SUNDAY DIRECTORY—HOURS OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

St. George's Cathedral.—Morning Service, 11.00; Evening Service, 7.00; Military Service, 2.30, p. m. Daily Prayers at 3.30 p.m., except on Wednesdays, when service is held at 7½ p.m., with sermon. On Saints' Days morning and evening prayers.

St. Paul's Church (Queen Street.)—Morning Service, 11.00; Evenin Service, 6.30.

St. James' Church (Union Street.)—Morning Service, 11.00; Evening Service, 6.00.

St. Mark's Church (Barriefield.)—Morning Service, 11.00.

St. John's Church (Portsmouth.)—Morning Service, 10.30; Afternoon Service, 4 o'clock.

St. Andrew's Church (Princess Street.)—Morning Service, 11:00; Afternoon Service, 6.

Chalmers' Church (Earl Street.)—Morning Service, 11.00; Evening Service, 6.00.

Brock Street Presbyterian Church.—Morning Service, 11:00; Afternoon Service 6.00.

Wesleyan Methodist Church (Sydenham Street).—Morning Service, 10.30; Evening Service, 6.00.

Wesleyan Methodist Church (Queen Street).—Morning Service, 10:30; Evening Service, 6.00.

Methodist Episcopal Church, (Head of Johnston Street).—Morning Service, 10:30; Evening Service, 6.00.

Primitive Methodist Church (Brock Street.)—Morning Service, 10.30; Evening Service, 6.00.

St. Mary's Cathedral (Roman Catholic.)—Mass, 7:00, 8:00 8:45 (Military Service) and 10:30 a.m.; Vespers, 3.30.

Baptist Church (Johnson Street.)—Morning Service, 11:00; Evening Service, 6.00.

Congregational Church (Wellington St.)—Morning Service, 11:00; Evening Service, 6:30.

Catholic Apostolic Church (Queen St.)—Morning Service, 10:00; Evening Service, 6:00.

The Daily British Whig

"Unifer per Orbem Dicor."

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

H. A. & Co., Montreal; A. H. & Co., Liverpool; A. C., Quebec.

LORD PALMERSTON'S SPEECH ON CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN.

HE SAYS, ENGLAND WILL GIVE NO CAUSE OF QUARREL WITH THE STATES.

"The honor of England requires that she should defend Canada."

