

side men had reached the icy Cape, but no farther. On the Atlantic side, Sir Edward Parry, with wonderful success, reached Melville Island; but thirty years passed, and no other ship could reach so far. Down the great American rivers, also, the Mackenzie and the Coppermine, men had travelled, and beheld, beyond the limits of the continent, the great frozen ocean; but none had dared to launch a ship there. East, west, and south, centuries had come in succession, and dashed against the icy rocks of that silent sea; but none ever trode a path there, till McClure, the great Polar Argonaut, plunged boldly into the icy waste of desolation, and marked the passage from ocean to another on the map of the world by the wake of his ship.

Winter was now commencing. The vessel, frozen immovable in the ice, was housed over, and all preparations made that, in case the ice struck the vessel, they should be enabled to leave her instantly without peril of death by famine. These things being attended to, the grand point remained to be decided: did a communication exist between them and Barrow's Straits—between them and the waters of the Atlantic? This would decide for ever the question of the north-west passage. McClure took six men with him and a sledge; they travelled five days over the ice. On the sixth they pitched their tent on the shores of Barrow's Straits. The question was decided. Opposite Melville Island, from which Sir Edward Parry, the first man who ever reached it, saw the loom of that land upon which McClure, thirty years after, was now resting—the first man who had ever rested there, gazing from its shores upon the waters of the north-west passage. Here they erected a cairn, fifteen feet high, with the date of discovery—October 26, 1850—a day henceforth ever memorable in the records of maritime enterprise. By the 31st they reached the ship again, having travelled one hundred and fifty-six miles in nine days. But the brave leader himself was in danger of never reaching it. When within fifteen miles of the ship, he had quitted the sledge intending to hasten on alone, and have all comforts ready for the party on arrival; but fog came on and thick darkness, so that he could no longer see the compass; and after much perilous tumbling and floundering in the ice, at the risk of breaking legs and the ice, he had to stop, finding he could proceed no farther, and bury himself up in the snow for the night. At midnight he was aroused by a bright meteor flashing across the heavens; the stars and a brilliant Aurora lit the sky, and he arose to recommence his journey. Next morning he found that he had passed the ship four miles; the fresh tracks of a bear were close to him, and he had no fire arms either for defence or signals; nevertheless he reached the ship at last in safety, "none the worse"—at least so says his hardy spirit—for a night in the snow, at a temperature of 15° minus, the vicinage of a grisly bear, and being twenty-five hours without food.

(To be continued.)

## News of the Week.

### EUROPE.

**IRELAND.**—The Roman Catholic bishop and clergy of Cloyne and the inhabitants of Queenstown have presented a flattering address to Dr. Cahill, on his departure for America.

A ship has been towed into Castletownsend Harbour, County Cork, found deserted, and of the value of £6,000. Her name is unknown, and no papers were found on board. She was covered with shell and slime.

**The Exodus.**—A Trade paper (the Chronicle) states that at this moment there are at least 90 per cent. of the labourers of Kerry looking out for the remuneration that is to pay their way across the Atlantic, and are living in the hope of sooner or later being able to reach the land of promise in the western hemisphere. From this it is inferred that the demand for land, which has now become a perfect mania, must speedily subside, and that a reaction in the other way will be the inevitable result of a drain of the labouring population.

**British Purchasers in the Encumbered Estate Court.**—We gather from the statistics of sales in the Counties of Galway and Mayo, from the date of the first sale under the Encumbered Estate Commission, 19th February 1850, up to and for 10th May, 1851, communicated by Mr. John Loeche, to the Journal of the Statistical Society of London, that the total number of purchasers were 184, and that of these 69 were British, whose purchases amounted to £107,143, out of a total purchase money of £1,022,200, 10s 3d, and an average of 362,385s 3s 3d. Thus (observes Mr. Loeche) in the brief interval of four years, one-sixth of the area of these two counties, comprising the least known and most neglected districts in Ireland, has passed from a totally impoverished proprietary into the possession of independent capitalists, two-fifths of whom are English and Scotch, and whose proportion as to money and acreage is fully two-thirds; indeed, this proportion is rather under rated, as there have been numerous sales and transfers, made outside this court, not included in my estimate, as I had no accurate means of ascertaining the number and amount; English and Scotch farmers, too, have settled on many of the estates. And though, in some instances, English capitalists are impatient at not having obtained immediately high returns for their investments, yet the disappointment is traceable solely to their own want of judgment and experience; and the improvement of agricultural and furnishing of estates are rapidly progressing throughout the regions of the far west.

