

## Colonial News.

## Canada.

From the Quebec Gazette.

*Cheering Account of the Weather and Aspect of the Crops in Canada.*—Since the 3rd instant, we have had an extraordinary instance of the rapid changes and astonishing effects of a Canada climate. On the 5th May the thermometer had been down in the night time to ten degrees below freezing. It has since been in the day time, sometime as high as 65° and 70° in the shade. Fields which in the 3rd were entirely covered with the remains of the winter's snow are now on the 12th, a beautiful green, and the snow drifts, which in some places are from eight to ten feet deep, have nearly altogether disappeared. The flowers of the wild willow, poplars and alders were now in full bloom, and the buds of some of the forest trees begin to show a commencement of green. The early garden and wild flowers are open, and the frogs have joined their evening chorus to the notes of the singing birds.

The St. Lawrence, which up to the 7th was literally covered with ice, is now navigated by numerous steamboats and sailing vessels, and the busy season is fully commenced.

Some sowing was done last week, and the ploughed land is in excellent condition.—Spring ploughing will however soon require rain; but altogether the season, although late is favourable.

Quebec Morning Chronicle, May 19.

*The Weather.*—After a long prevalence of easterly wind, it began to rain yesterday afternoon and continued during the greatest part of the evening, very seasonably laying the dust in our streets, which had become rather troublesome. It is a matter of astonishment with some that notwithstanding the very favourable winds we have had, so few of our spring fleet have arrived. But the cause of their detention is satisfactorily explained by the statements of the masters of those vessels which have reached here, most of whom report have been obstructed by immense fields of ice; the damage sustained by several of them sufficiently establishing the fact.

May 20.

The political quidnuncs of our good city were struck with surprise yesterday, on learning that the Honourable Mr. Caron had received formal notification of his dismissal from the office of Speaker of the Legislative Council. We should feel heartily sorry to see our new Governor General opening his first parliamentary campaign under embarrassing circumstances; but it must be confessed that at the present matters do not afford a very flattering aspect. Time will tell.

*High price of Provisions.*—Flour is selling in this market at eleven dollars per barrel. There is said to be a scarcity and perhaps the high rate is intended to diminish the appetite of the lieges. We find the article quoted in the American markets at \$3 1-2.—Our Bakers with that great liberality by which they are distinguished, have raised the price of bread.

## Novascotia.

Halifax Nova Scotian, May 27.

*What shall be done with them?*—That distress, among a certain class in this city, is increasing, is apparent from the fact of the large number now seeking alms from door to door. This is increased in no small degree by the emigrants who have lately arrived. Some of these are respectable, whilst very many of them are in the lowest depths of destitution—having neither food or clothing. What shall be done with them?

There is another evil to be complained of—and one which demands an immediate remedy. Many of the passengers, lately arrived, after landing, have been seized with fever and other diseases, arising in most cases from the want of the necessaries of life. The poor creatures, so afflicted, not possessing the needful to obtain proper comforts and residences, are almost upon the streets—unattended and almost uncared for—thus endangering the health of every inhabitant. Why have we not an hospital in which they could be placed? It is because the community is small and poor? Surely not. A fine extending city with a population of something like 25,000 inhabitants, should not be without such an institution. Health, convenience and humanity demand its erection.

*Shooting at Game.*—A Duel came off on Monday morning between one of our young city 'bloods' and an officer of the

Garrison, arising from a dispute which occurred at the dinner table of the Halifax Hotel. Our informant tells us that there was only one shot fired and 'neither blood or brains spilt!' Where are the game laws?

*The Potato.*—We are highly gratified in being able to announce, that there are strong hopes entertained by the farmers of this province that the next harvest of the potato crop will be favourable. The fact that the seed has been kept more sound, and free from any kind of rot, during the past winter, than usual, could not but enliven the farmer. This appears a remarkable and providential circumstance, and we fervently trust that we may not be disappointed.

From the Halifax Morning Post.

*Railroad from Montreal to Portland.*—We observe in late Canadian papers, expressions of regret that the Directors of this railway have been obliged to proceed to law against some of the Shareholders who have not paid their dues. The works are commenced between the mountain of Boucherville and the Richelieu. All the materials for the bridge are purchased, and also the iron, and it is there that the people refuse to pay. Great credit is given to the people of the little town of Portland for having completed about 30 miles, and for their promptness in which they pay their dues.

## New Brunswick.

Fredericton Head Quarters, May 26.

