

uniform in their statements of the destitution, and apprehensive for the continuance of the peace.

Horrible Massacres of British Seamen, in the South Seas!—The Australian papers bring details of the loss of English vessels and massacre of their crews by the savages inhabiting the New Hebridean group. The particulars were brought by the John Williams, missionary brig, which had been visiting the outstations of the London Missionary Society at New Hebrides and California, and had made special inquiries into several massacres, said to have taken place at Mare and the Isle of Pines, and gaining the following mournful confirmation of the reports. The first slaughter was that of a boat's crew supposed to belong to the Martha, of Sydney, and suspected to have happened about the end of 1841. The boat was about to return to the ship when a chief was accidentally struck on the head by one of the oars. Thinking this to have been done intentionally, the natives rushed forward, killed the whole party, and broke the boat to pieces. Being cannibals, the savages cooked the bodies of the sufferers.

Next came the missionaries learnt of the massacre of a captain and crew of the brig Star, at the Isle of Pines. In this affair the captain seems to have passed some insult on Matuka, the king of the island. Matuka sent off thirty men in a large canoe with a quantity of sandal wood for sale. The wood was bought, and the men allowed on deck to grind their adzes, used in dressing the sandal wood. One of the crew was turning the handle of the grindstone, a native grinding his adze, and the captain (Ebrill) standing close by. Watching his opportunity, the savage swung his adze, and hit the captain on the face between his eyes. In a few minutes seventeen of the crew were killed—ten white men, including the captain, and seven natives of various islands in the Pacific. Four of the crew got below, but came up next day, on promise of their lives, if they would take the vessel further in shore. They did so and were immediately killed. Some of the bodies were cooked, but not all. The vessel was plundered of her sails and rigging, and then set fire to. This was on the 1st November, 1842.

Then came an attack on the Brigand, another sandal-wood vessel, at Mare. There were two native teachers belonging to the London Missionary Society, on the island, who saved some of the crew by their interference and warning, particularly a young gentleman, named R. Manners Sutton, and another who had got ashore to spend the Sunday with the teachers. Nine of the crew, however, were murdered on the shore, an attack being made on the vessel at the same time, when one white man was killed and two natives.

The next slaughter was that of the entire crew of the Sisters, a vessel from Sidney in search of sandal-wood. This rose out of a disputed barter transaction, the captain giving the chief a rope's-end. The savages formed a plot, each to lay hold and dispose of one of the crew. On the signal being given, all on board, numbering eleven, were overpowered and murdered. Four were cooked, the others were thrown into the sea. The vessel was set fire to. While turning over their plunder on shore, some gunpowder exploded, and many of the natives were wounded and four killed. They thought it was the effect of the white men's magic, and vowed further revenge.

The last attack of the Mare people upon white men was soon after the taking of the Sisters. A large open boat with seven men in her landed at a place on the south-west side of the island, thought to be a party of convicts escaped from Norfolk Island. Two of the seven had gone in search of food, when the natives discovered the other five. Actuated by revenge for the disaster they had suffered from the gunpowder, they immediately rushed on the whites and killed them. The other two were saved by the missionary teachers, hatchets, other tools, and muskets—invaluable wealth in such a place. They were pursued and recaptured, and permitted to remain on the island unpunished, until they were taken off by the Brigand.

It is said that there are white deserters on the island, who urge the natives to these cruelties. Others say that the fault is principally Maturka's, who is described as a blood-thirsty tyrant. Mars is sometimes called Britannia Island, and is in 168 degrees east longitude, and 31 degrees, 30 min. south latitude.—*London Morning Chronicle.*

The Asiatic Cholera.—This mysterious

scourge is again at its work in Persia, whither it has travelled by the way of Kaborassan.—At Mehid, a third of the population were carried off. The only town of importance that has escaped is Tabrer, now one of the principal cities of Persia.

Mexican News.

New York Sun, May 19.

By Extraordinary Express from the Seat of War.—Latest from the Army.—Magnificent Victory.—Glorious News.—Point Isabel Victorious.—Matamoras Reduced to ashes.—The American Army Triumphant.—700 Mexicans Killed.—One American only Killed.—A general blockade of all the Mexican ports ordered.—The news of which the above is the title was received at New Orleans by the steamer New York, and sent by express to Mobile where it then took the mail.

The prowess of the American Army has been signally vindicated with an inferiority of forces so disproportioned as to have caused the direst anxiety for General Taylor and his gallant band.

They have gained a great, a glorious, a noble a triumphant victory!!

The following report is from Capt. Walker of the Texas Rangers, who had arrived on the 5th inst. from the entrenchment opposite Matamoras.

An engagement had taken place between the United States and Mexican forces. Gen. Taylor, on the evening of the 3rd inst. left the entrenchment, with a detachment of United States troops, for the purpose of opening a communication between Point Isabel and the entrenchment.

