

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Central Life of Steamship—J. J. Franklin.
 A Young Man's Life—R. H. Shaw & Co.
 New Books—Maddison & Darnley.
 North Shore Railway—Joseph Canham.
 Literary and Historical Society—Geo. Mathison.
 American Invaluable—R. S. M. Bouchette.
 Montreal Ocean S.S. Co.—Allan, Rae & Co.
 Dry Goods—P. LeRouge.
 Insurance Act of 1859—William Walker.
 New Year's Presents—Routledge & Maroon.

The Quebec Gazette

QUEBEC, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11, 1871.

ENGLAND ON THE DEFENSIVE.

One of the effects which the present European war has produced is to stir up in the minds of the English people a feeling of hostility to the French nation, and by setting their houses in order, to be prepared for the evil day, should it ever be their lot to be visited by it. Lord Russell has already sounded the alarm in England, and whether his views respecting the military resources of the country be strictly correct or not, they are admitted to be based on a complete appreciation of the dangers and difficulties which beset the position of England. It is a fact too obvious to admit of contradiction, that notwithstanding the development of ideas tending to peace and progress were supposed to have attained at this period of the nineteenth century, there is positive evidence in the events of the last few months, that the nations of Europe especially have retrograded once more to the doctrine of heavy armaments. As regards England, she, of course, included in the category of those nations alluded to by Lord Russell, which have ever been pursued by envy and hostility from those of their neighbours who are less wealthy and less influential in the world's affairs. Looking at her in this light, her lordship predicts that some day, sooner or later, these unfriendly feelings towards her will burst out into open aggression; and it is argued, that whether he be right or wrong, the wiser and safer plan would be to act on the assumption that he is right. While the powers that could injure England, disregard all considerations not tending to their own aggrandizement, and nurture up, as the first object of their solicitude, vast masses of trained soldiers, it forces upon her the necessity of endeavoring by similar preparation, to meet force by force, so as, if possible, to drive the idea of invasion out of the heads of her enemies, and so as, at all events, to render the attempt unprofitable. Among other matters now occupying public attention in England is the defence of the capital. Doubtless the long protracted siege of Paris—the determined efforts of the Germans to enter it as conquerors, and the stubborn resistance it has been enabled to offer through the strength of its fortifications—has provoked the great anxiety that now exists with reference to the defencelessness of London. Our newspapers and journals inform us that official orders have been given for the preparation of a scheme for the defence of the metropolis. Ten years have elapsed since the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the defences of the country presented their report, and it is not yet forgotten that the following was one of the most pregnant passages in that report:—"There can be no doubt," say the Commissioners, "that the main object of an enemy invading the country would be to push for the capital, in the hope that, if he succeeded in obtaining a command of it, such a disaster would result to our buying him off upon any terms he might think expedient to exact." As this opinion was shared by the most competent authorities, it was a matter of surprise and regret, that the defence of London had not been specially brought under the attention of the Commissioners; but the omission was in some measure remedied by the full discussion of the subject received at the hands of General Staff Kennedy, Sir Joshua Jebb, and other writers. General Kennedy proposed to secure the safety of the metropolis by erecting a number of small forts, each of them about 200 hundred yards square, at intervals of a mile, upon a circle having a five-mile radius. He calculated that for the defence of these forts, 265,000 men would be required, and for field operations an additional force of 250,000. Sir Joshua Jebb's plan was wider in its range, and consisted in fortifying with field works a line extending for some 60 miles along a high ground from Maidstone to Reading. But it had the obvious defect of being only a partial defence of London, which would be as much exposed to attack upon the north and east sides as before. In the *Cornhill Magazine* another project was brought forward. The writer suggested that the principal emplacements around London—Shooter's Hill, Norwood, Wimbledon, Harrow, and Epsom—should be fortified, and that smaller intermediate forts should be erected at intervals between the heights. This is, of course, very similar to the plan which has been adopted around Paris. Another scheme, proposed in a pamphlet by a "General Officer," was the formation of two or more entrenched camps at the distance of a day's march from London. These would form bases from which troops might be pushed forward to impede the advance of the enemy, and rallying points in case of check. There is, at any rate, an abundance of alternative schemes, and out of them it is to be hoped the War Office may be able to select one which will ensure the final settlement of this long-pending question. But whilst all this concern is being manifested for the security of the home dominions, we are glad to find that there are some who are equally anxious for the safety of the colonial dependencies of the empire. Have we no colonies to protect, save the *Standard*, or do we mean to give them up at the first summons of the enemy? Have we no dependencies and outlying fortresses to defend? Have we no obligations to any of our neighbours, and have we really resolved to abandon all interest in the affairs of the Continent? What if Belgium were to be threatened as Luxembourg is? Should we remain quiet under all possible developments of the Russo-Prussian alliance? The Conference has yet to meet, and it is premature to say that it will even

