

the 'sleepless boy,' who perished by his own rash hand, is but a type of many who have endured the same tortures, but passed unscathed through the trial. Yet every day from the lips of manhood, we hear the querulous lament for departed youth; as well might the racer, who has reached the goal, repine that his sinews were not still stretched to their utmost tension, in the fierce excitement of the race! Why then should we scoff at the visionary Spaniard, for seeking that which all desire? for he must have been far in advance of his age, had he not credited the tradition; and what could seem strange or marvellous, after the wondrous fact of the discovery of a New World! Of Ponce de Leon then, may be said, what could equally be applied to many who have filled a far larger space in the estimation of the world; that 'His life was the chase of a flying shadow, which rested not until it slept in gloom and for ever upon his grave.'

From the Boston Yankee Nation.

THE LAST GREAT SPEECH.

Two men, somewhere in the West, were indicted a short time ago for larceny. Money was scarce, and they experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining enough to secure the services of counsel. They finally managed to obtain the aid of a lawyer who had recently made his appearance in that region, and whose powers were altogether untried. Nevertheless he looked odd enough to be able to accomplish something rather above ordinary achievements. His face was of that order which defies description, for 'its likeness is neither in the heavens above, nor in the earth beneath, nor in the water under the earth.' The names of his clients were McLauren and Hagan. McLauren had made a raise of 15 dollars and Hagan only 5. The advocate was an honorable man, and felt himself constrained by all proper considerations, to use his great powers principally for the benefit of the one who had paid the largest fee, allowing his other client a share of his abilities precisely proportioned to the amount of the fee he had paid.

The trial came on—the court room was crowded to overflowing. The testimony was given in, and the audience awaited the grand contest between the lawyers with breathless anxiety. The prosecuting officer stated the grounds of his attack as briefly and succinctly as possible. Then arose the counsel for the defendants—the silence of death reigned among the auditory. The advocate stood for a moment grave, silent and impressive, and gazed around upon the jury and spectators as though he was labouring to fathom their thoughts, in order to shape his address so as to produce the greatest possible effect. At last in slow and solemn accents, he pronounced the following words:

Gentlemen of the jury—Might it be permitted mortal man like myself to stand with one foot upon the earth and the other upon Georgium Sidus—a star which rolls its course in the regions of everlasting space, more than ten thousand miles from this Court House—I would catch the winged lightning in my two hands and bring them down at your feet, to enlighten your benighted understandings. Then indeed would you rise up as one man and exclaim in a voice of thunder 'McLauren is innocent, McLauren is innocent, and so is Hagan!'

Gentlemen of the jury—Might it be permitted to mortal man like myself to roll back the crystal flood gates of Heaven and invoke the spirits of the departed men made perfect, then would I call upon the souls of a Grattan, a Curran, an Emmett, and the long line of Irish worthies who have gone to glory, to come down to earth and enlighten your benighted understandings. And from out the crystal flood gates of heaven would issue a sound so sweet and enchanting as the song of angels singing praises of the Lamb for ever and ever, and the barthen of that song would be, gentlemen of the jury, McLauren is innocent, McLauren is innocent, McLauren is innocent, and so is Hagan!

Down sat the distinguished advocate amid thunders of applause, and the jury acquitted the prisoners without leaving the box. Was ever the triumphant power of eloquence more signally displayed?

THE LATE EARTHQUAKE.

The subjoined account, prepared for publication, was brought by Captain Wilbur, of the schr. H. Lawrence, just arrived at New York from Port au Platte.

The sky was uncommonly serene, and the descending sun promised to be bright and glorious in its setting. Just then casting my eyes towards Mount Isabel-la, which overlooks the town, I perceived a dark vapor ascending and enveloping its base and sides; a rolling, rumbling sound immediately succeeded, and there came a shock which nearly dashed me to the ground. The level of the square appeared undulating, like the waves of the sea. A faint and sickly sensation came over me, and dizziness and difficulty of respiration. The houses rocked to and fro, like vessels in a storm. The ground was rent in various parts. Many persons were thrown down by the force of the concussion, others were reeling as in a state of drunkenness.

