

Communications.

THE NEW YEAR.

"We take no note of time,
But from its loss; to give it then a tongue
Is wise in man."

YOUNG.

Hark! we hear the clock strike Twelve. 'Tis midnight—that dreary and ominous hour, when gaunt spectres are said to thread their trackless paths, amid the darkness of the silent night, and seek to disturb the slumbers of the living! We say, are said, because we have never beheld any of those terrors of the superstitious or conscience-stricken. Far from dreading such visitants, there are many departed spirits with whom we could hold sweet converse, if such a thing were possible.

Midnight! Aye Midnight! 'Tis the funeral knell of another year. 1855 is, from this very hour, registered among the chronicles of past ages. The Historian has a wide field for comment, a bright page to register. Alma, Inkermann, and Sebastopol, are memorable events to record, and our Naval annals will not be disgraced by the events of the past year. But this bright page has also its dark side—for all this glory—all these splendid victories—are the price of blood.

How many thousands who welcomed the last New Year, in all the pride of life, have passed into eternity. How many Widows and Orphans have sad cause to mourn, and will long have registered on the tablets of their memory, the past eventful year. And all this waste of life and treasure to foil the mad ambition of a reckless Tyrant.

Little did the proud Czar dream that the Saxon and the Gaul would unite their martial hosts to give him battle. That their united standards would ever wave over his Crimean strong hold.

"The busy trifler dreams himself alone,
Frames many a purpose, and God works his own.

States thrive or wither as moons wax and wane,

Even as His will and His decrees ordain;
In just resentment of His injured laws,
He pours contempt on them and on their cause."

COWPER.

How truly are these lines exemplified in the case of Russia. Even in England there were not a few who thought the Muscovite Empire invulnerable. Often have we read articles in the English Journals setting forth the vast naval power of Russia, with sad forebodings as to the future. The writers forgetting the most important item in the account. To build a ship is an easy matter, to manage her once afloat quite another affair. We have seen and examined the magnificent Baltic Fleet. They have fine ships we admit. But they lack the one thing needful, Sailors. The Russians like cats, have an innate dread of the water. Ten genuine English tars are worth thirty of the Czar's serfs. The natives of Finland are the only good seamen he can boast—and it is to be hoped that ere the close of the war that ill-gotten part of his dominions will be restored to its legitimate owner Sweden. But supposing the Russians to possess the qualifications requisite to make good seamen, they have not the opportunity of becoming proficient in the art. The Baltic Fleet is seldom ready for sea, in times of peace, before the middle of June; and is again laid up for the winter in October—fully one half the time they are afloat is passed at anchor on one or other of the roadsteads in the Gulf of Finland. Seven months are thus spent on shore during which the much-dreaded Russian tars do garrison duty, and are drilled as soldiers, for which they are far better qualified than to man the Fleet. In a word the boasted maritime strength of Russia is a mere bug-bear to frighten old women and children.

Let us hope that the present representative of an ambitious dynasty, will ere long be convinced of the folly of carrying on a war, which if protracted, must end in the dismemberment of his colossal Empire, and that our next great day of rejoicing may be the proclamation of Peace. An honourable and durable one. But let us have no half measures. No patched up affair. Let the Crimea be restored to Turkey. The navigation of the Danube and Black Sea be open to all Nations. Secure the independence of the Principalities, and of the heroic Circassian under the joint protection of England and France. And last, though not least, let Russia be made to pay the expenses of the war. That is the surest guarantee you can have of peace for the next century. Cripple the pecuniary resources of the Russian autocrat, and his dreams of conquest and aggrandizement are at an end. Nothing short of this can secure us a lasting peace. Let us not be the good natured fools our forefathers were, and saddle future generations with grievous burdens which ought to be borne by others. By compelling the Czar to pay the debt, you not only do an act of justice to the people of England and France, but you will confer a real and substantial benefit on those of Russia. For when their Ruler finds his dreams of destiny have vanished, he may then devote himself to the social improvement of his own subjects—He has a wide and glorious field for exertion. Let him devise some plan for the emancipation

