

Astonishing as this increase among insects may appear, certain circumstances seem sometimes to augment it to a most extraordinary extent. In some countries the ant frequently makes its appearance in such countless multitudes, as to defy all human means to destroy them. They block the roads and fields for miles, destroying the cattle, and devouring rats, mice, birds, or whatever may chance to be near the scene of their ravages. They rush into the streams in such vast swarms that the tiny carcasses of the drowned form a bridge for the living, often to the depth of six inches, and extending upwards of five hundred miles long, and eight or ten feet broad. This wonderful fecundity of insects is, however, exceeded by that of the cod-fish, which is said to spawn in one season a greater number of eggs than amounts to the entire number of all the inhabitants of the State of New York.

## United States News.

Halifax Nova Scotian, Dec. 19.

*Letter from the United States.*—The R. M. Steamer Canada, Capt. Harrison, came in at 6 o'clock on Friday, after a splendid run of 50 hours from New York city. The following important intelligence has been received, by the New York Herald:

LEON DE NICARAGUA, Nov. 9, 1849.

The official proclamation of the Governor of Honduras, which I enclose to you, will give you an insight into the character of the late outrages of the British agents.

The island of Tigre, you will perceive, recently ceded by Honduras to the United States, has not escaped. Her Majesty's steamer Gorgon, on the 15th October, entered the harbor of Realijo, acting in concert with Mr. Chatfield, detailed a force for the seizure of the island, of which they took possession, tearing down the U. S. flag, and elevating the British in its place, and consummating their celebration in the name of her Majesty the Queen.

A correspondence immediately followed between Mr. Squier and Mr. Chatfield, the former demanding the evacuation of the island, and the latter declining to make any further concession than a reference of the matter to his home government. He denies the right of Honduras to sell or cede away any portion of her territory, because she has no national existence, being only a fragment of the Central American confederation, and justifies his lawless occupation of Tigre, on the ground that it is a seizure for debt.

This outrage to our flag will doubtless receive the prompt attention of the government. The insulting proceedings against Honduras and San Salvador have awakened the proper spirit. The Central American States are arming themselves to repel these aggressions. Gen. Guardiola, of Honduras the noblest general in Central America, has arrived on the coast of the Gulf of Amspala, and men are rallying around him. It is understood, also, that the State of San Salvador is rapidly raising troops. So it appears the British Charge has got himself into trouble. It appears that his principle demand against San Salvador does not fall due till next month; and the government of that sturdy little State declines to comply with his ultimatum. It remains to be seen if he will attempt to take possession of the entire republic in "behalf of her Majesty."

The following are extracts from the Proclamation by order of the President of Honduras:—

On the 4th of the present month, the steamer Plover, belonging to the Royal British Marine, under the command of Captain Nolloth, arrived at Truxillo. The captain of this steamer, without having any public mission of any kind, and without any other credentials than violence, required the commander of that port the payment of the sum of \$111,062 within a few hours, which sum, he said, was the amount of the claim of British subjects upon our government. At the same time he threatened to destroy the town, if the aforesaid amount was not instantly paid down. The commander of Truxillo refused to pay the amount, inasmuch as he had not the necessary funds at his command, and also, it was not in his province to interfere in such demands. In consequence hereof, the captain immediately landed an armed force and took forcible possession of the fortress of Truxillo. At the same time several of his soldiers perpetrated various acts of violence upon the people in the neighborhood, and received from them the sum of \$1,400, which was paid to induce them not to accomplish their threat of razing the city

to the ground, and on re-embarking they fired a broadside upon the city, at the command of the captain.

But, on our southern coast, the British have done yet worse. On the pretence of obtaining satisfaction by pacific measures of the claims of British subjects against Honduras, the captain of the war steamer, the Gorgon, on the 16th of the present month, took possession of the Isle of Tigre, landed an armed force, and set up the British flag over the Island.—The flag of our republic was, to effect this purpose, forcibly taken down, and three discharges of infantry, twenty one of cannon, celebrated the mounting of the flag of the Queen of England. The commandant of the Island, in the name of his government, and of the republic, protested against such an unheard of violence, and the English Consul, as the commandant has informed us, united with him in this protest. On his re-embarking, the commander of the Gorgon informed the Governor of the Island that if the flag of Central America should be reinstated on the Island he would return with his warsteamer and restore by force the British flag. The other governments of the republic, as well as our Commissioner, charged to treat with the Charge d'Affairs of the United States residing in Nicaragua, have been made acquainted with these events, they may take such measures as may seem to them proper, especially since the Island of Tigre has been by treaty approved of by the President, placed formally in deposit in the power of the government of the North.