On the morning of the 5th inst., the Mexicans, at day-break, opened a heavy cannonade on the entrenchments, which was gallantly returned by the U. S. troops, who, in 30 minutes, silenced the enemy's Batteries, reducing the city of Matamoras to ashes on the morning of the 6th.

The slaughter among the Mexicans was tremendous.

Upwards of 700 lay dead on the field of battle, and the number of houses left in Matamoras, was not sufficient to accommodate the wounded.

Accounts say that the number of Mexicans in and about Matamoras was 5000, and reinforcements were daily expected from the Galveston News of the 8th inst.

Gen. Taylor had left Point Isabel. There was not the slightest doubt he would cut his way to the entrenchment, notwithstanding the vastly superior numbers of the enemy who were known to be posted in large forces among the almost impassible thickets of chappoil in the road, with a determination to cut him off.

The number of Mexicans is estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000. It seems reasonable to suppose that a decisive and glorious battle was fought yesterday, and we wait with painful anxiety to hear the result.

The great Battle.—Additional particulars.—An escort of U. S. Troops, consisting of Captain Walker and twenty three men, Texian rangers, having several wagon loads of supplies for General Taylor's Camp, were attacked on the 27th April by the main body of the Mexican army, three thousand strong, half way between Point Isabel and the camp, on the long road, about fifteen or twenty miles from each. Captain Walker immediately placed himself on the defensive. The ever whelming forces of the enemy now bore down upon him like infuriated madmen, uttering the most savage yells. Although his troops were undisciplined—mere raw militia—the devoted little band of twenty four nobly contested the ground with three thousand for fifteen minutes, in which thirty-five of the enemy were seen to fall dead on the field. At last the American lines were broken and the surviving dozen or sixteen fled in the direction of Point Isabel, pursued to within three or four miles of the post by the whole force of the enemy. Captain Walker and seven men arrived safe. Nothing daunted by this desperate encounter with the enemy, of whose presence on the road in such force, nothing was known when he left the Point, he called for five men to cut his way through to General Taylor, to acquaint him with the critical position of Point Isabel. Being their last hope and resolving to die in the attempt, ten volunteered to go with him. They started from Point Isabel on the 29th April at day light and reached the Camp opposite Matamoras, having cut their way through the Mexicans, with the loss of only four men. Capt. Walker's horse was shot from under him.

Gen. Taylor at once prepared to take

the field, to keep up his communication with the valuable stores of Point Isabel; and a moving out of the camp on the evening of the 3d inst., a large detachment, leaving the fort strongly defended by the artillery, he resolved to cut his way through to the Point, where he arrived without opposition. Taking advantage of the American position, now weakened as he supposed by the withdrawal of our forces, the enemy, at daylight on the morning of the 5th May, opened a well directed fire on our camp, from his batteries opposite Matamoras. His artillery, although of light calibre, was served with a degree of skill which betokened the presence of some of the ablest English and French officers. The gallant Major Ringold, commanding our artillerists, lost no time in returning the fire of the enemy.

The Yankee pieces at once vomited forth a stream of six, twelve, eighteen and twenty four pounders, on the Mexican batteries, which silenced them in thirty minutes.

St. John Newbrunswick, May 26.

Another Action between the Americans and the Mexicans.—Reported loss of 700 Mexicans.—It is reported in the American papers, on the authority of Captain Walker, that on the 4th inst., the Mexican batteries at Matamoras opened a heavy cannonade on the entrenchment of Gen. Taylor, which was returned by the American guns, and that in 30 minutes the enemy's batteries were silenced, and the City of Matamoras reduced to ashes! The Mexicans are said to have left upwards of 700 men dead on the field of battle, the Americans losing only one man.

This news requires confirmation. There is little doubt that an action may have taken place, but that so many men were killed on the part of the Mexicans, while the Americans only lost one man, is difficult to be believed. Wonder if Gen. Taylor, or any of his men, crossed the river for the purpose of counting the number of Mexicans killed?

The American army was in a very critical position being still surrounded by the Mexicans, who are reported by some at from 15,000 to 20,000 strong.

The New York Express, in speaking of this battle, remarks:—

But Gen. Taylor is not safe yet, as we read the accounts so far. The only battle fought has been that of Matamoras, when our troop were entrenched and in complete safety. Gen. Taylor has now to cut his way back to his entrenchments, and to meet the thousands of Mexicans, whom the alarm of the burning of Matamoras may have rallied.—Perhaps that alarm will frighten them from meeting him amid the hammocks, or chapporals, we hear so much of. Perhaps it will only arouse them to some overwhelming attack, of the many upon the few. That he is surrounded on all sides, is clear, and that, at every step, there is to be some sort of a flight, is also clear. This war, it appears from the news we have from Vera Cruz, has been long time contemplated, and forces silently and stealthily have been gathering to surround our little handful, who have no place for retreat; and who must stand, their ground or perish. Gloriously they do stand it, but how they have been betrayed by the Government of the country! What a risk of life and of honor to our arms was run by pushing only some 2200 effective men, 170 miles from Corpus Christi, and without the chance of retreat, into the very heart of an enemy's country? If the Mexicans had been Englishmen or Frenchmen, they would have swept us off the first day by a *coup de main*.