of his millions of serfs—establish a general system of education. Become himself a man of his word, and cause honesty, fair-dealing, and candour to be substituted for roguery, fraud, and deceit—the present characteristics of the Muscovite race. Let him do all this and future generations will bless the memory of Alexander II. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished for, and will be a far brighter page in Russian history than all her victories and conquests. The martial star of Russia has set. She has not only been beaten at all points, but on every occasion, when superiority of numbers ought to have given her the victory.—Louis Napoleon has fully avenged the retreat from Moscow. The Allied Powers seek no territorial conquests. All we seek is to curb the rapacity of the Russian Eagle—to keep him within his territorial boundaries. But much as we deprecate war—sincerely as we have, and do still regret its stern necessity, still we should prefer its continuance to any thing short of the terms we have named. Let the work so well commenced be done effectually, and thus prevent the possibility of a future appeal to arms.

This is our eleventh year of sojourn in the District of Gaspé. Let us look back and consider what progress we have made, what improvements have taken place during the past ten years. Ten years! 'tis a long period in the life of man! Have we progressed, remained stationary, or gone back? These are important questions, and which ever way we cast our eyes, we see little cause for congratulation. A decided improvement in Agriculture is the only forward movement we can see. Our Roads are in the same wretched state, or even worse on the whole than we found them. Bridges are tottering to the imminent danger of life and limb. No less than eight Rivers have to be ferried, and that number will shortly be increased. But the most important of all social improvements is the education of the masses.—With us "the Schoolmaster is abroad" sure enough, for in too many localities he is nowhere to be found. Take the settlements of L'Ance au Gascon, Newport, Pabos, &c., as an example say from Port Daniel to Grand River—thirty miles of settled coast, along which, if we mistake not, there is not a single school in operation. Even in this very Township, two School Districts are without teachers, and that of New Carlisle is virtually closed, for though there is a master, there has been no school this winter. A melancholy state of things and affording a sad picture of the moral depravity likely to ensue. It was justly observed by a celebrated Divine of our day, that to neglect the education of the rising generation was like letting loose so many wild beasts upon society. A serious responsibility rest somewhere.

"Take compassion on the rising age;
In them redeem your errors manifold;
And by due discipline and nurture sage,
In virtue's love betimes your docile sons engage."

WEST.

There are numerous other social evils and abuses on which we might dilate, but as we happen unfortunately to belong to the class of know-nothings, we shall not pretend to dwell on such matters.

A Happy New Year, friend Pierce, to you and yours.

MERCATOR.

New Carlisle, January 1, 1856.

MR. EDITOR,

A Pamphlet is being circulated in this District, entitled, or having for its motto "Pro Bono Publico," but I think a much more appropriate one would be "ad captandum vulgus," or to catch the rabble.

It professes to be an answer to one which appeared in 1854, attributed to Mr Christie, which the writer designates as a most scurrilous production, and accuses its author of being worse than a midnight assassin, &c., &c., all of which is applicable, with interest, to the author of the one now in circulation—for a more scurrilous, disgusting, and pitiful production never emanated from the Press—in a word, both writer and publisher have good reason to be ashamed of allowing their names to appear—and I trust, for their own credit sake, that those whom it professes to adulate were ignorant of its appearance, for they may well exclaim "deliver us from such friends"!!!

Apart from libel or any other crime that might be brought to his charge, its author ought to be tried for murdering the Queen's English, and the Printer sent to Coventry by all his fraternity.

A FRIEND OF TRUTH.

Gaspé.

From the New York National Monitor.

HYGEAN VAPOR.

Dr. Curtis has done more to ameliorate the condition of humanity afflicted with lung complaints, than any other practitioner of medicine that has struggled with the secrets of the *materia medica*, for the last century, by the invention and perfection of an instrument that will convey to the lungs a medicine in the shape of a highly Medicated Vapor which acts directly on the disease, and not, hitherto by sympathy. Those who are troubled with diseases arising from disordered lungs, will subscribe their interests by giving the Hygean Vapor a trial

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

The Terms of Peace.—Vienna, Dec. 30.—The day before yesterday Count Boal communicated the terms of peace to Prince Gortchakoff. By the cession of so much of the territory of Bessarabia as is necessary to secure to all nations the free navigation of the Danube, it means the cession of that part of Bessarabia which lies between the fortress Chatyn on the north, the Salt Lake Sasyk on the south, and the Pruth on the west. Three weeks from the day of delivery is the time allowed for consideration. The foregoing is authentic.

