

cause there is one kind of garment more characteristic of a real old English country house-top than any other; this is the thatched roof, the garments of reeds and straws. A thatched cottage has afforded stanzas to scores of pretty songs, pretty poems, and pretty stories—the very humblity of the thoughts associate with it, being the source of value to the poetasters. But its merits are not to be so summarily despatched. A thatched roof is a clever production Ralph the Thatcher has to show more judgment than Teddy the Tiler, who gives a red covering to some of our house-tops. Ralph selects hollow straw if he is about to thatch a rick or a stack; but rye-straw, with a solid and more lasting stem, is preferred for thatching buildings. Ralph moistens the straw that it may more easily bend without breaking, and he forks it up in a loose heap, which is afterwards separated into small convenient bundles of parallel straws. These bundles, or rather handfuls, are laid on a lathed roof, and are kept down by means of long rods, which are tied to the lathes by means of strong tarred twine; and he thus lays several handfuls side by side. He begins with the lower ridge of the roof, and at once covers, and allows the thatch to hang over sufficiently to form eaves to the roof. He then lays another row, allowing the lower ends of these straws to hang over the upper ends of those in the first layer. Thus he proceeds upwards till he arrives at the ridge of the roof securing each handful to that which proceeded it, pressing it down to render it rain-resisting, and further fixing it by the long rods. Arrived at the top, the highest layer of straw is made to extend beyond the ridge on both sides, and the ends are brought together and made to stand up like the bristles on a hog. A split willow or a straw rope is wound round a series of short rods stuck in just below the ridge; and the upper layers of straw become so fixed that Ralph can trim the extreme ends, and make the ridge appear straight and symmetrical.

Ralph carries on his trade in a diversified way; he uses the straw of wheat, rye, or any other grain, or reed, or stubble, or heather—according to the kind of roof which he is expected to produce; stubble and heather are the poorest, barley and oat straw the next in rank, wheat and rye the next; but if Ralph be a Norfolk Thatcher, he is a first-class man in his trade, and he thatches with reed. In this kind of house-top there are no lathes, a few of the largest and stoutest reeds being employed to form a light frame-work to support the thatch. The thatch doctors says that a reed roof will be fifty years without requiring repair; and that, with very slight attention, it will last a whole century.

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, August 20.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

The session of Parliament that closes this day has been one of the most remarkable of modern times, whether we regard the circumstances under which the present Ministry took office, the greatness of the measures which they have introduced, or the practical talent with which they have carried them to a triumphant close. And this, too, it must be remembered, has occurred in the first session of a Parliament called by Lord Derby, who assumed power ostensibly to restore Protection, and who was driven from it under circumstances the most humiliating, while professing his readiness to adopt the very policy which for years previously he had been employed in denouncing as most ruinous to the best interests of the nation. To appreciate adequately the success of Lord Aberdeen's Government, we must not lose sight of the wretched attempts at statesmanship, and the utter break down of the one which he succeeded; a failure so signal, accompanied by an abandonment of principle so shameless, that we look in vain for any parallel to it in the history of the century.

Events for the last few years have been gradually approximating to such a fusion of parties as we now see represented in Lord Aberdeen's cabinet. The Whigs, long excluded from power, were borne into office on the shoulders of the people during the popular excitement which preceded the Reform Bill. He was the democratic spirit of the nation, which sustained the Whigs under Lord Grey's administration, and in the earlier portion of Lord Melbourne's Government. They were regarded as the best friends of progress; as the only parties, in fact, who had the wish and the power to place the representative institutions of the country in harmony with the spirit of the times, and to remove the various anomalies which impeded the free action of liberal opinions. It is the custom now-a-days to abuse the Whigs, and to ignore the signal services which they rendered during the first few years of their official life. But the public ought not to forget that to them they are indebted for a large measure of Parliamentary reform, which swept away the rotten boroughs, and made the representation a reality instead of a farce; that they reformed the municipal system in all the great towns, and introduced the principle of popular election in contradistinction to that of self-election; that they abolished the slave trade throughout the whole of the British possessions, and raised the ill used blacks to the dignity of freemen; that

they threw open the trade to China, and made what was previously a gigantic monopoly a field for the display of individual enterprise; and that they showed every disposition to expand the national intelligence, and to raise the moral and physical condition of the labouring classes.