Later—Matamoras Safe!—By the Western Mail last evening, we received papers from New York of Thursday evening. New Orleans dates to the 13th inst. had been received, but there is nothing later from the army.

Official reports have been received, from which it appears that Matamoras has not been battered down, and that there is nothing certain as to how many or how few Mexicans were killed.

MEXICO.

A Beautiful Country.—The Mexican State Teumalipas, in which we are encamped, is a beautiful region. Far as the eye can reach, one level surface presents itself to view, dotted with cotton and sugar cane fields interspersed with lovely gardens of the Spanish fashion, the whole cut up and divided, in all sorts of ways, by groves of the finest trees, among which the Vita figures largely; and the entire picture is cut up in twain by the muddiest, crookedest, swiftest River in North America. Neither mountain, hill nor elevation of any sort varies the everlasting level of

the country around. The scene is rich and peaceful, with nought to mar its appropriate character, but the armies of two nations, worshipping the same eternal God, strengthening their hands to slay each other like beasts of prey.

Our nights here are for the most part remarkably for their serenity. The stars stand forth in numerous crowds, with rare brilliancy; not a leaf is moved, not a cloud is seen, while ever anon, a meteor of surpassing brightness shoots across the azure vault. But I am just summoned to sterner duties.—*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

SOUTH AMERICA.

Important from Buenos Ayres and Montevideo—A Great Battle.—The brig Oriole, arrived at New York, having sailed from Rio, on the 9th ult., brings intelligence from the seat of war on the Parana.

It appears that on about the 1st of March according to verbal information by persons from that region, a severe engagement took place between the troops of Buenos Ayres and those of the Montevideo. The army of the latter is stated to have amounted to about six thousand men. The Buenos Ayreans it is said, were completely victorious, and put the enemy to route. Buenos Ayres itself still continues under a strict blockade, the English men-of-war keeping watch over the port with the utmost severity. Every American vessel is obliged to undergo a strict search by the French and English frigates.

Colonial News.

Halifax and Quebec Railway.—It is stated in yesterday's Gazette, that a despatch was received by the last packet from the Colonial Office relative to the projected railway between Halifax and Quebec, which, in reference to the proceedings adopted by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, states that the officers of the Engineer department stationed in the Provinces, have been directed to conduct the survey along the whole line, and expresses a desire that this survey should be concluded before the close of the present season. It had been previously announced by Mr. Young, that the Home Government, anxious to forward this line, were delaying further proceedings in the formation of the projected military road, till it was seen what action the Provinces intend to take in the Halifax and Quebec Railway.

The responsibility which the Legislature of Canada is called to assume is this:—The Imperial Government had determined upon constructing a military road from Halifax to Quebec, which was estimated to cost about £1,000,000. Were the projected Railway to go into operation no such road would be required and it is therefore reckoned that the above sum would be given to the Railway Company, if the Government were secured in possession of the same advantages in transporting troops, mails, &c, as they would have had by the military road. The total amount required for the Railway is estimated at £2,750,000; and supposing that the Imperial Parliament advanced £1,000,000, £1,750,000 must be raised by subscription, the interest of which, at 4 per cent., would amount to £60,000 a year. Of this, or of such part of it as a deficiency in the tolls may render necessary, the two lower Provinces are willing to guarantee one-half, and Mr. Young is striving to induce our Legislature to become bound for the other.

The risk is apparently so trifling that we can scarcely entertain a doubt of the necessary assurance being given, though whether the work is ever to be of much value in a commercial point of view, is quite another consideration, and one on which we do not think it necessary at present to express an opinion.—Mr. Young is sanguine enough to regard it as a panacea for all evils, political and social, that we at present suffer from, and think that if it be only made, we shall, from that time forth, enjoy all the blessings of the Millennium:—There will be no "jealousy of rival leaders" then—no local prejudices—nothing but the "interests of a mighty nation expanding into dignity and power." A very flattering picture certainly, and dirt cheap at £30,000, if it can be "realized."—*Montreal Transcript, 12th inst.*

NOTICE.—A meeting of such persons as are favourable to the establishment of a Mechanics' Institute in Miramichi, is requested at Layton's Royal Hotel, Chatham, on the evening of WEDNESDAY next, at Seven o'clock, when a copy of the Rules drawn up by the Committee appointed at the previous meeting, will be submitted for approval.

J. A. PIERCE, Secretary.
Chatham, May 30.