The Captain of the Gorgon, upon announcing to the commandant of the Island his intention to take possession, at the same time declared that the government of her Britannic Majesty contemplated, if necessary, the adoption of other measures—that is to say, that even if the claims made by the Consul were satisfied he would still feel it necessary to take the course he had adopted.

People of Honduras.—Notwithstanding our own want of means to resist with effect, and to defend the integrity of our soil, and the dignity of our government, yet we need not submit to the unjust and violent conduct which oppresses us, for the Star Spangled Banner will be unfurled in our seas to assist us to vindicate our rights and rescue us from insults. Yes that bright flag, resplendent with glory, backed by immense power, will be our guarantee in virtue of solemn treaties, and has generally pledged itself to aid us. The identity of our principles, and the fact that we are children of the same continent, is a band of union with that great power. Let us, then, confide in her resources, under the bonds which unite our interests. Long live republican governments! Long live the illustrious descendants of the immortal Washington!

*The Boston Tragedy.*—No additional particulars relative to this mysterious affair have been received. The Boston Herald of December 5th says:—

Among the notes found at Professor Webster's house, was one for one hundred dollars, which was just due, and had been cancelled and filed away; it was not endorsed, but had apparently been paid, though not marked so.

The note for \$2,451, due in 1851, and endorsed, is believed to have been secured by a mortgage on the Professor's mineralogical cabinet, which cabinet has been sold within a year for three thousand to an association of gentlemen, who presented it to the Harvard University; and the note is believed to have been paid on the sale of the cabinet alluded to; the possession of all these notes may be thus fairly accounted for. This, at least is a legal presumption to which benefit he is entitled.

It has been discovered that some fagots had been carted to the Medical College from Harvard University. These have been ascertained to be only a bundle of grape vine cuttings, sent to be analysed by Professor Webster, who is known to be a very good agricultural chemist. As these cuttings are difficult to burn, and there being a great supply of wood and coal at the Grove street medical institution, it cannot be supposed that they were sent there for firewood, to effect the consumption of the remains of Dr. Parkman. It is also stated that a man by the name of Cobb, who keeps the house of Drs. Clark and Porter, in Pleasant street, and knows Dr. Parkman well, says that he met Dr. Parkman on the Common at half past two o'clock on Friday afternoon, the 23d ult., when Dr. Parkman was last seen, and is willing to swear that it was him and no one else that he saw on that day, and that it was at no other day or hour that he saw him. This evidence will go to show that Dr. Parkman, if he went into the medical hospital at half past one o'clock on the day alluded to, must have come out again,

and may account for the finding of his hat on one of the wharves the day he was missing. There are also many others who will swear that they saw Dr. Parkman on the afternoon of Friday, 23d November.

A thousand surmises and speculations are going the rounds of the American papers—but it is useless to republish them. The result of the inquiry by the Coroner's Jury will strip many of the rumors of their assumed importance; and by the next advices, we shall be enabled to lay the facts of the case before our readers.

From the Boston Bee.

Two distinguished Hungarian patriots arrived in this city, yesterday, by the steamship Europa, and have taken lodgings at the Tremont House. One of these distinguished gentlemen is Col. J. Pragay, the other Major Fornei. The former was colonel under Gen. Klapka, at the siege of Comorn, where he rendered efficient service. He was present in thirty-eight battles, and brings with him the highest testimonials from his countrymen of his high standing at home, his valor and his worth. The latter, Major Fornei, was, until the revolution, a private citizen, engaged in civil pursuits.—Educated, however, at the military school when his country required his services, he entered the army, and soon rose to the honorable post of major of the corps of civil engineers. As soon as their arrival was known, they were waited on by a committee in behalf of the resident Hungarians, to welcome them among them.

## Communications.

MR. EDITOR,

Sir.—The remarks of "A Freeholder" in your Gleaner of the 10th, relative to the necessity of holding a public meeting, for the purpose of arousing the supineness of the Representatives of your county, touching the enormous and weighty burthens under which they, as well as the Province generally, have long smarted, have awakened others in this section of the country, to the necessity of adopting similar measures.

It is an established fact, and one that is well understood, that the salaries of public officers are out of all proportion, and require immediate retrenchment. So far have our Legislators deviated from what the present pressure of the times should suggest, that instead of reducing taxation, they have increased it by an additional impost on almost every necessary of life. Had this been confined to themselves, there would be less cause of complaint, but at the time when starvation was staring hundreds of our fallen creatures in the face, we find several of our Sages endeavoring to tax even pease, beans, and hard-bread; and such, Mr. Editor, I fear will be the case so long as persons receiving a commission for collecting the Revenue have seats in our Assembly. I trust that every County in the Province will arouse from their present apathy, and that the Freeholders of each will let their respective representatives understand that they are sent to that House for other purposes than upholding old sinecures, creating new offices, or imposing unnecessary taxes, at a time when the Province is bordering on Bankruptcy.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

Bend of Petticodiac, Dec. 12, 1849.

