

described as belonging to the family Ambidentatae, and appears to belong to the sub-order Delphinidae. The writer appeared to know no more about the animal's precise whereabouts in natural history than myself. I have no description of the Balena Physalus, yet I think that is the animal's scientific name. Perhaps some of the members of the Halifax Scientific Society, may know all about the matter. If they do not, I might say further, for their, or any other person's information, that the after part of the fish is quite flat horizontally, probably to enable it to rise and descend. The two parts of the tail are equal and have the same angle to the body and extend about four feet. The pectoral fins are attached to the body by joints. I perhaps ought to have said with regard to the astonishing fact that they are led ashore by the fins-pectoral—that this only can be done when the fish becomes bewildered by long chasing, or by getting in the blood of the slain.

The number taken at River Inhabitants was exaggerated; after the fracas was all over, about 120 were found to be taken. They got into a pond made by the widening of the river, and could not find the way out and were all slaughtered without mercy. A school passed through the Strait to the south several days before they were found in River Inhabitants, but it blew too hard to attend to them.

S. F.

Dec. 12, 1863.

P. S.—A person here, who has a considerable quantity of the oil ready for market, tells me, confidentially, that he wishes that I would make out the Black-fish to be the Sperm Whale. I can only say at present that the writer in the Illustrated News says that they resemble it in some respects. The question is still an open one, and I must leave it for further investigation.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I desire to acknowledge, through the C. M., the kindness of those members of my church and congregation who, on Tuesday, the 15th inst., made me and my family another Donation Visit. The evening passed away very pleasantly. After we had partaken of an excellent tea, we had good music, and interesting speeches from several brethren present. At a proper time the company separated, feeling that they had enjoyed a privilege in the evening's entertainment. The Donations amounted to \$78. My prayer for the donors is, that the Lord may abundantly bless them with all spiritual blessings, and cause them to "abound more and more" in every good work.

Yours in hope of eternal life,

J. E. BALCOM.

Great Village, Dec. 18th, 1863.

Religious Intelligence.

New Brunswick.

In a recent letter from Deacon Israel Steves, he speaks of the work in progress at Upper Salisbury, and says God is blessing us with his Holy Spirit to convert sinners. Several have been added to the church by baptism, and others are expected to go forward in the ordinance. May the good work continue, and multitudes be gathered into the Redeemer's fold.—Visitor.

Canada.

THE BAPTIST CAUSE IN HAMILTON.—We rejoice to learn that the Park-street Baptist church in Hamilton are enjoying a large measure of prosperity by the blessing of God upon the labors of their esteemed pastor, Rev. R. J. Wilson. The Spirit of the Lord is working effectually in drawing souls to Christ, and on several occasions they have visited the baptismal waters.—Canadian Baptist.

ABOUT a year since, a Hebrew Sunday school Teacher's Association was formed in New York, having for its object the promotion of Scriptural instruction among Jewish children. One or two free Hebrew Sunday schools have been organized.—Jb.

BROTHER OTIS SAXTON, lately a Methodist preacher, has been ordained as pastor of the Baptist church a New Rochelle. N. Y. Jb.

TORONTO C. W.—Last Sabbath evening four rejoicing converts were baptized in Bond-street, one of whom was a converted Jew. The pastor preached on the subject of the conversion of the Jews, from Romans 11: 12—"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their fulness?" He showed the possibility of the conversion of Jews, from the atonement made and the first fruits of the gospel in Palestine; the probability of their conversion as a people, from the fact that though they are dispersed amongst all nations they are assimilated with none, remaining for nearly nineteen centuries a distinct people; and the certainty of their conversion from the prophetic writings.—Jb.

American and Foreign News.

Latest from the States!

[From Telegrams to morning and evening papers.]

