

good living. Oftentimes mechanics cannot get employment; but the farmer is never out of employment. Let the times be ever so bad he is sure of a good living.

That the farmer has more peace of mind, or in other words is more contented than other men, would naturally follow from the fact that his property is invested safer, that he is not in constant anxiety about losing it, and that he is more independent, and always sure of a living. If the farmer has no reason to be happy, pray who has?

Behold the farmer once more, as he return from his work at night; see him passing from one field to another surveying the works of his hand. One field is covered with waving corn, another with rustling grain; another is covered with a rich crop of tall bending grass, ready for the mowers' scythe. His trees give evidence of a bountiful supply of good fruit; and his cattle are quietly grazing upon a neighbouring hill. As he approaches his house he is met by his prattling child, who has long been waiting his return, and who lispingly relates to him the trifling incidents of the day; and last, though by no means least, as he enters his peaceful home he is greeted with an affectionate smile by his lovely wife. Who would not be a farmer?

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the Halifax Morning Post.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE WORLD.

Never, perhaps, in the history of modern nations, has a more important crisis been experienced than that which appears to be inevitably approaching at the present time. If we for a moment, contemplate the state of affairs in the principal European nations, we see on one hand, the general prevalence of want and distress, among the great masses of the people, for the means of subsistence, and the people are clamouring, in consequence, for political changes, which they expect, when effected, will afford them relief, but in what manner they know not. On the other hand we see statesmen and politicians in doubt and perplexity as to what measure to adopt, in order to preserve inviolable their respective constitutions and to afford relief to the suffering multitudes.

We discover also that the principal nations of Europe are looking with jealousy and distrust upon each other. France, which in past times has been deluged with the blood of her brave warriors, conscious of her own inferiority to Great Britain—that renowned nation which has before now met the world in arms—is hurling threats and defiance at this dreaded and successful rival, and seeking an unholy alliance with other powers in order to crush her. With Spain the subtle policy of France has prevailed, but so far from receiving additional strength from this alliance, she will doubtless become, embarrassed and clogged with the interminable difficulties of this unhappy nation; but with Russia, whose strong arm France would fain engage against the object of her mean jealousy, she has totally failed. Russia, instead of seconding the insidious designs of France against Great Britain has recently, in conjunction with Prussia and Austria, by the act of suppressing the Republic of Cracow, manifested the greatest contempt towards the propositions recently made by France.

The lesser powers of the eastern world, are also in a state of fermentation and deep excitement, while revolutions and counter-revolutions are the general order of the day. Amidst all this turmoil and excitement, Great Britain stands in all the pride of her native dignity,—her able Statesman skillfully guiding the ship of State safely over the troubled waters of her own political affairs, and calmly surveying the movements of the surrounding nations; ever maintaining the high character and dignity of the nation, and ready to vindicate its honour, if need should be, against the combined force of all her enemies. Leaving Europe, let us come over the Atlantic, and take a view of the state of affairs in the New World. Here we see the second British Nation, engaged in war with an unhappy neighbouring Republic, if so it may be called, certainly with a prospect of finally reducing it, but not speedily. The appalling check which this war must inevitably give to the prosperity and interests of the United States, and which already begins to be felt, has brought the patriotic and eloquent Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, with many other able American Statesmen, into opposition to those measures of President Polk's Administration, which have precipitated the nation into war. Nor is the spirited opposition of those statesmen to be trifled with; their voices must and will be heard.

Happily, while the horrors of war invest our neighbours, the British Colonies on the continent are in possession of comparative peace and happiness, and we sincerely hope that there is a sufficiency of the good principle of Conservatism prevailing, to prevent the mischiefs which a party of factious demagogues are seeking to entail upon those noble

colonies—mischiefs which, though not of such magnitude as some of these we have pointed out, as investing other countries, yet which might eventually lead to consequences fraught with the greatest evils.

What the final results of all the distresses, jealousies, intrigues, wars, and Revolutions which at the present time prevail in the world, will be, time must soon develop; and again we say that it is our opinion that a crisis in approaching unparalleled in the history of modern nations.

United States News.

Washington, Dec. 18th.—The Senate debate the other day, on the proposition of Mr. Westcott, fully explained and illustrated the intentions of the Administration in regard to the occupation of the conquered territories in Mexico. Mr. Benton and Mr. Sevier, who are in confidential communication with the Executive, most vehemently deprecate the idea of passing any laws for the government of these territories. Mr. Benton expressed the hope that the U. S. would not present themselves to foreign nations in the attitude of establishing a government over a territory just conquered and held by no power but the sword, and which might be reconquered to-morrow. Mr. Sevier, it will be remembered, was equally distinct and positive in his declaration, that the territory could only be governed by the laws of nations, and that to establish a permanent government in Mexico by the extension of laws over any of the territory now held by us. It was Mr. Westcott's view, and as I heard it rumoured, Mr. Calhoun's that the government of the territories in question ought to be taken out of the hands of the President. That will not be done, and no other than military rule, modified as it has been by military order into a milder system, will prevail in the conquered provinces.

