FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 24, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

J. T., Ottawa.

THE CULTURE OF FLAX.

One of the most important agricultural productions of Canada would be Flax, if the people did but go heart and soul in its cultivation. The soil is well suited to its growth, and it is a staple that always fetches a good price. The Government certainly does all in its power to encourage the culture:—witness the Six Scutching Machines, and witness the appointment of Mr. Donaldson, the great advocate of Flax, as Emigrant Agent at Toronto. And witness, still further, the contemplated purchase and importation of 2,000 bushels of the best Riga Flax Seed for distribution in the Province. This boon the country owes to the Hon. John Macdonald, who used his influence with the Minister of Agriculture to consent to the purchase and importation.

THE SHENANDOAH.

Great excitement existed relative to the surrender of the Shenandoah, and on the evening of the 8th Captain Paynter of H. M. S. Donegal received orders from London, to liberate such of the crew of the Shenandoah as were not British subjects. On inquiry it was found there was no British subject on board, at least no one claimed that honor, although the agent of many seemed to be the contrary. The Captain immediately after having received the above orders, engaged the Rock Ferry boats for the purpose of conveying the men ashore. At 8 o'clock the ferry steamer landed the first portion of the crew at the south end of the small landing stage. The disemarkation presented a strange scene of excitement. Rejoicing was visible on the countenances of the officers and men, and many made great boasts of the fact that the Shenandoah displayed the last Confederate flag. They stood in busy groups about the landing stage eagerly canvassing their future prospects. Most of them seemed puzzled by their own position—how they came to be liberated and on what grounds, they were not quite clear about, though at the fact itself they were all particularly elated. To enquiries made by individuals among the crowd of bystanders, both the officers and men replied that they had been liberated unconditionally to go whithersoever they chose. As the intelligence reached Town crowds of people assembled on the stage—those who had Southern proclivities making themselves particularly agreeable to the crew. A general curiosity being manifested to hear the details of the operations of the notorious vessel, many a yarn was spun of daring adventures, while the luggage was being packed, &c. During the last seven months, some of the crew said, the men were particularly anxious to get ashore, as they had become tired of their wild life; and from the conversation of some, it seems pretty certain that aboard the Shenandoah the news of the cessation of the late hostilities between the Northern and Southern States, received from American whalers, was believed. The unfortunates among the crew, who had been taken from whalers sunk by the Shenandoah and induced to serve on the pirate, seemed glad enough to be quit of her; and altogether 130 men disembarked; in fact all but one sick seaman left in charge of the officers of the Donegal. Many of the crew of the Shenandoah are Liverpool men, and these, immediately on being landed, drove off to their homes. Of the other, a few went to private boarding houses, and 20 to the Sailors Home.

The Morning Post says: it will be a grave question for consideration of the British Government whether the reasons assigned for his conduct by Capt. Waddel shall be accepted as a sufficient justification, or whether it will be expedient to submit that issue to the decision of a jury.

The Globe says the vessel would appear to be as much the property of the United States Government as Fort Sumter. With regard to the crew we have little difficulty in anticipating that our Government will do everything reasonable and lawful to comply with the wishes of the United States. Whether Capt. Waddell and his associates will be prosecuted simply for an offence against the Merchant Shipping Act, as implied in the absence of papers, or for piracy, we cannot pretend to say.

ADDRESS TO THE FENIAN BROTHERHOOD.

BY KORN KOBB JUN., HEAD CENTER.

"The meteor flag of England
Shall yet terrific burn."

Will it? Not exactly. Not if this court understands itself. It has blazed long enough. The green wood of Fenianism is about to put an extinguisher on it. The miserable rag has flaunted its last. Its thousand years are up. It waves insultingly no more over down-trodden Ireland. The Cross of St. Patrick has parted company with it. St. George and the Dragon can play no longer on the Harp of Erin. Rouse ye, my whiskey loving compatriots. Mount your green cockade and wirel your shillelah. We'll drive the bloated Saxon from the land he has blighted as St. Patrick banished the snakes. We swear by the ghost of Brian Borohouse, who knocked the Danes into smithereens at Clontarf. The beer and roast beef of old England are played out; potatoes and potcen have usurped their place. Babylon is falling. England is doomed. Lord Macauley's New Zealander is wanted immediately on London Bridge. Whoop! Hurroo! will any gentleman oblige me by planting his pedal extremity on the appendage of my pea-jacket? Gentlemen, brethren, our mission is a great one. Think of Ireland free and England demolished. Think of Donnybrook Fair and whisky untaxed. Think how philantrophic we are. Ireland don't want us. England don't want us. Canada don't want us—America don't want us (except on election days). But we'll spend the last cent we can borrow to break the shackles that bind our beloved country. We'll take down the harp that has hung silent so long in Tara's Halls and play 'The Wearing of the Green' right right under Victoria's nose. We'll draw the old British lion's teeth if he has any left, and clip his claws, and give him to Barnum to exhibit as a specimen of bloated aristocracy. The bulwarks of the British Throne shall be used as fuel for Fenian watchfires, and the proud Union Jack wave as a pocket-handkerchief for the President of the new Republic. Faugh a Ballagh! We're rusting for a fight. We staid at home during the American war, but we did it on principle. We scorn to interfere in family quarrels; but we'll come down on Canada like a thousand of Bricks. We'll knock Confederation into a cocked hat, and gobble up the regulars and volunteers at a mouthful. We'll send the editors of the Globe and Leader to the reformatory prison, and condemn them to read their own editorials. We'll give the renegade McGee a coat of tar and feathers, and make him ride an Irish bull as a remembrance of Auld Lang Syne. Down with the bloated Saxon—the blood-stained Saxon—the purse-proud Saxon—the Ireland-oppressing Saxon—down with him, and let his name perish from the earth—Sic Semper Tyrannus. 'Erin go Bragh!

