

said to have been left on the trunk, either from his shrinking just before the fatal moment, or the shortness of his neck; the blood vessels of the brain must be so speedily emptied when a person suffers death by the guillotine, that all sensation must vanish in a very short space of time; but it is very far from clear that the head does not continue to live during that short space, and if it feels even for a moment or two, who shall say that in those moments it may not suffer an eternity of agony and shame.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

## The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Morning Chronicle.

### AFFAIRS OF THE CONTINENT.

The changes which have taken place in the policy of the Prussian Government have been so rapid and so unexpected as equally to defy calculation and conjecture. On the 2nd instant the advisers of the Prussian court agreed, though unwillingly enough, to accept the terms proposed at the conference at Warsaw; and the resignation of M. Von Radowitz was the consequence of the abandonment of the system which had been pursued by that statesman since his accession to office. On the 5th it was suddenly determined to call out a military force sufficient to delay or to nullify the practical results of the stipulations of Warsaw. A corresponding attitude was maintained by the commanders of the Prussian troops, and it appeared as if nothing could avert a conflict, should the Diet at Frankfurt persist in giving effect to its resolutions. That danger was, however, put an end to by a new decision of the Prussian Government; for, on the 7th, their policy for the third time underwent a change, and all intention of resistance was apparently abandoned. The demands of Austria—urged though they have been in a manner calculated to wound deeply the pride of the Prussian people—are, it is said, to be complied with in every particular; and consequently the only result of the warlike determination of the Cabinet of Berlin has been, to provoke to the utmost the national feelings of the people, by summoning them to contemplate, with arms in their hands, the annihilation of all the projects to which Prussian ambition had been directed by the ministers of the Crown, and to which Prussian honor had been pledged by the word of the King. It is already whispered that the evacuation of Hamburg, and the withdrawal of the army of occupation from Baden, have taken place in obedience to the commands of Austria, supported by the authority of the Czar. Nothing is wanting to complete the humiliation to which Prussia has been brought by the unjustifiable aggressions of her Government, and by the undignified manner in which she has been obliged to recede, step by step, from every position which she had occupied, either from considerations of political advantage, or with a view to military operations. Such, according to the latest accounts, is the posture of affairs.

It would be rash to augur a pacific solution of the German question from the last phase presented by the changeable politics of Berlin. It is more likely to increase than to diminish the popular excitement which the calling out of the Landwehr has so forcibly stimulated. It is doubtful whether it will be possible for the Cabinet of Berlin to maintain an armed peace, and to permit the affairs of Germany to be exclusively managed by the Diet at Frankfurt, supported by the troops of the southern states. Even in the first instance, to recede from the pretensions put forward by Prussia involved sacrifices hard to be borne by a military nation; but, after the challenge which the King offered to his enemies by appealing to his people, it is a degradation which the Prussians will scarcely submit to, in spite of the danger to themselves and to Germany. Such are the fatal effects of M. Von Radowitz's ill-advised schemes, of the violation of all treaties with regard to Schleswig-Holstein, and of the hostile and haughty bearing of Prussia in all discussions concerning the reconstruction of Germany.

The difficulties of the crisis might have been in some measure diminished, if greater consideration had been shown by Austria for the Prussian Government, and for the feelings of the Prussian people. But no interval has been suffered to elapse between the conference at Warsaw and the prosecution of active measures; and thus the carrying out of the agreements made between the cabinets has had the appearance of intimidation and coercion. The more suspicious of the Liberal party have detected in these operations the promptings of Russia, and they have inferred, with some appearance of reason, that the sudden activity of the Austrian Government proceeded from a well-grounded confidence in the moral and material support of that power. To what extent the Czar may have engaged himself to support Austria in her present struggle, is at best but matter of conjecture, but we cannot fail to acknowledge the enormously increased influence which has accrued to Russia from the disunion of Germany. The suspension of arms to which Prussia has consented with so much reluctance, and which Austria seems scarcely to have desired, is the recommendation, or rather the injunction, of a foreign power, which is the natural enemy of the one, and the scarcely less dangerous friend of the other. States which hold a high rank in civilised Europe have argued their cause before the Emperor of Russia, and have not blushed to accept his decision.