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE STATES ENTIRELY FRIENDLY

Viscount Palmerston said:—However long this discussion may have been, I, for one, cannot regret that it has taken place; for by the majority of members in this House two opinions have been expressed which cannot fail to be useful in the quarters to which they relate. The first opinion is that which has been peculiarly dwelt upon by the honorable member who has just sat down, namely, an earnest desire that the most friendly relations should be maintained between Great Britain and the United States of America; and next, the opinion that we should maintain the connection which exists betwern this country and our provinces on the North American continent so long as the people of those provinces are desirous of maintaining their connection with the mother country. (Hear, hear.) The honorable member who has just spoken has made what in one respect may appear a pardoxical, but what I think, as human nature is constituted, was a very conciliatory speech towards the United States. Though he reviewed a long course of events to prove that the United States have been most grieviously ill-treated by this country—I don't agree with him on any one of these points—it is no doubt a part of human nature that you cannot please any man or set of men better than by telling them they have been exceedingly ill-used. I won't follow the honorable member when he complains that we admitted the belligerent rights of the South—an admission which was the result of necessity and not of choice. I will not follow him into the discussion of the Trent question, which I thought had been fully disposed of, and into the questions which have arisen between the government, or rather, I should say, the people of some parts of Canada and the United States, because, as he admitted himself, the conduct of the Canadian government has been such as to be acknowledged gratefully by the government of the United States as a full and complete fulfilment of the duties of friendly neighborhood. (Hear, hear.) The honorable gentleman says there exists in this country a jealousy of the United States. Sir, I utterly deny that assertion. (Cheers.) We feel no jealousy of the United States. On the contrary, I am sure that every Englishman must feel proud at seeing upon the other side of the Atlantic a community sprung from the same ancestry as ourselves rising in the scale of civilization, and attaining every degree of prosperity—ay, and of power, as well as wealth. (Hear, hear.) I therefore entirely deny that there has been in this country any feeling of jealousy as regards the United States. Undoubtedly there are men who, differing from the honorable gentleman in their theory of government, cannot see with the same approbation which he feels the trial on the other side of the Atlantic of a system of government which we do not think is the best or the most conducive to the happiness of those for whom it was established. But that is an entirely different thing from the feeling which the honorable gentleman has supposed. No doubt during the contest in America there has been experienced, and probably felt, both in the North and South, some irritation against this country. But that irritation was caused by the natural feeling which two parties in a quarrel have that a third party, who does not espouse either side, is to a certain degree doing both sides an injury, or giving them some cause of complaint or jealousy. (Hear, hear.) The North wished us to declare on their side; the South wished us to declare on theirs; and, as we maintained a perfect neutrality between the two, some slight degree of irritation arose on both sides against us.—(Hear, hear.) But I am equally persuaded with the gentleman, that among the great bulk of the people of the United States there are feelings deeper than that irritation—feelings of good will towards the country with which their ancestors were connected (hear, hear); and I am satisfied that when all this unfortunate contest shall have ceased, whatever its termination, the natural feelings of good will and relationship which ought to prevail between the two nations will take the place of any temporary irritation which the war may have occasioned. (Hear, hear.) I am quite satisfied, also, that England will not give to America any just cause of complaint; that war will not proceed from us; and if war does not proceed from our side, and if, as the gentleman thinks, it does not proceed from theirs, then we have a well founded expectation that, in spite of adverse appearances for the moment and in spite of the prognostications of war, the friendly relations between this country and the United States will not incur any real danger of interruption. But that is no reason why we should not use the means in our power to place our fellow citizens, if I may so call them, in Canada and the Northern Provinces, in a state of defence should they be attacked. (Hear, hear.) There is no better security for peace than strength to resist attack, if attack should come. That is no provocation. It is an abuse of terms to say that when you apply means to prevent danger you are provoking that danger and irritating the party against whom those precautions may be taken. (Hear, hear.) If no animosity exists, these precautions can have no effect except that of inspiring confidence in the party in whose favor they are made. If, on the other hand, there be a disposition to attack, that disposition is sure to be lessened in proportion as the chance of success is diminished. (Hear, hear.) Now, I cannot agree with my right hon. friend (Mr. Lowe) in thinking that whatever are the difficulties—and difficulties undoubtedly there may be—in successfully resisting an attack, if it should be made by America, we should regard the defence of Canada as an undertaking which we could not succeed in accomplishing. I think, on the contrary, that Canada may be defended, and I also feel that the honor of England and the good faith which is due to our loyal fellow countrymen in these Northern Provinces require that, at all events, we should make the attempt successfully to defend her. Not concurring therefore in the argument of my right honorable friend that Canada cannot be defended, least of all do I concur in his conclusion that, assuming defence to be impossible, we ought forthwith to withdraw our troops. I neither admit the argument nor assent to its conclusion; and I am anxious that there should be no mistake on the subject, and that it may be fully understood that it is not the intention of the government to follow the advice of my right hon. friend and withdraw our troops from Canada. (Cheers.) On the contrary, I feel the honor of England demands and that our duty as a government binds us to do every thing—moreover, that we shall have the sanction of the British nation in doing everything that we can to defend our fellow countrymen in Canada. (Hear, hear.) As I have already said, I am persuaded that the tone of moderation which has prevailed in this debate must be useful both in Canada and the United States. No doubt there are those who have endeavored to persuade the people of the United States that there exists in this country a spirit of hostility towards them, and that we are looking out for grounds of quarrel. There can, however, be no real and just grounds for quarrel between us. We certainly shall not seek such grounds—nor shall we invent them; and if the speech of the honorable gentleman who has just sat down be a true and faithful exposition of the sentiments of the people of the United States, there can be no well founded apprehension that the peace happily prevailing between us is in danger of interruption. I can confirm the statement of my right honorable friend that the present relations between the two governments are perfectly friendly and satisfactory. (Cheers.) We have no complaint to make of the government of the United States—(hear, hear)—they have acted in a fair and honorable manner in all the matters that have arisen between us. No doubt their claims which they have put forward, not urging them at present, but laying the ground for their discussion at some future time. No doubt, also, we have claims upon them which we do not put forward at present, but have announced to be claims which at some future time may be discussed. But I should trust that we both feel it to be for the interest—aye, and for the honor of the two countries, that peace should be preserved, and that matters of this sort ought to be capable of a friendly and amicable adjustment. (Cheers.) All I can say is that the government, as long as they continue to be chargeable with the conduct of affairs, will do everything that the honor and interests of the country permit them to do, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and friendship between the two countries. (Loud cheers.)

DISPUTE IN THE BRITISH IRON TRADE.

70,000 MEN THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT.