THOMAS SAYERS, THE PUGILIST.

Thomas Sayers, of whose recent death we have information by the China, and who is known wherever a newspaper in the English language is read as 'Tom' Sayers, was born in 1826. He was brought up to the trade of bricklaying, but having a turn for the prize ring, and showing the qualities necessary to success in it, he soon became a boxer by occupation. His first fight in a regular stricken field was at Greenhithe in 1849, when he beat Crouch. His next fight was with Collins in 1850, which was interrupted by the police twice and finally abandoned, and a new match made for the stake of £25, which he won after a hard fight of 84 minutes. His next venture was a challenge to Jack Grant, a very expert boxer, on which a match was arranged for £100 a side.

This fight was won by Sayers and gave him an immediate and extensive notoriety among the class to which he belonged.—After beating Jack Martin in 1853, he was beaten by Nat Langham. This fight, the only one, unless we except the Heenan fight, which Sayers lost throughout his long career, was won by the stratagem and superior adroitness of Langham, who succeeded in closing both his eyes by successive blows, though Sayers was almost perfectly fresh in every other respect at the close of the fight. Langham's friends were so well aware of Sayer's superiority that another match could not be arranged between the parties, and Sayers went on conquering and to conquer all the most noted boxers of his time, among whom were Aaron Jones, the Tipton Slasher, Tom Paddock, Bill Benjamin and Bob Prettie. The Heenan fight, which created so great an excitement in England and this country, occurred on the 17th April, 1860, and was decided drawn, as will be well remembered, and the matter attempted to be settled by giving a belt to each of the aspirants. Since that time Sayers has been the bright particular star of several circuses. He had in a remarkable degree the qualities necessary for success in prize fighting—ability to give and take the most tremendous blows, stubborn pluck, a quick eye and an imperturbable temper.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

An Extradition Case.—A colored man named Lewis was arrested in Belleville last week, charged with 'Robbery.' He was tracked here by the Chief of Police of Oswego and abstracted a large quantity of groceries. He also stole a horse to secure his goods, but returned the horse to the place he got it. He was arrested with his wife, and made a voluntary confession of his guilt. He afterwards broke out of jail, and escaped to Canada. He was brought up on Friday last before the Police Magistrate, Smith Bartlett, Jr., Esq. A. Diamond, Esq., who appeared for prisoner, contended that he must be discharged, as the offence proved did not come within the provisions of the Extradition Treaty, that the offence charged is 'robbery' the offence proved is 'larceny,' or 'burglary,' neither of which is extraditable. The prisoner was remanded for one week, to enable the magistrate to decide on these points.—The prisoner is described by the Mayor of Oswego, in a letter to our officials, as 'a notorious robber and burglar,' and for the good of the public, we sincerely hope he may be permitted to return to the bosom of our hospital neighbors, who no doubt have a warm reception prepared for him.—Hastings Chronicle.

A daring burglary took place on Friday night last. The house of Harvey Fowler Esq., Kingston road, was entered, and a trunk taken out of a room where a servant girl slept, without awaking her, removed to the front of the house, the contents ransacked and every paper examined. About $600 in gold, silver, and bills, were taken, as well as a watch and chain. The Police are actively engaged in the matter. We will give further particulars when we can do so without interfering with the ends of justice.—Belleville Chronicle.

The Hamilton Spectator gives the report of a trial in that city in which one McKinnon, a lawyer, figures in a very unenviable way.—He, as agent for a lady to whom he owed money, sued himself, describing himself as of the township of Vaughan, to mislead the 'Mercantile Test.' The nominal purchaser of his property was his brother-in-law, but it remained with him. Indeed, he said the lady knew nothing about the suit, and it was too clear that his brother-in-law knew nothing about the purchase. The whole operation was to evade suits of the Gore Bank. Mr. Justice Morrison, in summing up, said, we quote from the Leader:—'That the case was worst he ever met with, and that the man belonging to the profession who would be guilty of the conduct proved against this person McKinnon, by his own statement, could not be too strongly censured. If juries could be found to sanction by their verdict the rascalities and frauds of which this man had been proved guilty, it would be an everlasting disgrace upon them.' The verdict was in favor of the Gore Bank which had subsequently levied upon the property.—McKinnon tried to get the report suppressed.