*Enterprise.*—On Friday the 16th of Jan. last, the Steam Saw Mill, owned by Mr. Nelson, at the mouth of the Nashwaaksis river, opposite this city, was burned to the ground, and its owner had no insurance. About three weeks ago, a new Mill was again in full operation on the same site, and is said to be one of the best in the Province. It Mr. Nelson be mad, it is a pity he would not bite one half of the community.

The new Steam Mill, erected by Mr. Pickard in the Cove below town, commenced working yesterday, and we understand is likely to meet the expectations of the spirited owner.

## United States News.

*No Prospects of Peace.*—There is no reason to believe that the victory of Cerro Gordo will bring us any nearer to peace than we were before. The war is not unpopular with the mass of the Mexicans. They have suffered none of its horrors. Besides the controlling spirits of the country keep up the war spirit, knowing that if the country is occupied by the United States, they will lose their offices and their influence. It is believed by Gen. Scott and the officers with him, that it will be necessary to occupy the whole country. This he thinks can be easily done. With 20,000 men he will march to the capital, take possession of the Government, establish a Provincial Government, and defray its expenses from the customs and mines. Without this force, Gen. Scott will not be able to move with safety to his communications beyond Jalapa. He will have to occupy the Orizaba road, to prevent the enemy operating against his rear from that position. Having arrived in the 'Terra Templada,' he will no doubt wait for reinforcements before he pushes farther at least than Perote, the next point of attack.—*American Paper.*

*Six Hundred Cannon.—Ten Thousand Prisoners.*—The army under General Scott has taken, since it landed near Vera Cruz, besides the reduction of that important city, and the 'Mexican Gibraltar,' about five hundred pieces of artillery, and prisoners nearly equal to its whole numerical force. Altogether, more than six hundred pieces of cannon have been captured from the Mexicans.

*The Crops.*—Our crops of grain have improved very much since we noticed them a few weeks since. We have had one or two showers that has had a most refreshing and invigorating effect. It is thought by many of our farmers, that it is not too late yet, if we should be blest with a few seasonable rains, to obtain a fair crop. Some fields look as well as can be desired, and will produce heavily while others are not so flourishing.—*Frederic Examiner.*

The Editor of the Memphis Journal has recently been travelling through several of the Western Tennessee counties, and from information obtained from well informed planters, supposes that the present crop of that region will turn out larger than many supposed, and fully as large as was the crop last year.

*Bank Defalcation.* It has been discovered in Boston that Philip Marrett, who has been president of the bank of New England for nearly twenty years, has been guilty during the whole time of his connection with its management, of appropriating the funds of the institution to his own benefit, and by an artful and systematically arranged system managed to evade detection until very recently. Upon the discovery of his frauds by the directors, they demanded of him the sum of six thousand dollars, as due the bank, which he paid, and then left the city, the affair for the moment being hushed up. During the past week however, the fraud leaked out, to the small astonishment of the people of Boston, who heretofore regarded Mr. Marrett as one of their most respectable citizens.

The Transcript thus alludes to the fraud, and concludes with some wholesome advice to the managers of Banking Institutions, which are worthy of remembrance:—

This matter which was known to but few persons at the time it occurred, has like everything of the kind, spread abroad, until it has become the general topic of remark among all classes of the community, and we see not why it should be kept from the public prints which record regularly every case of petty larceny in the lowest life. It was said long ago, not untruly, by one who lived much before our days, that 'Great rogues enjoy the world in state

While small ones must submit to Fate.'

We do not know that we have given the quotation correctly, but this we do know—that a man who becomes a defaulter for the sake of 'living in state' in a large house with all the appendage of wealth, deserves screening from the world far less than the mere shop-lifter who steals bread from the baker's counter, or meat perhaps from the butchers' stall to keep perhaps a poor family from actual starvation. We should be sure to find the latter paragraphed for the papers. It is flagrant cases, however, that create the greatest impression, and are the most decided warning to the public.

We have had enough of bank frauds for the last few years, by which the property of widows and orphans has been plundered, without any longer passing them over to oblivion, after being the 'nine days wonder.' It is quite time that the subject was attended to, and some system adopted that shall prevent a recurrence of these things. If no other means can be devised, let the same course be pursued in our monied institutions, as regards the president, as is adopted by the state with its treasurer. *Change them every five years.* At any rate, let something be done to check the disgrace upon our city, and let those who are chosen to manage our banking institutions see to it that they attend to the duty which devolves upon them with that fidelity which becomes those who are to give account of their stewardship, watching with that eagle-eyed scrutiny into all the transactions of the different officers, which shall enable them to say to the world we know that our banking institutions are worthy of the confidence of the community.

*The Pacific Railroad.*—Resolutions in favour of Mr. Whitney's railroad to the Pacific have been passed in both Houses of the New York Legislatures by large majorities. In the Senate there was but one vote in the negative, and in the Assembly 15.