**Agricultural Prospects.**—A county of Down journal (the Recorder) gives a most flattering account

of the state and prospects of the agricultural interest in that quarter of the kingdom. The country, it is maintained, has in the first place, been benefited by being freed of its redundant population; while the British colonies will derive advantage by the influx of additional hands; and the emigrants themselves may lay the foundation of comfort and independence in lands where industry has its sure reward. Respecting the potato crop, the safety of which was said by more than one Irish journal to have been more seriously endangered by the recent heavy thunder storms, the Chronicle observes,—"The accounts which we continue to receive through our contemporaries from all the provinces in the kingdom are of a cheering description notwithstanding the alarming rumour set afloat by those who, being of a nervous temperament, see famine in a withered blade of grass, misery in a blighted stalk of corn, and desolation in a crushed potato. It was said that the early planted potato was entirely ruined in various districts, but thank Providence! that rumour was without any other foundation save that which it derived from the fears of the people; all our contemporaries, when speaking upon the agricultural proceedings carried on in their respective localities, agree in saying that there never was, at any period since the failure of the potato crop, a greater breadth of land planted under it than there has been this season, and that when the growth of the esculent has been tried, it is found to far exceed in size that which any idea could have formed its former progress of this early period of the year."

It is stated that Mr. Henry Clarke, of Lincoln, has for some time been devoting his attention to the perfection of a file piece which will discharge 1800 bullets in a minute, and that such is the peculiarity of the construction of the bore that, at 2000 yards distance, the bullets fall with mathematical precision twenty four yards apart.

**Gold in Western Australia.**—According to advices just received, gold has at length been discovered in the only one of the Australian colonies in which it remained to be found. Letters from Fremantle, Western Australia, of the 25th March, state that surface specimens have been obtained within fifteen miles of that place, yielding a good percentage of pure metal. A number of persons, with provisions and proper tools, had started for the locality, and in a short time the real character and value of the deposits would be fully tested.

**Greek Pirates.**—By private letters from Syra, of the 25th, we learn that an English war corvette had upon the previous day sunk one Greek pirate and gave chase to another. The number of pirates captured or destroyed up to that date by the vessels of England and France was calculated at 27, and the vigour of the assaults made upon them had already diminished the number of the acts of piracy. The English and France trading vessel sent annually into these seas amount to about 5000.

**Testing the Crystal Palace.**—In anticipation of the opening of the Crystal Palace by her Majesty to-day, a special visit was paid to the building, on Wednesday, by Captain Galton, of the board of Trade, with a view to prove its general stability. Upwards of 400 policemen, under the charge of Superintendent Lund, were in attendance, and traversed the various floors, galleries, &c., in regular and irregular steps; putting them, as well as the temporary seats erected for the accommodation of visitors, to the severest tests, without the slightest injurious effects. The spacious orchestra for 1,500 vocal and instrumental performers was subjected to a similar test; and the entire building, as well as the temporary arrangements, were considered by Captain Galton, as perfect.

**India and China.**—The Imperialists have been driven from Shanghai by Europeans, assisted by the rebel army.

The following telegraphic despatch, via Trieste, has been received by an emigrant firm in this city:

"Hong Kong, April 22.—An attack made by the Imperialists on the foreign settlement of Shanghai led to the storming and destruction of their camp on the 4th of April by the English and American forces. Two seasons were killed and twelve wounded; of the volunteers Mr. J. C. Birnie was dangerously wounded. Mr. Griswold Grey lost a leg; captain Pearson, of the Rose Standish, severely wounded; doing well. All quiet on the 12th instant. Exchange.—Shanghai, 6s 4d; Canton 5s 2d 1-2; Company's bills 300; Canton 247. Export of tea, 70,000,000 lb; silk, 54,000 bales, consisting of Teasles, 21,000; Tysanum, 22,000; thrown, 4000; Canton 3,000. Deducting losses of tea, the excess over last year is not above 4,000,000. Another tea ship is lately lost—the Dampheys, from Shanghai."