Fenian Imposture.—Hundreds and probably thousands of poor, honest unsuspecting Irish, living in the unsophisticated sections of this country have been cajoled into making remittance to the managers of the Order here and elsewhere—not one tithe of which, they may depend on it, are used for any other purpose than maintaining a set of scamps in idleness. Stories come to us of remittance of Fenian funds to Ireland. Most of these stories are doubtless intended to show that the contributions received are actually expended for some revolutionary end. Even if an honest share of the funds were sent to Ireland, the result would apparently be merely to send a few more ill-advised young people to jail.—But we do not believe that the money is used for any other purpose than getting notoriety and patent leather boots for a set of idlers in this country. It is really time that those who are in a position to advise the unsophisticated people in the rural districts as to the real nature of the Fenian swindle, should do so. It is a crime to bolster up the concern even as a joke. The clergy, on whose ministrations the Irish Americans chiefly depend, are probably doing their best to stop the swindle. But every one who wishes well to Ireland and her people should lend a hand in exposing what is really an unmitigated imposture.—Times Editorial, Nov. 14.

More about the Sombra Murder.—We learn that a young man named John Russell, formerly of Detroit, but latterly residing in Newport, was arrested on Monday last, on the complaint of Thomas Bury and others on the charge of being an accomplice in the murder of John Stevens, on the night of the 11th inst. He was examined before James Dawson and Robert Beattie, Esq., and committed to stand his trial as an accomplice at the next Assizes. It appears he rowed Drummond and Dolson across the river on the night of the murder, and kept watch outside the house while the robbery and murder were being committed.

Acquitted.—Our readers will remember that on the 21st of June last, Edward Coulette a volunteer soldier, while on guard at Sandwich, killed Charles Frederick Elliott, by running him through with a bayonet. The Grand Jury of Essex county brought in a bill charging him with manslaughter. The trial was concluded on Saturday evening at Sandwich, Hon. Judge J. Wilson presiding. From the evidence in the case, it appears that the prisoner was acting under orders from his superior officer. Several witnesses testified that those orders were to fix bayonets at the second challenge, and if not answered after the third challenge to stab the person approaching. It appeared that the prisoner fully obeyed orders, and the jury, after an absence of two and a half hours, returned a verdict of not guilty. The Detroit Free Press says:—'The case was conducted on the Crown by Mr. Prince, Queen's counsel, and Mr. McDonald. The prisoner was ably and eloquently defended by John O'Connor, Esq. There was much interest among the people of Sandwich in the result of the tri l, and the popular sympathy ran in favor of the prisoner.'

Trial and Sentence or Deserters.—The four deserters captured from the seven who left the London garrison about a month since, near Port Bruce, have been tried by a general courtmartial and sentenced. The corporal, who left while on duty, was awarded two years' imprisonment and fifty lashes; and the three others, two of whom are brothers named McKutee, nine months' imprisonment and twenty-five lashes each. The latter portion of the punishment was commuted by General Napier on his recent visit here. The soldiers left per 11.40 train G. W. R., on Wednesday, in charge of a sergeant and four men, for Montreal, where their term of punishment will be undergone. Their comrades, who deserted with them, have not yet been retaken.—Free Press.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXXIV. KINGSTON, CANADA, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 30, 1865. NOS. 279 & 48.

Mr. Brown arrived at Boston on Wednesday evening by the China from Halifax, and proceeded at once to Ottawa. He is expected in Toronto on Monday.

The store of J. J. Barker, Markham, was entered last Saturday night, and goods to the value of $300 stolen. No trace of the burglars has been found.

On Saturday last a destructive fire occurred in Simcoe. The Messenger office, owned by Mrs. Clancy, the Mechanics' Institute and a brick dwelling house on the south side of the office, occupied by Mr. James Glover and owned by Mr. Mark Alway and Mr. D. Campbell, were consumed. Mrs. Clancy and the Mechanics' Institute were insured, but not to the full amount of the loss. The other parties were uninsured.

Mr. John Horsham's grist mill, about one mile south west of Lynedoch, on Cranberry creek, Norfolk, was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday evening of last week, together with the machinery and a quantity of grain. The fire originated in the upper story, and is supposed to have been caused by some of the machinery becoming overheated.—Mr. Horsham's loss will be heavy, as he was only insured for $600. The mill was worth $1,600.

LIBERAL ATTACK ON MATAMORAS.

New York, Nov. 22.

