

Religious Intelligence.

CANADA.—A chapel built by Christians of different denominations, near the lake of Roxton, forty-five miles east of Montreal, was consecrated on the 28th ult. That day and the one following, sermons were preached in the French and English languages to crowded houses. This new chapel is in one of the most encouraging portions of the field of the Grande Ligne mission. The first use of it is accorded to the Baptists.

South Sea Islands.

The Home and Foreign Record of the Presbyterian church of the Lower Provinces for October, gives some further details respecting the Mission of that body to the New Hebrides. The following is a portion of the last letter received from the lamented S. F. Johnston.

October 25th, 1860.

"The Tanese regard every thing on Tana as their own. They think that they have a right to come into your house and go into every part of it as they please. Hence you have men, women and children constantly crowding around you, for it would not do to offend them, and we are anxious to get them round us as much as possible. You must also remember, that when in the house they are not very mannerly, one naked gentleman steps up to you, and asks all manner of questions, demands of you to let him—*asipau*—see all that you have, what you have got in your pockets, how many dresses you have on, &c. Another stretches himself full length on the floor—another takes a seat upon a stand. A number are examining every thing, and demanding explanations, as though we were their servants. Others are chattering and laughing, and making all kinds of noises. Another fellow will quite deliberately take up a pen, dab it into the ink, and commence writing upon your paper, if you do not interfere, and get him some paper. Others are wanting you to buy this and the other thing, others begging you to give this and that. So I think you can easily imagine that it is no very easy matter to write in our position. In fact I have almost given it up for the present, and spend my time in learning the language.

Betsey is quite a wonder among the natives. Some appear quite overcome with astonishment and fear. You may be sure she gets quite a close inspection and has many a strange question asked her. The women will take her into their arms—saying, *Ramasan*, good, and call her their missionary. She sometimes clears them all out of the house. Men who have been accustomed to trample upon women, scarcely know what to say to a woman usurping such authority. But still she generally manages them."

"I am contented and happy—more so than I have ever been since I have been cast upon this world of trouble. I feel that I have got into my proper position and the work for which I was made. Oh, may we be faithful. I more and more feel that it is a great and responsible work. Oh, how earnest we should be to bring this poor suffering people into possession of the blessings of eth gospel."

The following dark picture is from the pen of the Rev Mr. Paton.

"On the 6th of January one man was killed, and a day or two after another was killed, for bringing the measles to Tanna. On the 16th of February four men were killed, as servants to folow the spirit of the infant of Miaki (our great war chief,) that had just died. For four days they were eager to kill us also; and for three days we had to keep our house locked, and durst not go out, as we were besieged by multitudes of savages, armed and watching an opportunity to take our lives; yet they did not think of breaking our doors or windows to accomplish their purpose, and God graciously preserved us from them. They killed my fowls, cut down my bananas, and broke down my fences, and speared my goats, and tried to burn our house, but failed. On the first of March again, our people killed four men, and gave their bodies to chiefs, who feasted on them, and who gave a large fat pig in return for each of the ten bodies received. They have killed and feasted on thirteen or fourteen persons within a few months. I hear nothing of these murders till they are over. Two bodies were presented for a feast to the people of a near village, where we conduct worship on Sabbath; but the people refused, saying now they knew it was wrong to eat human flesh, but another chief was at hand eager to obtain them for a feast. As our people became much excited at these times, and tried often to kill us, Novar the chief advised us all to leave, and go to Aneiteum, and he would go with us; but as I refused, for a few weeks he laid aside his shirt, went naked like the others, painted his face, attended some of their meetings, and was absent from worship for three Sabbaths; but now he is again friendly as before, and attends to religious duties as previously stated.

We were almost engaged in a public war; but by talking with the chiefs, I have got them all to promise to oppose it, so that I hope it is stopped for the present. They often talk about it, but they seem afraid, and restrained from engaging in public war.

Our people seem more mild and friendly at present, and many of the chiefs have visited me of late.