CAMPBELLTON, December 20, 1849.

Mr. Pierce,

Sir.—The letter you published from Dalhousie, last week, has caused a great sensation in this place; so much so, that it is seriously contemplated by our nobles, to have a public meeting, and change the name of the place; it is proposed in future to call it *Whang-town*. I am sure that from the upright, straight-forward character of the head officer of the Treasury in the county, that he will not be influenced by any motives, either of a family or private personal nature, from withholding the transmission of his officer's report to Fredericton, *verbatim*, without any attempt at mystery or circumlocution. The whole tenor of his life, as a moral and correct man is a sufficient guarantee that he was neither the contriver of, or conniver at, the plot, if any there be.

Yours, PHELIM O'TOOLE, Esq.

## Colonial News.

New Brunswick:

Fredericton Reporter, Dec. 14.

Some time ago we gave currency to a re-

port in one of our Colonial papers, to the effect that the young women here who lately engaged with a Factory proprietor in the State of Maine, were receiving harsh treatment in that Institution.

This report we now consider ourselves, upon the first principles of justice bound to contradict. We have seen several of the friends and relatives of the absent young women, who have the best means for information, and all agree in stating that the only inconvenience to which the girls are subject, is, the dear rate at which they are compelled to pay for their clothing at the neighboring stores. This however cannot be remedied at the institution; as it is the natural consequence of those high protective Tariffs by which the Americans are protecting the rich at the expense of the poor, all over the Union.

## Canada.

Quebec Gazette, Dec. 11.

Toronto, Nov. 29.—His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz:—

The Honorable Etienne Paschal Tache, to be Her Majesty's Receiver General, in and for the Province of Canada, in place of Hon. Louis M. Viger, resigned.

## SECOND EDITION.

TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1849.

OUR MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.—The Mechanics' Institute of Newcastle and Douglastown, has commenced its session very auspiciously. The list of Lecturers is filled up, and the number of subscribers numerous, and daily increasing. This is good news, as it evinces that a spirit of enquiry is abroad that is refreshing to witness. But the patrons of this good cause have not stopped here—for we learn, that in the course of a few hours one day last week, the very large sum of £120 was subscribed for the erection of a Hall; and one gentleman in Newcastle, in addition to the handsome donation of £10, gave a piece of ground on which to erect the building.

The Chatham Institute opened last Thursday. The attendance was very thin, and the apathy evinced by the public on its behalf, is a mystery to us, and a source of grief to all those who have the advancement of the morals of the people, and the promotion of literature and science, at heart. The funds of the society are ample—the library is well stocked, and there is a first rate apparatus for experimenting with. Why, then, this coldness and want of interest? We hope as the season advances, our prospects will brighten, and that the spirit manifested by our neighbors over the river, will incite us to follow an example so worthy of imitation.

CANADA. A Peaceable Separation.—The Courier in an article commenting upon the dismissal of the Magistrates who signed the Manifesto says, "whether such an unjustifiable and irritating interference with political opinions be dictated by the policy of Downing Street, or be the result of Lord Elgin's own peculiar and bungling statesmanship, it will be equally and as firmly resisted, and that by means more violent, and probably more formidable, than those invoked to carry out annexation."

And who (asks the Montreal Gazette,) are the men that now attempt to put down the discussion? The very men who, twelve years ago, instead of discussion, resorted to arms, to effect by violence that which is now sought to do in peace. Out upon such hypocrisy. To men who never were rebels, and who are not now annexationists, but who are honest enough to judge between the two, this act of a Ministry on whose heads a price was set on account of their treasons, is most thoroughly contemptible and disgusting.

In the Montreal Herald there is a second document in favor of annexation addressed to the people of Canada, which is too long for publication this morning. The address is signed by John Redpath, President, and R. Mackay, and A. H. Dorion, Secretaries of the Annexationist Association. It embodies the encouragements of the British and United States press:—four London papers! and one Scotch! and some proceedings at Vermont!!!—and seems to have been got up as a kind of remonstrance against the dismissal of the magistrates.—In the absence of argument, prosecution has been resorted to by an Executive affecting to owe its existence to the popular will, against such as dared to assert the right not of British subjects merely, but of intellectual beings—the right of thought and free discussion. The Herald says that the progress of Annexation may be discovered in the existence of the associ-