

THE USEFULNESS OF HEMP.

In a recent issue we referred to an article in the Chicago Tribune which stated that during the present year no less than 903 murders had been committed in the United States and that only seventy of the murderers had suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

WINDSOR, N. S.

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THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

The recent German elections have resulted most disastrously to Prince Bismarck, the German Chancellor. It is believed that all the leaders of the Opposition have been re-elected, some obtaining twice the requisite number of votes.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

Now that the first shock of surprise after the arrest of Parnell and his colleagues has passed away, sober second thought on the part of fair minded men condemn the arrest as illegal and tyrannical.

THE ITALIAN KINGS VISIT TO VIENNA.

The King and Queen of Italy arrived at Vienna on the evening of Friday last, and on their arrival at the railway station, received a warm and hearty welcome from the beauty and fashion of Vienna, that had gathered to receive and do them honour.

Mr. WALLACE, of this office, intends paying a visit to Newcastle during the present week for the purpose of collecting subscriptions and other bills due the STAR office.

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was afraid, and took advantage of his little brief authority to strike down an opponent over whom circumstances gave him power, and of whose arguments he was afraid.

"The resources of civilization," the rifle, the cannon, the jail and the gibbet, these are the weapons with which the Premier threatens to do justice to Ireland. They have been tried before by able men than those who constitute the present Government, and failed, as they will fail now, for even despotic power cannot destroy principles which are founded on justice.

To-day in Ireland there is neither freedom of speech, of action, or of the press. Liberty is gagged and bound. The Government can only maintain itself by an overwhelming force, and such a government is simply a tyranny.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE DARIEN CANAL.

The recent despatch of Secretary Blain to the United States Ministers at the different European courts, claiming the political control of the Canal that is proposed to be built across the Isthmus of Darien, is causing considerable discussion in the European, American and Canadian press.

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MR. BURBRIDGE INTERVIEWED.

(From the St. John Sun.)

"Seeing that you have just returned from the Upper Provinces, Mr. Burbridge," said a Reporter of the St. John Sun to Mr. George W. Burbridge, of the law firm of Harrison & Burbridge, "I have called to interview you in reference to your visit."

Rep.—How are things in Ottawa? Mr. B.—O, very quiet. Few were there except members of the Government and some parties having business with the Department.

Rep.—Did you learn when Sir Charles and Sir Leonard would visit the Maritime Provinces?

Mr. B.—The date of their visit is not yet fixed. If they come this fall, it will probably be early in November.

Rep.—Where will they speak?

Mr. B.—If anywhere, at Sackville.

Rep.—Will they not go to Northumberland or Queen's County?

Mr. B.—No—our friends say there is no necessity for them to follow Mr. Blake in those counties at present. All testimony concurs in holding that Mr. Blake did our party no harm in any part of New Brunswick; and the same report comes from Nova Scotia. Besides, Ministers are busy preparing to meet Parliament.

Rep.—Will the Government meet Parliament in good condition?

Mr. B.—They will,—you may depend upon that. The treasury is full to overflowing. The condition of the country exceeds the expectations of its most sanguine friends. Trade and manufactures are most prosperous. Under the Syndicate the Pacific Railway is being built with marvellous speed and in a thorough manner.

Rep.—How did you find business in Montreal?

Mr. B.—"Booming." Merchants are full of business and are all making money. Everybody is employed at good wages. The cry of "dull times" has passed away—you never hear the words used. Many new factories have been established and are employing large bodies of operatives.

Rep.—You think, then, the N. P. is an established fact?

Mr. B.—Well, you would think so too, if you had met and discussed the situation with as many Ontarians and Quebecers as our editor and I have met in the fortnight we were away.

Rep.—What was thought in the Upper Provinces of Mr Blake's trip to the Maritime Provinces?

Mr. B.—They all know it was a failure, a huge blunder. Having gauged public sentiment in the Upper Provinces I now understand why Mr. Blake made such a determined onset in the Maritime section. There is no hope for his party in Ontario, and the Brit party is thoroughly used up in the Province of Quebec.

Rep.—There is just one more question I wish to ask, Mr Burbridge. Did you meet any members of the "Syndicate"?

Mr. B.—If you mean the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., I answer that we met a prominent member of the Company and, with the assistance of Hon. Peter Mitchell, interested him somewhat in our St. John manufacturers who ought to supply railway material. I mean Mr. Duncan McIntyre. We found him affable, frank and disposed to buy from the company anything in railway supplies that can be manufactured in St. John.