TUESDAY, Dec. 15.—There was a great gale on the coast of South Carolina on Sunday. The Monitor Weehawkin, sunk at her moorings off Morris Island, thirty of her crew perished. Supposed that the session of the Confederate congress will be a stormy one. The question of reconstruction will be fearlessly presented. President Davis cannot recommend the proper blockade of the United States' ports, but favors the capture of all neutral vessels trading with their ports. He says that the currency excess is six hundred millions—three fold of what the business of the Confederacy requires.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 16.—The Richmond Enquirer has the following from Bristol of the 9th inst.:—"Gilmore's Brigade encountered the advance of Wilcox's Corps, two thousand strong, raw troops, near Maynardville, routing them, and capturing a large number of prisoners." Mayor Lincoln was re-elected yesterday Mayor of Boston, by a majority of 3500.

Evening.—Cashier of Malden bank, near Boston, was murdered at noon, yesterday, and five thousand dollars stolen. Confederate senate passed a bill prohibiting enrollment of substitutes in the army. A resolution was offered impressing all able-bodied whites, and requiring aliens to quit the country within forty days or take up arms, also a resolution enquiring into expediency of discriminating in prisoners of war, between free persons of color and slaves.

THURSDAY Dec. 17.—Attorney General Maynard says, the usual county elections will be held in Tennessee in March.—The World's despatch says the Army of the Potomac has not gone into Winter quarters in its present location and is not likely to. Evening.—Richmond papers report continued shelling of Charleston with little damage; also an accidental fire at Fort Sumpter, on the 11th,—damage small. Federal batteries opened heavy fire on the fort during burning. Casualties, 10 killed, 30 wounded.

FRIDAY, Dec. 18.—St. Louis Democrat has overland despatch that Federals had entire possession of the coast of Texas, including Sabine Gulf, Galveston, and Bronsville; and Federal force was ascending Red River, and marching on Alexandria, where General Taylor awaited attack.

Evening.—Newbern despatch says that blockade running into Wilmington, N. C., increases. It is estimated that half a million of dollars worth of goods arrive there daily. Gen. Butler is raising an army of colored troops in his department. Three black regiments of cavalry rapidly filling up. Texas news says Confederate conscripted negroes, promising them freedom. Confederate army in State generally at posts on outskirts of State. Gen. Magruder ordered in circulation a pledge, devoting life, liberty and property to support the Confederacy. Recusants to be treated as enemies and traitors.

SATURDAY, Dec. 19.—Mutual friendly and satisfactory explanations took place yesterday between the Secretary of State and Lord Lyons concerning the recovery of the Chesapeake within British jurisdiction. Stuart's cavalry, accompanied by Mosby, made a bold raid on the night of the 17th inst. on Orange and Alexandria Railroad, a mile beyond Fairfax Station. The company guarding the road was surrounded and captured. The object of the raid was probably to capture the provision train.

Escaped prisoners from Richmond say that the statements regarding the treatment of prisoners are much exaggerated. The supplies, though poor and meagre, were the best the Confederates had. It is reported that the late heavy gale swept away all the obstructions in Charleston Harbor. Juarez is reported to have recaptured Puebla.

MONDAY, Dec. 21.—Schr. S. L. Garrety from Matamoras, bound to New York loaded with cotton was captured two days after being out, by the passengers on board, who hoisted the Confederate flag and set the captain and crew afloat in a boat. They report four other parties in Matamoras waiting for similar chances. Stories afloat at Culpepper that the Confederate army with President Davis in command is about to make a last desperate attempt upon the North.

A Magazine exploded in Yorktown destroying nearly all the buildings in the town. Evening.—Richmond papers of the 9th contain the following telegraph from Charleston: "Ironsides and three monitors, while attempting to pass the obstructions, became entangled and will probably have to be abandoned. Two monitors also badly disabled."

Government will despatch a messenger to Halifax with instructions to American Consul relative to Chesapeake. The arrival of the French corvette at Richmond to receive the French tobacco, caused considerable feeling, and loud objections made unless French would break blockade. England's refusal to let the ramassal has caused great indignation; the gold having been sent in advance to pay for them.

Gen. Schofield will be relieved at his own request from Missouri Depot. Rosecrans will succeed him. Several thousand Confederate troops reported repulsed near Natchez, with loss of 800 prisoners.