The Government will soon call for ten more regiments, and will fill up ultimately the whole number authorized—fifty thousand volunteers.

The Government persists in the belief that there will be a necessity for the continuance of the war.

The military force of the United States has been augmented from 7,640 to 39,000.

The estimated appropriations for fortifications for the next year is \$495,800, including their defence, and the support of the sappers and miners and topographical engineers.

The account from the three divisions of the United States army, shew the prevalence of much dissatisfaction among the troops. The Kentucky and Alabama regiments, under General Taylor, near Monterey, threatened to mutiny and return home in case they are not actively employed—colonels Hardin, Yell, and Harney, has disputed with General Wool in Chihuahua, and in Santa Fe, the volunteers were getting insubordinate, owing to their supplies falling short, in the dangerous and difficult journey undertaken to California, and their being engaged in fighting the Indians of the country.

The Philadelphia North American of the 19th inst. received the following by telegraph from Washington—it is considered as doubtful news:—"The El Locomotor of Vera Cruz, dated Nov. 18th, contains an extract from an official despatch, stating that the people of the city of the Angels, California, on the Pacific, combined with the Indians, have taken several boats belonging to the United States squadron, and cut the throats of one hundred and fifty soldiers they found on board!

It is stated that the Gulf Squadron left Tampico on the 3d Dec. for a second attack on Tobasco, and on Sisal and Laguna, with a view to hold them. A boat from the U. S. brig Somers, is reported to have burned the Mexican brig Creole, moored at the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, and captured seven Mexicans who were on board.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

St. John Observer, December 29.

Shocking Fratricide.—Death of Mr. Seymour Pickett. We have been exceedingly shocked by hearing of a most melancholy homicide, which was perpetrated at Kingston, King's County, on Saturday evening last.—Mr. Seymour Pickett, Cloth Manufacturer, of that place, left this city, on Saturday afternoon, and arrived home at about 7 o'clock the same evening. It appears that during his absence some person or persons had forcibly

entered his bedroom, and taken away several articles of bedroom furniture, destroying some articles they could not otherwise remove, &c. On making inquiry he had reason to suspect that his brother Munson, and other relatives, were concerned in the matter. He (Seymour) called in some of his neighbors and with them went to that part of the house occupied by Munson, and his sisters, and demanded his property, (not estate papers as stated by a contemporary.) On this request being peremptorily refused, deceased stated that he would force the door. He proceeded to do so, when he was told by some person within that if he would not desist, he would be shot. Immediately afterwards he received the deadly wound. This was between nine and ten o'clock, and at twelve he died. An inquest was held on the following day, (Sunday.) The verdict of the Jury was that the deceased came to his death from the firing of a gun in the hands of Munson Pickett.—We understand that a court of enquiry has been sitting since yesterday morning, the result of which will of course put the public more fully in possession of the facts of this melancholy case.—Mr. Pickett was in our office a short time before leaving town on Saturday last, in the best of health and spirits, and stated to us that he had made arrangements for removing his Cloth Manufacturing establishment to the Marsh near the City. But alas! in a few hours he was suddenly cut off from among the living, and that too by the hand of his own brother!! Truly in the midst of life we are in death. He has left a wife and one child to mourn their sudden bereavement.—The funeral of the deceased is to take place to-morrow (Wednesday) afternoon at two o'clock, from his late residence, Golden Vale, near Kingston.

We learn that Munson Pickett is now confined in Kingston Gaol, to await his trial for this greatly aggravated crime.

Head Quarters, Dec. 30.

The semi-annual examination of the Baptist Seminary, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Spurden, took place on the 17th and 18th inst. The audience was not so numerous as on some former occasions, but on the Bench of examiners were the Government Commissioners, the Hon. the Solicitor General, and the Rev. Messrs. Pope and Elder. The examination was chiefly conducted by the Principal and the Rev. Mr. Brooke.

Canada.

From the Hamilton Journal and Express.

Great Western Railroad.—At the meeting of the Stockholders held on Friday last, the agreement entered into by Sir Allan Macnab, on behalf of the company, with the corresponding committee of the company in London, was approved of, and thanks were voted to Sir Allen Macnab for his services.—We understood that the arrangement is, that ten individuals were registered for 10,000 shares, on which they paid 25s per share and they have paid 6s per share on the remainder, with a determination to dispose of them as soon as possible. In the meantime, the company here are authorized to draw immediately for £30,000. It is said that no unnecessary delay will be made in commencing operations.

Quebec Mercury, Dec. 19.