The Matamoras Ranchero, Imperialist Organ, of the 25th ult., gives the following particulars of the Liberal attack and repulse at that place. At 5 o'clock this morning the outlaws made an assault on the fortifications surrounding the city. They appeared at different points in small force, leaving it a matter of doubt whether an attack or a feint was intended. At length a charging party was formed to attack in earnest the artillery picket at the south-east point of the city. The charging party made up in desperation what they lacked in numbers. For a time the artillery picket was forced back, leaving their gun behind. At this juncture the gunboat Paisano, commanded by Col. Asselmo and G. Rubio, steamed down the river to the assaulted point, and by a well directed fire, put the outlaws to flight, when the artillery picket retook their gun, and opened on the fleeting outlaws. At the same time the Fort, commanded by our contemporary Senor Don Miguel Pena, opened a shocking fire upon the outlaws, and though at longbow, aided the gunboat in clearing the chapparel of the last scamp.

Gen. Mejia, learning that a heavy assault was making on one of the forts, put himself at he head of 500 cavalry and galloped down to the assaulted point, arriving just in time to see the fleeting outlaws disappear in the chapparel. While the charge was being made at the lower end of the line, a furious artillery and musketry fire was being kept up on the upper forts, but without effecting anything.

Fully 1,000 men were led against these forts. The forts maintained a heavy fire upon the outlaws, and kept them at a respectful distance. An Imperial cavalry force went up to see how things were going were so much smoke was rising. Upon seeing the situation of affairs they, with Gen. Mejia at their head, dashed forward and put the rascals to flight, taking from them one gun. The firing continued for a couple of hours, when it died out. The Imperial troops maintained their reputation admirably. The citizens responded nobly, and were on hand for fight. Altogether fifty-eight prisoners were taken, and a large number of the outlaws killed and wounded.

Imperial loss is several wounded and a dozen killed.

The captain of the gunboat Antonia, just arrived from below, reports the outlaws swimming the rivers in great numbers, and in the utmost consternation.

Gen. Espenosa, second in command of the outlaw army, was killed, and his body had fallen into the Imperial hands.

ST. ANDREW'S CONCERT.

The Sons of Auld Scotia intend to celebrate their National Day this year in the same way as they did last year, viz., by a Promenade Concert, to be followed by a Dance. (See Advertisement.) Apropos of Amateur Concerts. These otherwise pleasing amusements are too often marred by injudicious Encores, which worry and tire the audience, and make people wish that they had not come. A good singer or player produces an encore due to merit; another amateur, who is just bearable to hear once, has friends in the Hall, who think he should be alike honored, and they shout and stamp, until the vocalist complies, who probably knows his own calibre and would desire to remain unhonored. A very charming Concert, a short time ago, at which two ladies from Picton won crowns of laurels, was almost spoilt, because the friends of the other Amateurs would encore them.

Attempt to Murder and Rob.—On Saturday night last, as Mr. Elijah Purdy, a farmer residing in Loughborough, was returning home from market, he was fired at near Mr. W. Lawrence's farm, by a man who stood in the middle of the road, and who took deliberate aim at him. The shot missed him, and the man immediately escaped into the adjoining cedar bush. On his way home, Mr. E. Purdy had stopped to feed at Merrill's tavern, and while there the Sydenham Stage came up filled with Yankees. In paying his bill Mr. E. Purdy showed a well-filled purse, which the Yankees took notice of. The Stage went on before him, and one of the fellows got out shortly after leaving the Tavern. It is therefore probable that the intended murder and robbery was attempted by him.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN.

Portland, Me., Nov. 23.

The steamship North American, Captain Kerr, from Liverpool on the 9th, and Greencastle on the 10th, arrived at this port at 5 a. m. News anticipated.

The steamers Etna and Germania, bound east, were signalled on the 21st.

CANADIAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS.

On Thursday, the 23rd instant, the Canadian Engine and Manufacturing Company of Kingston, under the management of Mr. Tutton, turned out another large Freight Engine for the Grand Trunk Company, being the Ninth manufactured by this Company. Before the end of next week, another Engine will be ready for delivery, being the fourth since the 20th of October.

MAN KILLED NEAR GALT

Early on Tuesday morning, says the Reformer, the Ayr stage-driver on his way to Galt from Glenmorris found the body of a man under neath a waggon-box full of Crockery, ware near Mr. Potter's farm, about a mile and a quarter from the town. Coroner Philips was notified, and an inquest held. The facts elicited were that the deceased Thos. Wm. Robinson was a dealer in Crockery and Glassware, which business he carried on in company with his grandfather. On Monday night he was returning from Hamilton with a load of ware in a light waggon drawn by one horse, and was on his way to his home near the Foot-bridge. He had come down the road between the 9th and 10th Concessions of Dumfries, past the Tank, and instead of following the cutting in the face of a small hill, the horse had walked straight on up the bank causing the waggon-box to upset. The man had fallen underneath and as about twelve hundred weight of Crockery was in the load, his chest was crushed in, and death must have ensued very speedily. Robinson was a Scotchman, about 21 years of age, and was an uncommonly stout, able-bodied man.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 25, 1865.

LETTERS & TELEGRAMS.