From what has taken place during the last

few weeks, it might fairly be concluded that the Governments of France and England have ceased to exercise the slightest influence in Continental politics. That the former should have taken a comparatively unimportant part in these discussions is perhaps not very surprising; and the paragraphs of the President's Message respecting the foreign policy of the Republic seem to be almost an apology for the weakness of the French Government. It is less easy to account for the isolation of England. In the Danish question this country has a direct interest; for we have not only guaranteed the integrity of the Danish Monarchy, but the continuance of the war has been highly prejudicial to our trading interests. There is no Continental Power to whom the conclusion of a durable peace between Denmark and the Duchies is an object of greater importance than it is to us; and it is believed that no opportunity has been omitted of representing to the Government of Prussia the deep interest felt by Her Majesty's Ministers on this subject. Protocols have been drawn up, and treaties have been framed, in London, but they have invariably failed to realise the objects contemplated. For any influence possessed by the British Government, the war of the Duchies might continue to be the scourge of Denmark and the scandal of Europe. The impotence of this country is the more striking, since, with the single exception of Prussia, we have been supported by all the great powers of Europe. Yet, notwithstanding the weight and authority of such a combination, the attempts of Lord Palmerston to attempt a satisfactory settlement have been only distinguished by their uniform want of success. But when the affairs of Schleswig-Holstein are seriously brought before the two Powers to whom Prussia is least willing to yield, she at once determines to put an end to the war. That which could not be obtained by the Minister of a constitutional country, the historical ally of Prussia, has been extorted from the latter by the Emperor of Prussia and Prince Schwartzberg. An army will be sent by the Confederation to disarm the rebel forces, and to restore the authority of the Danish Crown. The Cabinet of Berlin will not, it is said, interfere; and, in fact, it has already weakened the insurgents by calling from their ranks all Prussian soldiers, who are now required to join their own army. And all these arrangements appear to have been decided upon without the slightest cognizance or consent of the English Government. Lord Palmerston has thus achieved another mock mediation—his suggestions have carried no weight, and the influence of England on the affairs of the Continent seems to have become utterly insignificant. From the political moderation of the English people, from the fact of their being constitutionally governed, and from their having no longer any territorial influence in Germany, their Government might surely have claimed a deference such as no other Power in Europe was entitled to expect. But these advantages have been entirely thrown away under the administration of Lord Palmerston; and the diplomatic ability of the noble Viscount has been signalled in Germany, as in Italy, by notorious failure, and by the rapid decay of British influence.

### THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From the Kingston Herald.

#### DIRECT STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN IRELAND AND AMERICA.

Upon this vitally important subject to Ireland, the Quebec Chronicle has written an excellent article, which we give below. With the sympathies manifested by our cotemporary we can cordially share; and with the hopes that he entertains we freely join. But alas! how unproductive of weal for that stricken country have been the deepest sympathies, and how frequently have the most brilliant hopes been shrouded in despair.—Each year that rolls over this globe—and that bears its varied tales of human misery and bliss, and national glory and decadence to another universe, has but the same monotonous story to tell of Ireland. In the sad picture that portrays her condition, there are no lights and shades; no hopeful perspectives; no dash of warm sunshine illuminating the dreary landscape, or even shedding a tinge of lustre upon the wan features of her wretchedness. All is dark and gloomy—mountains enveloped in dark clouds; valleys unproductive and waste; cries of beggary, and towns and villages sombre in the loom of Death's workhouses. And dare we hope that this picture is to be replaced by one of brighter colours? What grounds have we for doing so? Repeat agitators promised a return to primeval splendour, prosperity and independence. Young Irishmen were equally sanguine in their promises, and now the Tenant Right Leaguers have taken up the "cause" of Ireland, and promise if their views are carried out that the sunshine of greatness will once more shine on that unfortunate island, warming the hearts and cheering the energies of its inhabitants. But as unproductive of any of the results vainly anticipated by such agitators as were the former, so will be the latter; these intestinal agitations will not do Ireland any benefit; on the contrary, they will be, as they have been, her curse. It is true that they arouse the warm imagination of the people, and lead them to a pitch of most extravagant enthusiasm; but on retiring from those meetings, alas, how wretched and miserable do they find their condition really to be. The airy structures built up by the glowing patriotism and poetic fancies of the orators, disappear in the black clouds, and leave behind the same mud hovels, the same stern poverty, and national degradation. It is