assemble on any well-defined basis of discussion. The Eastern Question can scarcely be closed again without some grave complications. Is England to take no part in any of these? Has she no interest in the independence of Constantinople—in Egypt—in India? To maintain even our pretensions to an equal voice with the other Powers we must be prepared with an army ready to act on emergency. If we have alliances, our allies will hardly consider that we do enough in the common interest when we make our own shores impregnable.

THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

If ever the time comes when the results of the present war can be reviewed with calmness, it will probably be seen that among the most mischievous of them is the injury it has caused to the principle of consent in international matters. The principle has been growing in strength ever since the beginning of International Law. The Law of Nations is not, strictly speaking, progressive, but it so far advances that some of its rules and doctrines gain ground at the expense of others. From the very first some importance was attached to the consent of men that they should live under a particular government, but the rule had to compete at a disadvantage with the doctrine that States were nothing but territories which particular rulers or dynasties had brought under their allegiance by conquest. We appeared, however, to be getting nearer to a general admission that neither conquest nor hereditary pretensions ought to prevail against national wishes. It did not indeed seem probable (nor was it desirable) that the civilized world should be deliberately re-distributed into a number of new States of which the boundaries were determined by the universal suffrage of civilized mankind; but such much at least might fairly have been regarded as established, that no population would hereafter be placed without its consent under a government it disliked. The opinion had struck its roots deeper and deeper ever since the period of the French Revolution closed with the Treaties of 1815. Liberty since then has been many times obscured but public opinion has become a far greater power than it ever was, and respect for human volition has certainly increased. Both influences have tended to increase the importance attached to national consent. When the King of Italy and the Emperor of the French asked the populations which they desired to add to their dominions to signify their consent to annexation by universal suffrage, they aimed at being a little ahead of the rest of the world by doing homage to a principle which it had only half consciously accepted; and all the partial and incidental charlatanism of these plebiscites ought not to blind us to the fact that they marked the apparent consummation of a long course of improvement in international morality. But the principle of national consent, just when it seemed to have defeated its old competitors, has been forced to struggle with even more formidable rivals. It is no longer assumed that a conquering King may override the wishes of nations; but novel theories have come into existence which spare even less regard to national consent. The most ruthless of these, and the one which seems to have the greatest future before it, is the theory that all men who belong to the same ethnic stock, ought to live under the same set of political institutions. Nobody, it is true, exactly knows what is meant by community of race, but obscurity of idea in this as in other cases is no impediment to intensity of belief. The theory of the sacredness of the bond of race may be supposed to have been connected at its origin with the assumption of a mutual attraction of men of the same race for one another; but it has long passed this stage, and the theory now implies that men of a particular ethnic lineage are entitled to force all others of the same lineage to live under the same government as themselves.

ENCROACHMENTS OF THE SEA.