Inland, many are dying in measles, and consequently the people are all talking bad, and threatening to kill us all, and to banish the worship from benighted Tana; but God is all sufficient, and our hope is in him."

European and Foreign News.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

THE NOVA SCOTIA GOLD DISCOVERIES.—MONEY.—COTTON SPECULATIONS.—COTTON SUPPLIES.—INCREASE OF COMMERCE WITH THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.—AMERICANS INVITING FRENCH OFFICERS.—THE *Great Eastern's* DISASTERS.—RUSSIA, FRANCE AND THE POLES.—NEW EDUCATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. EDITOR,—

Your gold discoveries in Nova Scotia have at length, forced themselves on the attention of the English journals. So often disappointed in our expectations after announcements of similar discoveries in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, we were slow to believe that a really profitable gold field exists in your province. We may hope that the settled condition of the country and facility of approach from Halifax, to the auriferous region will prevent a repetition of the lawlessness which have marred the discoveries of gold in California and Australia. Profiting by experience your Government will establish such regulations as will control social life at the *diggings*.

The gold trade does much to raise and depress the spirit of speculation, but cannot entirely rule the commerce of our nation. Money at the present moment is abundant in England, merchants may have the use of it at a low rate of discount. The Bank of England, which, by the way, often follows than leads the market, offers money this week at 3½ per cent. Other banks will do it a shade lower, yet with all these facilities trade languishes, a sense of coming evil hangs heavily over us. We would almost wish the veil of futurity to be lifted that we might know how to shape our conduct, so as to be prepared for the events of the next ten years. As it is, we are left to grope our way through a mist of doubt and difficulty, a state of mental darkness that may at times be felt. Our only guide is the lamp of rectitude. Our faith in the ultimate success of truth and justice sustains our energies.—In the anticipation of evil we only render ourselves less able to meet it; while by boldly pursuing our career according to our best judgment, we are both strengthening ourselves to meet the exigencies of the future, and diminishing the force of coming events.

The operations of the speculators in the Liverpool Cotton market for some time past, has afforded a pretty good lesson on the utility of unrestricted commerce. Tens of thousands of bales of Cotton change hands every week, not to be manufactured but simply to be re-sold the next week at an eighth or more advance. The avarice of man, or if you please, to use a less harsh term—the self-interest of man makes him a national benefactor. By these operations cotton is enhanced in price, and the consumption is gradually reduced, thus spreading over a larger area of time as well as space, the loss of labor and wages, and profits and subsistence, which we must endure this year at least. The millions depending on Cotton can manage to pass over some months deprivation of luxuries, by having half or two-thirds employment, whereas, full work with full wages and full enjoyment of the usual course of existence, would in this case in all probability be followed by a total cessation of employment, and that of course implies starvation to large numbers and ruin pecuniary to more. Timely restraint forced on us by the Cotton speculators will be our safety.

The feeling has been strong, that we need not fear for a due supply being attracted by our good prices from some source; but the continued obstinacy of the Confederates makes it rather doubtful whether we shall get any from America in time, and the East India Cotton, though we are pretty sure of a large supply of it, is not up to the mark in quality. We have therefore, a settled conviction that if the States do not either settle their foolish quarrel, or do something desperate, we have to prepare ourselves for a season of trial. Happily this comes on us gradually, we shall therefore be tolerably prepared for a hard pinch. It is observable that the more experienced of our acute Capitalists are wide awake, to make judicious investments and preparation to avail themselves of the turn of trade when it does set in.

It is a source of gratulation that whilst our transatlantic trade has almost ceased, our exports to other parts of the world increase, this is likely to continue, so that in the great aggregate we may be as well off. The French treaty opened new channels of commercial activity. Its effects are far more beneficial than was even anticipated, and the French Emperor seems determined to

extend most rapidly the principle and practice of free trade. The treaty of commerce with Belgium is no sooner concluded than we are informed a similar but even more liberal treaty, is in hand with Italy. Italy and France commercially, will be almost one, and a similar Commercial treaty will soon be agreed to, between France and Prussia. The opposition to it from the smaller German States being gradually withdrawn.