And now, if you will excuse me, I would like to give some attention to the law.

Rep.—The law and the profits. Mr. B.—Well, the law, any way. The profits are almost as uncertain as the law itself.

And with this somewhat doubtful statement Mr Burbridge was about to close an interesting interview, when our reporter remarked that he had spoken of Hon. Mr Mitchell, and enquired as to Mr Mitchell's movements.

"I am glad you have recalled Mr. Mitchell's name," said Mr. Burbridge, "for I would like to thank Mr. Mitchell, publicly, for valuable assistance rendered to us in prosecuting enquiries in connexion with matters not of a private or personal character. Mr. Mitchell's presence in Montreal is invaluable to New Brunswickers. He knows everybody, and almost everything. He is hand in glove with the Syndicate, being the agent through whom all railway supplies are purchased. While doing an immense amount of business he always finds time to devote to any one from the Maritime Provinces who has business in Montreal, and spares neither time or money to make their stay agreeable. I am safe in saying that he is doing all in his power to secure for the manufacturers of the Maritime Provinces a fair share of the supplies for the Pacific Railway, and he could do far more if our people would only rise to the magnitude of their opportunities. Another Montreal gentleman who never fails to show the utmost attention to St. John people, is Colonel A. A. Stevenson—one of the biggest hearted and least selfish men I ever met. By the way the Colonel is coming to St. John during the winter and some of us propose to give him a warm reception."

And Mr Burbridge forthwith proceeded to make up a bill of costs for the Clerk to tax at the first favorable opportunity.

SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

The semi-examination of the Convent School took place on last Friday, and owing to the lateness of the hour in which it concluded, prevented a report being inserted in our last issue. This school is divided into two departments: the primary department, which includes the first four grades, is taught by Miss Dunn, who is assisted by a Sister of the Convent. The second department contains the pupils belonging to the next four grades, and is conducted by Miss Quinlan, who is assisted by another Sister.

The primary department was examined in the forenoon, between the hours of 11 and 1 o'clock, midday. Of the sixty pupils on the roll, fifty-five were present. The absence of the Trustees on the occasion was much regretted, however they were absent through necessity.

The first thing on the forenoon programme was a greeting song, upon which we need not comment, as it is natural for all girls generally to be good singers. In all the singing good attention was given to observing the proper measure. Next was reading, spelling and a lesson on minerals by Class A, or fourth grade. In reading and spelling scarcely a fault was observed and the questions were answered promptly and satisfactorily. A recitation entitled "A Little too Pert," by Mary MacIntosh, came next, which was well rendered. Then Class D, or first grade, read and spelled, and this was followed by a song "Father pray with me To-night." Then Class B, or third grade, had arithmetic; which was followed by a recitation by Maggie Blake, entitled, "Be Careful What You Say." Then Class C, or second grade read and spelled, and went through a series of questions on form, or in other words the principles and definitions in geometry. Next was a song entitled, "Will You Lift a Little." Then Class A were questioned on Geography and drew from memory the Map of New Brunswick. Next was a recitation "A Bivy of Is," in which nine very small girls took part. Then class B read and spelled which was followed by questions on ball frame. Then there was another recitation by Annie Hickey, "The Baby Brother," which was well rendered. Class A worked out a few problems in Arithmetic in the four fundamental rules. Then a song entitled, "My Boat is on the Tide" was sung by the whole class. Then class B had general Geography, which was followed by a recitation entitled, "A Noble Boy" very feelingly, by Miss Sarah Curran. Some lessons on useful knowledge as well as a recitation by Miss Butler were omitted on account of the lateness of the hour. A song by the whole class entitled, "Robin Redbreast" ended the examination of the first department. There were present at this examination Rev. T. J. Bannon, a STAR Reporter, the teachers, and a few visitors, who each contributed in questioning the pupils on the aforementioned studies. The success of the examination speaks well of the untiring zeal of the teachers as well as the faithful attention of the pupils to the duties required of them. At the end Rev. T. J. Bannon made a few appropriate remarks, and complimented both teachers and pupils on their success, after which he distributed some confectionary, which was kindly sent to the pupils by the trustees.