The struggle that has been going on for years in the iron trade has at length reached a crisis in one of the boldest measures that has ever been or that could under any circumstances be adopted by the employers of labor of any branch of industry. On Saturday night the South Staffordshire Ironworks were closed on the understanding that they should not be again opened until the North Staffordshire men had returned to work. There are 3,000 furnaces in South Staffordshire; 6,000 puddlers were employed at them, and for each puddler there was an assistant, and for every puddler and every assistant there was a laborer. There were coal wheelers, boat loaders and unloaders, horse drivers, and laborers employed in many other capacities in connection with the ironworks. There were also 3,500 millmen. Very soon after the stopping of the ironworks a great number of colliers must be thrown out of work. On the whole, 34,000 or 35,000 persons will be thrown out of employment in South Staffordshire alone this week, and £40,000 a week that used to be distributed in wages will no longer circulate amongst the families of the poor. If the lock-out be persevered in all over the country, in accordance with the compact which the ironmasters have entered into with each other, 70,000 men will be thrown out of employment, and above 200,000 persons will be deprived of the means of subsistence. Nearly $100,000 a week that used to be paid in wages will be diverted from the laboring classes of the iron districts of this country, and will circulate in some other channel. As to the probable duration of the lock-out, it rests with the North Staffordshire puddlers to put an end to it as soon as they like. But if they be firm, the men in other parts of the country are powerless. It is then practically a matter to be decided by the North Staffordshire puddlers and the masters—others, of course, having what influence belong to advice and persuasion, and no more. The masters will not yield until they have had a very severe trial of their strength first. As to the means the puddlers have of resisting, the North Staffordshire men will find themselves in a very difficult position if the Unions refuse to support them. As to the puddlers who have just been thrown out of work, the week's wages they received on Saturday night might be made to support them for a considerable time under the pressure of an exigency like the present. Then they have the money accumulated by the Association, which it is stated amounts to £6,000 or £7,000; they hope to receive assistance, as has been said before, from trades' unions, and they have some credit with the grocer and the baker, and the publican. Men having even these small resources, and being willing to suffer a good deal from hunger and thirst if necessary, might, if they felt so disposed, subsist in idleness for a considerable time.

The following is another version of the accident to our City Member. The former account was from the Leader, this is from the Quebec Chronicle:—

NARROW ESCAPE OF HON. J. A. MACDONALD.

The Attorney General West had a narrow escape last evening while crossing the ice to the railroad station, en route to the West. The horse attached to the vehicle in which he was seated almost fell through, capsizing the cariole and pitching Mr. Macdonald out, who, however, immediately sprang to his feet, although the fall was rather severe, and indicated a safer road. The horse was rescued with difficulty; and the Attorney General was fortunately enabled to reach the station without further accident.

The Montreal Gazette says:—

We learnt by special telegram that the Hon. J. A. Macdonald in crossing the ice at Quebec yesterday evening, broke through, and very narrowly escaped drowning.

He had one of his fingers broken. He arrived here yesterday morning; and is going to Kingston to-morrow morning or evening.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

A Camp Disposed of.—The first case tried in this neighborhood, says the London Prototype, under the new Crimping Act, came up before Justice Owrey, in Westminster, yesterday, in which the defendant, F. C. Walters, was fined $135 and costs, for endeavoring to entice a person named Wright to enlist in the American army. He should have had the full benefit of the Act—a fine of $200 and six months in gaol. As it is, he remains in gaol until the fine is paid.

St. Patrick's Cathedral of Dublin, which has been restored through the munificence of Mr. Guiness, was reopened a few weeks since. The Lord Lieutenant and other high dignitaries were present. The ceremony was most impressive. Mr. Guinnes was his own architect, superintended the work himself, but with no innovations of style, only a perfect restoration. It is perhaps the greatest work ever accomplished by an individual. The total cost of the restoration will be upwards of £250,000—the whole of which is paid out of Mr. Guiness' private purse. To few men have been entrusted the means, and in fewer still the heart to equal this deed of munificence.

The Volunteers at the Front.—Government having determined to relieve the thirty Volunteer Companies now doing duty on the frontier, will, on the 1st May, replace them by twenty-one companies, twelve of which will be selected from Upper Canada. A telegraphic despatch was received from the Militia Department by Capt. Williams, of the Infantry, of this Town, notifying him that the services of his company would be required. We have every reason to believe that there will be no difficulty in raising the required number of men—sixty-five.—Port Hope Canadian.

The American skater, Jackson Haynes, at St Petersburg, gave an exhibition of his prowess on the 24th ult., which drew him 1,500 roubles. One of his most daring is to lean backwards while skating backwards, till his hair touches the ice, and then, without help, recover a perpendicular position.

Another Murder in Japan.—A private letter from an officer on board Her Majesty's ship Odin states that a survey had just been made of the dominions of Nagasaki, where the vessel had been for a short time. On the 22d of August last the Japanese authorities objected to plans of the fortifications being made, but they were too late, as the surveying officers had previously completed their work. On the evening of the same day Mr. Charles Collins, one of the engineers of the Odin, was murdered by the Japanese. He was buried on the 24th. The Odin on the 29th sailed for Yeddo, and she was in the Suwonda Sea on the 30th, the date of the letter.

Stars and Garters.—His Royal Highness Prince Leopold is deputed by her Majesty to invest his Serene Highness the Grand Duke of Hesse with the order of the Garter. Earl Cowper is commissioned by Her Majesty, in like manner, to bear the Garter to His Majesty the King of Denmark. He will be accompanied by the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, the Hon. J. F. Stuart Wortely, Lieutenant-Colonel Tower, Coldstream Guards, and the Hon. E. Scott Gifford, of the Foreign office. The Earl of Sefton will convey the same illustrious order to His Majesty the King of Portugal, and will most likely take with him Colonel Lord Henry Percy, C. B., V. C., Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carleton, Coldstream Guards, and Mr. Abbott, of the Foreign-office.—The Owl.