The last great landslide at Whitby occurred in 1817, and the present one is only the continuation of a process which has been going on for many hundreds of years. The sea is steadily gaining on the land of the east coast of England, especially where the geological formation is not of a kind that offers great resistance. But in its attacks on high rocky coasts, such as Whitby presents, after a long period of gradual undermining, a sudden catastrophe ensues. The land cracks at the base, the houses on it slip down, and the rock above cracks and topples over or sinks abruptly, leaving a vast fissure or depression. From Hull nearly up to Flamborough the coast is like a bank of sand, pebbles, &c., and village after village has been silently swept away. According to Professor Phillips, this waste has been calculated as going on at a rate of about "two and a half yards in the year, which upon 36 miles of coast would amount to 30 acres. One mile in breadth has been lost since the Norman conquest, and two miles since the Romans occupied Eboracum." Kilnsea finally disappeared in 1836. Ravenspurn and Outhorne, with its church and burial ground, have vanished. On the Yorkshire coast the waves are still to be seen—"Here stood Auburn, which was washed away by the sea;" "Hartburn washed away by the sea;" "Hyde, lost in the sea." In ancient documents mention is made of other places—Friskerth, Tharlesworth, Redmayn, Pennymere, Upsal, Potterseth. None of them are to be seen at the present day. Hornsea, which now overlooks the sea, was once, according to tradition, 10 miles distant from it. At Bridlington, the gradual waste and break-down of the cliffs are very apparent. When we reach the chalk base near to Flamborough the rock decays and yields up; nevertheless, it is certain that the sea gains. The small islands or isolated columns of chalk which stand up in the sea off Flamborough Head have no doubt once been joined to the mainland. Spurn Point, or Head, on which stands the lighthouse, owes its safety to a curious balance of forces. It stands at the mouth of the Humber, at the extreme south-east extremity of Yorkshire, and is a long, narrow, crescent-shaped bank; but fresh materials are continually brought to it from the other side by the tide from the cliffs further north, as they gradually crumble away into the sea. To quote Professor Phillips, "it is out of the ruin of Holderness that the Spurn is constituted and maintained." On the other hand, it is stated that the sea is receding on our western coast. If this double action continues, it may be in the future that Liverpool will find itself an inland town, with a dried-up harbour, when Hornsea, Bridlington, and Whitby are only names of the past.

THE WAR IN FRANCE.

Were it not, the *Times* exclaims, for the appalling sacrifice of human life, and for the vast amount of wealth irreparably wasted—were it not for the intense misery inflicted upon nations which had originally no cause for hatred, but among which the seeds of implacable rancour are sown—were it not, in short, because war is war, its "game" as now played before us would possess a more than thrilling interest. There is nothing, for instance, more admirable than the skill with which General Molke moves his armies throughout the French territory, as if they were "men on a chess-board; he bids Manteuffel hold Faidherbe and the French Army of the North in check at St. Quentin with his left, while his right stretches westward to Evreux, ready to join hands with Mecklenburg at Chartres, while the latter is facing Chanzay at La Mans. Mecklenburg, in turn, while he holds his position beyond the Loire in front of Vendome and Chateaudun, is supported on his right by Prince Frederick Charles, who, posted on the Loire between Blois and Gien, has, in addition, the task of watching the movements of Bourbaki, who is still at Bourges. In the meanwhile, from the East, General Werder, besides holding his ground against the irregular lands of the Voges at Dijon, Autun, and Nuits, is moving westward towards Gien, there, in case of need, to co-operate against Bourbaki with Prince Frederick Charles. But for this consummate intertwining of all the links in the chain, but for the unwearied watchfulness and readiness of the Prussian Chief of Staff, the "game" would seem extremely hazardous, for the French have an almost boundless command of numbers, and they display throughout an heroic devotion which may in time obtain a success it fully deserves. So long, however, as the campaign on the part of the Germans is conducted with such wonderful precision, mere numbers and impetuosity are not likely to prevail. So long as the French have only temporary Generals, like D'Aurelle, or even merely fighting Generals, like Chanzay, they will probably not find their way to Paris. They require a master mind to give their operations method and scope.

CAVALRY VERSUS INFANTRY.

