

for themselves, or for the use of themselves, or for the use of the animal or vegetable of which they form a constituent part. Milk however, is prepared by nature expressly as food, being of no other use to animals whatever. It would naturally be expected, that since milk possesses the nutritive properties in so eminent a degree, its composition must be peculiar, and contain a greater diversity of the principles forming alimentary matter than any other kinds of food. Such, indeed, is the fact; for every sort of animal milk is composed of albumen, oil and sugar, suspended in a large quantity of water. The proportions in which these three substances are united in different kinds of milk vary exceedingly, but they have always been found to exist in the milk of all animals.

News of the Week.

UNITED STATES.

From the New York Sun.

The Oregon Territory.—The first step towards the settlement of the Northwestern boundary question, has at length been taken in Congress by the passage of a bill, in one house, for the immediate occupation of the Oregon country. This measure has been agitated in Congress at every session for a number of years past, but without any definite action upon the subject. The giant strides of England, however, now triumphant in the East, and by her Chinese conquests, placed in a position to sweep the Pacific with her navy, have aroused our government to the necessity of protecting our rights in that quarter, and the measure now under discussion and likely to be adopted, is perhaps, that could be devised. The bill provides that a section of land, 640 acres, shall be given to every settler who will occupy the same for five years, and for extending the jurisdiction of the territorial courts over the country to be occupied. The bill is one of great importance to emigrants, and indeed to all who are brave and hardy enough to avail themselves of its provisions. A few hold pioneers will soon scatter themselves over the territory, and shew the way to others, and but few years will probably be required to throw into this country a population that will be able to protect themselves from British intrusion.

The Oregon territory is spoken of by all accounts as one admirably fitted for new settlers. Irving, in his Astoria, says—'The rigorous winters and sultry summers, and all the capricious inequalities of temperature prevalent on the Atlantic side of the mountains is but little felt on the western declivities. The country between them and the Pacific is blessed with a milder and steadier temperature, resembling the climate in parallel latitudes in Europe.' Other writers describe the country as remarkably pleasant and fertile, abounding in fine timber, wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, barley, peas, &c. and great numbers of wild animals. When it is stated that the Hudson's Bay Company derive an annual income of a million of dollars from the fur trade alone of this valuable tract of country, it will be perceived that our government has remained too long inactive in this matter.

The title of the United States from 42 to 49 north latitude is indisputable, but a claim is set up by Great Britain to all the territory north of the Columbia. In 1818 a convention was entered into with Great Britain, by which it was stipulated

that the country should remain free and open to both nations for ten years, and in 1827 the same stipulation was indefinitely extended, with liberty to either party to abrogate it by giving twelve months notice. This is the position in which the territory now stands, but it is evident that the contemplated notice must soon be given by our Government, and negotiations commenced for settling the boundary. This will come hard for Great Britain, and she will be extremely loathe to surrender the north bank of the Columbia. If however, we expect to maintain our just rights as a nation, we must be prepared to drive her to the 49 degree.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The Capture of Monterey, Mexico.

—We trust that all our readers have read and reflected on the outrageous aggression on Mexico, committed by our Naval Commodore, Thomas Ap Catesby Jones, in capturing and holding the town of Monterey, California, upon presumption that war would soon break out between Mexico and the United States! It is a little the coolest act committed for some time, and our Government will of course feel bound to make the fullest apologies and reparations. If a Mexican or English force had committed such an outrage upon our soil and flag, the whole land would have resounded with popular indignation; and meetings would have been held in every grogery in favor of an instant Declaration of War, unless the invader was promptly delivered up to be hung at the first lamp post. Now we take the matter very coolly. We only need to make ambassadors of a few more Commodores who capture foreign towns, and pay back General Jackson's fine inflicted for defying the Habeas Corpus Act and imprisoning a citizen and a judge successively, three months after peace had been concluded, and two after the enemy had left the vicinity of New Orleans, and we can save the expence of Congresses and Courts of Justice. Our Military and Naval officers can make all the laws and all the war we want, with great simplicity and promptitude.

Fires, of late have been very prevalent in various parts of the States, and in addition to the destruction of property, amounting in the aggregate to some hundred thousand dollars, lives have been lost in several instances.

Crime appears to be on the increase throughout the union, and several murders have been perpetrated and many attempts to murder had been made which were fortunately unsuccessful.

N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

Brutal Outrage at New York.—About six o'clock last evening, while four children, from ten to twelve years old, were taking wood away from a pile on the dock between Olive and Catharine street, the owner of the wood, whose sloop lay alongside the wharf, fired a gun, loaded with small shot, from the sloop at the children, each of the four. One of them known by the name of John Farmer, was wounded severely in the mouth, another named Robert Vale, was wounded about the eyes but not severely, another named John Magareth, was wounded in the body; the fourth, a little girl whose christian name (Lucy) was all we could ascertain last night, was shot in the legs. The occurrence created great excitement, and all collected a large crowd. Officers were immediately

sent for to arrest the man who fired the shot.

