

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

RUSSIA.—St. Petersburg.—The idea of fortifying this city is being revived again, and it is understood that the Minister of War has called on the engineering departments to send in estimates. General Tottleben is mentioned as the officer who will be intrusted with the drawing up of the plans. The petty earth-works that were thrown up during the war at the mouth of the Neva are not of importance enough to be here taken into notice; and Cronstadt, which was thought before the war to be impregnable, and has been immensely strengthened during and since the war, fails any longer to inspire confidence in the Government.

The Subscription opened for erecting a monument to the Russian officers and soldiers killed at Sebastopol has produced a sum of 60,000 silver roubles. The monument is to consist of a vast funeral chapel, which will be constructed at the end of the cemetery. The names of the officers killed, and those of the corps and regiments who took part in the struggle, will be inscribed on tablets of black marble.

The Sunken Steamers.—Of all the seventy vessels that were scuttled or sunk in the harbour of Sebastopol between September 22 and February 17, there have been only one steamer, the Chersonese, and a few transports, raised; the result of the examination to which the others have been subjected by divers shows them not to be worth much expense being bestowed upon them.

AUSTRIA.—Vienna.—The Emperor and the Empress reached Vienna on the 25th ult. The same day, their majesties went to St. Mark's (the Cathedral) where Te Deum was sung.—The Emperor and Empress returned to the palace, and the former admitted his privy councillors and chamberlains to his presence.—Shortly before dinner his Majesty reviewed the garrison; and almost directly after they had risen from table the Emperor and Empress went out to see the illumination. The remainder of the evening was passed in the theatre, La Fenice, where their Majesties were received with loud acclamations.

Private letters from Venice, however, speak of the coldness with which the Emperor was received in that city. There were crowds of people in the streets through which the cortege passed. It was expected that the Emperor would have been called by the people to present himself at the balcony of the Palace, and rich velvet cushions were placed there for that purpose. The people did not call for the Emperor, and the cushions remained useless. At Milan the police went about to the tailors and dress-makers, to ascertain if uniforms or dresses had been ordered for the reception which the Emperor was expected to hold on his arrival.—They were informed that none had been ordered.

ITALY.—Insurrection in Sicily.—The first throes of the volcano has been felt. Sicily has been the first to rise. We have as yet no details; but the telegraph gives the following information:

An insurrectionary movement took place on the 22nd ult. in some communes of the province of Palermo. The government authorities had been driven out. A deputy of the parliament of 1848 is at the head of the movement.—The Neapolitan government had despatched troops to the disturbed places. Arrests had taken place in Palermo, but nothing is yet known of the importance attaching to the insurrection. Disturbance is said to have also taken place at Girgenti the ancient Agrigentum, on the southern coast of Sicily. Naples was tranquil at the date of the despatch.

There is, however, proof that the Sicilian affair is not likely to be isolated, but, on the contrary, that a movement is being got up in the mainland as well, in the following address to the army, which has been extensively circulated among the soldiery in and about Naples:—

Valiant Military Fellow citizens.—You declare that you desire an anarchy or revolution, neither do we desire them. But neither you nor we can or ought to suffer such a state of things as the present, which has called down upon it the reproach of even the conservative governments of Europe. Men without faith or heart, under the semblance of the conservation of order, rule over us contrary to public opinion, contrary to morality, contrary to the wishes of all dotards and cowards, they oppress the country because they depend on your valour, on your honour, on your loyalty. But, in God's name, soldiers, are you the men to permit that the blood shed by you, and those sentiments which so much honor you, should serve to satisfy the insatiable thirst of those reptiles who call themselves directors of police? Will you, Italians, endure that Italian fellow-citizens be insulted, that your country be oppressed? Will you let them liken you to the Swiss; you, who have not sold your arms to any one? But who, heaven be praised, have sworn to use it for the maintenance of the law? And what law is there more sacred than that to which you have sworn in the sight of God—One and Three—before Italy, before all Europe, before severe history, which then was present to register your oath? Consider, then that silence would give you the appearance of accomplices or timid persons. Show that you are neither the one nor the other that you are not blind instruments of those who feed on the blood and tears of 8,000,000 of men. O,

break in two that bread which you receive, and you will find it formed of that blood and those tears. Should, then, O soldiers! the country declare its legitimacy and legal wishes, show it your sympathy—do not oppose it—second it in whatever way you will. Save the country from misfortune, while you will acquire the reputation of the liberators of your country.