The Whigs were omnipotent as long as they continued in this course,—the most popular party which has ever been at the helm of the State in our day; but when they began to waver and indulge in nibbling reforms,—to oscillate between the stern dictates of truth and duty, and a slavish fear of giving offence to their opponents,—their popularity waned, their prestige disappeared, and they fell before the terrible onslaughts of Sir Robt. Peel. That great Minister was never professedly an advocate for organic changes, and he had too little confidence in the political sagacity of the masses. But he was a thoroughly practical man,—the very Minister for a practical people, and his keen eye saw at a glance how he could benefit all classes in the country, without injury to any. He acted cautiously in the outset by the introduction of his tariff reforms, by releasing the springs of industry from the shackles by which they were trammelled; and the success of his efforts in that direction were so successful that, when the fitting moment came, he startled his followers and electrified the nation by proposing the total repeal of the Corn laws.—a measure the magnitude of which would have crushed any Minister whose hold on an enlightened public opinion was less powerful and enduring.

This shock brought into deadly collision the aristocratic and the commercial and operative classes. The instinct of self preservation induced the former to fight with the tenacity of bull dogs for what they consider a prospective right to tax the food of the people. They were defeated,—compelled to surrender; but the battle cost the great Minister of Finance his position. He was compelled to abandon the power which he had used so bravely, because of the mutiny which his intrepid tactics had produced amongst his followers. The Whigs had another chance, and as long as Sir Robert Peel lived, his sagis preserved them from destruction; but they only survived his death a little more than a year, to make way for the remnants of the old Tory party, led by Lord Derby,—the concentration of all the obstinacy, bigotry, and selfishness which was to be found in the empire.

It is useless to dilate upon the electoral corruption in which the Derbyites indulged for the purpose of securing a majority of votes in the House of Commons, pledged to tax the people's bread, and to reverse the whole course of Free trade which Sir Robert Peel had inaugurated. The disclosures connected with the Admiralty and the number of election petitions, afford materials upon which the future historian of England will dilate with burning indignation. Suffice it to say that electioneering rascality was never before carried to such a height. The new Parliament collected by such means, met in the autumn of last year. The great Caucasian conjuror, who had been practising for months previously the trick of jumping into the bottle, came forward to accomplish the feat. He failed—broke down—splintered his head, and when the bubble burst, he and his colleagues were thrust out of Downing-street with as little ceremony,—to use a simile of old Cobbet's,—as a penniless customer is ejected from a pothouse at midnight.

When the Derby Government was thus routed, and left the field in a state so deplorable as to excite the pity even of their foes, it became necessary to construct a Cabinet which should secure the confidence of the country by its individual and aggregate ability—not amateur statesmen, without a particle of official experience, as ignorant of the requirements of the times as a ploughboy would be of the minute and delicate machinery of a watch, but men of commanding powers of enlarged views,—men who had passed with credit through all the great offices of the State. This led to the Coalition Ministry so rich in practical talent and oratorical power, composed of the finest intellects among the Whigs and the Peelites; and the result is seen in the series of measures which they have brought forward and passed in the session that will expire this day, which are of exampled boldness and evince a marvelous grasp of mind in the highest of all departments of human knowledge and power,—the art of governing a mighty empire, with multitudinous and conflicting interests, in such a spirit as shall confer the greatest possible extent of advantage on all.

First in consideration are the financial measures of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the skill and comprehensiveness of which threw into the shade the highest achievements of his predecessors. His task—so delicate and yet so onerous—was executed with consummate skill, and has raised Mr Gladstone in the public mind higher than he stood previously.—That complicated question, the Income-tax, he settled in a manner which has been received by the nation with all but unanimous approval; while his Successions Bill is a measure which no Financial Minister, since Pitt's time, has dared to grapple with.

The President of the Board of Trade has hardly been behind him in the settlement of the Pilotage question,—an affair of the deepest importance to the commercial marine, and involving many complicated interests. The Customs Bill,—the consolidation into one act of Parliament of 1,500 distinct acts of the Legislature,—denudes the revenue laws of an enormous mass of verbiage, contradictions, and rubbish, and places the mercantile classes in

a position of far greater security and independence than they ever previously occupied. Even the India Bill, which deals with another great and distinct interest is a measure which, if not perfect, is at least a move in the right direction, and will enable the present, or a future Government, to introduce further necessary changes relative to the greatest of our Colonies, without having their hands tied, as previously, by a twenty-one years' charter. We pass by the Charitable Trusts Bill, and a variety of other enactments,—many of them measures of first-class importance, and of engrossing practical utility,—with the remark, that this Ministry of all the talents, which came into office unexpectedly, and had only six weeks of preparation between their installation and their meeting Parliament, have been enabled during the last six months to pass through both Houses of Parliament nearly fifty per cent more bills than any former Ministry. This great and important fact carries skill and energy to their utmost limits. Before this high order of statesmanship, the Tory opposition has dwindled into insignificance, and become a rope of sand.