THE PATAPSCO.—There is a rumor from the New York Express of Monday evening that a bottle was picked up on the Sound on the evening of Sunday last. It contained information of the seizure of the Patapsco, in a manner similar to that of the Chesapeake, but we deem it all a hoax, since the Patapsco is not on the route. The Patapsco is on the route, but we learn that she arrived safely in New York, so that the "bottle" rumor was evidently written on shore by parties who had an inkling of what was going to be done to the Chesapeake.—Portland Courier.

The Conservative Union National Committee, which recently met at Cincinnati, nominated Gen. McClellan for the next President.

AN ATTEMPT AT WIT.—A duel was fought in Mississippi lately by S. K. Knott and A. W. Shott. The result was, Knott was shot, and Shott was not. In those circumstances we would rather have been Shott than Knott.

It is estimated that 60,000 to 70,000 Irish emigrants have reached the Northern States, from Cork alone, during the past year, and this is but a small portion of the immense emigration that is going on.

One of the ways in the Potomac army of punishing a man found intoxicated is to bury him all but the head, and label him thus, changing the name to suit each case, of course:—"Here lies the body of George Mars, who fell dead (drunk), Nov. 17th, 1863."

Out of 1800 drafted men in Milwaukee, Wis., all but 78 were bought off.

THREE TONS OF TURKEYS GIVEN AWAY.—The proprietors of the Atlantic Works, East Boston, and Messrs. Donald McKay and others, contributed \$1000 for the purpose of purchasing Turkeys for distribution among the families of soldiers. There were three tons of Turkeys in all, and it is thought that every family having a representative in the war received one while some of the more needy got two, for Thanksgiving.

Negro soldiers are to be paid a bounty of \$10. and \$10 per month, while their families are to be furnished with subsistence. Gen. Butler, in his order, calls upon Congress to place colored troops on an equality with other troops of the United States. Superintendents of negro affairs are appointed to oversee those negroes unfit for soldiers, in labor for public service for which they are to be paid. All offences by citizens against negroes, except of a high and unprecedented nature, are to be tried before the Provost Court.

Latest from Europe!

JAPAN.

A telegram from Liverpool gives news from Japan, said to have been received by way of San Francisco, which is warlike in the extreme. Foreigners had been ordered to leave Nagasaki, and on their refusal the Governor resigned.—Four members of the Japanese Cabinet had been dismissed because they favored peace with Christian nations. The Prince of Nagasaki had ordered the native pilots who conducted the American ship Wyoming to Simoniski to be killed, and his orders in respect to one of the men had been executed.

Advices from Japan state that a French officer had been murdered by the Japanese. Immediate reparation was demanded. War by the combined French forces was expected.

THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.

Gotha, Nov. 24.—The committee of the National Verein sent Herron Bennigsen and Fries to this city as a deputation to the Prince of Augustenburg. The prince and his advisers received the deputation, and in reply to the address his Highness said:—"In the affair of the Duchies there must be no distinction between Governments and peoples, nor any party difference among nations. The people's sense of right is the best guarantee for the rights of princes. It has been possible to oppress the people of Schleswig and Holstein in the name of the rights of princes, and in the name of the rights of a prince I shall deliver them, and by the help of God will soon do so."

THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN CONGRESS.

Paris Nov. 24.—The France and Pays of this evening announce that the reply of Russia to the invitation to a Congress has arrived, and been sent to Compiegne. The same journals state that this reply is conceived in very conciliatory and courteous terms.

The France of this evening says, "All the Continental Powers have acceded in principle to the proposed Congress, with the exception of Austria, who has not yet made known her decision."