The Duc de Morny.—The Duc de Morny, who died in Paris recently, at the age of 51, was not only the nearest to the Emperor by the accident of birth, but without doubt the nearest and most trusted in counsel, as he was probably the most sagacious and skillful of his advisers. M. de Morny was a man of rare intelligence, energy and resource.—From his boyhood up he had improved all the advantages and opportunities which he found or made; his birth his education, his career at college, his service in the army, his parliamentary experience his knowledge of the world of books and of men, his varied aptitude for public life and for "succeeding" in society as a man of ease and pleasure, always capable of greater things. In his shrewdness and suppleness of writ, his buoyant ease and self-possession, in a certain reckless grace of manner, which his enemies might call sinister and unscrupulous, and which, perhaps, resemble a little the ideal hero of a drama, in his fine eye for art and the use he made of it, in his literary taste and facility, he was not perhaps, so much a man borne upon the steps of a throne, as a Prince by right of nature of modern France. No man had a finer instinct of a large and luxurious existence, no man knew better how to enjoy this life and to fill it. There was just a twinge, perhaps, of the smartness of the betting man and the money dealer in his thought and talk and manner, which no superiority or distinction could entirely disguise. The part he played in the events of December, 1861, is historical, and no man living could have played it better.

Royal Duchies.—The annual accounts of the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall have been laid before Parliament. The income of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1864 was £40,012, the salaries and other expenditure, £15,724 and the sum of £26,000 was paid over for Her Majesty's use. The sum of £4,000 assured in the Law Fire Insurance Society on the Savoy Chapel is in hand, and is held for the restoration of the chapel. The income of the Duchy of Cornwall for 1864 amounted to £68,411 the salaries and other expenses to £15,699, and the sum of £50,000 was paid over for the use of the Prince of Wales.

Our Armour Fleet.—Our first squadron consists of the Warrior, the Black Prince, the Achilles, the Minotaur, the Agincourt, the Northumberland, and the Bellerophon. These are vessels of great speed and great length. The second squadron consists of the Lord Clyde, the Royal Oak, the Prince Consort, the Ocean, the Caledonian, the Royal Alfred, and the Lord Warden. These are less ships, and have somewhat the less speed. The third squadron consists of the Zealous, the Hector, the Valiant, the Defence and the Resistance, forming altogether 19 ships of the line. The next class are the frigates, corvettes, and gunboats. They consist of the Favourite, the Research, the Enterprise, the Pallas, the Frequent, the Nixen, and the Waterwitch. Then we come to the four ships which will be servicable for coast defence—the Royal Sovereign, the Prince Albert, the Scorpion, and the Weasel.—Lord C. Paget's Speech.

The Sea Serpent again.—Captain Charles Aubin, of the Blonde, of Jersey, recently arrived in the St. Katherine Docks, from Vermin Vas, with ebony, barwood, palm kernels, &c., part of the cargo shipped by Du Chaillu, reports as follows:—September 4, 1864, lying at anchor three miles off the River Vermin Vas, lat. 119 S. long. 9 E. at about 7.15 p. m., noticed on the port quarter a long streak of great length approaching the ship, when within 12 to 15 feet of the vessel's bow observed that it was a fish of immense length, at least 200 to 250 feet, apparently in shape like an eel, about three feet thick in the body. The fish moved in an undulating motion against the current, moving very slowly and without noise. It was witnessed by myself and the whole of the crew.

Rather a singular confidence game has been played in Paris, C. W. A young woman giving her name as Jane Murray took up her quarters in one of the most respectable boarding houses in that town. A few young ladies were boarding in the house to whom Miss Murray, made herself exceedingly agreeable, and having won their confidence was admitted into their bedrooms on all occasions. During the absence of these young ladies at school, however, and without the knowledge of the landlady, Miss Murray suddenly made a grand raid upon the young ladies' apartments, picked up all their wearing apparel, and other valuables, and left for parts unknown. She was afterwards arrested in another boarding house, where she passed as Miss Stewart, with the goods in her possession.

A few days since, in Portsmouth, N. H, a large bull dog seized an infant lying in a cradle, and tore away one side of its face, and, before the brute could be secured, he grasped the child by the throat, and shook it until life was extinct.