SUNDAY'S MAIL.

CALIFORNIA.

JOAQUIN CAPTURED AND BEHEADED.—It has been reported here that the company of Rangers commanded by Capt. Harry Love, met with the notorious murderer and robber, Joaquin, and six of his equally infamous band, at Panocha Pass, and after desperate running fight, Joaquin and one of his gang were killed and two taken prisoners; three managed to make their escape, but one of their horses were killed and several captured. Captain Love is now on his way down with his prisoners and the head of Joaquin in preserved in spirits.—Alta California, August.

UNITED STATES.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY.—On Monday, while some hands on the Cincinnati, Wilmington, and Zanesville Railroad were quarrying stone, a human skeleton was found embedded in the rock on a bluff bank on the south branch of Jonathan's creek 30 feet from the surface. A small fissure in the rock, of perhaps two inches in width, opened to the resting place of these remains which in all probability may have been deposited there centuries ago. The rock contained an indentation of the greater part of the body, as perfect as though moulded of potter's clay. From the hip to the foot, particularly, sarcochagus was as complete as carving could have made it. The proportion curvatures, &c., of the limb were distinct and regular, and indicated that the skeleton had been a person of full size.

How and at what period of the world, these remains were deposited where found, furnishes a wide theme for conjecture, as well as a subject for the discussion of geologists. The rational probabilities are at some very ancient period this body had been washed from the creek into the bank of the stream, and that the continual deposit of sand around it formed into a rock, which has been increasing for ages only could have formed the immense amount of very hard sandstone which surrounded it.

This discovery establish what past history has heretofore entirely failed to establish, to wit—the phenomenon of a human skeleton within a body of solid rock.—Ohio Times.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CHEROKEE.—The intelligence of loss of this steamer, which with cargo, is valued at nearly half a million of dollars, has already been published. The New York Tribune of Saturday morning gives the following particulars.

Last evening about half past seven o'clock, a fire broke out on board of the United States Mail Steamship Cherokee, lying at pier 29, foot of Warren street, N. R., and before it could be subdued nearly half a million of dollars worth of property was destroyed. About the same time, as James Murphy, the night-gate watchman, in the employ of the U. S. Mail Steamship Company, was returning to his post after having hung up the lamps on the pier, he discovered smoke issuing from one of the side port holes of the main hatchway. He immediately gave the alarm, and in a few moments thereafter several fire engines were on the ground and took possession of the wharf. The alarm was soon rung forth by the City Hall and other bells, and the remaining force of the district promptly arrived on the ground.

The flames in a few moments burst forth from the cabin stairway and soon spread over the deck amidships, communicating to the cook's gallery and other houses between the wheel house. The bright light which illuminated the sky and the loud alarm by the bells brought great number of people to the spot. The wharves and vessels in the vicinity of the burning steamer were filled with one dense mass of human beings, it being estimated that from 25,000 to 30,000 persons were present.—Boston Chronicle.

SINGULAR HOMICIDE.—We learn from a passenger, who arrived by the Darien stage, yesterday, that a most singular homicide was perpetrated near the place on Thursday afternoon. A schooner laden with lumber was preparing to go to sea, when a stranger applied to go on board as a passenger. The arrangements were made, and the passenger went into the cabin, where a loaded revolver was lying on the table. Soon after the vessel got under weigh, he took the pistol, went upon deck, jumped into the boat astern, and cut loose. As he had no means of propelling the boat, she was drifted to the mercy of the waves. The mate of the vessel, desirous of relieving the stranger from his perilous

position, jumped overboard and swam towards the boat.—When he approached within a few feet of it, the stranger deliberately raised the revolver and shot him dead. The occurrence took place shortly before the stage left, so that our informants could not gather further particulars, nor learn the name of the stranger. He was supposed to be insane.—Savannah Courier, Aug. 21.

