

The London Punch.

OUR NATIONAL DEFENCES.

It is extremely gratifying to have had the assurance of Ministers, that in the event of war requiring the whole of our troops, England has still got the Chelsea pensioners to fall back upon.

We understand that a review of the Chelsea pensioners will shortly take place, as a preliminary to bringing the veterans into active service.

Whether the Chelsea corps is to form a portion of HER MAJESTY'S Foot we have not heard, but the regiment of "No Foot" would perhaps be a more appropriate title to most of them.

"Quick march" will, we understand, not be insisted upon as part of the exercise to be performed by the veterans, who will be divided into rank and file, some of whom will rank as old files, according to seniority.

PUBLIC SAFETY.

Accidents are becoming so plentiful on the railways that we seriously propose that an Act of Parliament should be passed next session, making it penal for any railway to start without one or more directors in each train.

MORTALITY OF LONDON TURNPIKES.

The Queen's Elm Turnpike, on the Fulham Road, is now no more. It expired on Tuesday, the 5th instant, at twelve o'clock at night.

THE TROOPS AND THE WEATHER.

Though there can be no doubt of the readiness of our gallant soldiers at all times to stand fire, it is obvious that they can't stand water.

As the postponement of a review is a serious disappointment to the public, we should recommend umbrellas to be added to the guns, in the same way as parasols are appended to ladies' driving whips.

We seriously throw out this hint for the consideration of the War Office. If it is thought advisable to apply the same plan to the Cavalry, there could be a corps called the "Heavy Gingham."

If our plan of adding umbrellas to the accoutrements of the military were to be carried out, it would be necessary to make some alterations in the martial songs of our native land; but to show how easily this might be done, we subjoin a spirit stirring specimen.

March to the battle field,  
We fear not horrida Bella;  
Dastard is the slave who'd yield  
Wave high the stout umbrella.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

We are happy to say that the look of the crops does not justify the wretched portraits that have been given of the harvest.

a gross exaggeration, and the little anecdotes of distressed wheat are mixed up with a great deal of what may be termed chaff on the part of the reporters.

WHAT A BARRISTER MAY DO; AND WHAT HE MAY NOT DO.

There seems to be at present a very considerable difference of opinion among the Gent. of the Bar as to what may or may not be done by a Barrister.

1st. A Barrister may be employed in inducing Members of Parliament to vote in favour of railway bills; but he may not report for a newspaper.

2nd. A Barrister may practise the "artful dodge" for the purpose of defeating the ends of justice; but he must not enter an assize town in an omnibus.

3rd. A Barrister may tout for a small judgeship; but he will be very properly disbarred if he advertises his readiness to plead the cause of clients.

4th. A Barrister may libel a rival candidate for an office in a "private and confidential" circular; but he must not degrade himself by asking an attorney to dine with him on the circuit.

5th. A Barrister may take a fee when he knows he cannot attend to the cause; but he may not return the money, for his doing so would be very unprofessional.

6th, and lastly. A Barrister may be a very honourable man; but many things which professional etiquette allows him to do, would be thought disgraceful and dishonest among ordinary people.

INTERESTING RELIC AT ROSENAN.

At Rosenau, where His Royal Highness Prince Albert saw light, they show affectionately, not only the cradle in which the Royal infant was laid, but the silver spoon which he had in his mouth when he was born.

Prince Leopold (now King of the Belgians,) was born with a similar ornament. It is kept at Gotha, under the charge of a lady who brought up his then Sorene Highness by hand, Madam Peppenheim.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:  
CHATHAM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1845.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE MAILS.

The mail for Fredericton, direct, closes on Monday morning at 7, 30 o'clock; and arrives on the morning of Friday, at 2 o'clock, A. M.

The Southern mails are closed at 5, 30 o'clock, on the mornings of Tuesdays and Saturdays, and arrive at 7 o'clock on the mornings of Mondays and Thursdays.

The mails for the Northward are despatched soon after the arrival of the mails from the southward on Mondays and Thursdays; and arrive here on the mornings of Friday, at 6 o'clock.

DISEASE IN THE POTATOE.

We perceive by our English papers, that the singular disease called by some persons the "rot," has seriously affected the potatoe on the Continent, as well as in several parts of Britain.

"Latterly we have received some very unsatisfactory accounts respecting Potatoes, a similar disease to that so much complained of in Holland, having, it is stated, attacked the crops in different parts of the Kingdom.