In the general politics of Europe there is much to occupy the attention of the thoughtful. A singular piece of news is going the round of the papers, that the United States have actually invited some French officers to take commissions in the Federal Army, and that even Garibaldi has been urged to become their leader. What a sad declension has fallen on the proud Americans, to induce them to beg of foreigners to come and lead them on to war with their own brothers! For the credit of their history, I do hope none may be permitted or persuaded to accept the offer, and unless the object of the war be openly declared to be the total abolition of Slavery, I cannot imagine that the noble Garibaldi would listen to such overtures. Let them fight their own battles or submit to retire to the political status they have a right to.

We are now anxiously awaiting some further evidence of the truth of the report that President Davis is dead! and if so, what next? The merchants of Georgia are circulating to the Chambers of Commerce in Europe, some information respecting the peculiar advantages which would result from a direct trade with the Confederate States. Heretofore, the Southern States have formed the material for building up the great houses of New York; in future, it is likely, more direct communication will be found convenient, and the cities of the South grow great at the expense of those in the North.

The *Niagara* brings Prince Alfred to Halifax this trip. The Prince was feted in grand style in Liverpool yesterday. The ill-fated *Great Eastern* should have been alongside the wharfs of New York to-day, but it suffered severely from a gale on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 12th, 13th and 14th Sept. It left its moorings in the Mersey two days before, and had safely got some 300 miles west of Cape Clear on its way. It returned to Queenstown on Tuesday last much disabled. The details of this disaster the papers will give you. It is to be regretted that such a succession of misfortunes should befall the noble vessel. The recent successful voyage, to and from Quebec had almost re-established her in the public confidence, but this will I fear, throw a cloud over her prospects, for this year at least.

The ambition of Louis Napoleon to hold friendly converse with crowned heads is about to be gratified, for it appears to be all settled that the King of Prussia is to visit the Emperor at Compiègne, on the 6th of October, and as it is rumored that the Kings of Holland and Belgium, are about to honor the Emperor with a visit shortly, we may conclude there is something in the wind. From Warsaw we hear of continued disturbances. The Russian officials have tried all means of provoking the Poles to active resistance, so as to have some show of excuse for their savage conduct, but the people are not to be so caught, and the Russian power is said to be morally small indeed. The belligerent Montenegrins are again enduring a contest with Turkish troops. The existence of these armies seems to necessitate war to keep them in proper temper.

There is a strong feeling created throughout England just now amongst the Educational bodies, by a New Code of Regulations, which has been issued by the Committee of Council on Education, a department of our Government which has been in the habit of exercising almost irresponsible control over the distribution of the Education Grant.

HASTINGS.

Manchester, Sept. 21st, 1861.

[From the London Freeman.]

FRANCE.

The Press of Saturday says:—"Last week we revealed to the English public the tenor of a secret agreement concluded between the Emperor of the French and the King of Sweden. One of the objects contemplated by the Emperor Napoleon in that arrangement is, in the event of a rupture with England, to obtain the co-operation of the fleet and excellent seaman of the Scandinavian powers. We are informed that an analogous motive inspires the mission of Prince Napoleon to the United States, where he endeavours to sow suspicion and create jealousy and animosity towards this country. Nor is the French population of Lower Canada forgotten in his mission. Despite the contradictions of the French press, we can affirm that the recent visit of the French Canadians to Paris has not been devoid of a political motive; and unless such a step be

found likely to excite the suspicions of the English government, it is expected that Prince Napoleon will visit Lower Canada before returning to Europe."

ITALY.