We are not aware of any instance yet fully authenticated in this war of cavalry charging home on infantry thoroughly prepared to receive them in close order, unless it be that rash attack in which Mr. Mahon's two regiments of cuirassiers were practically annihilated at Worth. A good deal was said the other day about a charge made by the 9th Prussian Hussars on some infantry in the battle before Amiens; but the details given in letters from those engaged show beyond all dispute that the infantry so ridden down were simply a mass of skirmishers at open order. They belonged to two battalions of chassateurs (7th and 12th), and no doubt formed part of one of the new *regiments de marche*. The cavalry got up a slope which had hidden them, and suddenly came close on these skirmishers, who at once began firing at them, and seem to have been thrown out without supports, for no other infantry are mentioned as being within view. The two nearest squadrons of the 9th at once had the order from the colonel, Wittich, to charge, and rode instantly at the line of fire, the enemy awaiting them without an attempt to run or close in any general mass. A good many of the hussars were shot down and a few bayoneted; but after each had fired a single shot the scattered Frenchmen had no chance, and were nearly all cut down on the spot before quarter was granted, for the fight was so sharp for a few seconds that the adjutant was wounded, and an aide-de-camp bayoneted at the side of Col. Wittich, who himself took a personal part in the *mêlée*. From the accounts, which are exclusively German, it is perfectly evident that the unfortunate chassateurs behaved with great courage, and also that they were utterly untrained to rally as modern skirmishers should, consequently affording the hostile cavalry such a chance as horsemen cannot expect to meet with if opposed to thoroughly taught infantry.

POVERTY IN FRANCE.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys has done a high service to his countrymen by reminding the English public how terribly a large part of France stands in want of seed corn. All the soil around Metz and Sedan, and on the way to Paris, has been trampled down by the wheels of the artillery and of commissariat waggons. The fields are untilled. The peasantry are, in many cases, homeless, and their implements of husbandry have been destroyed. Their stores of grain have been seized on requisitions, and they are so destitute that they utterly lack even seed corn. One district, which contains more than 200 square miles, is said to have been thus bereft of power to supply itself with food next year; and it is estimated that nearly 100,000 would be needed to buy seed for that district alone. It is difficult for Englishmen to estimate the depth of misery unveiled by that fact, or the magnitude of peril to which it points. Thousands of people are not only on the point of starvation, but they have no hope of being able to help themselves, unless they first receive such aid as that which M. Drouyn de Lhuys solicits from England. Their fields are all. If they have no crops, they have no food. Besides enduring present misery, they are menaced, therefore, with blank, hopeless ruin. It is under the pressure of famine threatened that they hold out their hands for succour. In such a case, M. Drouyn de Lhuys rightly judges that England will tender her good offices to avert a terrible disaster, and that the act of kindness will develop "the sentiments of mutual good-will which unite the two countries."

GERMAN POST OFFICES IN WAR TIMES.

A Berlin paper gives several items of news respecting postal matters connected with the war. The correspondence of the 320,000 French prisoners scattered over Germany imposes considerable difficulties on the German post office. In a single week money orders to the amount of about £15,000 have been forwarded to them from relatives or friends in France by means of the Belgian and Swiss Post Offices. At Phalsbourg a German post office has been already opened. The field post captured by the French near Verdun in September has been found in the possession of the Bishop of Verdun. The letters and enclosures of money which it contained had been deposited with him, and were almost intact. They have, therefore, been despatched to Versailles, where they will be dealt with as seems advisable. The remitters of money had their losses recouped at the time by the German postal authorities, but they will now have to reimburse the amount on receiving their remittances back.

CHANGES ON OUR ATLANTIC COAST: EFFECTS OF ICE.