W. H. W., Napanee; J. C., Trenton, with rem.; T. H., et G. S., London; E. C. & Co., New York; J. W. S., London; G., Montreal. This last being annonymous cannot be attended to.

London, November 6th.

A most romantic story is told here regarding Maximilian, Mexico, Napoleon and the future. A rumor spread that on the death of the King of the Belgians, his son, the Duc de Brabant, and the brother of the Empress of Mexico, would be adopted by Maximilian as his heir and successor; and in return for the favor of an Empire, in reserve, to the West, would resign the Kingdom of Belgium; and the Belgians would vote themselves French. This was the plan of the last plot, according to rumor. It did not necessarily agree with our notions. Indeed its prosecution would have endangered the Western Alliance. Accordingly we have now a new and a pretty plot. When Mexican Independence was in peril a gentleman of the country, like Juarez, half Indian, fought in the war. He acquired great influence and he offered the Mexican Crown to some Princes connected with the old stock—that is to say, the Bourbons, for many assume that he knew of no Montezumas. These gentlemen, wanting the courage of Maximilian, declined the offer. Finally the chief himself assumed the crown and title of Emperor of Mexico. He kept them for twelve months—not a short term for a Mexican ruler; then he was pushed out of the country by some successor, but from gratitude for his former services he had a pension of £5,000 annually allowed to him, for never again making his appearance there. He earned the pension by keeping the condition stipulated for one year. Thereafter he broke the condition, he was captured, he was decapitated in Mexico. Two of his descendants, grandsons—survive. One of these a boy 15 years old is now being educated at Paris; another, a cousin, is a child of three or four years old. Of these two cousins, one by material descent is connected with the States. Both of them, the boy and the student are, so runs the tale, to be adopted by Maximilian whose Empress has no children. They are to be declared Princes of the Imperial House of Mexico. One of them will be heir-presumptive to the Empire. If he survive the younger grandson, Iturbide will only be a Prince of the Empire. In default of the older lad surviving Maximilian, and the younger growing up, the crown will descend to the son of a citizeness of the States. In either case Mexico may have the descendant of the Montezumas once more reigning in their halls. At any rate if the descent be not clearly proved, Mexico would again have Indian blood on its throne. May this little plan be able to reconcile the Monroe Doctrine with the facts and fancies of France? Will Maximillian be only the restorer of order and peace to a troubled people; and pass away leaving no other monument except a nation, allied with France, lifting their heads rather high on the American continent, and peradventure annexing other peoples towards the Isthmus of Panama? These are questions that need not mar a pretty story—no more need any enquiries into its truth. You see it is like a romance and why should we be critical and cynical? Let us believe that an interesting and political tale may occasionally come up. Fiction never brings out anything nearly so astonishing as actual life—its changes and wonders.

ANOTHER FIRE AT NAPANEE.

On Monday evening last another of the manufactories of our Town was added to the list of those destroyed by fire. About 8 o'clock the woolen factory of Messrs. McGillivray, Rennie & Perry was discovered to be in flames. In a few minutes after the alarm was given, hundreds of our town's people were at the scene of the conflagration—many of whom went to work with a will to save what was possible from the burning building, and to keep the flames from spreading, while many more stood, idly by and saw their neighbors' property being consumed and more in great danger. The building itself was as dry as tinder, and the contents being mostly of a highly combustible nature, the flames made such rapid progress that in a very short space of time the whole structure, which was a large one, was enveloped in a sea of flames and clouds of smoke. All that it was possible to save was a quantity of cloth, custom work, brought in by farmers to be fulled and dressed. The whole of the machinery, the accumulation of many years, consisting of carding machines, condensers, pickers, spinning jackets, hand and power looms, cloth dressers, &c., was totally destroyed. As the flooring gave way, the ponderous machines could be distinctly heard, above the roar of the flames, crashing through the burning timbers to the rocks below. As soon as it became evident that nothing more could be done to advantage at the factory, those who did work turned their attention to saving the saw-mill, which was but a few yards distant. By the aid of the fire engine, which for once did good service, and by pails, this was accomplished. It was hard work, however, as from the large quantity of oil which was being consumed the heat was intense, and the clapboarding on that side of the mill next the fire was burned to a cinder. The water wheel of the factory was saved without much damage, as the water was let on it at the first, and it was kept running till the building was nearly consumed. Seldom have we seen a fire that threw such a light as this; although the night was rather dark, every street in the Town was made almost as light as day; the people came in from the country from every direction, and one gentleman who came from Morven, a distance of five miles, said that he could see by the light it gave to harness his horse.

We regret to learn that the loss is a complete one to the proprietors, as they had no insurance upon their stock or machinery. The building was owned by R. J. Cartwright, Esq., and was also uninsured.—About 6,000 pounds of wool was stored in the building, the property of the firm, which they intended to manufacture during the coming winter, and not a pound saved.—The total loss is estimated at $30,000. The origin of the fire is a mystery. It originated in the north end of the building, where there had been no fire used for some weeks.