Boston and Montreal Railroad.—There appears every probability of this line having the start of the Portland route, and being the first in operation.—From Boston the line will intersect Concord, extending up the valleys of the Connecticut and Pasumic, to Stanstead, thence to Montreal. It is already in operation up to Concord, and under contract to be completed to Standborton Bridge—a distance of about 17 miles—by July next. The right of way from this latter distance has been acquired for the sum of \$7,000.

From the known spirit of enterprise of the Bostonians, the Montreal and Portland directors will have to bestir themselves. Give us, however, the Halifax and Quebec line. It is the route of routes.

Montreal Courier, Dec. 19.

The Commissioners of Public Works are it is said, taking measures to obtain the opinion of competent persons, as to the plans for erecting light houses on the shores of the lower Saint Lawrence. This improvement of the navigation of the Gulf will have the effect of diminishing the insurance charges; and our contemporary, the Gazette, thinks that it would be well if a special enactment were made compelling all vessels to leave port before a certain day. It has always

been our opinion, that the expensive and dangerous navigation from the entrance of the Gulf up to Montreal is one of the most disadvantageous things that the Canadian merchants have to contend against.

Kingston, Dec. 18.—The Weather.—for a week there has been frost. This morning it commenced to snow, and there is now every appearance of a considerable fall of that (to Canada) very necessary gift of Nature.

Novascotia.

From the Halifax Weekly News.

Miss Sarah Herbert.—We have the melancholy duty to record the death of this amiable young lady; she expired on Thursday morning, about 11 o'clock. She gave early indications of extraordinary talents in one so young; and her influence and the efforts of her pen will long be remembered by those with whom she had been associated—in the social circle, and in the cause of Temperance and Religion. A large portion of this community will, we are assured, sympathize with her bereaved parents, on the loss which they and the literary public have sustained by this dispensation.

SOUTHERN MAIL.

This mail arrived yesterday afternoon, a little after four o'clock. Below we give a number of extracts from the papers received, which embrace every thing of moment they contain.

MEXICO.—The New York Journal of Commerce, furnishes the following important intelligence from the seat of war in this country.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.—Capture of Saltillo.—Authentic intelligence has been received of the capture of Saltillo, (65 miles S. W. of Monterey,) by Gen. Worth's division, without resistance. Gen. Taylor, who accompanied Gen. Worth, or followed him expressed himself pleased with the appearance of the city. Gen. Worth, with about 1500 men, is to remain and garrison it.

The letter which we publish to day from Brazos under date of Dec. 6th, intimates that all the disposable force at Tampico will march also upon Victoria, and that from Victoria a joint movement will be made, probably under the chief command of Gen. Scott, upon the large and well fortified town of San Luis Potosi. In this case we may expect a fierce battle at the last mentioned place. The possession of Tampico will be of immense importance in the further prosecution of the war, as it is the point through which reinforcements and supplies can most conveniently be sent into the interior in the direction of Potosi. Why it was abandoned by Santa Anna, is a mystery; but his idea probably was, to draw off so much of the American force from Gen. Taylor's line of operations hitherto, that by sending bodies of cavalry thither, as he appears to have already done, he (Santa Anna) would be able to recover possession. The reported capture of a train of 62 waggons between Camargo and Mier, is perhaps the first fruits of that policy. It is stated that 3000 Mexican cavalry were within twenty miles of Saltillo by the last account. Are these a part of the 5000 cavalry that recently left Potosi for parts unknown, headed by Santa Anna himself? Gen. Taylor had arrived at Monterey from Saltillo prior to Nov. 27th.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 1st December, by the British steamer Clyde, which arrived at Havana on the 7th, state that the Mexican Government had drawn on the Church for \$2,000,000, much against the Church's will, as follows—on the Archbishop, \$1,000,000; on the Bishop of Puebla, \$400,000; on the Bishop of Guadalajara, \$200,000; on the Bishop of Michoacan, \$170,000; on the Bishop of Oajac \$100,000, on the Bishop of Durango, \$80,000. Popular opinion was in the favour of these exactions, the Church had recently shown itself officious in the cause of the monarchists.

Another change has taken place in the Mexican ministry. Antonio de Haro y Ramirez has resigned the seat of Secretary of State, and has been temporarily succeeded by Sr. Juan Almon.

The steamer Clyde alone took \$1,600,000 in specie to England, on the 2nd inst., but Vera Cruz. Despatches from Santa Anna, were received at the capitol on the 23d ult., dated at San Luis Potosi. He had made arrangements to post his troops at certain quarters not made public. He presses the government for more resources.

Accounts from San Luis praise the discipline and valor of the army. There were twenty five thousand men, with fifty two pieces of artillery. Five thousand additional troops were expected daily. The magazines of powder, and the stores of balls and aer missiles are said to exceed belief. Every piece of iron that can be found is conveyed into pikes or other deadly weapons. In one store house alone there are 200 mechanics working day and night, mounting guns, and manufacturing munitions of war. There are 500 more at work in the fortifications, which are being strengthened in every possible manner. One thousand women filled with ensi-