

family was about to Divine Service, on Sunday, 2nd inst., was badly burned, from her clothes taking fire, she died on the following evening. An aged domestic was left in charge of four young children, each younger than the deceased, and while she was in the upper part of the house, the children ignited a match which was lighted by the flames of the deceased, and before assistance arrived the fire had done its work. — *Free Press.*

The recent exhibition of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers held recently at Bridgetown is described as a success. Sir James Hope, Admiral and Commander of the British fleet on the North American Station, was present and made a speech which instructed the public. The *Free Press* in describing the display of fruit says:

"The apples attracted the chief attention; and we may say, without boasting or exaggeration, that as respects size and variety, the most sanguine expectations of everybody were more than realized. Huge apples of the most delicious flavor, pleasing to the eye and gratifying to the taste, were objects of intense marvel and admiration. A gentleman present, who is conversant with fruit growing, said to us he believed that a finer display of apples had never been witnessed in any part of the world. The diversity which characterized this class of fruit, heightened the interest one felt in viewing the numerous specimens. Some of them were as green as grass—some were of the deepest crimson—some were tinted with lighter red—some were as yellow as a ripe orange—some were of a brownish grey—while others, like the cheeks of a beautiful maiden, suffused with blushes, were delightfully variegated.

Beside the apples, there were splendid peaches, fine clusters of grapes—large-sized pears in great variety—quinces—plums and crab-apples. Then there were fine samples of honey-straw, in the comb, and in the lives. The department devoted to the dairy, displayed such samples of butter as had been rendered Annapolis apples in this branch of rural economy.

THE CONFERENCE IN QUEBEC shuts out the press, and leaves the outside world pretty much in the dark regarding their proceedings. The Montreal *Gazette* of the 18th inst., publishes the following items:—

The Conference still sits with closed doors and almost Masonic secrecy. An application of the press for information has been rejected.

All that is allowed to transpire is that progress towards Union continues to be made, and that every delegate is in favor of it.

Some difficulties of detail have been met, but no body doubts that a basis of compromise can be found.

There was a long and earnest discussion to-day on the question of representation.

It was decided that the powers of both the local and federal governments should be derived from and adjusted by the Imperial government; but the federal government was to be strong enough to avoid the weakness which has broken up the late United States.

The Executive Head to be appointed by the Imperial government.

The proposition that the local Executive Chief be appointed by the federal government received favour.

The Conference will hold evening sessions next week.

From the Toronto *Leader's* telegram we clip the following additional items:—

The question whether Education would be under the control of the local or federal governments has been discussed, and a decision is likely to be given in favor of the former plan.

It seems to be a pretty general idea that the scheme to be adopted, whatever it may be, need not necessarily be submitted to the constituencies. The feeling is against the adoption of such a course.

The Assembly of Queensland, Australia, have passed an act legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister. A righteous act.

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN.

Our latest European dates by the Cunard freight steamer *Hecia*, which arrived in Halifax on Friday last after a splendid passage across the Atlantic of less than nine days.

The *Daily News* regards Sheridan's victory over Early as one of the most important contests of the war, and warmly eulogizes the generalship of Sheridan.

It thinks matters look serious for the Confederates in Virginia, and the Federals are now able to concentrate all their efforts in that direction.

It was reported that preparations were completed for the fight between Coburn and Mace in Ireland on the 24th, although the authorities were understood to be making efforts to prevent it, when a dispute arose concerning the appointment of referees which could not be arranged, and the matter stands over for adjudication by the stakeholder on the 7th.

MONEY MARKET.—On the 3rd inst. the market manifested decided improvement. Gold continued to flow largely into the Bank of England, inducing the belief that the financial pressure is now over. The demand for discounts in the bank was of the low average character. On the stock exchange short loans were offered at six to seven per cent., and nearly all classes of securities advanced. Consols closed firm at an advance, 82½ to 83½ for money, 82½ to 83½ on account. The Confederate loan advanced one cent, and is now quoted at 96. Additional failures include W. T. Brown & Co., cotton and colonial brokers, Liverpool—estimated liabilities half million sterling; and John W. Smith & Co., West India Merchants, London. No further suspensions are announced on the 3rd. The liabilities of Walker, Cotesworth & Co., Liverpool, are stated at £250,000 to £300,000.

A fearful gunpowder explosion occurred at Edith. Thousands of barrels of powder were in the magazines, and when they exploded it was as if the whole place had been shaken by a mighty earthquake. The destruction of life and property was very great.

The Times says the whole amount of gunpowder expended during the war, was not something between 150,000 lbs. and 160,000 lbs., but certainly over 1,000,000. The quantity of an Armstrong 70-pounder is about 55 lbs.; there were therefore no less than 4,000 such charges in the amount expended on Saturday. The quantity of gunpowder expended on board the *Lotty Sleigh*, at Liverpool, was about 11 tons, or 20,000 lbs., and was, therefore a quarter, and probably only a fifth or sixteenth part of what was expended at Edith.

On Sunday thousands upon thousands of people visited the scene of the catastrophe. Extra trains on the Mid Kent Railway were despatched with such frequency that the line became blocked.