**THE SIEGE OF SILISTRIA.**—Silistria, May 11.—Yesterday we reached this place without having encountered any Cosaks, who we were informed made occasional marauding excursions from Belik. On our arrival we found everything in readiness for the Russian attack, which must come off in a very few days, as the whole of the works constructed on the island opposite will be destroyed by the rising of the Danube. Four more battalions of infantry will be thrown in the course of a few days, and Omar Pacha declares that with this and the forces now here Silistria must stand or fall. It may be considered presumption on the part of your correspondent to criticise the plans of a general who has received so much praise from able hands, but it does seem to be a great error to leave a place of such importance unprotected, our loss of which would be of such incalculable advantage to the enemy. The strength of the Russians is supposed to be about 16,000 of all arms; that of the Turks, including the four expected battalions, about 15,000. The former are carrying on their operations against the fortifications with wonderful energy and activity, and have nearly completed a zigzag of approach on the island of Schitlak, whence they will most likely attempt their crossing. The Turks are not idle, and have under the direction of a Prussian artillery officer, named Grash—a man of considerable ability, and to whom the Turks are indebted for many of their improvements—strengthened and added to the defences of the place.

**4 P. M.**—The cannonade has just commenced. Balls and shells in all directions.

**May 12.**—I had just time, at the conclusion of my last letter, of the 11th instant, to inform you of the commencement of the Russian cannonade against this place, which commenced about 4 p. m., and was immediately answered by the Turkish batteries. It was kept up sharply on both sides till after 7, when the enemy began to slacken their fire, and by 8 o'clock it had ceased entirely, the Turks having the last shot. At the commencement of the firing numbers of the enemy's shells fell, and burst among the streets and houses of the town, and the whole place was soon in a scene of painful excitement—scared women and children rushing wildly about seeking for shelter, the terrified inhabitants collecting their goods and hurrying to the subterranean rooms which they had constructed in anticipation of this event; and by the time my friend and I were advancing, and on our way down to the bat-

tery on the Schitlak bastion, we found the whole of the streets silent and deserted. On reaching the battery we found Musa Pacha, the commandant of the garrison, Hussain Pacha, of Tartarus celebrity, and colonel Grash, the Prussian instructor of Artillery; and while there we were particularly struck with the admirable manner in which the Turkish artillerymen worked their guns. Their mortar practice was excellent, most of the shells bursting in or immediately over the Russian batteries. The practice of the enemy was very slowly, and on the whole indifferent, as our list of casualties only showed one chasseur and a horse killed, a peasant and a child in the town wounded, and a trading shallop on the bank of the river destroyed. As an instance of the carelessness of the Russian artillery, we found an eight-inch shell fired by them with the fuse uncapped, and I was told this was by no means a rare occurrence. Considerable damage, however, has been done to the buildings of the town, and as far as shattered roof and broken walls testify, the luckless inhabitants, who are the principal sufferers on these occasions, have but small cause to thank their would-be protectors.

Towards five in the evening an opposition cannonade was got up overhead in the shape of a thunder storm, and a perfect rainbow which followed appeared as if in mockery of the belligerents below, who were hammering away at each other with such hearty good will. The Russians seem to be carrying on their operations with great activity and energy. They have very nearly completed a zigzag of approach across the Island of Schitlak. On the morning of the 12th we observed a battery of four guns had been thrown up during the night on the adjacent island of Silhane, which had not been previously occupied by them. During the whole of this forenoon (the 12th) the enemy seems to be engaged in transporting ammunition and stores from the mainland to the Island of Hopper, as their boats and shallops made frequent passages from one side to the other and towards evening large bodies of infantry were seen moving down to the water's edge, for the purpose, as we concluded, of being thrown into that island. No attempt has been made to cross as yet, and it seems to me that the enemy are much more likely to take advantage of the position they have now obtained in the Dobrudsha to throw across a force and march against this place by Rasseva and Belik. Had Mustapha Pacha, when he retired in disorder through the Dobrudsha, retained the line of Kara su, the siege of Silistria would have been a much more difficult affair than it is now, as the passage from the island must always be a considerable obstacle to an assailant. Had the line of the Karasu been retained, which I believe was quite possible the siege would have been a very different affair, as the great obstacle, viz., the passage of the Danube, is now overcome.