TO BE EXECUTED.—It is said that the President has decided that he will not interfere with the course of justice in the case of Daniel T. Woodward, who is under sentence of death in Washington for the murder of his wife. Woodward will be hung next Friday.

RADICALISM DEFEATED IN TENNESSEE.—By an act of the last legislature of Tennessee, the question of an election of Judicial officers by the people, was submitted to them to be voted upon in the last State election. The Nashville Union says that the proposition has failed, in consequence of a failure on the part of the voters to place the proposition on their tickets as the law directed. Probably the people thought they had good reasons for failing to vote for elective judges. They had heard of the evils of such a system in Louisiana, and wanted none of them.—Worcester (Mass) Regis.

SIX DAYS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—We learn from the New York Herald that a steamer is on the stocks, at the ship yard of John W. Griffiths, at Greenpoint, which is expected to be ready for sea early in February next. This steamer is being constructed under the plans and specifications of William Norris, civil engineer, and John W. Griffiths, naval architect, who have patented their improvements in this country, England and France. The builders and patentees, as we are informed, are under engagements to cross the Atlantic, from New York to England, within six days, in all seasons, with greater comfort to passengers and less risk to life than by the present conveyances. The Marco Polo arrived at Hobson's Bay, Melbourne, on the 29th, 75 days from Liverpool. Her passengers were all well. She was to have left Melbourne for Liverpool direct on the 8th or 9th of June, so that her arrival at Liverpool may be daily expected.

CANADA.

MURDER.—One of the most diabolical murders that ever was perpetrated in this section of the country, was committed last night by a man calling himself P. F. Beardsley, from the State of Ohio, but travelling with the "Circus" under the name of "Red Rover," on a man named James McAker. He was stabbed to the heart by a dagger about 6 inches long and died instantly.—Kingston (Canada) News.

It is rumored that their is to be a short session of Parliament in November, to be specially devoted to the settlement of Clergy Reserves and Seigneurial tenure questions.—Quebec Mercury.

WHAT RAILWAYS DO FOR THE COUNTRY.—The introduction of the Railway system into Canada has not only been the means of bringing capital into this country but has given an impetus to the growth of our towns; and where the solitary dwelling stood but a year or two ago, pretty hamlets with their busy populations, are rising up in various directions along the proposed line.—It is so in regard to both the Great Western and Northern Railway. Along the route of the former may be seen bustling activity where but a couple of years since all was sluggishness. We need only enumerate Jerseytown, Copetown, and Faichild's Creek; all of which are likely to become thriving villages. Paris, not long since the dullest of all the Western villages, is fast rising into a town of considerable importance; and in a few years will undoubtedly outstrip its former rival Brantford. To say nothing of the immense benefits conferred on Hamilton and London, it must be gratifying to every friend of progress, to observe the rapid growth and rise of villages on the route of the Great Western Railway.—Hamilton Spectator.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Governor General of Canada, en route for England, arrived in this city yesterday, via St. John and Windsor. His Excellency was conveyed to Government House, and saluted from Fort George. It will be seen by notice elsewhere that a public meeting, by requisition to the Sheriff, is to be held, with a view of expressing the high estimation entertained for His Excellency by the people of this city and county, through the medium of a respectful address. We trust the demonstration will be credible to the Nova Scotian character.

The lease of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway to the Grand Trunk Line of Canada has been consummated—it is to continue for 99 years!

The Hon. Mr. Caron, late Mayor of Quebec, has been appointed one of the Puisne Judges of the Superior Court of Canada.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

We have received further Communications on the subject of injuring the Military Band to take part in the intended celebration. We do trust those who would attend to this matter will not omit the performance of his duty. We are persuaded the gentlemanly commandant will not hesitate to comply with a proper requisition. Strangers visiting the city on the 14th will be sadly disappointed if we do not give them a rich reception of "sweet sounds" as well as displays and lunchea.