A second shock followed, yet stronger than the former, accompanied by the same appearances, effects and terrors. The church, a strong, massive building,

seemed tottering to its fall, the bricks flew from the solid masonry, as if from projectiles; wide fissures appeared in the walls and arches, and the whole would have been levelled but for the uncommon strength of the outside buttresses and the lowness of the building. It was affecting to hear the terrific cries and lamentations of the women and children, and instructive to contemplate, even then, their lowly prostration to the Divinity—imploving his mercy, aid and succor in their distresses. The second shock must have lasted about 60 seconds.

Fortunately for us our town is almost entirely constructed of wood, which alone accounts for its preservation. The stone buildings suffered materially, and some of the finest were entirely destroyed. From the 7th up to the present date we have been in a continued state of alarm—upwards of forty shocks having taken place during the interval, some more or less severe. Processions and prayers are continually on foot to avert, if possible, the Divine displeasure. The men wear serious and solemn looks; the women, when not in procession, are sitting at the doors of their houses, either in tears or with books of prayer. Business is not even thought of, such is our state of agitation.

The town of Santiago, about sixty miles distant in the interior, and the centre of our agricultural commerce in this part, has been entirely destroyed. The population consisting of about 6000 souls, of whom 500 are buried in the ruins. Further in the interior the towns of Vega and St. Osero have met with similar fates. The city of Cape Haytien the deposit of all the Agricultural products of this fine plain—the capital of the northern part of the Island—the first city in Hayti for the beauty and solidity of its buildings, and the second in size and importance, has met with utter destruction, and is one mass of crumbling ruins.

A gentleman who left immediately after the disaster informed me that so sudden had been the catastrophe, that hardly three seconds were allowed to escape from the houses. Thousands were buried alive, and no relief at hand. Cries of agony and shrieks would now and then proceed from the buildings and break the solemn stillness of the night. Many dead and putrid bodies were lying in the streets, and nobody to remove them. The air was tainted with the infection, and a pest seemed quietly settling over the city.

Since writing the foregoing, farther intelligence has reached us from the Cape, which has materially added to the horrors of its former situation. Hundreds of individuals, pouring in from the country, commenced upturning the crumbling ruins, and drawing from thence all the merchandise and valuables of whatever kind they could lay hold of, despatched the same to their different hiding places. Opposition was for some time useless, and a summary execution was necessarily resorted to by the authorities to strike a salutary terror.

Many of the marauders were shot, and now, to crown the whole with the extremity of horror, a slow fire, which had arisen and had been gradually creeping onward from the time of the catastrophe, spread at once into a general conflagration, consuming what had escaped the former calamity and the sacrilegious hand of pillage.

Hundreds had taken refuge on board the ships in the harbor, with the trifling effects which an agonizing haste suffered them to lay hold of, together with as many of the maimed and wounded as were thus favored by their good fortune. The other towns and villages besides our own and those enumerated above, which have most seriously suffered (some of which are entirely demolished) are Port Paix, Gonaives, St. Marc, Mole, St. Nicholas, St. Louis du Nord, Fort Dauphin, Limbeport, Margot, Borgne, La Grand Riviere, Laxavon, and Altamira, which, together, with Port au Platte, Cape Haytien, Santiago, St. Osero and La Vega, before mentioned, make in all 17 towns and villages, with loss of lives in all.

It is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the severity of the blow which will be given to commercial interests in general, through all their channels and ramifications—many years will be required to restore matters to their former footing.

It will be equally difficult to conjecture at what period the signs of ravages will be removed, and the towns and cities again approach their former condition.

During the earthquake at Santiago, the inhabitants rushed into the Roman Catholic church to implore mercy from the Most High, and filled it to overflow-

ing, and when it fell rivers of blood were seen to pour through the ruins, proceeding from the bodies of the poor unfortunate souls crushed within.

Captain Ward, of the bark Condor, which arrived at New York from Mayaguez, P.R., informs us that the Earthquake on the 7th of May, was very severely felt there, and that up to the 30th May, when he sailed, there were from two to three shocks a day. The inhabitants were very fearful of a similar shock to that which was felt on the 7th in other places.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:
TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1842.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

The Courier with the Southern mail arrived on Friday evening at 10 o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

Last week we hurriedly made a number of extracts from the British papers obtained by the steamer *Britannia*, which were received by the mail on the morning of our publication. Since then we have had leisure to give our files a careful perusal, but we see little of interest or importance in addition to what we have already laid before our readers.