At the last meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, Prof. Shaler made a verbal communication on the changes which have taken place on the Atlantic coast, and especially on the denuding influence of ice. One geographical fact, he said, had escaped the attention of observers. Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket show a singular resemblance in figure, due probably to the same cause. He was convinced that the Eastern portion of Cape Cod was caused by glacial action. It is evidently the scene of glacial erosion and transportation. Though of such recent origin, this geological feature is important in a zoological point of view, as it divides the species of Alga, fishes and corals. Going further southward we find that Long Island is made up of masses of material laid down in a confused manner, under water. These masses are from the northward, the product of the ice sheets which poured out from the rivers running southerly and emptying into the Sound. This island is similarly a zoological barrier. South and west of the Hudson we find the most striking marks of the Glacial Period. Chesapeake and Delaware Bays also exhibit distinct ice action. The Highlands have been occupied by ice. Elsewhere the ice met with great resistance, but here it poured down with great force from the hard upon the soft rocks, as in the valley of the Rhine, where it formed the lake of Geneva. Some of the lakes of Upper Italy were formed in the same manner, though many modifying influences have been working since. We may also have had these great modifying causes at work on this coast. The material excavated from the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays was borne southward, and formed Cape Hatteras, and the bars which inclose Albemarle Sound and other inland waters of that vicinity. Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras both owe their origin to the latest glacial action on this globe. South of Hatteras no evidences of glacial action have been discovered.

THE PAY OF KING AMADEUS.

The Spaniards have fixed the civil list for King Amadeus at a rate which is very high, considering the depressed condition of the national finances. The allowance to Queen Isabella was 34,000,000 reales, or \$1,700,000 of our money; and to her husband and other members of the royal family, 18,350,000 reales, or \$917,500; total cost of the Court to the tax-paying people 52,350,000 reales, or \$2,617,500. Besides this, Spanish royalty had a number of national palaces, rent free, and was exempted from ordinary taxation. The new King of Spain is to have a civil list of \$1,200,000 per annum; his heir apparent, an infant, is to be allowed \$100,000 a year, and there will be an allowance of \$200,000 for the maintenance of the royal palaces. This makes a total of about \$1,500,000 for a young man, his wife, and infant boy. His neighbour, King Louis of Portugal, is allowed 365,000 milreis, or about \$100,000. But out of this he pays \$70,000 to his wife—refusing a proffered grant from the funds of the nation—and returns \$29,000 per annum, to be devoted for educational purposes. Moreover, and in addition, in January, 1869, the King of Portugal assigned to the national treasury eight per cent. of the annual income of the royal family, in consequence of the financial difficulties of the country.

CORRUPTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

A better example of the way they do things in the United States was never given than that afforded in Governor Hoffman's message relative to the construction of new Capitol at Albany. Three years ago a Commission was organized to look after the matter, the Act expressly declaring that the Commissioners should not commence the construction of the building until they were satisfied that the work could be fully completed for \$4,000,000. They opened their bureau, advertised for tenders, and so on; and got so far as the laying of the foundations, when rumors began to float about that they had "gouged." An inquiry was instituted, and it has been discovered that no less a sum than \$2,500,000 has been expended by them, which they charge to office, traveling and incidental expenses, and to the cost of laying the foundations. If the rest of the building were as expensive as its foundations, it is calculated that the new Capitol would cost close on to \$20,000,000.

LOCAL NEWS.

SOCIETY.—We direct attention to the Social Entertainment in the basement of the Wesleyan Church, on Thursday evening. Some of the finest musical talent of the city has been procured, and attractive readings may be expected. See advt.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—From this date, the mails usually closed at 3 p.m., will be kept open until 4.15 p.m. The supplementary mail, usually closed at 3.30 p.m., will now be kept open until 5.15. The Canada mail for Europe, usually closed at 2.30, supplementary bag at 3—now closes at 3.30, and supplementary bag at 5 p.m. The Canada mail, which closed heretofore at 3, is now closed at 4.15 p.m., on Mondays.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE DOMINION.—The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Dominion of Canada for the month ended 31st Dec, 1870—

Revenue:	
Customs	\$786,888 34
Excise	434,539 30
Post Office	40,528 95
Public Works, including Railways	79,078 42
Bill Stamps	13,006 11
Miscellaneous	50,789 74
Total	\$1,405,730 86
Expenditure	\$941,412 81

SHERIFF'S SALES OF LANDS IN QUEBEC DURING JANUARY.