The telegraph tells us that perfect tranquillity exists in Naples, but, says a correspondent of a contemporary:—"It is, indeed, like the tranquillity of death, for all activity is suspended in commerce, trade, daily occupations, and amusements, so that the whole population as if the had been paralysed. Poverty, and discontent too, exist together with this quiet to a fearful extent, for the thousands of foreigners who every winter maintain so many different classes stop short at Florence and Rome, and poor Naples is tabooed. In fact, the obstinacy—the judicial obstinacy and blindness—of the wretched government are ruining this fine country, as anybody must see and confess whose interests do not make him dishonest. In the provinces perhaps there is more agitation, and more irritating persecution. The houses of the inhabitants are entered arbitrarily by the authorities and the utmost excesses committed. Were I to record the details of what I hear continually, of course I should not be believed—they would sound like passages from mediæval history. Of one thing be assured, that the farther from the capital the greater the persecution. Such a system produces its natural fruits, and the province of Salerno, and especially the district of Vallo, has thus been reduced to a nominal state of revolution against the government. I am told that within the last few years some hundreds of homicides have been committed in that district, and on the persons of those who have distinguished themselves as the spies and the agents of the government. For a man to denounce another, a system by-the-by encouraged in every town and village in the kingdom, is to expose himself in the Vallo to certain death; and I have heard of cases where the assassin has watched a whole month to accomplish his purpose. What renders the whole transaction yet more extraordinary is, that perhaps that not more than four or five of those who have committed these homicides have been recognized; the people are with them, and conceal them. A great many arrests have been made for political offences in and about Salerno within the last few weeks—amongst others were arrested the brothers Mignoni, one of those families whose inheritance is persecution. Their dependants would have defended them, but it was prohibited; on the road, however, to Salerno, an attempt was made to rescue them, and one or two gendarmes were wounded. The province of Salerno is, therefore, always ready for movement, and nothing but the strong arm of power and the entreaties of the liberal party can keep it even in a doubtful state of tranquillity. It is said that some soldiers have been recently arrested, and that there is a growing understanding between the troops and the people. However that may be, great efforts are made to conciliate the troops. With the army against them no popular movement could ever succeed, and therefore it is that efforts are made in this direction. The Neapolitan troops are more especially open to overtures from the people, inasmuch as the most intense jealousy of the Swiss animates them, a feeling not likely to be diminished by the yet greater numbers which are being now recruited for the service of his majesty.

FRANCE.—Paris.—The Conferences.—The news of the French and English Governments having agreed on the question of the Congress, as alluded to some days ago, is said to be quite correct. The Congress will, it seems, be held in Paris. Baron Brunow remains for some time longer in Paris, probably to give his assistance on the occasion. A correspondent in London, writing to La Presse, says, "The information at the French Embassy here justifies the announcement that Lord Palmerston, yielding to a superior influence, has at last consented to a reunion of the conference, being convinced that the Emperor of the French will insist, quite as much as England, on the strict execution of the Treaty of Paris."

Fatal Explosion at Rhodes, Nov. 8.—A new catastrophe has just befallen the city of Rhodes afflicted as it was already by the earthquake of the 12th of last October. On the 6th of Nov., at four in the afternoon, during a storm, a flash of lightning set fire to the powder magazine, situated at the upper end of the town, and close to the church of St. John. The shock from the explosion was terrific; St. John's-church, that ancient relic of the knights, and the buildings of the whole adjoining quarter, were thrown down, and their unfortunate inhabitants buried beneath the ruins. The number of the houses and public dwellings entirely destroyed may be estimated at 200, without reckoning an almost equal number of edifices half-destroyed.