A new "solution" of the Roman question is talked of at Turin. It is said that the mission of M. Benedetti, the new French Minister, is to arrange for the evacuation by the French troops of such portions of the Pontifical territory as would enable the Italians to "round off" their frontier, and so protect themselves from the Roman brigands. The French garrison would remain at Rome, and the Emperor would look upon the concession as a final settlement of the Roman difficulty. Napoleon is said to be determined to defend the Eternal City and Civita Vecchia as long as the Pope requires his protection. The *Journal* construes the language of the *Constitutional* as implying that the evacuation of Rome is decided upon as a principle, only waiting the pacification of Southern Italy for its fulfilment; and referring to the late declaration of the *Patrie* that "the Roman question is one of time only," it looks to General Cialdini's full success as the signal for that French withdrawal from Rome for which Italy and all her friends long.

The extraordinary manner in which the Garibaldi *fête* was celebrated in Naples is the theme of the unqualified admiration of *The Times* correspondent. The population, he says, were almost frantic with joy, and yet there was no disturbance, but all the festivities were conducted with order and regularity, though with marks of extravagant rejoicing.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The cholera is committing dreadful ravages at Agra and Meerut. The mortality among the natives is reported to be very fearful, and many of the officers and soldiers in garrison at those places have also fallen victims to the pestilence.

The exploring party of the river Yangtze, which recently set out on an expedition with the view of reaching India overland from China, has been obliged to return. As they advanced into the Chinese territory they met with active opposition from the Chinese, and in some quarters it was quite evident that the Treaty of Peking had never been heard of. Mr. Alcock seems to have been much more fortunate, and his overland journey from Nagasaki to Jeddo is reported to have proved quite successful. The travellers were well received by the people of the districts, and they came back enthusiastic about the greatness of the city of Osaka and its port Hioga.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is thought that Elihu Burritt will receive the appointment as consul to Newcastle, England.

Captain Fowkes of the Royal Engineers, has received the handsome sum of 5,000*l.* for his plan of the Great Exhibition Building of 1860.

DREADFUL MURDER BY A SOLDIER.—A truly diabolical act of revenge was perpetrated at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, on Saturday morning. A private of the 32nd Regiment, named McCaffery, about twenty years of age, was ordered to confinement within the barracks for a short period for neglect of duty. He went at once to his room, took down his rifle, cleaned it, and then stepped into the passage, where it is conjectured he loaded it. Shortly after, Colonel Crofton and Cap. Hanban, the adjutant, walking across the square, when McCaffery knelt at his room window, and taking good aim discharged his rifle. Unhappily the marksman was only too successful in his deadly purpose. The ball struck the colonel on the left side, and passing through him entered the body of the adjutant, and finally lodged in the spine. Both officers are dead. McCaffery was of course immediately apprehended. He had only been in the regiment about eleven months, and during that time has borne but an indifferent character. It is said that he only intended to shoot the adjutant, who had ordered him to be punished.—The prisoner was brought up on Monday afternoon at the Court-house, Preston, and having undergone a preliminary examination, was remanded. He maintained a sullen demeanour throughout the examination.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF FRAUD.—A very extraordinary and romantic case, seriously affecting the character of a gentleman who has hitherto moved in a high position, was under investigation at Rugby on Monday. The specific charge preferred against the prisoner, whose name is Richard Guinness Hill, was that after his wife, who is a granddaughter of the late Sir France Burdett, had given birth to a son at Rugby, he gave a false description of the infant to the local registrar. According to the case for the prosecution, he managed to separate the child from its mother, get it conveyed to London, and ultimately placed it in the hands of a female beggar whom he met in Windmill-street. In the meanwhile, the mother, who had been taken to the Continent, and who disbelieved the story of the child's death, separated from her husband and made every exertion to obtain a clue to its whereabouts. Last June she placed the matter in the hands of the police, and a few days ago—so the story goes—the child was found in a wretched apartment in one of the courts that abound in Drury-lane, covered with filth and in a deplorable state. It is alleged that the chain of evidence identifying this child with the one that was lost is complete. It is further stated that under his wife's will, the prisoner had a life interest in her fortune amounting to 14,000*l.* a year, but that in the event of a failure of issue the property was devised to him absolutely.—This is the merest outline of the narrative, which certainly reads like a chapter of romance.