Hair Dressing at the French Court—All the ladies endeavor to imitate the costume and allures of the Princess Pauline Bonaparte, and all attain to some degree of resemblance, the face excepted. The hair no longer hangs a la Greeque, on the neck behind, but is brought forward, and threatens all offenders in helmet fashion on the summit of the head. "The dromissory organs," as the satirists of phrenology denominate those low down towards the nape of the neck, and which have hitherto been concealed by the hair, now stand revealed in all their ugly indiscretion. It is a horrible thing to relate, but the truth must be told. The parting runs all along the top of the head without any straight line in front, and the short frizzy curls round the brow have replaced the noble looking bandeaux drawn back from the forehead, and showing "the good bumps" to the best advantage. Is it any consolation to learn that the fashion has been imposed by the hairdressers themselves, for we search in vain for any great name connected with its introduction? The matter was put to a vote, so we understand, at the last Assembly of Coiffeurs held at the Salle Moliere—the Assembly of Taste which takes place twice a year to determine the fashions. Twelve young ladies are submitted to the experimental practice of the newest theme of the great Paris hairdressers, and this year, almost by unanimity, the preference was awarded to Leopold's Coiffure Empire, and this hair style proclaimed her supreme over taste and elegance for the year. The one advantage, however, derived from the fashion is the necessity for diminishing the width of the skirt, as the head being reduced to its smallest expression, the enormous circumference of the body would be hideously ridiculous.—Court Journal.

Admission of Clergymen to the Bar.—The Benchers of Lincoln's-Inn have adopted by a large majority the opinion of the small majority of the delegates from the four Inns of Court in favor of admitting to the bar clergymen who have (as far as they can) abandoned the clerical profession; leaving it to the bishops to take such steps as they may think fit, by refusal of license or institution, to prevent such persons resuming their clerical functions.

Maynooth College.—A visitation of Maynooth College was held in November. The visitors report that there were at that time 355 students on the books, 18 of them absent on sick leave, and 5 in the infirmary; 312 answered when the roll of was called over. The superiors and professors are 20 in number. In the three years which had elapsed since the preceding visitation 168 students had been ordained to the order of the priesthood, 64 had left the college without being promoted to holy orders, 12 of them for other ecclesiastical colleges.—The students take the oath of allegiance at the quarter sessions. The visitors report that the result of their visitation was satisfactory except in the following particulars: the new infirmary remains unoccupied from want of funds to provide fittings and furniture. There is still no hall for academical exhibitions, distribution of prizes, and other public exercises sufficiently large to accommodate the entire community. The visitors were especially struck by the manifest inadequacy of the chapel to the accommodation of so numerous a community, as well as by the poverty of its fittings and its inappropriateness for an ecclesiastical college, an important function of which is to educate the students in sacred ceremonial, and to form them in just notions of church architecture and decoration. The visitors learnt with regret that in consequence of the very high price of provisions it has been necessary to make retrenchments in the dietary of the students; the sum of £28, allocated 19 years ago, when the price of meat was at least a third lower than at present, has proved insufficient to provide for the students on the former scale. The report states the entrance examination as revised last year. The visitors were the Duke of Leinster, Archbishop Cullen, the Chief Secretary for Ireland and Chief Baron Pigot.—London Times.

The Roll of the Lords.—The roll for the Session has been issued. Beginning with three peers of the Blood royal—the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cumberland (King of Hanover), and the Duke of Cambridge, it passes on the primate of all England, the Lord Chancellor; the Archbishop of York, the Irish Archbishop (Dublin) on the cota this year, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal; and then follow, according to their rank, the dukes, marquises, earls, viscounts, bishops, and barons who have seats in the House of Peers. The roll differs little from that of 1864. No new temporal peer has been created; the list still ends with Lord Houghton. The name of Lord Wentworth [by courtesy Viscount Ockham] now appears; and that of Lord Dunsany as a representative peer of Ireland is also new. The list of spiritual lords is changed, first by the death of Bishop Davys, of Peterborough, bringing the new Bishop of Ely into Parliament, and also by the customary change in the rota of Irish bishops attending Parliament this Session, the Bishops of Meath, of Killaloe, and of Kilmore being the prelates now in attendance. By the addition of the two names above mentioned the number of temporal peers was raised to 424 at the commencement of this Session; the spiritual lords are always 30 in number. This is counting Lord Auckland as a spiritual lord only, and not twice over.

$25,000 Damages.—Parson Brownlow makes the following editorial announcement in the last number of the Knoxville Whig:

On Saturday last we recovered damages of Sneed, Crozier & Reynolds, in the Circuit Court for Knox County, to the amount of $25,000, for having caused our arrest, imprisonment and banishment from the State, three years ago, alone for our opinions, and our steadfast adherence to the Federal Union. We proved their meetings in the office of Ramsey, and their discussion of the ways and of disposing of us, as a part and parcel of a general, wicked, and most infernal conspiracy. We laid our damages at $25,000 and the jurors were out on the case five minutes, returning the verdict named. They would have given double had we claimed it.

The Richmond Whig, of March 21, says a large company of spectators assembled on the 20th in the Capitol Square, to witness the promised parade of the first company of negro troops raised under the recent act of Congress; but owing to the fact that the new recruits have not yet been supplied with their uniforms and equipments the parade has been postponed. We learn that the recruiting is going on rapidly. The battallion of colored troops from Camps Winder and Jackson, under command of Dr. Chimbliss, including the company under Captain Grimes, will parade on the square, on Wednesday evening, at half past 4 o'clock. This is the first company of negro soldiers raised in Virginia.