*Brutal Prize Fight in Baltimore.*—In a prize fight which took place at Baltimore on the 11th inst. Yankee Sullivan so called, came off victorious, after he had horribly mangled his opponent, Bob Caunt. They had seven rounds. The fight lasted twelve minutes. Some wrangling took place among the parties, but the referee decided in favour of Sullivan.

## IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

*Proposed surrender of Puebla and the City of Mexico.*

The following important news have been received at New York, thirty six hours in advance of the mail, via New Orleans. Dates from the latter place are to the 14th inst.

According to the letters received in New Orleans by the steamship James L. Day, there were reports afloat that the Mexicans were melting their bells to make cannons for the defence of Puebla and the Capital. It is stated, however, on equally good authority, that both cities will gladly surrender to the Americans.

The report of the proffered surrender of the capital was given by Major Le-

onard to General Pillow, a passenger in the James L. Day. It appeared that a despatch from General Scott had been received, stating that a deputation from the Capital reached the American lines, offering to surrender the city without opposition, and asking protection for life and property. This was, of course assented to by General Scott. In consequence the citizens had discontinued erecting fortifications for its defence. The city of Puebla has also proposed to surrender.

These offers of surrender came from the inhabitants, who were more fearful of their own soldiers than of the American troops. They dreaded the guerrilla system of warfare.

This system had commenced; legally organized bands of badditti, made up from the disorganised Mexican army, had begun their depredations, not only on the American rear and outskirts, but upon the peaceably disposed inhabitants of the country.

General Canalisso was on the Vera Cruz side of Puebla with a cavalry force, intending to join Santa Anna to attack the waggon train, &c.

It was stated by a Spanish merchant who had arrived at Vera Cruz, that he had seen Santa Anna within forty miles of that city, with two thousand men threatening to attack the place.

There was a rumour of the surprise and recapture of Tampico.

Advices from Monterey to the 18th ult. have been received. General Taylor's army was melting away by the expiration of the term of service of the volunteers. The troops had not advanced beyond Agua Nueva, and were awaiting reinforcements. The small pox had broke out in the detachment.

## The Politician.

## The Colonial Press.

From a Canadian Paper.

## THE POST OFFICE.

We have obtained some information, which is probably correct, and has a bearing on the complaints which have prevailed at Quebec, in respect to the arrival and distribution of the letters and papers by the English Mails.

It appears that the transmission of the mails through the United States originated in representations from Canada. It was thought that greater expedition would be obtained in forwarding them from Boston than direct from Halifax, and that it was desirable that the letters and papers from all parts of Canada should be sent in the first instance to the seat of government in Montreal—the letters properly secured in iron boxes, and under the care of an officer appointed by the Post-office department to accompany the mail.

An arrangement to this effect was accordingly made with the United States Government British Minister at Washington. The forwarding to the lines is entirely under American authority, and it is paid for at a high rate.

The last Mail through the United States was delayed by breaking up of the river on the main road of conveyance, which delay was avoided by passengers in lighter carriages, or taking other routes, more favourable at that particular season, all parts of the country, particularly the principal towns, would have the same plea to have the mail forwarded by express from Montreal, and we are assured the Post office here is not authorised to incur so great an expense.

The evil complained of, in various parts of the Province, has its source in the forwarding the Mails through the United States, instead of through British territory. On the 28th April, we had at Quebec the Halifax mail of the 17th, the day before the arrival of the *Cambria*, and on the 29th the mail via Boston and Montreal; with exertions no greater than the common mail travelling, we might have had the English mail from Halifax on the same day, and with a few improvements facilitating greater speed, it might have been delivered at Montreal and Upper Canada as soon, if not sooner than it arrived from the United States at the several places.

We object entirely to the British Government placing us in dependence on the United States for our correspondence with the United Kingdom or for anything else. If individuals choose to direct their letters to be sent through the United States they are welcome, but the British Provinces ought not, by the public authority, be made dependant on a foreign country. Nations are like families, their interests are best guarded by themselves, without depending upon others. This does not prevent friendly intercourse and mutual advantage, but secures both, and avoids misunderstandings. It is not creditable to the British Government, which has an ample means of communication with a million and a half of British subjects in Canada through her own territory, to go a begging to the United States to convey its correspondence in iron boxes through their territory.

We hope this state of things will be altered; speedy notice given to the United States of the cessation of the arrangement, and that the Governor General, who represents the British Government in the Provinces, will be authorised to introduce such reforms in the post offices, and the speedy conveyance of the