was loaded with cotton from Savannah. She sailed this morning for New York.

In addition to yesterday's despatch the Captain of the Blackstone says a battle has been fought just previous to sailing from Hilton Head, by Gen. Thomas' force, but the result was not known to him.

New York, Feb. 20.—During a recent debate in the rebel Senate the food question came up, when it transpired that the vast yield of the valley of Virginia, which had in former years been always secured, last year fell into the hands; that this was the result of calling the armies the details for gathering it; that thousands of soldiers' families had not tasted meat the last six months, and were living on a short supply of bread alone; that the soldiers them