[A person was arrested, who on examination proved not to be the one who was guilty of the outrage, but it is supposed the perpetrator would soon be in custody, one only of the boys was supposed to be dangerously wounded.]

Mob Law.—The Springfield (Massachusetts) Republican contains a report of the trial of Belcher for murder in stabbing Howe, and a body of men, who attacked a house with intent to destroy it. Mr. Choate, Council for Belcher addressed the jury in a most elegant and forcible argument which occupied *five hours and a half!* The following are the principals for which he contended.

He remarked that the case before the jury in the commonwealth, had called upon to decide whether or not a person has a right to defend his person and dwelling house from the violence of the mob by taking life. He rejoiced that the time had come for trying that question and he trusted that the jury would meet the question manfully, and by their verdict put down the mob. He considered it a question of public liberty—our free institutions were at stake if the mob should rule. It would be better for the people to take refuge under a despotism like that of Prussia, rather than be left to the tender mercies of the mob. Than they would be safe from the violence of the mob, and attacks of the ruffian, and would only be plundered by the Emperor.

A dwelling house, said Mr. Choate is a man's castle, a sanctuary for himself and his family—the law covered it as with wings and a man had a right to defend it from all violent assault by taking the lives of his assailants. The law would not allow the health and lives of the inmates of a dwelling house to be put in jeopardy by an assault upon it. This right of defence was even stronger than the right of defending the person. Whether the character of the house and its inmates be good or bad, makes no difference—the law is the same for both. If he have reason to believe that a felony or some great atrocity is intended whether or not the belief be well founded, he has a right to shoot the assailant and the act would be justifiable homicide. The owner of a house or the soil on which it stands cannot give authority to any person to tear it down if it be occupied by another—the tenant who occupies is the owner for the time being and has all the rights of defence.

In case of danger a man has a right to call in his friend to aid him in defending his house and while there for that purpose, they are entitled to the same protection as himself, and may do whatever he has a right to do.

Belcher was acquitted, and the editor of the Republican remarks on this result, that the trial of Belcher, and the verdict of the Jury, will probably teach one salutary lesson—that is, that whoever enlists in a mob, or engages in a riotous attack on a dwelling house, takes his life in his hand, and if he is killed in the act, the law will hold it to be justifiable homicide!

COLONIAL.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Recorder Feb. 4.

St. Mary's Total Abstinence Society.—The second Annual Meeting of the St. Mary's Total Abstinence Society was held on Tuesday evening, 24th ult., in the large Room of the Parochial School House. At seven

o'clock the Very Rev. President entered the room and was received in the most enthusiastic manner by the assembled body, who continued clapping and cheering, until he had taken a seat on a platform erected for that purpose, immediately under the transparency of the glorious Apostle of Temperance, Father Mathew. On the right of the President sat the Rev. Mr. Quinan and the Treasurer of the Society, and on the left the Secretary. Tables were extended across the centre of the room in a direct line from the President, where an elevated seat was fixed for the Vice President, L. O'C Doyle, Esq., who was supported on his right and left by two of the Assistant Vice Presidents; the seats around the table were occupied by the officers and members of the General Committee. The officers, ten in number, wore the splendid green sashes of the Society, and the members in general wore their medals. Previously to the business commencing the room became so densely crowded that it was necessary to appeal to the members and request that they would sit as close as possible. After every seat was filled, the persons seated in the south end of the room, convenient to the entrance, rose from their seats and crowded themselves closely together to enable as many as possible of those who were outside to get in; but still some hundreds were obliged to return home.

CANADA.

The Kingston Herald, in its latest number, says—

'His Excellency's health has suffered so severely in his recent illness, that his retirement from public life may become imperative. Much as we desire that Sir Charles should remain to perfect the work he has begun by giving the principles he has established their full illustration in practice, we yet see but little reason to expect that this desideratum can be obtained. We understand that his Excellency wishes to meet Parliament again, and will do so if his health permit, but as this is doubted, we lay no stress upon it.'

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
February 1.

Mr Barberie, by leave, presented a Petition from John Ambrose Street, Esquire, and 103 Freeholders and others, of the County of Northumberland, complaining of an undue Election for that County; and praying that certain votes not allowed to be polled at the said Election may be added to the Poll Book, or a Scrutiny of the Votes may be granted, or such other redress in the premises as the House may be pleased to grant; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr Taylor, by leave, presented a Petition from the Reverend William T. Wisbart, the Reverend Samuel Robinson, the Reverend William Temple and 51 others, praying that an act may pass authorizing the substitution of Declarations in the place of oaths from such Members of Christian Churches as have conscientious objections to swearing; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr Wilmot, from the Committee appointed yesterday, to take under consideration the subject of the Contingencies of the House, submitted a Report, embracing some of the matters referred to them, and he having read the same, handed it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

'The Committee to whom were referred the subject of the Contingencies, have attended to that duty and beg leave to Report:

'That their attention has been di-