criminal to arouse the easily excited imaginations of the Irish by fierce denunciations of foreign oppressors, or stir up their too sanguine hopes by promises of artificial grandeur. It is wrong, very wrong. The construction of Railroads; the extension of manufactures, trade and commerce; the exercise of honest industry and patient labor in the use of the plough, the spade and the loom; the diffusion of thorough education, and the absence of sectarianism, party strife and religious bigotries, will do a thousand-fold more towards unfolding the inherent greatness of that country than all the agitations that can be devised. In these are the secrets of her success; let Ireland learn from the past, and be wise for the future, and yet she will hold proudly up her queenly head, and be in truth and in fact what she ought to be,

Great, glorious, and free,  
First flower of the earth and first gem of the sea.

## Communications.

Mr Editor,

If, in your editorial wisdom, you deem the following imperfect production of a youthful traveller worthy a place in your valued paper, you will gratify the writer by its insertion at your convenience.

### A REMINISCENCE.

I left Quebec on a fine sunshiny morning in August, in company with a gay party, to visit the falls of Montmorencie. We took our dinner with us, intending to picnic in the bush, and after enjoying the beauties of the scenery, to return to Quebec in the evening, and form part of a small *conversazione* given by one of the ladies of the party. We took the Beauport road; and the four little short-tailed Canadian horses which constituted our team, being urged forward by sundry curses and applications of the whip, by their Canadian driver, we soon left the tall spires and bright roofs of Quebec behind.

There were two French Canadian ladies in our party, whose beauty was only equalled by their vivacity; and what with listening to their witty repartees and pleasant jests, and admiring the beauty of the surrounding scenery, the time was beguiled so completely, that we had reached the place for leaving the carriage, before, as I thought, we had been an hour on the road, although we had more than doubled that time since we left Quebec. We here left the carriage, and struck off from the main road into a by-path, which led through a thick pine forest. After proceeding along this path for about a quarter of a mile, we emerged suddenly from the dark shadow of the pines, when all at once there burst upon our expectant eyes, a scene, which, no matter how poor, I must attempt to describe.

We were standing upon an immense rock, overlooking the far-famed falls of Montmorencie. Nearly four hundred feet below us lay the St. Lawrence, its placid surface unbroken by a single ripple. While directly opposite to us, and reposing quietly on the bosom of the mighty river, lay the beautiful island of Orleans, the rich and variegated tints of its autumnal foliage, contrasting strongly with the sombre hue of the surrounding waters. Add to this a fine view of the water-fall, as well as a more distant one of the citadel and bastion of Quebec, bristling with guns and looking defiance at all around, and you have a slight idea of this magnificent scene. The falls of Montmorencie are situated at the junction of the little river Montmorencie with the St. Lawrence; they are more than three hundred feet in perpendicular height, and deservedly celebrated for their picturesque beauty. In the winter the spray from the falls freezes, and gradually forms two cones of ice, down which the people of Quebec are very fond of sliding on toboggans, or Indian sledges. After spending some time in admiring the scenery and wandering about among the rocks, we returned to the carriage, where we soon found that the servant had not been idle, as there was an excellent repast spread upon the turf. After we had eaten heartily, the horses were put to the carriage and we started for Quebec. The Canadian ladies were as facetious as ever, and although their little feet must have been very tired with walking about among the rough rocks so much, yet their tongues did not seem to feel any sympathy for the unhappy state of the lower extremities, for they wagged away as fast as ever during the whole drive back. We reached Quebec about nine o'clock, and as I was very much fatigued, I made the most adequate excuse I could think of to the lady who gave the *conversazione*, and retired to my dormitory, to dream of rivers, waterfalls, horses with short tails, islands, pic nics, and vivacious Canadian ladies.

JUVENIS HALIGONIENSIS.