It was announced in the Freeman some time ago, that the good Catholics of Chatham, led on by their worthy pastor, had contributed the sum of £100 towards our new Catholic Cathedral. I feel as-

sured it will be gratifying to most of your readers, to hear that St. Stephen's has nobly emulated this good beginning. His Lordship the Rt. Rev. Dr. Connolly paid a visit to that part of his diocese, in company with His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax, last week. Their Lordships arrived at St. Stephens on Friday evening. The Bishop of St. John preached on Saturday and twice on Sunday last to crowded congregations, composed as well of Protestants as Catholics. The collection for the Cathedral, taken up after the solemn Mass on Sunday, at which the Archbishop assisted pontifically, amounted to nearly £100. I understand that other congregations intend soon to show their devotedness to religion and their love for their zealous Bishop, by contributing in like manner to the Cathedral fund.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held in the County Gloucester, Parish of Bathurst, on the 27th August, before John M. Kenna, Esq., Coroner, on view of the body of Mary Gansaux, only daughter of Louis Gansaux, aged 8 years, who was accidentally killed by a large fence log falling upon her body, causing immediate death. Verdict accordingly.

On yesterday the tolls of the Suspension Bridge for the year, from the 1st of September 1853 to 1st September 1854, was sold by Thos. Handford and bought by Mr. Crosby, for £1,665. This is over nine per cent on the £18,000 Stock subscribed, and that too without a decant approach to the Bridge. No wonder the Stock commands a high premium.—Morning Freeman.

The Packet Ship Imperial sailed from Liverpool on the 20th ult. She brings a large number of passengers and a cargo worth over £100,000. This is probably the most valuable cargo ever brought to these Provinces or to any British colony.

THIS DAY'S MAIL.

CANADA.

DISTURBANCE AT NIAGARA FALLS.—The sejourers at Niagara Falls were aroused from their devotions last Sabbath, by an exciting and terrific fight between whites and blacks at one of the hotels. It appears that the Deputy Marshall proceeded to arrest a colored waiter, named Sneed, alias Watson, on the charge of having killed a Mr. Jones, at Savannah, four years ago, and for whom a reward of fifteen hundred dollars had been offered. The other waiters, believing that their companion was arrested as a fugitive slave, rescued him from the officers, and after a severe fight, started with him for the Canada shore. The ferryman, who seems to have had some misgivings about the matter, rowed out into the stream, and then came back to ascertain the nature of the negro's offence. Upon being informed that it was murder, he promptly returned the man to the American shore. By this time upwards of two hundred negroes had assembled at the landing, fully prepared for a desperate resistance. The officers, however, called to their assistance some three hundred Irish railway laborers. A regular pitched battle ensued; the negroes were put to flight, and the prisoner was conducted by the officers to Buffalo, where he will be detained till the necessary papers are received for his transfer to the South.

THE MAYOR OF MONTREAL ARRESTED.—A despatch from Montreal states that Hon. Charles H. Tilton, Mayor of the city, was arrested on Saturday, on a charge of murder, having given orders for the troops to fire on the people in the Gavazzi riot.—He was held on bail in the sum of \$8000 to appear on the 14th October next, to answer at the Criminal Court of Queen's Bench. Three more of the rioters of the 9th of June have been arrested, namely, Garrett Barry, Pierre C. Brazillet, and M. Moses.—Boston Journal.

UNITED STATES.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 1st.—The total interments for 24 hours ending this morning, were 119, of which 103 were from yellow fever.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 1.—There were ten deaths by yellow fever at Mobile, on the 24th; among the dead are Capt. Fowler, of the brig Metunka, and G. W. Miller, a passenger.

The total receipts at the Courier office, Charleston, in aid of the New Orleans sufferers, is \$6,750. Gerrit Smith has given \$1000 to the New Orleans relief fund.

SARATOGA, Aug. 30.—A collision occurred last night on the Schenectady and Saratoga Railroad, near this place, by which Daniel Ostrander, a fireman, was instantly killed. A passenger, belonging to New Hampshire, was badly hurt, and several others more or less injured.

TWO NEGROES PUBLICALLY BURNED AT THE STAKE.—On Tuesday afternoon we gave an account of the murder of Dr. Fisk, the violation and subsequent murder of Mrs. Fisk, and the killing of her child by two negroes in Jasper county, Mo. It was therein stated that one of the negroes had confessed, and that the other, though closely pursued, had not been taken.

We learn from the Springfield (Mo.) Advertiser, that this negro was at last captured on the Prairie about fifteen miles from Carthage, taken to the town, tried, and found guilty, but refused to make any confession. The Advertiser says the citizens of surrounding country, determined to give a warning to all future transgressors of the kind, took the negroes out of the hands of the officers, and burned them on the 30th ult. They both made confessions, after being chained to the stake, but the Scott negro (the one last taken) afterwards denied any knowledge of it. They died in about two minutes after the fire commenced.—N. O. Delta, 17.