Great Fall.—The Hon. Mr. Butler, a member of a distinguished family in England, while on a winter visit a few weeks since to some of the mountainous scenery of Cumberland, England, accidentally fell from a precipice of about five hundred and sixty yards. In the first one hundred and sixty yards he rolled upon the snow; the next one hundred yards he fell from one rock to another; the fall was perpendicular, striking upon a rock, which literally dashed him two pieces.

Crime in Victoria.—It is satisfactory to observe that the criminal statistics for the year 1863 (issued by the Police Department just before the departure of the last mail) show that for five years crime in Victoria had been steadily and largely decreasing. Within that time the number of persons taken into custody decreased from 30,357 to 22,255; the summary convictions from 20,218 to 14,302; the committals for trial from 1,428 to 1,081; and the convictions by the superior tribunals from 755 (in 1860) to 653. Thus, though the population of the colony has largely augmented since 1859, the crime, as measured by the commitments, has diminished by 24 per cent. In many of the more serious crimes there has been a very marked reduction in recent years. In the year 1863 the great majority of the offences were not of a serious character. Of the 22,000 persons actually taken into custody, 68 per cent. were summarily dealt with by the magistrates, 31 per cent. were discharged, and not more than 5 per cent. were committed for trial. In England, in the same year, the total number of persons apprehended was 452,273, and of these 62 per cent. were summarily convicted, 32 per cent. were discharged, and 4.7 were committed for trial. Of the committals, 60 per cent. resulted in conviction in Victoria and 75 per cent. in England, while the proportion of acquittals was 31 per cent in Victoria and 24 per cent in England. It would seem, therefore, that justice is more sternly administered in England, than in Victoria. As regards the character of the crimes committed in 1863, it is satisfactory to find that the offences against the person are largely in the minority. Of the cases summarily dealt with, only 784 were of this class, while there were 1,778 crimes in connexion with property and 11,740 offences of a miscellaneous kind. In this latter category are included 6,976 cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct and 1,036 convictions under the Vagrant Act, making together more than two-thirds of the whole.—Australasian.

The Lords of the Admiralty have given directions for the construction of a new ironcased frigate, of the improved Bellerophon class, which is intended to mount an armament of 16 guns of the heaviest calibre, and to be fitted with engines of 1,000 horse-powers, (nominal.)

Violence or Vagrancy.—After the demands for the extradition of the five St. Albans raiders now in jail have disposed of a case will be brought against them for a breach of Canadian neutrality.

Dry Goods.—The spring trade at Montreal has fully commenced, and importers of dry goods are very busy. Buyers from Canada West have arrived in considerable numbers, and as stocks are not heavy a fair business is being done.—Witness.

The Western Crops.—A gentleman just returned from an extensive tour in the west says that gloom and distrust are very general among merchants and traders, but that in portions where the crops were good last year there has been a fair winter business done; and that the hope is general of a good crop of fall wheat this year on account of the depth of snow which has everywhere protected the plant through the winter.

Burglaries at Amherstburg.—The Essex Record says:—On Friday night, the crow and jimmy were at work in the quiet old town. Somebody broke into Mr. Kolfage's store, in a very deliberate and cool manner, effecting an entrance into the cellar, in the first place at a point which did not suit the purpose, as it was too well secured, and then retiring and making a new breach, by means of which they succeeded in entering the store, where they ransacked the drawers, show cases, &c., evidently in search of money, but took away very little of the goods, a few pair of boots and some pocket knives, in each case carefully selecting only the best. Mr. James Baker's store was entered the same night, and about a dollar's worth of coppers stolen from a drawer, the burglars being careful to lock the door after them.

The Pope.—A correspondent of the Times thus describes His Holiness:—His Holiness looked remarkably well; his jocund countenance beaming with a rather too constant smile, and betraying no trace of that anguish which he is said to feel at this dangerous crisis. In a carriage drawn by six horses, and surrounded by the same costly cavalcade as in the good old time, he continues his daily progress, apparently unconscious of or indifferent to the clouds which are gathering around. Whatever may be the real feeling, the Sibyl of the Vatican has not yet spoken, and, should she do so, her utterance will be as of old, probably—mystic and indefinite.

Army Horses.—The average loss of horses in the Federal service is 500 a day, according to Mr. Stanton's report; and yet that functionary says the stock of horses in the country has not been reduced by the drain of war. The last statement admits of much doubt.

Bold Bank Robbery.—Louisville, March 27.—About 4 o'clock this afternoon the office of T. Bland, banker, was entered by three men who proposed a negotiation for silver, in the progress of which one of these men presented a pistol, drove Bland into his safe and locked the door upon him. The men then escaped with all the money outside the safe, estimated, according to some accounts, at $45,000. Bland was released, after being nearly two hours confined, by a locksmith who cut the lock from the safe.