THE FREEMASONS AND THE POPE.

The Freemasons of Antwerp have addressed the following letter to the Pope, in reply to His Holiness' diatribe against Freemasonry:—

"Most Holy Father,—Following the example of several of your predecessors upon the Pontifical throne, you have thought it compatible with the honor of the Roman purple to stigmatise in the eyes of the world a modest society which styles itself Freemasonry. Among our brethren spread over the surface of the globe a small number only have replied to these accusations, as unjust as offensive, and we should have imitated the example of the majority if the moral influence the Romish Church still enjoys in Belgium did not render it our duty to proclaim once more in the full light of day the immutable greatness of our principles.—They may be summed up in two words—liberty and labor; whence our name of Freemasonry. We do not consider liberty effective unless it is based upon the real independence of life created by labor; we do not consider the independence of life guaranteed except by liberty. And not liberty alone, but also solidarity between mankind, can only be based upon labor; for we cannot be regarded as mutually responsible unless we clearly perceive that we are mutually useful. Masonry desires to establish social order upon the permanence of the simplest and most necessary relations between mankind; and thus, as reason alone is able to understand and fix the importance of these relations, she is the sole sovereign. She alone is able to display that fund of actual truths, comprehensible by all; and who will show to human beings that they are equal in right, and must be so in fact? Liberty, equality, solidarity,—not realized by the sword and by blood, but peacefully carried out in the bosom of a progressive society,—such is our aim. It is so great, so truly human, that no one—be he who he may—who bears the name of man can view it with aversion. We desire to make men greater in dignity and in happiness. Is this not an ideal which must be inviting to all, whatever their religion or their especial philosophy? Freemasonry is above all religions and all systems of philosophy, because it accepts them all, in so far as they are willing to concur in rendering men better and more worthy. But whenever a religion, departing from this social mission, declares itself as a truth superior to humanity, and pretends to be anything but an instrument of progress perfectible by the hand of sovereign man, it is our duty to declare that this religion places itself outside the pale of humanity, and that human reason ought to reject it. Such is the danger, most Holy Father, you cause the religion you represent once more to run. If it desire to continue to oppose itself to reason, and the outward march of humanity, it necessarily prepares its ultimate ruin. Nations freed from its trammels will not even retain for it that pious remembrance they owe to that they have themselves sincerely felt; for everything that man does in the sincerity of his conscience is worthy of respect, and all who sincerely seek the truth ought to be respected and loved."

For the British Whig.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC SONG.

Ring forth the blessings of peace through our border,
May demagogues cease to create false alarm,
The stay of our ancestors, frowns on disorder
God and right is our 'watchword,' our shield is his arm!
While the banner of freedom! waves o'er our fathers,
May their mantles encircle us, over the sea.
And their valorous sons, when the war cloud foregathers,
Be ready, and gallant to claim victory!

Chorus.

Ready, aye Ready! devoted and steady
Canadians will guard their honor with pride,
We have wreathed many laurels around us already,
God and right is our watchword, in it we confide!

The days that are past, we remember with pleasure,
When we planted the standard of liberty here,
And still, if devotion should call for our treasure,
We would give it its shrine! with loyal good cheer.
Raise it up higher! we cannot neglect it,
Our country we treasure, our home we adore,
Should trouble assail, we will not be dejected,
When we think of the glorious triumphs of yore!

Ready, aye Ready, &c.,&c.

Yet! the star of hope reflects a bright lustre,
May the future give promise of peace to our land,
And rise in its strength, while inviting to muster,
Our Maratime Brothers, a chival'rous band!
Ever ready for duty, the Home and the Altar,
Are sacred bequeathments we seek to defend,
When commanded to march! our footsteps won't falter,
And glory will gild our proud flag in the end!

Ready, aye Ready, &c.,&c.

CANADIA.

Durham, Co. Grey, Nov. 20, 1865.

MONDAY MORNING, NOV. 27, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

N. D., Sydenham.

ENGLISH PAPERS.

We have London papers to a late date. The vacancies in the ranks of the British Ministry had been filled up by the appointment of Earl Russell as Premier, Lord Clarendon as Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Gladstone as leader of the House of Commons. It was said the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster would be filled by the elevation of one of the subordinate members of the Government to the Cabinet. But that the necessity for strengthening the Government in the popular branch of the legislature, consequent upon the death of Lord Palmerston, was strongly felt, and that the appointment of Mr. Bright to the Board of Trade, or the Secretaryship of State for India, with Mr. John Stuart Mill as Under Secretary, would be urged as a means of increasing the debating talent on the Treasury Benches. The seats of these gentlemen for Birmingham and Westminster would be safe in their election to office, but these latter appointments would not take place until the policy of the Government had been defined before the meeting of Parliament in February and the election of a Speaker, by whom the new writs will be issued. We copy a letter on Canadian affairs by the Correspondent of the "Star":—

Kingston, Canada, Oct. 24.