The Turks have not been idle, and Musa Pacha is in defensible in his exertions. My companion, Captain J. A. Butler, Ceylon Rifles, and myself, have tendered our services during the siege. As we are in for it, you may expect a most full account of it as soon as Omar Pacha or the allied generals may deem it fit to raise the siege. News has just come in that a large body of Russians is within 12 miles of the place, and they have succeeded in driving in our cavalry outpost at Yenikoi with a loss on our side of 40 men killed and wounded. To-morrow we may expect to see them here. *London Times Correspondent.*

**An Engineering Establishment Afloat.**—It may, perhaps interest some of our readers to know of a very judicious step which the admiralty have taken to provide speedy means of effecting repairs of the machinery of any of the engines of the Baltic fleet by equipping the Volcano, steam-frigate, as a complete engineers' workshop, to attend to the fleet in the Baltic, and carry the workshop alongside any ship requiring repairs of the machinery, and so effecting such repairs with all promptitude. By the judicious arrangements of the surveyor of the navy, Sir Baldwin Walker, the deck of the Volcano has been lowered so as to yield a most spacious workshop, 10 feet high from floor to roof, 104 feet long by 30 feet wide, in which are placed, in most convenient arrangement, a 12-horse power independent steam engine, two boilers, to supply power and motion to the various machines, and tools, forming the equipment of this floating workshop; which tools and machinery consist of one powerful turning lathe, and three others of graduated capabilities, two planing machines, two boiler-plate punching and shearing machines, four boring machines, two bolt-screwing machines, one steam hammer, with four forges, one cupola, capable of exceeding any casting in bars or iron up to 30 cwt. with its appropriate foundry apparatus and material, a blowing fan to supply blast to the forges and foundry cupola; together with grindstones, anvils, vices, and all the minor implements of a very complete and efficient engineers' establishment, which there can be no doubt, will prove of the utmost value and importance to the service. Mr. James Naughton, of Paternoster, has been entrusted by the Admiralty with the equipment of the Volcano, the machinery for which is being fitted to the vessel, now lying for that purpose in the royal dockyard, Woolwich, and will be ready for sea and service in a few days.

**Russian Sick abandoned.**—"The following fact," says the Patria, "shows the indifference of the Russians to their soldiers. The Russian generals, in evacuating the last forts on the coast of Abasie, abandoned their sick in the hospitals. The Circassians, notwithstanding the hatred which they feel for their oppressors, respected these unfortunate, and European surgeons were sent by the vessels of the named squadron to give them every assistance."

**Russian Saints.**—Some time ago the Czar sent pictures of his saints to Cronstadt, to protect the soldiers there. The last orders of the day issued at St. Petersburg however, enjoin that, in the event of the city being threatened with a blockade or storm all the pictures of the saints are to be removed to Moscow. How comes it that the saints, which a few weeks ago were deemed to protect others, are now deemed as incapable of protecting themselves as the old men, women, and children who are to be removed along with them.

**Letter from the Baltic.**—The following is an extract from a letter received by the friend of an officer serving in the Baltic:—

H. M. S.—, May 14.

We are, I believe, imbued with a proper Chamberlaine's fervor, and an ardent wish to conquer when the action begins; but it does not appear that it is the policy of the French Government or our own to run very great hazards, without nearly certain hope of advantage results, as the Russians are in this respect their forts particularly strong, and they have rendered Cronstadt impregnable by the erection of additional heavy batteries, and firing up all the approaches, so that our advance will be conducted with caution, and the forts must be taken in detail. Some time ago it was proposed by an officer that all the launches and small steamers should pass under the Cronstadt on its northern face, and proceed to

St. Peterburgh (the line of battle ships keeping the forts and Russian and Russian flotilla in check,) and bombard that city; but we now find that they have while the ice was covering those waters, filled the whole breadth of the channel with massive piles and huge logs of granite, so that no vessel could possibly pass with out running close under the range of their stupendous batteries.

Yet I think as soon as the French contingent join we shall move on, and you may expect to hear soon of an attack upon Revel or Sveaborg. The latter place is very strong, being a series of detached forts—on five islands—these islands form a small and secure harbour, where all the men of war are moored. There is plenty of water for any of the ships to approach these forts but the channels very intricate, yet we are gradually becoming better acquainted with this sea and are long be quite conversant with its different coasts, rocks, and shoals, of which there are multitudes.