### SHERIFF'S SALES.

To be sold by Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 26th day of May next, in front of the Store of Mr W. E. Samuel, in Chatham: All the Right and Title of FRANCIS P. HENDERSON, in and to the Lot No. 36, in the Parish of Chatham, or any part thereof, granted to George Henderson, deceased. Also, all other the Real Estate in my Bailiwick, to which the said Francis P. Henderson has any right or title; the same having been seized and taken to satisfy an execution issued out of the Supreme Court against the said Francis P. Henderson.

W. A. BLACK, Sheriff.  
Sheriff's Office, Newcastle, Nov. 13, 1850.

## Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1850.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—On this subject the Editor of the Morning News makes the following remarks. They are well worthy the consideration of the Government. The summoning of the Legislature at a late period to shorten its term, was tried last year, but proved a failure; and as there are very many important matters to be considered, we think it neither wise nor politic to hazard another similar experiment:—

"We are informed upon good authority, that the Legislature will not meet for the despatch of business until about the 7th of February. If the report be true, we cannot understand why the Government should defer the 'evil day' so long? This is to be a most important Session, and yet nothing can be done until the Spring is nigh at hand. The Provincial accounts are brought up on the 1st of January—and surely in a week afterwards, the Government could be prepared to call the Legislature together, to go on with the business of the country. Suppose the 7th of February is the time, it will be impossible to obtain a Railway Charter, &c., before the first of March—inasmuch as a great deal has to be done before that subject will be brought upon the carpet. There will be very little time left after that for the Railway Company to arrange preliminaries for the work to be commenced in the month of May. The Legislature ought to be called together on the 7th of January at the very outside; and there is nothing to hinder it."

UNITED STATES.—The New York Herald mentions the following persons as being candidates for the Presidency of the United States in 1852. General Scott put forward by the free soilers of Michigan, Col. Benton by the Democratic free soilers of Missouri, Mr Buchanan and Gen. Cass by the old democrats of Pennsylvania, General Houston by free soil Missouri-ites, W. H. Seward by the Ohio free soilers, Mr Crittenden by Maryland, Mr Fillmore by Virginia, and Mr Webster by some other party.

CANADA.—The following extract from a Letter written by Mr Hincks to the Oxford County Council, is worthy a careful perusal, and the hints thrown out deserve to be carefully placed away in the memory of every Colonist. It is useless for us to be calling on our friends in Britain and elsewhere to assist us in the formation of Railways and other improvements while we manifest little or no desire ourselves to develop our great natural resources. We should constantly bear in mind the fable of the waggoner, who setting down with folded arms while his vehicle was in the ditch—called on Hercules to assist him. "Help yourself" was the reply, and if you cannot accomplish your task I will then assist you. This is a lesson which the people of the Colonies have yet to learn, and the sooner they commence the task the better:—

"Since the close of the last Session, I have taken a great deal of pains to ascertain the views of capitalists and others, interested in Railway enterprises in the Eastern States, and I am bound to state frankly, that my firm conviction is, that no reliance whatever is to be placed on the assistance of foreigners, unless those who are more immediately interested show a greater disposition than they have yet done to promote the success of the undertaking. I believe that the people who live in the vicinity of the projected line of the Great Western Railroad, are just as able to construct that work, as any of the people who have undertaken works of a similar character in the neighboring States. It is a mistake to suppose that such works are undertaken by large capitalists, or by those who ultimately acquire possession of the Stock. On the contrary, I have no hesitation in stating, that the original promoters of such works, are those who live in the vicinity of the line, and have an interest in the completion of the work entirely irrespective of the value of the stock as an investment. In process of time when a progress has been made in the work, capitalists step in, and either purchase the Stock at a discount, or make Loans on the Company's bonds, and thus acquire an interest in the road. Such has been the mode in which the American Railroads have been constructed, and you may rely on it that in no other way can we succeed in Canada. Instead therefore of waiting the assistance of others who have probably not the power, and certainly not the will to assist us at present, let us get our own shoulder to the wheel, and you may rely on it, the road can be made in a seasonable time. What we want is self reliance and unity of purpose. We have advantages uniformly superior to any of the American Companies. The provincial guarantee can no longer be considered as mere waste paper, as I was told it would prove, when I brought forward the measure in 1849. By means of that guarantee the said road