The amount of the dead, which cannot be exactly ascertained to-day, is at least from 250 to 300. In the Mudir's house alone twenty-five persons perished, of whom sixteen belong to his own family. The damage would have been yet more considerable if the magazine had not been quite in the upper part of the town, on a plateau chiefly occupied by the churches of St. John and St. Paul, the palace of the old grand masters, and fortifications with large open spaces between them. The explosion passed over the lower quarters of the town, which have escaped, though the doors and windows were driven in, and some stones knocked off the walls even there.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mechanics' Institute.—On Monday evening, Mr Jeremiah Travis, a native of this part of the Province, but for some time past carrying on an extensive business in Restigouche, where he now resides, lectured on 'Restigouche and its vicinity.' The Lecturer entertained a very high idea of the country, its productions and resources. In a lively way he exhibited the characteristics of its inhabitants, enlarging on their hospitality, and generously offering, himself, to do all that was amiable to 'Benedicts' in search of the picturesque in Restigouche.—Mr Travis had some remarkably fine trout with him, weighing about five or six pounds, and he said trout of ten pounds were by no means uncommon. Salmon had been taken in the Restigouche, of 70 lbs. weight, and 20 lbs was quite a common size. Wheat grown in the County had taken the prize at the Paris Exhibition. The lecture, which contained a great amount of interesting information, was frequently applauded.

In the course of his remarks, the lecturer disputed some statements made by Mr Perley, in his report or handbook—we did not hear which—and, at the conclusion of the lecture, Mr Perley warmly complained of the lecturer's remarks as personal, and beyond the bounds of fair criticism. Mr Travis replied, that Mr Perley's works were public property, and open to public criticism; that his attack was not personal; and that, as Mr Perley was about to go to England at the expense of the Province, now was the time to point out inaccuracies in his published statements. Mr Perley emphatically and distinctly denied that the Province had anything to do with his visit to England. He was going at the request and expense of the British Government, and in nowise at the charge of the Government of this Province. The audience, considerably excited by this contest, then separated.—Courier.

UNITED STATES.

Termination of Mr Collins' Contract.—Washington, December 17.—Mr Collins will send a memorial to Congress to-morrow, asking Congress to terminate his mail contract, and take his steamers on such terms as will save him from actual loss from his services to the American marine and postal affairs.

Destructive Fires in Philadelphia.—140 houses burnt, Dec. 22.—There were three destructive fires in the city last night, keeping the firemen engaged till morning. John Thurston's brick factory in the 16th ward, was totally consumed, throwing three hundred hands out of employment.

The omnibus stables of Mills & Flynn, West Philadelphia, were also totally consumed, and one hundred and forty horses burnt and fifty omnibuses.

Wilson's planing mill, near the Navy Yard, was also burnt. Total loss \$100,000.

P. E. ISLAND.

The P. E. Island Examiner says, the winter has set in with unusual severity, there being sleighing for about a month or very nearly so, sooner than in former seasons, and the navigation, which we do not remember to have been closed in former years until about New Year's has been suspended now for a week or ten days—parties easily crossing the Hillsborough river on foot since Thursday last.

NOVA SCOTIA.

On Wednesday evening, there was a meeting of citizens in the Temperance Hall, for the purpose of presenting to James Pryor, Esq., a handsome piece of plate, procured by subscription from England, in testimony of his successful exertions in promoting aquatic sports, and advancing the general improvement of our boatmen. The Mayor presided, and the Hon. Joseph Howe delivered a suitable address.—Notwithstanding the extremely bad weather, there was quite a respectable attendance.—Halifax Morning Journal.

FREDERICTON MAIL.

The Gazette which came to hand this morning by mail, contains a Proclamation, summoning the Legislature of this Province to meet for the Despatch of Business, on Thursday, the twelfth day of February next. We take the following extracts from papers received:

Fire at Point Levi.—On the morning of the 16th inst., the large Railway station house at Point Levi, opposite Quebec, was totally destroyed by fire, together with several railway carriages, a large quantity of freight, and two hotels and several other buildings adjoining.—The loss to the Grand Trunk Railway Company is estimated at about £10,000; no insurance.

Tornado at Niagara.—Clifton, Suspension Bridge, December 15. We have just experienced one of the most terrific gales within the memory of that most distinguished individual, the oldest inhabitant. Trees have been torn up, small tenements, shanties and outbuildings overturned, and their fragments strewn over the fields in every direction.

