

on the mountain side, must forsake a portion of the watery vapour it has hitherto retained. This water, like the floating mist of the hills, descends in particles almost infinitely minute. These particles collect on every leaflet, and suspend themselves from every blade of grass, in drops of 'pearly dew.' And mark here a beautiful adaptation. Different substances are endowed with the property of radiating their heat, and of thus becoming cool first, also attract first and most abundantly the particles of falling dew. Thus, in the cool of a summer's evening, the grass-plant is wet, while the gravel-walk is dry; and the thirsty pasture and every green leaf are drinking in the descending moisture, while the naked land and barren highway are still unconscious of its fall.

News of the Week.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From British Papers to the 20th September, by the Columbia.

Prussia and Russia.—The Constitutionnel publishes a long letter from Berlin dated the 24th ult, the object of which is to show that a serious misunderstanding has arisen between the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Russia. Alluding to the report of a conspiracy against the Emperor in the Russian capital, the letter says:—'There has been no explosion or disturbance at St. Petersburg. It is true enough that several regiments of the Guards in garrison were tampered with by the disaffected. Money was distributed, and pretty considerable sums were found on officers, sergeants, and men. The secret police of the Emperor, under the command of General Benkendorf received information from the conspirators themselves; and to the disclosures thus made we must attribute the terrible duel between the Princes Dolgorucki and Jaschyl, which took place without seconds, and in which the former was left dead on the field from his adversary's ball. In fact the conspiracy failed completely; the well inclined regiments were informed of what was going on; the people of St. Petersburg, meanwhile, remained completely neuter, or rather fascinated by the ascendancy of the Emperor, so that the conspiracy was purely confined to the military and the nobility. If you desire to know what was the aim of this movement, I think I am able to inform you, that the life of the Emperor was in danger, and that the intention was to proclaim the young Grand Duke Alexander, now 22 years of age, and to form for him a sort of council of regency to direct his affairs, whilst the young prince would only reign in form. The danger has been averted for the moment, but the position of the Emperor Nicholas remains exceedingly critical, having on one side a disaffected nobility, and on the other, Poland held in subjection, and Germany tired of the Muscovite influence, and slipping away completely from the Russian alliance. Add to this, the unfortunate war in the Caucasus, which annoys in no small degree the national pride, and that ambition which desires to plant the Russian flag at Constantinople, and you will have a tolerable idea of the actual state of the colossal empire of all the Russias.'

The Harvest on the Continent.—The harvest is almost entirely gathered in throughout the east of Europe; and we are enabled to furnish the following comparative estimates, collected from the most accurate accounts.—In

Silesia, there has been a good average harvest. In Poland, in Galicia, and in the Duchy of Posen, there has been decidedly a good harvest, and the same may be said with respect to Russia. In Hungary, the crops have been most satisfactory; and in the Banat, which is regarded as the granary of the country, they have been doubly as productive as those of last year. In Transylvania and the Turkish provinces, the harvest has also been most plentiful. Similar abundance has also been experienced in Moravia. Everywhere the grain is of good quality, and yields from 15 to 20 per cent., more flour than in humid years. It may therefore be fairly predicted, that, in the East of Europe, the price of wheat will fall instead of rising, even though foreign demands should be very great.—*Allgemeine Zeitung.*

New Bude Light.—The extensive preparations and lengthened labours of the designer of the Bude Light, facing Northumberland House, Strand, are brought to a close, and every night this splendid light is displayed. Taking into comparison the most beautiful gas light, the difference appears quite as wide as that between the latter and the old dim oil lamps of by-gone days, whose feeble rays served only to render 'darkness visible.' This light is truly a 'star' of the first magnitude. To test it more correctly the lamps in Trafalgar square were not out, and it was the opinion of several persons, that two lamps of this construction would be sufficient to light the whole of that vast area, at a cost considerably less than by the present system.

The length of the shelves in the new portion of the British Museum is eight miles, containing 260,000 volumes.

It is currently reported that the Duke of Wellington intends to avail himself of his present position as General Commanding in Chief, to recommend to her Majesty to confer some mark of her Royal favor on his Grace's old companions in glory, the officers who served with him in the Peninsular war.