A Fenian raid on Canada, according to L'Union Nationale, is a part of the programme of Colonel John O'Mahoney and the Brotherhood on this continent, if as is expected, the Fenian rising in Ireland fail. According to L'Union, the Government of the United States is in possession of certain facts of the highest importance, which go to show that it is the intention of the Fenians to invade Canada. These facts will be frankly and officially communicated to our representative at Washington by the American Government. The reason assigned for the invasion of Canada is the conviction that the game is already up in Ireland; but that in the coming winter when our dividing river is frozen over and will afford easy passage to cavalry, infantry, and artillery, a Fenian invasion of Canada will take place, by which a blow may be struck at England in this distant part of the empire.

It is difficult to set bounds to the extravagance and absurdity of some people, but this much is quite certain, that the outbreak will meet with no encouragement from President Johnson or Secretary Seward. If the American Executive have taken the initiative in warning our Government of danger, they will be equally ready to prevent a breach of American neutrality should such a breach be threatened. The Secretary of State has the amplest means at his disposal to prevent an attack from any given point, and he is the man to do it with a strong hand! unless indeed the raid comes upon us as a parody and caricature on the bank robbery at St. Albans, and the piracy on Lake Erie, and in this latter case, if the raiders and robbers are taken, a long rope and a short shrift will be their doom, whether they show, like Mr. George Archdeacon, naturalization papers or not. Against robbery with personal violence the law righteously arms every man, and such mean and miserable acts should be frowned down, whether they are perpetrated by Southern Secessionists or Irish Fenians, and whether they are intended to fall on friend or foe. It is well the fact should be known that Fenianism has no hold upon the Irish in Canada. The clergy, the professional men, the mercantile classes, and the intelligent mechanics have little sympathy with the movement in Ireland, here they have no sympathy with it at all, for here they have no grievances, and perhaps of all nationalities that make up the population the Irishmen as a class are the most prosperous. In Canada a Fenian invader would meet with no sympathisers, and our people would be as one man in resisting the aggression. It may be that L'Union Nationale for sensational purposes has misstated the intentions of the Fenian leaders; but if there be any truth in the assertion, to be forewarned is to be forearmed, and our Government and people well know how to deal with such an invasion and such invaders.

Wednesday was a day of Thanksgiving for our present happy and prosperous condition. It was generally observed as such throughout the province. The farmer, who raises the staple wealth of the country, and every interest in the community is doing well. Perhaps at no period of its existence has Canada been so prosperous and contented. The prosperity is owing to two causes, viz., the bountiful harvest which has been vouchsafed to us, and the excellent markets in the adjacent States for every description of produce. Owing to the diminished supply and the increased demand produced by the late war and to the inflation of the currency, American buyers are traversing Canada throughout its length and breadth, and offering high prices for everything they can procure. The demand will relieve the province of its surplus produce and stock, and serve as a stimulus to increased production.

The Sanders abduction case has been twice before the Supreme Court at Montreal. On the first occasion the jury could not agree, and were discharged. The second is now in progress, and points have been reserved for the decision of the Court of Appeal.

Dr. Blackburn, who was charged with the attempt to introduce yellow fever from Bermuda into the Federal States, has been suffered to go at large at Toronto, upon entering into his own recognisance to appear before the court when called upon to do so. Bennet Young, the leader of the St. Albans raiders, was offered the same privilege, but declined to accept it, and insists upon being tried and acquitted or convicted of criminality. Burley the Scotchman who led the piratical attack on the Philo Parsons, on Lake Erie, was offered liberation on bail, and finally made his escape from the gaol, not because he had or could obtain any assistance from without, for no one in the North felt sympathy with him, but because, as it is surmised, the authorities did not care to hold him now that the rebellion is at an end. In foregoing further prosecution of these pestilent people the United States Government are acting in the spirit of that wise and merciful saying of their murdered President, "If these people could only get away unbeknown to us, what a relief it would be!" If they should follow up this policy of forbearance, as many people in Canada believe they will do, by declaring a general amnesty, it will tend to pacification and reconstruction more than anything else. If men are encountered in hot blood robbing banks, plundering vessels, burning houses, and shooting unarmed citizens in the streets, they must take the chance of receiving what they offer; but when the exigency has passed during which the burglary and arson and murder have been committed, a magnanimous nation will not desire in cold blood to exact the penalty justly and righteously attached to such offences.