And the Hampshire Independent thus describes the disease as it appears on the Isle of Wight:—

"The potatoe crop in this island is, we fear,

irreparably injured to a very serious extent. It is calculated that upwards of two thirds of the potatoes, both grown and growing, are attacked with the pestilence, which first appears upon the tuber in the shape of a gravelly veiny rust, which quickly decomposes, the haulm turns black, and the leaves fall off, as if they had been exposed to a hard frost.

SHOCKING MURDER.

The Quebec Gazette of the 19th ult. in a letter dated Hawkesbury, on the Ottawa River, two days previously, gives the following account of the murder of a person residing there named O'Rourke.

"I think that O'Rourke was missing when you were here. He has been found. He had been struck with an axe under the shoulder blade, mortally, and his own horse was used in dragging him to the River Rouge, a distance of about two miles, through the woods.

INDIA RUBBER.

An exchange paper furnishes the following paragraph. Every few weeks the papers detail some use to which this comparatively new and useful article is applied.

CONTEMPLATED CANAL.

The Woodstock Telegraph states that it is the intention of the Home Government to cut a Canal at the Grand Falls to connect the waters of the Upper and Lower St. John, provided the estimates do not exceed a reasonable amount.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The following paragraphs copied from the Island papers, contain some hints which may be useful to our Agricultural readers, who, by a glance at our Subscription List, we perceive, are on the increase:

THE CROPS.—A few weeks since, it was with pleasure we announced the very promising and pleasing prospects which so generally brightened the gladdened hopes of the Farmer. A good deal of early sown grain being safely housed in fine condition, and the late crops then bid fair for a plentiful harvest.

While the quality of the Ploughing, the training of the Horses, and more than all, the improved skill of the Ploughmen

different from common sourness, and if dug up for a day or two, they will get quite rotten. We would recommend the placing of assorted potatoes in long and narrow pits on the ground in the fields, covering them with a thick layer of straw before putting the soil over them.

PULL UP YOUR POTATOE STALKS.

The blight with which the Potatoes are affected, appears to be somewhat similar to the rust of grain; the stalk is first effected at the surface of the ground, the stalk dies and the potatoes commence to rot.

The plan which appears to offer the best chance of saving those not yet rotten, is to pull up the stalks, setting the foot on the side of them to prevent the potatoes being taken out with the stalk, and leave the potatoes in the ground to ripen, until they can be taken up before ripe.

PLOUGHING MATCHES.

Deeply impressed as we are with the importance of Agriculture, as on the cultivation of the soil we must sooner or later mainly depend, it gives us much satisfaction at all times, to record any local matter connected therewith, or any public exhibition tending to bring the labors of the husbandman into notice, or to promote among that highly useful and praiseworthy class of men, a wholesome spirit of rivalry in those pursuits in which they are constantly engaged.

On the forenoon of Wednesday last the first Ploughing Match for the season, came off in a field in Chatham, occupied by Mr Thomas Blake; and the second Match on Thursday, in Newcastle, in a field owned by Mr Charles Marshall, near Douglastown.

There was not on the ground at either place, such a number of competitors, or spectators, as we should wish to see assembled on occasions of this kind; but if the Ploughmen were few in number, the work performed by them was well done, evincing the capabilities of our Agriculturists when they are brought under the notice of the public.

The Agricultural Society will not be discouraged by the apparently little interest manifested by our farmers on these occasions, but that they will persevere in the laudable work they have resumed, for we feel persuaded if they follow up their Annual Cattle Shows and Ploughing Matches, that every year the interest taken in them will increase, and that their beneficial results will speedily be made manifest in the improved breed of our animals—in the produce of our dairies—the increase of our domestic manufactures—and the cultivation of our soil; all of which are things highly to be desired, and will ultimately place us in a comparative state of independence, which, had they been pursued with half the determination and industry as other pursuits have been, more tempting, perhaps, but less sure and certain, we should have attained many years ago.

The Secretary of the Society has furnished us with the following particulars:

The Annual Ploughing Matches of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, took place at Chatham on Wednesday, and at Newcastle on Thursday last.

The ground selected at Chatham, by a Committee of the Society, was a lay field in rear of the Town, rented by Mr Thomas Blake; and in Newcastle, a Park situate a short distance below Douglastown, the property of Mr Charles Marshall.

While the quality of the Ploughing, the training of the Horses, and more than all, the improved skill of the Ploughmen