A Chanting Watch.—During the reign of Catharine II. of Russia, an ingenious Russian peasant, named Kulubin, constructed a musical watch to perform a single chant. The machine was about the size of an egg within, which was a representation of the tomb of our Saviour, with the Roman sentinels on watch. On pressing a spring, the stone would be rolled from the tomb, the sentinels fall down, the angels appear, the holy woman enter the sepulchre, and the same chant which is sung on Easter Eve be accurately performed.

France as it Was.—At the accession o Louis XIII. to the crown of France A.of 1660, France had not a single ship. Paris at that period contained less than 800,000 inhabitants, and only four public edifices of note; the other cities of the kingdom resembled poor villages. The nobility, who almost all resided in the country, lived in dongons or castles, surrounded with deep ditches. The peasants who cultivated the land were greately oppressed. The high roads were almost impassible; the towns were destitute of police, and almost without any kind of government. For the space of nearly 1,000 years was the genius, not only of the inhabitants of France, but almost all Europe, restrained under a Gothic thraldom, destitute of all laws or fixed customs, and acquainted with everything but war and idleness. The clergy of these times lived in disorder and ignorance, and the common people without industry, stupified by their wretchedness.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

New Organ.—The Congregation of the new Congregational Church have procured a very fine Organ, one of Warren's, from Montreal, for the Church. The Organ is of the Gothic style, to agree with the formation of the Church, and is considered to be superior to any in the city, having many improvements over the others. It will be used for the first time at service on Sunday.

Fire Department.—An Inspection of the Hook and Ladder Department of the Fire Brigade was made yesterday afternoon by the Fire, Water and Gas Committee. The members of the Company are desirous that the public should inspect the apparatus, and the Carriage House will be kept open to-day for that purpose. They intend to turn out on the 13th of this month for inspection and to show the proficiency of the Department.

The Arms of the Volunteers.—A Board of Officers, to be appointed at Headquarters, will hold a survey on the Arms, Accoutrements and Clothing of the 14th Battalion Volunteer Rifles, on Tuesday next, so that this corps will have its requirements make good at once. The motley figure it has made for the past, when on parade as a battalion, will now be remedied, much to the satisfaction of both officers and men.

LATEST FROM QUEBEC.

THE NEW COMPANIES OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FRONTIER.

THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

PETROLEUM ON MANITOULIN ISLAND.

Quebec, March 30.

Companies of active volunteers, to replace those now at the frontier, will, it is understood, be drawn from the undermentioned places in Upper Canada:—Toronto, Hamilton, Belleville, Picton, Ottawa, Stratford, Chatham, St. Catharines and London.

The Bureau of Agriculture is engaged in preparing for the Dublin Exhibition, which takes place in May. Funds have been placed in the hands of the Boards of Agriculture of Upper and Lower Canada, and the Boards of Arts of each section. The Geological Survey has also received money to prepare a collection of Canadian minerals. Some special collection as woods, furs and Indian works will be procured through other agencies. The grant of $5,000 by Parliament was, under the circumstances of the country, generous, but for the object intended it will have to be carefully husbanded. Nearly all the articles to be exhibited will have to be purchased. This, together with cost of shipping, installation and preserving will greatly encroach on the funds. It is reported that Mr. McGee intends being present at the Exhibition.

Hon. W. H. Blake, Chairman of the Railway Postal Service Commission, left for Toronto to-night. The report of the Commission has been handed in to the Government, and the Commission is closed. The object for which it was appointed was simply to institute an inquiry for the information of the Government.

The arbitrators on the claim of the Ottawa contractors met at Ottawa yesterday.

The indications of petroleum on Manitoulin Island have induced parties to apply for rights to carry on operations there.

LATEST FROM MONTREAL.

TRIAL OF Mr. DAOUST.

THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE.

Montreal, March 30th.

Mr. Daoust, M.P.P., was tried to-day for forgery. The jury is locked up.

Mr. Penton, manager of the street cars, was elected Chief of Police without a division, after several votes. He is said to be very competent.

John Coulter went to Côte St. Paul on Tuesday last, returned to the city afterwards, but has since disappeared.

The ice in the river is breaking up and shoving. The water is rising. We have beautiful weather. The snow has nearly all disappeared.

It is rumoured that the United States Consul is to be recalled.

The Grand Jury found "no bill" against John Pape for arson.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

MORE PEACE RUMOURS.

New York, March 30.

The Commercial's special says in official circles the immediate downfall of the rebellion is considered certain.

The most recent advices at the War Department give assurance that neither Lee nor Johnston can either retreat or offer battle without certain destruction of their armies.

It is understood that there must be a cessation of fighting on both sides, and advices from Richmond state that every resort of diplomacy will be used for arranging a peace during the interim.