The volume of water driven over the falls of Niagara was truly appalling, carrying with it drift-wood, logs and timbers from the deluged wharves and shores above. The Suspension Bridge was considered in great danger. The toll gates were for a time deserted, and many an anxious eye tremulously awaited the destruction of this magnificent structure. But the winds blew in vain; the hurricane in all its terrible fury swept by, leaving the airy edifice unscathed, adding another laurel to the triumphant genius of the architect.

Reports are hourly coming in of damage done in all directions, but the most remarkable event thus far, is the overthrow of the old Padoga, which thousands of your readers will recollect stood on the highest point of the battle ground, at Lundy's Lane. At about 7 o'clock last evening, the intense rocking started the inmates from the wooden tenement at its base, and scarcely had they made good their escape, when with a tremendous crash, the entire tower, of nearly 200 feet measured its length on the frozen ground, scattering its upper portion into a thousand fragments; fortunately no lives were lost, as it fell to the westward in the open fields.

Had it fallen in any other direction, it must have crushed in several dwellings, and destroyed many lives. Within its length, and but a few rods from its line of fall, a congregation were assembled in the Methodist church, and their escape is cause of great congratulation.—Old Captain Fralick is a severe loser by its fall, and as there is another tower on the ground, he will scarcely build it.

The water below the Falls rose over thirty feet, entirely covering the piers of the steamboat landing, and the landing room at the foot of the staircase on the American side.

The question concerning the necessity of improved accommodation in the harbor of Quebec of getting docks and suitable wharves in view of extended steam communication with Europe, begins to extend itself widely. It has been taken up in England, and discussed by persons well acquainted with the locality.—It has also received some degree of attention in the newspapers of Montreal and Upper Canada.

NOTICE.

The Annual Meeting of the Miramichi Fishery Society will take place at BOWSER'S HOTEL, Chatham, on Tuesday the 20th day of January next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The present circumstances of the Society are such that a large attendance of Members, and those who wish to become Members, is most desirable.

JAMES CAIE, SECRETARY. Chatham, December 5, 1856.

At a General Session of the Peace of our Lady the Queen, held at the Court House in Newcastle, in and for the County of Northumberland, on Tuesday, the Eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six

ORDERED, That for the future the Licence Money for each Auctioneer be Five Pounds in each year, and that the Clerk of the Peace communicate the same to the County Treasurer with a request that he would exact the amount of such dues as required by the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided.

Extracts from the Minutes. EDWARD WILKINSON, Clerk of the Peace.

Nov. 29, 1856.

William Forbes  
Calls the attention of the Inhabitants of Newcastle, Douglasston, Chatham, and the vicinity, to his enormous collection of Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, &c., extended considerably by Fall arrivals, in which are new discoveries for diseases. Persons afflicted with Nervous Diseases or Rheumatism ought to try his improved Electro Magnetic Apparatus. N. B. Admittance gratis.

L. S. NEW BRUNSWICK. COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

To the Sheriff of the County of Northumberland, or any Comptroller within that County, GREETING.

WHEREAS JOHN DESRO, late of the Parish of Nelson, in the said County, Yeoman, lately died intestate (as it is said leaving Goods and Chattels in the said County to be administered, and WILLIAM MURHEAD, of Chatham, in the said County, Merchant, hath petitioned that Administration may be granted to him the said Estate.—You are therefore required cite the next of kin of the said deceased, and other persons interested in the said Estate, to appear before me at a Court of Probate to be held at my office in Chatham, in the said County, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of JANUARY next, eleven of the clock in the forenoon, to shew cause why Administration on the said Estate should be granted to the said Applicant.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the said Court, this Twentieth day of DECEMBER, 1856.

WM. WILKINSON, Surrogate. GEORGE KERR, Registrar of Probates for said County.

FURS! FURS! FURS!!!

Just received direct from one of the best FUR Establishments in London, assortment of RICH FURS Consisting of Beas, Cuffs, Hats, and Mitts, in Grey Squirrel, Sable, Marten, French Sable, Siberian, Badger, Seal and Fox Gents Fur Coats, Fur Gloves, and Fur Caps in great variety. Cheap for cash.

FORBES & Co. N. B.—We would recommend those persons wishing any of the above articles, to call early, as they are fast disappearing. (Chatham, October 10, 1856) 2m