The shock of the explosion was distinctly felt at Guildford, a distance of 40 miles, as the crowd fled from the scene.

OUR KITH AND KIN.—The *New Free Press* of Oct. 4 states that in the Friday's sitting of the Conference, the Danish proposition to settle by arbitration the question of liquidating that portion of the public property of Denmark to be given to the Duchies, was declared on the part of Germany to be inadmissible, and a demand was made by the German Plenipotentiaries that Denmark should give a definite answer on this point. The Danish Plenipotentiaries replied that they would telegraph to their government for instructions.

The point in dispute relative to the boundary line is the small town of Christiansfeld, in Schleswig, which is claimed by Denmark.

RUSSIA.—A portion of the large powder mill in the suburbs of St. Petersburg exploded, killing six and wounding more than fifty persons.

INDIA.—*Bombay*, Sept. 16.—Mr. Lawrence, nephew of the Viceroy, has been killed by the fall of a bridge. Cotton, dtd. Exchange 28, 1½.

Calcutta, Sept. 3.—Exchange 28, 1½. Market for cotton steady and irregular.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH TO QUEBEC.—Berlin, Oct. 4.—The Prussian minister who attended the Conference at Prague to effect an arrangement between Austria and Prussia with respect to the Zollverein, has been received by the Minister of Finance and will not proceed to the conference.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 2.—The betrothal of the Crown Prince of Russia with the Princess Dagmar of Denmark has been officially announced here. A salute of one hundred guns was fired in honor of the event.

It is stated that owing to the death of Mr. Henry Rayner, of the Isle of Ely, the daughters of Dr. Brady, M.P., for the county of Limerick, have inherited a fortune of upwards of £1,000,000. The deceased gentleman was the father of a young lady, who is now in a convent school in France.

New York, Oct. 17.—

Steamer Damascus, with dates of 7th, has passed Farther Point.

Consolidated loan had advanced to 87 to 88.

Consols 88 to 89½ for money.

Bullion in the Bank of England had decreased £128,000.

Breadstuffs steady, with slight advance on wheat. Provisions dull.

New York, Oct. 18.

There was continued uneasiness in financial and commercial circles in England, and several additional failures reported.

Markets generally steady, without change from last quotations.

Consols 89 to 89½.

## UNITED STATES.

## THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

Our American papers are filled with most exciting statements from the political arena. The elections in progress are regarded as the key note of the Presidential campaign. Only two parties are now in the field, viz., the Republicans and the Democrats.

The former is for Lincoln, and the prosecution of the war upon the abolition basis; and the latter are for the cessation of hostilities, and for a national convention to discuss the terms of peace. The immense influence of the Government backed up by the Army will be brought to bear upon the re-election of Lincoln, and therefore, the chances seem very decidedly in his favor; but the Democratic party is prodigiously powerful, and is straining every nerve to secure a victory. The statements of the organs of the respective parties are so distinctly opposite regarding the results of the elections now in progress, that it is not easy, from our stand point, to decide how the case stands. The *Tribune*, at first claimed Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, as going strong for the Government; but further disclosures say that Maryland is decidedly Democratic, and that Pennsylvania, the old "key-stone State," has thrown a large majority home against the Administration. Indiana is also claimed by the Democrats.

Our present impression is, that if Mr. Lincoln secure his election, it will be by measures entirely opposed to the genius of Democratic institutions, and should he feel himself compelled to this course, the question to be considered is, will not the opposing party follow the example of the South, and carry the rebellion all over the Union? Should they not be very largely in the minority they will be sure to do this; but by the time the election is over, if he go against them, they will be wrought up to perfect madness. May the great Arbitrator of nations prevent such a fearful catastrophe!

THE SEAT OF WAR.

We have no startling intelligence from the seat of war to chronicle. All eyes are still turned to Richmond, expecting hourly to be electrified with tidings of a great battle and a decisive victory either by Grant or Lee, but as yet we have only to report an important reconnaissance last Thursday by two divisions of the 10th corps, under Gen. Terry. The expedition proceeded to the right (our right wing), advancing some distance, and continuing on to the Central or Barbours road, and on to Richmond. They had not gone up the road far before they were met by the opposing skirmishers, and pressing on they found themselves in front of a new and formidable line of works, strongly garrisoned by Hook's and Field's divisions. This was an important discovery. These works had been built since the battle of the 29th ult., and were designed to supply the place of those taken from the rebels on that day. The enemy's forces were all concentrated in the position on the right flank. Gen. Terry made an assault on the fortifications, but deeming it impracticable to take them with the force at his disposal, and having satisfactorily accomplished the design of the expedition, returned to the camp. As soon as his troops commenced to withdraw the rebels sallied out and attacked, but they were severely repulsed, their dead and wounded thickly strewn the ground. After that our forces were all concentrated in the position on the right flank. Gen. Terry made an assault on the fortifications, but deeming it impracticable to take them with the force at his disposal, and having satisfactorily accomplished the design of the expedition, returned to the camp. As soon as his troops commenced to withdraw the rebels sallied out and attacked, but they were severely repulsed, their dead and wounded thickly strewn the ground. After that our forces were all concentrated in the position on the right flank. Gen. 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