A scientific Congress is to meet at Strasburg on the 22d inst., 759 savans from different parts of Europe, had already announced their intention of attending the Congress.

The Mammoth Iron Steamship.—The 'Great Britain,' or, as she is often called, the 'Mammoth,' Steamship, now in course of construction by the Great Western Company at Bristol, is fast progressing towards completion. It is expected that she will be ready to float out of dock about the middle of October, and that she will at once be fitted out and be ready for sea in the spring.

The following particulars respecting her cannot fail to be of considerable interest:—Her length is 324 feet aloft, which is nearly 100 feet longer than the longest line of battle-ship in our service; with the exception of her decks and cabins, she is constructed entirely of iron. Her extreme breadth is 51 feet, the depth of her hold 32 feet; and her registered tonnage 3,200, which far exceeds the registered tonnage of any two steamships in the world. She has four decks, three of timber, and the fourth which is the lowest, of iron; this latter being appropriated to the reception of cargo. The Great Britain will afford ample accommodation to 360 passengers. Some slight idea of the bulk of this gigantic vessel may be formed when it is stated that in addition to the vast space described as appropriated to the passengers, &c., and that required for the erection of her boilers, engines, &c., she will have room for

1,000 tons of coal and 1,200 tons of merchandize.

The Great Britain will be fitted with four engines of 250 horse power each, in all 1,000 horse power. She will have three boilers, capable of containing 200 tons of water, and these will be heated by 24 different fires. In her construction there have been used no less than 1,400 tons of iron, in addition to the large quantity of timber required for her decks and cabins.

This gigantic specimen of naval architecture is to be propelled by the newly-invented screw propeller, and will be fitted with six masts. It is intended to fit up the saloons, &c., with a degree of elegance becoming a ship of such extraordinary character.

UNITED STATES.

Boston Nation, October 8.

Rumour of War between the United States and Morocco.—The Commerce of Paris, received per the British Queen, announces that the American squadron in the Mediterranean had been reinforced by a sixty gun frigate, the Congress, lately arrived at Mahon. It was not expected in Toulon that the misunderstanding which had arisen between the United States and Morocco would be amicably adjusted. The Envoy sent by the Commodore to the Emperor was not received, and had returned to Tangier. The Commodore was awaiting precise orders from his government to commence hostilities with the naval forces under his command.

In addition to the foregoing, it is known that the United States ship Columbus sailed from this port to the Mediterranean station, about a month since, and probably carried out instructions from the Government on the subject.

From the St. John Aurora.
MEXICO AND TEXAS.

The steamer *Huntress* arrived here yesterday morning, and by the politeness of her officers we have received Boston papers up to Friday last. From them we learn that the Mexican Government had appointed V. Almonte as Ambassador Extraordinary to the Government of Washington. An expedition was fitting out at Vera Cruz for Galveston, consisting of a steamer, and another which was expected from England, and three or four schooners. Troops were concentrating in every direction; several thousand were at Jalapa, and it was confidently believed that an invasion of Texas would take place in a few weeks. This must refer to an invasion on a large scale, for it will be seen by our extracts, that an invasion had actually taken place.

Another account says that San Antonio was taken by thirteen hundred Mexicans, and that President Houston had issued a proclamation, calling on the people to turn out and punish this aggression. The New Orleans Bee says that these accounts not only prove that Santa Anna is perfectly serious in his designs upon Texas, but that the long contemplated invasion has absolutely taken place. A body of thirteen hundred men under the command of an experienced and sagacious leader, taking possession of a frontier town, would seem but the forerunner of larger forces and more serious conflicts. We may therefore be prepared for stirring news from the young republic.

COLONIAL.

CANADA.

Montreal Transcript, October 5.