The Richmond Whig of the 25th has an account of a meeting at Wythesville, for the purpose of securing contributions of food for Lee's beleagured army in Richmond. The contributions donated amounted to about one day's short rations for the army.

Washington, March 31.

Richmond papers of Wednesday report that General Sheridan passed Dinwiddie Court House on Wednesday morning, and they think his destination is the South side road.

Fort Monroe, March 30.

The steamer Fairbanks, with prisoners from Newbern, reports on the 29th, she piloted the United States boat with Gen. Sherman aboard into Hatteras Inlet, by request, on account of the stormy appearance of the weather.

New York, March 31.

Washington special says advices just received from Richmond, state that the gold and general assets of the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank of that city have been sent away. Two percussion cap manufactories have also been removed, it is supposed to Danville or Linchburg.

Lee's army has supplies for ten days ahead.

Washington, March 31.

Information from City Point, dated two o'clock, Thursday afternoon, says that very heavy cannonading commenced at 10:30 o'clock that morning, and was very furious until 1:30 o'clock p.m., in the direction of the Petersburg front. A battle was probably in progress, but no particulars were known at City Point the time the mail boat left.

St. Louis, March 31.

A despatch from Mobile Point, dated March 22nd, says: Col. Morris' brigade landed near Navy Cove and drove a portion of Gen. Gardner's command four miles when the rebels being reinforced from Mobile, and the object of the reconnoissance having geen accomplished, Col. Morris fell back without loss. Every preparation for heavy fighting was made on the 21st, and the sound of artillery came down the bay all day yesterday, and was distinctly heard at Fort Gaines. High winds are prevailing to-day, and the sound of artillery has ceased. The results remain to be learned.

Washington, March 31.—Information from the advance of the army of the Potomac, dated Hatcher's Run. Thursday morning shows that the locality of our army under Gen. Grant, was at that time in a line parallel with and east of the Boydtown plank road and west of Hatcher's Run. These important positions have been gained with but little resistance from the enemy. The fifth corps had a sharp engagement with the enemy on the Quaker Road, on Wednesday, but lost in the affair less than 300 men, and drove the enemy nearly a mile with serious loss to them and captured a number of prisoners.

IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE FROM RICHMOND.

The Tribune publishes and vouches for a statement relative to the present status of the rebellion—its military forces, the feeling with regard to submission, the private sentiments of General Lee respecting the war, and other important subjects, which, if true, are of the highest importance, and indicates that the rebellion is even nearer the point of collapse than has been supposed at the north. This intelligence is communicated from Washington, and the writer declares his authority to be unimpeachable. It is stated, in the first place, that the aggregate rebel force is one hundred and fifty-two thousand men, of whom Lee has sixty-four thousand, Johnson thirty-one thousand, seven thousand under D. H. Hill and Dick Taylor, and the balance west of the Mississippi. With regard to the opinions of General Lee, an alleged verbatim report of that officers testimony before a Senate Committee is given, the examination occurring on the 24th of last January. In reply to questions, General Lee stated that he was opposed to evacuating Richmond and withdrawing the army to North Carolina, and that the Virginia troops, instead of going there would go home; that he had not troops enough for the vast campaign, and could not hold out till midsummer, that by the arming of slaves the war could be carried on another year, but it would be necessary to give the negroes their liberty; that the sentiment of the army is almost unanimous for peace; the soldiers believing that the war could not be maintained through another campaign that he believes the best policy for the South would be to make peace on the terms proposed by Mr Stephens; that he could not save the cause now, and he believed no human power could save it; and that the army and people ought to be saved, all else be lost. It is stated also, that from the 1st of October, 1864, to Feb. 4th 1865, seventy-two thousand desertions had occurred from the rebel armies east of the Mississippi; that Hood lost twenty-nine thousand five hundred men in his expedition to Tennessee, and that Price lost, nineteen thousand in his Missouri campaign. With regard to the feeling upon reconstruction, it is reported, that nine rebel Senators, and twenty-nine Congressmen whose names are given, are favorable to re-union. It is represented that Vice-president Stephens was not disappointed with the result of the Hampton Roads Peace Conference, and that he was sanguine peace would be had before the 1st of next May if the people desired peace, and that neither Jeff Davis nor any other man could prevent it—Mr. Davis regards any further efforts of the rebel government to negotiate peace in their official capacity, or to carry on the war, as utterly futile. His plan for peace is that President Lincoln shall issue in address to the army and people of the South, embodying what he has already said about peace; that he agreed to appoint Commissioners to meet State Commissioners from such Southern States as desire, the meeting to be held at Cincinnati or Louisville at an early day; that such States as mayound these commissioners shall also elect Senators and Representatives to the Federal Congress, and then be placed upon equal terms with other members. This plan he believed, would be approved by North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and perhaps, South Carolina and Virginia.

Such is the substance of this alleged exposition of the inner circle of the rebellion. It may or it may not be true, but the facts stated are not improbable, and merely go farther in the same general direction of verified information.

An Alabama correspond