Berlin Nov. 24.—It is stated here, upon good authority, that, in replying to the Emperor Napoleon's invitation to attend a Congress, the Emperor of Russia will lay stress upon his strong desire for a peaceful solution of all political difficulties, and will do full justice to the feelings prompting the Emperor Napoleon's plan. The Russian Emperor, however, is of opinion that, even before assenting to the proposal of a Congress, the precise objects of its meeting should be laid down.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

Cracow, Nov. 24.—A proclamation of the National Government has just been issued at Warsaw denying the rumours proceeding from Rus-

sian sources that the Poles were on the point of laying down their arms.

The proclamation announces a continuance of the war as the only means of saving the country. It also states that the forces of the insurrection are on the increase, and that the Russians have proved themselves unable to govern otherwise than by fire and sword.

MISCELLANEOUS.

RUSSIAN ATROCITIES IN POLAND.—After the engagement in the palatinate of Prasnysz, in which the Polish leader Lenczica perished, several Polish prisoners were brought to Miawa, to the Russian commandant Bogdanowicz. This officer having perceived a boy of sixteen among the prisoners, had him brought before him, addressed him in insulting terms, and flourished his sword about his head. The boy meanwhile stood unmoved, and looked boldly into the eyes of his persecutor, who foamed at the mouth with rage. "You Polish vagabond! you Catholic hangdog! so you are frightened, are you?" he exclaimed. To this the boy quietly answered that he had not feared him on the field of battle, and did not fear him then. "You do not fear me? We shall see!" and with another flourish of his sword the savage cut off the boy's head, which dashed against the wall. The body stood for a moment with the hand raised, and then fell on the blood-stained ground by the side of the head, Bogdanowicz meanwhile taking a pull at his brandy-flask. This terrible deed was witnessed by several persons who were in the room at the time.

THE CASE OF "THE ALEXANDRA."—The arguments on the rule nisi for a new trial in the Alexandra case were concluded on the 23rd ult. The hearing had occupied no less than six days, and both the Attorney-General and Sir Hugh Cairns devoted all their strength to the elucidation of the case. The Queen's Advocate supported the rule in an able speech.—He showed that if Sir Hugh Cairns' interpretation of the seventh section were correct, we should soon be involved in such an active participation in the war, both in our ports and within three miles of our shores, as to render it impossible for her Majesty to preserve peace. The Court postponed giving judgment until a future day.

It Can be Done.

REV. J. P. TUSTIN, Charleston, S. C. writes—"By the use of Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer and Zylolbalsam my white hair is changed to its original color, and new hair coming in. I consider them valuable preparations." Sold by druggists every where. Depot, 198 Greenwich st., New York.

GIFT-BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—Bibles, Prayers, Psalms and Leisure Hour, and Good Words in volumes complete, Children's Books in variety, as per catalogue supplied at the Agency of G. E. Morton & Co.

Plantation Bitters—a new supply received from the Proprietor, is offered at reduced prices by G. E. Morton & Co., Granville street.

The hazard of the Dye—may be avoided, and success ensured, by the use of Jundson's simple colors for dyeing feathers, ribbons, silks, wools, etc., of every shade—no preparation required—sample bottles 12 cents. Sold by G. E. Morton & Co.

Rackett's Diamond Lead, for Stoves—clean, brilliant and economical. Sold wholesale at the agency of G. E. Morton & Co.

A gem among Almanacs. Rimmel's Perfumed Almanac for 1864 may be had at the News Agency of G. E. Morton & Co.

Penny's Metallic Diary and Wallet for 1864, supplied by G. E. Morton & Co., Halifax.

Dr. Stone's Cough Elixir, and other popular patent remedies, supplied at the Agency of G. E. Morton & Co., Halifax.

Commercial.

Exchange on Boston,.....67 to 70.

Halifax Markets.

Corrected for the C. Messenger, December 23, 1863.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Flour, American spgns., per bbl., Canada, Rye, Cornmeal, Butter, Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Molasses, Salmon, Codfish, Mackerel, Herring, Coal, Wood, etc.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Corrected for the C. Messenger, December 23, 1863.

Table listing market prices for agricultural products including Hay, Beef, Pork, Bacon, Veal, Mutton, Poultry, Butter, Eggs, Oats, Apples, Potatoes, etc.