The Fleets.—Rear-Admiral Lyons had just been promoted to the rank of admiral, and was leaving for France, where it will be observed he has since arrived. The provisional command of the fleet had been conferred upon Admiral Fremantle, Admiral Stuart, who had been at Smyrna, had left there on the 16th for Athens.

French Mortar and Gun Boats.—It is said that the Emperor Napoleon has addressed a letter to Admiral Hamelin, Minister of Marine, expressing his desire that 25 mortar boats and 150 gun boats may be ready in the Spring.

The Baltic.—The Independence Belge says that the English Admiralty has ordered several extensive building to be engaged at Kiel and Elsinore for the purpose of converting them into depots of materiel of every description for the use of the fleet next spring. The victualing department, which is to be confided to contractors, is also to be organised for that period on a grand scale. The land force which France will send to the Baltic, should the war continue, in 1856, will draw their provisions from Sweden, where companies are now being formed for that object.

France.—We (United Service Gazette) are informed that engineer officers are now engaged in tracing out most extensive lines near St. Omer, for the immediate reception of a large army, reported at 100,000 men. The new huts are to be erected adjoining those occupied by the camp of this year. Another camp of 40,000 men is to be formed at Cherbourg.

The Paris correspondent of Le Nord, writing on Sunday, the 30th, says he is assured that the French government has demanded of the Cabinet of Vienna an explanation of the toasts which had been drunk in honour of the Russian army at a banquet given to Marshal Baron Hess, to celebrate his fiftieth year of military service.

Four of the kitchens established in Paris for feeding all applicants at reduced prices, at the expense of the state, aided by contributions from the Emperor and Empress, were opened on the 28th.

The marine artillery at Cherbourg and Brest is at present making experiments with new balls, of a conical form, terminating in a point of steel, and filled with gunpowder the explosion of which can break to pieces, it is said, the hardest stonework.

Spain.—The Barcelona papers state that the youngest of the Tristans has died of the severe wounds which he received during an encounter which they had with the column of General Rios two days before. Twenty other Carlists were placed hors de combat on that occasion; 23 more Carlists were in prison at Cardona, and about 30 people of that district and Segurra had been sent off to Barcelona in custody of a company of Cacadores. The Carlist agents sent off to the different districts of Catalonia are stated to have returned with very discouraging news as to the prospects of a successful movement in any part of Catalonia, so much so that one of the most daring chiefs of the party is said to have exclaimed at their last meeting that the game was up for the present, and to have recommended each one to provide for his own safety (*cada mochuelo a su nido*—every owl to his Ivy bush.)

Hanover.—King George of Hanover has just abolished trial by jury for political offences in his dominions by his mere decree. Trials on account of published writings are also withdrawn from recognizance of juries. This sovereign, the public is aware, is the worthy son of our late Duke of Cumberland.

Denmark.—The Berlin correspondent of the Times says:—

According to a private letter I have received from Copenhagen, it is stated that the Danish government, under the twofold pressure of the partial relinquishment of neutrality by Sweden and the apparently inevitable conflict with the United States on account of the Sound dues, has decided on making advances to the allies in the matter of the future campaign in the Baltic. For some time the government, as is represented to me, wavered between England and France to which of the two it should make its advances, and at last decided for the former; in consequence of which a special envoy is very shortly to be accredited to London for the purpose of concluding a treaty, by which England shall guarantee to Denmark the possession of her West India Islands. In case of hostilities breaking out between the United States and Denmark, which would naturally result from any United States vessel attempting to pass the Sound without paying the dues, as is apprehended by the Danes that the first step taken by the Americans would be to lay violent hands on the Danish Island of St. Thomas. The recent expedition of British naval forces to the West Indies as explained by our government to have taken place for the purpose of protecting our own territories there from piratical invasion, will throw an appearance of pro-

bability upon the idea that our government may fall in with this view.