The proceedings on the 27th, in the House, were of some interest. It was fully admitted by Mr Harrison, that Canadian produce should be admitted free into the ports of Great Britain, provided a duty were laid upon agricultural produce coming into Canada from the United States. Indeed the very important principle is now recognised by the Home Government, that the privilege of originating measures regulating Colonial trade is conceded to the Colonial Government. The concession is important, and may lead to very important consequences. It amounts to a surrender of the principle which

lies at the foundation of imperial power over the Colonies—the supreme and sole control over their trade. As long however, as a good understanding prevails between the parent and the offspring, no harm can possibly arise; but on the contrary, much good will result to Canada from a judicious exercise of the principle thus conceded. Mr Harrison proposed a Resolution in favor of the expediency of putting a tax on Foreign *Wheat*, of 3s sterling per quarter, or nearly 6d per bushel. This proposal was made now, merely because government had no time during the present session to introduce a general measure because it was important that something should be done by the Provincial Assembly, in order that the Imperial Parliament, on its usual meeting about Christmas, might judge of the disposition of the Assembly to impose the necessary tax. After some debate, in the course of which Mr Viger expressed himself opposed to every species of protective duties, but said he would support the Resolution, the consideration of the question was postponed till the next day.

Some little stir was caused in town by the news of the debate on the following letter of the Colonial Secretary, in reference to the Seat of Government. The particulars of the debate we cannot now give, but all will appear in good time:—

[COPY.]

DOWNING STREET, 7
2d Nov., 1841.

SIR,—I have received Sir Richard Jackson's Despatch No 10, of the 26th September, forwarding an Address to the Queen from the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, praying her Majesty to order the Provincial Parliament to be held alternately at the cities of Quebec and Toronto.

I have had the honour to lay that address before the Queen, and have received her Majesty's command to instruct you to acquaint the House of Assembly, that her Majesty is always desirous, as far as may be possible, of consulting the wishes of her loyal subjects in Canada, deliberately entertained and constitutionally expressed through their Representatives in the House of Assembly. But that the establishment of Kingston as the seat of the United Legislature was not adapted without full consideration, and that a change involving among other consequences, largely increased expenditure, ought not to be sanctioned, except upon the clearest necessity, and the general sense of the Province unequivocally expressed in its favor.

Many and serious objections attach to the proposal for holding Sessions for alternate periods of four years each, at distinct and distant places, which, upon reconsideration, her Majesty can hardly doubt, will induce the House of Assembly to take a different view from that which is expressed in the Address now submitted to her Majesty.

I have the honor, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.
The Right Honorable Sir Charles Bagot.

Toronto Patriot, October 4.

The House of Assembly has passed resolutions agreeing to tax American wheat and flour at the rate of 3s sterling the barrel, or 5d currency the bushel. We hope to give some of the interesting details of this discussion. Nothing will, it is said, be done this session towards taxing other agricultural produce, though the principle is approved by the House. Lord Stanley's Despatch on the subject will be given in our next.

ORIGINAL.

TEMPERANCE.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.
SIR,—Pursuant to previous notice, a meeting of the Dorchester Total Abstinence Society was held at the Methodist Chapel, in Dorchester, on Monday, the 10th inst. By a fortunate coincidence, the President of the St. John Total Abstinence Relief Society, was at Dorchester, on a tour through the Provinces, and his celebrity as a powerful, consistent, and uncompromising advocate of this good cause, having long preceded his presence in the neighborhood, the officers of the Society gladly availed themselves of the opportunity of inviting him to deliver a Lecture upon the occasion; to which he most kindly acceded.

A very large and respectable audience assembled, and after the opening of the business of the meeting, Mr. Fitzgerald was introduced to the Society by the President. He (Mr. F.) then addressed the meeting in a long and eloquent speech, so happily conceived, and so beautifully and impressively delivered, as to surpass the expectations of his most sanguine admirers. Never had this Society the gratification of witnessing so magnificent an exhibition of talent and ability, in advocacy of its doctrines and principles, and this gentleman's lecture will be long and gratefully remembered by all true friends of Total Abstinence in Dorchester.

The Rev. Mr. Genereau, condescendingly yielded to the pressing solicitations of the Society, and in his usual appropriate and forcible manner, delighted and instructed the audience.

You may be assured, Mr Editor, that