We perceive that Lord Stanley intends introducing to the notice of Parliament, a Bill for the better government of the colony of Newfoundland. A detailed account of this measure will be found in another place.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, have resolved upon making the following grants: For an assistant clergyman at St. Andrews, £75 annually; for a church at St. Patrick's, £100; for a church on the river Tobique, £75; for a church on the St. John, £50; and for a church in Pr. Ed Island, £150. We hope these laudable and liberal donations of this admirable institution, will meet with a ready response from those who are to profit by the generosity of the Society.

Numerous selections will be found under the proper head.

CHINA.

By the ship *Clarendon*, at New York, Canton dates to the 15th Feb. have been received. The intelligence thus obtained, is unimportant. Sir Henry Pottinger arrived at Hong Kong on the 1st of the month, and at once put a stop to the seizing of the small craft of Chinese traders, and it was generally believed that no hostile movement would be made on Canton, unless the Celestials committed some very gross act of provocation—which it was not expected they would be foolish enough to do.

The greater portion of the effective British troops have gone to the north, where it was anticipated active operations would be commenced against some of the principal cities, as soon as the weather would permit. The Emperor has not shown any disposition to treat with the British Plenipotentiary.

THE SEASON.

The Canada papers speak of the backwardness of the season. On the night of the 10th inst. a quantity of snow fell in Montreal. At Quebec, two days later, there was a heavy frost, which seriously injured the potatoes, beans, pumpkins, and Indian corn. The leaves of the oak and ash in the forest, are represented as having also suffered.

The American papers state, that frost and snow have occurred in Vermont, and some parts of New Hampshire, since the 7th of the month; and the *Boston Nation* of the 18th, thus

notifies the state of the weather in that city:

"Friday last was the warmest day of the season. In the afternoon it was the most uncomfortably hot. We did not notice the state of the thermometer, but judging from our own feelings, it must have been near the point of boiling heat. The next morning, only fifteen hours afterwards, it snowed in our streets! So extraordinary a change at this season of the year, we presume was seldom if ever before known."

We learn that the mountains of Berkshire were covered with snow on Saturday; and we fear the extreme cold has killed most of what little was left of fruit. Yesterday morning there was quite a heavy frost in all this neighbourhood, and a small pool of water in front of our office was covered with ice.

The season with us, has been unusually fine, and the crops have consequently assumed a very promising appearance. The meadows suffered last winter from the frost, owing to their being but slightly covered with snow, and some fears are entertained that the hay harvest will be but a slight one. Those that were not thus exposed, look most luxuriantly.

THE TIMBER DUTIES.

In the House of Commons on the 27th May, Sir Howard Douglas gave notice that when the subject of the new tariff, was again brought under the notice of the house, he would move that the Duty on Timber rest at 30s. Sir Robert Peel, stated in reply that he would adhere steadfastly to his proposition.

The following Petition to the Imperial Parliament from this county, numerously signed, has been forwarded to Britain.

To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom, of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled:

The humble Petition of the Merchants, Shipowners, and others interested in the trade of Miramichi:

SHWETH,
That it is the imperative duty, of your Petitioners once more to bring under your Lordship's notice the peculiar injustice towards the North American Colonies, of the proposed changes in the Timber Duties.

That your Petitioners are ready to admit that the new Tariff is based upon the best intentions, and that in its general operation, it may stimulate the commerce of the mother country, and benefit the consumer; but while they cherish these opinions, your Petitioners are bound to complain of the immediate injury and ruinous consequences to these Colonies, of reducing the protecting duty upon Baltic Wood by so large a sum as 19s. 10d. per load.

That your Petitioners will not occupy your Lordship's time by entering into the statistics of the question, all the needful details being already before your Lordship's House. All that your Petitioners desire to do in this crisis, is to repeat their full and firm conviction, that any departure from the existing scale of duties, will seriously and permanently injure this section of the British Empire, but that to reduce the duties on Baltic Wood so low as 25s. per load in Logs, and 32s. per load on Deals, will entirely and for ever destroy the only germ out of which it can ever hope to rise to agricultural importance and independence.

That any reduction of the duties upon Baltic Wood below 30s. per load on Logs, and 38s. per load on Deals, would not only utterly ruin the North American Colonies, but would in the opinion of your Petitioners, prove highly injurious to the Shipping and Manufacturing interests of the Mother Country, and be alto-