Sweden.—The Independence Belge gives credence to the statement that a circular has been issued by the Swedish Government setting forth the motives which led to the late defensive treaty with England and France. The Brussels journal has even heard that the language employed in the document denotes a remarkable change in Sweden's relations with Russia, and is of so marked a character as to justify the belief that in the spring she will engage energetically in the war.

The King of Sweden has conferred the order of the Seraphim on Count Walewski, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Stockholm, December 24.—Whatever may be the official and public interpretations of the treaty with the western powers, there is every reason to believe it is only the outside shell of a kernel, which is perhaps not yet ripe, but it cannot last long before attaining its last growth.

The extraordinary activity prevailing in our naval and military arsenals and other departments point to the presumption that there is more going on behind, the scenes than is considered needful to make public, at least for the present. It is clear that in this hyperborean climate, with the thermometer at 20 degrees below zero, and sea and land covered several feet deep with ice and snow, the Christmas holidays would not be employed for such energetic work unless there was some good reason for it. It is more especially the army and navy clothing establishments that are so exceedingly busy in preparing uniforms and other articles of dress and accoutrements. Very large quantities of leather for boots, cross-belts, and pouches have been purchased at Hamburg, and arrived here just before the frost set in. Regimental commanders have received strict orders to put their corps in the greatest possible state of efficiency. These orders are called private, but are, as a matter of course, of such a nature as to prevent their being kept long secret. Officers who have applied for leave of absence at head-quarters have received flat refusals to their request. Here at Stockholm the belief is general that we are preparing to take part in the war in the spring, and although the partisans of Russia disclaim against it, public opinion in general is greatly in favour of it, and a war with Russia would be a very popular measure.

Russia.—Berlin, Dec. 31.—The Czar has ordered a fresh appeal to be issued, summoning the peasants of the Crown domains to form fresh regiments of sharpshooters.

On the 16th ult. there was a solemn procession in St. Petersburg for the purpose of exhibiting to the people the colours and other trophies captured at Kars; the guns from the Peter Paul citadel boomed their accompaniment of salutes, and squadrons of cavalry with drawn sabres, escorted the procession through the streets. There was also at the same time special divine service in the churches, at all of which the priests adverted to the recent victory of the Cross over the Crescent.

A Berlin despatch dated the 30th, states that large depots for troops were being formed on the shores of the Baltic.

Switzerland.—The Feuille Federale, a Swiss journal, publishes the project of a treaty of commerce between the Swiss Confederation and England, stipulating for perfect reciprocity between the two nations as regards liberty of residence, exemption for national charges, and the enjoyment of all the rights conceded to the most favoured nations. A Government message recommends the federal Assembly to adopt this convention.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The body of an unknown man was found yesterday lying upon the flats of Courtney Bay. The body from appearances had been some time in the water, and as there were marks of violence about the head (the jaw and skull being broken,) it is supposed he has met with foul play. He had on moleskin pants, fine boots, black satin vest, check shirt, but no coat.

The new Suspension Bridge at Beatty's Ferry, Hammond River, which was nearly completed, came down and was totally destroyed on Tuesday last. A man, who was driving a yoke of oxen over it at the time, was severely injured one of the oxen was killed.—*New Brunswicker.*

An inveterate case of Scurvy cured by Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Miss Mary Martin, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, was afflicted for fourteen years (commencing when only 8 years old) with scurvy; the face, hands, arms, and body, were alike constantly visited with this disagreeable and painful eruption, many remedies were tried in the anticipation of benefiting the sufferer; but in vain. About eighteen months ago, the parents determined to see what effect Holloway's Ointment and Pills would have upon her; these two remedies quickly performed their part, cleansed the blood, reinstated the fluids, and generally strengthened the constitution, the Ointment healed the cutaneous eruptions, and happily continued thoroughly restored her to health after fourteen years almost incessant suffering.

For Sale or to Lease.

That Commodious Little SAW MILL, (only two years old) situated at Salmon Beach, Parish of Bathurst, County of Gloucester, working one Saw, capable of being enlarged. Together with about Sixty acres of LAND if required. Terms moderate and accommodating. Enquire of

THOMAS MILLER, Bathurst,
Bathurst, 26th December, 1855.