The governmental departments have now all assembled at Ottawa. The twin leaders Messrs. Cartier and Macdonald, have each been feted by a banquet in his honour, at which each declared his conviction that confederation would be carried, and that Ottawa would be the seat of the element for the united provinces of British North America. When the Queen was asked to arbitrate between the competing claims of different localities to be the metropolis of Canada, the rivalry on the part of Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec ran high, for each city had in turn been the seat of the provincial government. When her Majesty suggested that Ottawa should be selected in preference to the other cities, the leading politicians of all parties decided loyally to respect the Queen's choice, and now the transfer of the Government to the selected place has been an fait accompli. Ottawa is a quiet country town on a noble river sixty or seventy miles from the boundary which divides us from the United States, and immediately upon the boundary line which separates Upper from Lower Canada. It is a city of 14,000 or 15,000 inhabitants, in a splendid locality, with vast water power, and upon a river which rivals the St. Lawrence in size, and to which you can scarcely offer a parallel in Europe. It is connected with Kingston by the Rideau canal and river, with Brockville by the Ancaster Railroad, with Prescott by the Ottawa Railroad, and with Montreal by the Ottawa River. If a projected canal from Lake Huron to the Ottawa is constructed it brings Chicago, Milwaukee and the Western prairies five hundred miles nearer to the Atlantic coast than by any other route. Thus you see Ottawa is possessed of great natural advantages, and the wisdom of the advice given by the Queen to make it the capital of the country will be abundantly justified by the result.—And are there not grounds for predicating what the future will be? In our day the Hudson River and the East River at New York are crowded with forests of masts like your Thames, Humber, and Tyne. In another century all this may be seen on our rivers and inland seas. If confederation is accomplished we enter upon a new phase of political existence with four millions of inhabitants, and the New Zealander—who in the distant future moralises upon the ruins of London Bridge—may point to another nation in the far west not unworthy to have sprung from the land to which we owe our life, our love, and our allegiance.

THE BRITISH MINISTRY.

The Morning Post and Daily News of London come to the rescue of Earl Russell against the renewed attack of the Times. The first admits that the Duke of Somerset has placed his office in the hands of the new Premier and that other members of the Cabinet have done likewise; but it is only that he may be able to form his Administration with the greater advantage. The Daily News considers that in taking this step the first Lord of the Admiralty has but given another proof of his usual patriotism and of the truth of the statement that Earl Russell's colleagues were offering him every assistance in his difficult task by postponing their personal claims to the requirements of the country's service. The Post gives some information as to a portion of the new arrangements. Lord Napier, at present Ambassador at Berlin, will succeed Sir Wm. Denison as Governor of Madras, although previous to Lord Palmerston's death rumor had assigned this post to Sir Robert Montgomery, late Governor of the Punjab. Earl Granville will then go to Berlin, and the office of President of the Council being thereby vacated, it will be bestowed upon the Duke of Somerset. There will then remain two Cabinet posts to fill up—that of First Lord of the Admiralty and that of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and these will doubtless be conferred upon members of the House of Commons.

Who these will be is just the one question which Ministers find it so hard to determine. If they can make up their minds to abandon Reform there are two good men ready to their hand, and who have already had experience of official life—Mr. Lowe and Mr. Horsman. Unfortunately for the Government these gentlemen have committed themselves so deeply against Reform, have declared that, at all events, any lowering of the franchise would be fatal to the country, that it would be impossible to take them into the Cabinet if it was decided that a Reform Bill was a necessary part of the Ministerial programme. Had they been merely lukewarm or gently opposed to such a measure they might have been asked to join the Government, with the understanding that Reform should be an open question, just as the repeal of church rates is. But the splendid philippics of the members for Stroud and Caine, which in point of eloquence rank among the finest orations of modern days, have rendered such a compromise impossible. On the other hand, if the Government makes up its mind to Reform, and seeks recruits among the ranks of the advanced Liberals, they will—in the eyes of the party whom the Morning Post represents—"gain nothing but increased weakness." The selection of men like Mr. Forster and Mr. Stansfeld will convince the Conservative Liberals that the Government had committed itself to a policy which they could not approve, and might lead to the ultimate downfall of Earl Russell. The appointment of Mr. Bright, which the Morning Star is urging with such persistence would certainly be fatal in the present state of public opinion.

It is said that Government have another difficulty besides those connected with the reconstruction of the Government. It arises out of the proposed Roman Catholic University for Ireland. The members of that faith are very desirous of calling this institution 'The Catholic University, or 'The Catholic College,' a concession which Ministers are hardly prepared to make.—However, the Irish Romanists are determined to take nothing less than this.—They have a charter from the Pope and will stick to it come what may.

Disastrous Fire.—On Saturday morning at two o'clock, a fire broke out in the residence of Mr. Thomas Robinson, at the head of Colborne Street. When the fire was discovered it had so far advanced that it was only possible to save the inmates and a small portion of the furniture. The building, which was a very handsome and comfortable one, being only frame, was entirely consumed. It formed two separate tenements, the one being occupied by Mr. Robinson, and the other being vacant.—Both Nos. 1 and 3 fire engines were on the ground, but the house being on a level with the reservoir, no water could be obtained but that which was pumped from a couple of wells in the vicinity, and therefore could avail nothing but keep the flames from spreading to adjoining buildings. Mr. Robinson is insured for $800 on his furniture, with Mr. Strange and Mr. Noel, but will be at a loss, a very small portion of the furniture only being saved. The building was also insured but not by Mr. Robinson. The fire is