**State of Affairs at St. Petersburg.**—The Presse has a letter of the 21st from St. Petersburg, by which we learn that the inhabitants of that capital know little or nothing of what is going on in the world. The official reports have all along been so favourable that the St. Petersburgers are somewhat astonished that the army is not yet at Adrianople. The blockade of the Baltic ports has caused a great falling off in the Customs. In 1853 the receipts from January till the end of May 15,000,000 silver roubles, but in the first quarter of the present year they have only amounted to one-fourth of that sum. The Emperor, who writes a great deal, is assisted by his son, and particularly by the Grand Duke Constantine. The general impression in the Russian Capital is that the war will be a long one, although it will be carried on with the greatest energy. Both sides of the mouth of the Neva are strongly fortified, and the police has issued orders for the guidance of the inhabitants in case of attack. If Cronstadt is taken, the old men, women and children, are to quit St. Petersburg immediately, the pavement pulled up, and the consecrated bells and pictures conveyed to Moscow. It is however, confidently asserted in the proclamation that the rocks and artillery of Cronstadt will be the ruin of the hostile fleets.

### NEWFOUNDLAND.

The steamer Merlin, at Halifax, brings us dates from Newfoundland to the 13th inst. There is still trouble in the island with the Legislature. The House and the Council have been unable to agree upon the Representative Bill, and the consequence is that the legislation of the Colony has come to a stand still. On the 12th inst. the Speaker was authorized by the House to intimate to the Governor that there was no further business before them, which was simply requesting to be relieved from their legislative functions, which request was acceded to, and His Excellency sent the members to their homes after delivering the following short but pointed speech:—

"In my reply to the Address of the Assembly in answer to my Speech on opening the present Session, I expressed my regret at the course the Assembly resolved to pursue; and that whether the public good had been consulted in arriving at the determination to which they had come, was a question for their own consideration; and that with them would rest the responsibility for any detriment to important public interests which might arise from such a course. And now, whether circumstances—especially since the communication to the Assembly of the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch of the 21st February last, on the subject of Responsible Government—justify the course of procedure on the part of the Assembly announced by them in their address to His Grace, is a point on which I forbear to express an opinion; but which must be submitted to the consideration of the Imperial Authorities."

The Session having extended over four months and a half, and the Assembly having at the expiration of that protracted period, stated their determination, for reasons mentioned in their address to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, not to grant Her Majesty Supplies for defraying the Expenses of the Civil Government of the Colony, I am induced, by regard for the honour of the Crown formally to terminate the Session by prorogation.

The wisdom of the conduct of the House is doubted in some of the papers, and fiction is said to be at the bottom of the movement—not the public good. Meantime, the affairs of the Colony must suffer.

**Fire.**—A fire had occurred at St. John's which destroyed three blocks fronting on the north side of George's-street, between Queen and Waldegrave-street, together with several buildings in the rear. Upwards of ninety families were turned out of doors.

Friday Schist, was observed throughout the island as a day of humiliation and prayer for the success of the British arms against the Russian forces.

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

We learn by telegram from Pictou this morning that the election in Prince Edward Island on the 20th inst., resulted in the return of eighteen liberals and six conservatives. Mr. Oles led the poll in his district—Mr. Beer was also elected. Messrs. Lord and Muirhead were likewise returned. Dr. Conroy lost his election.

### UNITED STATES.

**Another Thunder Storm—Fatal Effect.**—Boston June 30th.—During a thunder shower last night, the Unitarian Church in Kingston was badly damaged by lightning. In North Bridge-water a young man named Reynolds was instantly killed by lightning. Hail fell in Taunton.

### CANADA.

**Extraordinary affair in the Gulf.**—As Capt. Daniel Gorman of the ship Jerry, Limerick, was on his outward voyage, and when about 45 miles south-east of the Island of Anticosti, during a thick fog, and surrounded by field ice, he heard the report of a gun. Supposing it to be a signal from another vessel near at hand, he caused the fog bell to be rung to save a collision. In about twenty minutes the fog cleared off, and his ship was found to be close to a piece of ice, on which lay in view the body of a man extended, and still bleeding profusely from a wound in the chest. He was quite dead, and not far from him lay the body of another Indian, with a dead seal alongside of him. The first poor fellow was exonerated, despairing of relief from certain death by starvation, had just put a period to his existence not imagining that aid was really so near. They presently went out together on the field ice to fill seals, and had drifted out to sea, when the first dying man cold, the other committed suicide to avoid a more lingering death. *Quebec Mercury.*

**Disastrous Fire.**—On the 29th inst. a Fireman, at 8 o'clock this morning, a great conflagration occurred, which almost entirely destroyed the whole