At half-past two o'clock in the afternoon the examinations were resumed in another department. In this department there are 50 pupils, 45 of whom were present. The visitors numbered about thirty, among whom were Rev. T. J. Bannon, some teachers from the other schools and parents and friends of pupils. The first thing on the programme was a song by the pupils on entering the school. This was succeeded by instrumental music by Jennie Ovelton. During this time specimens of art were shown as well as neatly written sets of book keeping in single and double entry. Then Miss Quinlan gave questions on physics, botany and chemistry. Miss Baldwin also

gave a few questions in chemistry. The scholars seem to be well posted in that branch of science. Their tact for map drawing and ornamental designs is unquestionable. Next, Miss Quinlan questioned in Geography in general. She never uses a text book, whatever way she can grasp such an amount of knowledge and follow the thread of her subject from beginning to end. Her tact for questioning is equalled only by the prompt answering of the same by her pupils. Grade fifth drew the map of New Brunswick, locating the towns and rivers whilst grade sixth did the same with Nova Scotia. Grade Seven were questioned on History of Canada, whilst Grade Eight were writing a sketch on Responsible Government. Then Nellie Walsh traced the route of the Cabotts to the new world on the map, relating the circumstances, etc., whilst Josie Noonan did the same with regard to Verazzani and Susie Morrison, with Jacques Cartier. Miss Kelly related about the foundation of Quebec from memory. Grade five then solved questions in reduction, grade six, in fractions; grade seven, in practice and grade eight in Percentage, Interest and Discount, etc., etc. Then a Sister questioned the pupils in bookkeeping which answered very promptly. Miss Mary Curran recited a piece entitled the "News-boy's Debt," in which she had to take two characters. Then we had reading from grade seven and eight. When the reading was over each reader recited some choice quotations, naming the author. There was a song, "List to the Convent Bells," accompanied by instrumental music by Maggie Barden. Then the seventh and eighth grades were examined on geometry by J. W. M. Wallace. Then Josie Noonan recited, "It May Be Your Turn Next." Grades five and six were next questioned on English History by Miss Sinclair, Grades seven and eight were next examined on Algebra by J. W. M. Wallace. Following this, was a recitation by Jennie Ovelton entitled, "Benjin on the Rhine." It grew so dark that reading for fifth and sixth grade had to be omitted. Then came grammar and analysis for 5th 6th and 7th grades, whilst 8th grade was examined in Dalgleish's Composition. Then we were favored by a song accompanied by Miss Laura Morrison as organist, entitled "Star of the Twilight." The examination was ended at 6:30 p. m. when several gentlemen addressed the pupils and had complimented both them and their teachers, the scenes was closed by the distribution of confectionery. Last year this school seat two pupils to the Normal School, and this year they send two, we hope the number will increase progressively. We further hope we will be able to attend another such examination and be able to compliment them on their progress.

EDITORIAL CLEANINGS.

THE OLD FORT AT ANNAPOLIS.

This Canada of ours is dotted with old forts, each of which has a history. There is an old fort down in Annapolis, near to the most famous spot in all this Canada of ours, it having the unique experience of having been the most assailed spot on this continent. It was taken by force five times by the English. It was then abandoned or restored to the French four times. It was unsuccessfully attacked by the English three times, and by the French and Indians twice. It was taken, sacked, and abandoned twice—once by pirates, and once by revolutionary forces from the United States in 1781. It is going to ruins. We are a curious people, and seem not to be influenced by the spirit of antiquity which hovers over the land. We seem to be unmindful of the dead warriors who served our forefathers, to a greater degree unmindful than even our neighbours. Go down to Richmond, Virginia, and see the grand cenotaphs which loving women of the South and loving women of the North have erected in honour of their dead scattered over the battle-fields of the South in the civil war. The spirit which has reared these pyramids is worth cherishing.

FEVER IN INDIA.

A terrible fever epidemic has broken out in Umritsir, in India. Over two thousand persons were carried off in the eleven days ending 1st October, about one-half being children. The pestilence is attributed to a recent heavy rainfall. The Punjab Government are taking measures to repress the disease. Umritsir is a large and populous city, is the sacred capital of the Punjab, and contains a rich temple, which is the chief seat of the Sikh religion. The name of the city signifies a "pool of immortality."

AMERICAN COTTON MANUFACTURE.

In the past ten years, while Great Britain has made a slight gain in the amount of her cotton manufacture, the gain of the United States has been more than 100 per cent. The amount manufactured in the United States in 1880 was, in round numbers, 950,000,000 pounds; in Great Britain, 1,400,000,000 pounds. The gain of the United States has been so rapid that if the same proportion shall be kept up, her consumption of the raw product will exceed that of Great Britain in much less than ten years.—American Paper.

DIVORCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

A Boston lecturer has gathered some interesting figures on the subject of divorce. In 1849, Connecticut increased the cases of divorce to nine. Between that year and 1864 the number of cases per annum rose from 129 to 426—one separation for every hundred marriages. During the past fifteen years it was one to every ten. In Vermont the proportion is one to every fourteen, in Massachusetts one to twenty-one. In England there is one divorce to three hundred marriages. Free Love, Spiritualism and Mormonism are credited with the lax

ideas of matrimony which prevails in New England.

CATTLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

According to official sources, the number of head of cattle in New South Wales at the beginning of 1880 was 2,914,210, while Victoria had 1,129,358. The total number for the whole of the Australasian colonies 7,878,556. As to sheep, the figures are stupendous. New South Wales had no less than 29,043,392, or the whole of the group—seven colonies—65,914,236. It is probable that at the beginning of the next year the number of sheep owned by Australians will be little short of seventy millions.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

At Danesbury, Michigan, on Friday last, Dr. Hall was convicted of the murder of his wife by poison.

On Friday morning the Treasurer of the Beaver Company, Rochester, Pa., on opening his safe, was knocked down by two unknown men, and \$13,000 county funds was abstracted. The robbers escaped.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—The Grand Jury to-day returned indictments against Capt. Howgate for forging the name of R. H. Rochester, treasurer of the Western Union Telegraph Company, to three receipts, aggregating \$36,000.

A RAILWAY IN THE TREE TOPS.

The Petaluma (Cal.) Argus says: "It may not be generally known outside of the neighborhood where it is situated, but it is nevertheless a fact, that in Sonoma county we have an original and successful piece of railway engineering and building that is not to be found in the books. In the upper part of this country, near the coast may be seen an actual road-bed in the tree-tops. Between the Clipper Mills and Stuart's Point, where the road crosses a deep ravine, the trees are sawed off on a level, and the timber and ties laid on the stumps. In the centre of the ravine mentioned two huge redwood trees, standing side by side, form a substantial support, and they are cut off twenty-five feet above the ground, and cars loaded with heavy saw logs pass over them with as much security as if they were framed in the most scientific manner.

THE TROUBLES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Great centres of population have dangers all their own. Last winter a snow-storm blocked the railways leading into London, and being accompanied by an unusual degree of cold, unprepared London was nearly brought to destruction for want of the essentials of food, fuel, light, and liquor. The food supply ran down rapidly, and as London only supplies itself from day to day, and realizes in a way peculiarly its own force of the petition give us by day our daily bread, famine began to peer in here and there in the back slums, which life is a hand to mouth affair. The supply of water got short, and the great brewers' wells were brought into requisition. Coal dwindled down, and the gas supply was shortened, while thousands who live on a morning and evening supply of coal had to do without. Three or four days more would have caused the deaths of thousands of thousands of children. Now, New York, another great city, but immeasurably behind London, is threatened with all the evils attendant upon a short water supply, owing to the last summer's drought. A week without rain, and disease would scatter itself through all the city. Civilization has its own created dangers.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Sir Garnet Wolseley recently published a letter condemning, on military grounds, the building of the Channel Tunnel between England and France. We however learn from late English papers that the letter is not likely to have much influence on the fortunes of that enterprise. On any purely military question the opinion of one who was until two or three years ago "our only general" would be entitled to great weight. But the question of the desirability or otherwise of a Channel Tunnel is not one which military men are alone, or even specially, qualified to decide, and all the objections which Sir Garnet Wolseley would no doubt raise have long ago been amply discussed and shown to be unimportant compared with the great advantages which may be expected from the completion of a submarine road between England and France. The main, it not the only serious, argument against the scheme is the danger of invasion to which we might be exposed, and in the opinion of many military critics not less eminent than Sir Garnet Wolseley himself no general in his senses would risk sending a force into a trap where they might be drowned without the possibility of escape.

MARINE DISASTER.

MELBOURNE, Oct. 29.—The steamer Calcutta, hence for Sydney, foundered at sea during a gale. All on board, twenty-two in number, perished.

A Russian journal is very irate at the friendly demonstration in Yorktown between the two Republics and England. It has always been a cause of regret to the Canadian friends of the United States that that country had such warm and friendly relations with a power so despotic in its principles as Russia. The alliance was a most unnatural one, from whatever side looked at.

MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's father, Beverley Cottage, Torryburn, on the 31st ult., by the Rev. H. McKown, Bannockburn, in Massachusetts one to twenty-one. In England there is one divorce to three hundred marriages. Free Love, Spiritualism and Mormonism are credited with the lax