Janvier Haard vs. Gregoire Charest and another.—A farm in Parish of St. Flavien, Lotbinière 3 arpents by 64 arpents in depth. Sold at Church door of the same parish on the 26th January, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Julie Blais vs. William John Bickell.—The Bridge known as Bickell's Bridge, over the River St. Charles, opposite Hare Point, Parish of St. Roch, of Quebec, with the right of toll, with all the appurtenances thereto belonging. Sold in Sheriff's office, Quebec, on the 26th January, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

In his annual message to the Maine Legislature, Governor Pellham made the following reference to the Fisheries question. He proceeds on the virtual supposition that the Canadians have no "rights" which the Americans are bound to respect—"The course pursued by our neighbors of the Dominion in regard to the rights of our fishermen is exceedingly damaging to a business in which many citizens of this State are engaged, and calls for immediate action by the proper authorities. It is gratifying to know that the President of the United States is not unmindful of our interests in this regard. Whatever aid we can give him in determining at an early day the rights of American citizens on the waters where they have so long pursued their business, should not be withheld. We earnestly desire to continue friendly relations with our neighbors. If, however, the indignities that have been offered should be repeated, it will become the duty of the government to adopt such measures as may be necessary to enforce our rights."

His remarks have elicited the following expression of opinion from the *New York Tribune*—

"The Maine Governor's views on the Fisheries question will be less acceptable to our Canadian friends than the message of the President. The Governor talks of enforcing the rights of fishermen in Canadian waters, while the President suggested only retaliation. What will the semi-independent nation say?"

The *Times* of the same city also has its little say, and this is the text of it:—

"Gov. Pellham, in his message to the Maine Legislature, expressed with earnestness the views which preponderate in his State on the fisheries question. More than any other State, probably, Maine is interested in the maintenance of close commercial relations with the British Empire. There is no where we might look for a disposition to regard with disfavour the retaliatory measures suggested by the President. Gov. Pellham, however, heartily approves the course forehanded by the President, and places the support of the State in whatever action may be required to vindicate the rights of American fishermen, as against the monopolizing pretensions of the Provincial authorities. He takes the true ground when he urges the vigorous assertion of our rights. The demand for justice is no right, of any real value, on our side in respect of the fisheries; it proceeds on the basis of favours. This country wants no favour in a matter of this sort. It insists upon its rights, and will not be content with a treaty in conflict with them."

SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMONDS.—A correspondent at the Diamond Fields writes as follows to *The Cape Argus*, dated from Puel, Nov. 5—

As to find, they have been turning up in considerable numbers of late, but the heaviest I have heard of is not more than 174 carats; another has been reported of 17 carats, another of 11 carats, and another of 104. The next run from nine to seven and down to very small stones. No place has been discovered. I have already mentioned Spionkop's ground. Mr. Glynn has told me that when he was down there the other day he saw 50 diamonds which had been found there: now there are 250, and people are moving down rapidly. A rush has also been made to a place eight miles below Kitzkanna; also a spot not far from Puel. The 'Rich Coppie,' at Kilpirliff, is again being worked, and not without success. Heloron is also commanding attention. Puel still holds its own, and is becoming crowded. The natural wealth in diamonds of the Vaal banks appear to be extraordinary. To talk of exhaustion is to talk of something that may come to pass next century, perhaps. At present work everywhere reveals—not every man's work, but, taking the labor given to the fields as a whole, it is undoubtedly fruitful.

As an instance of marked success, I may mention Mr. Rawstall of Hopetown. He has just left the fields with a diamond worth £12,000, the largest being 80 carats. He has about fifty stones in all. There are not many Mr. Rawstalls. While out walking the other evening, a young fellow asked me to buy his 'walking stick.' He was grumbling at the question, and would not have done so had he not been in want of a shilling. A gentleman told me a day or two ago that he had just had thirty applications from destitute white men for a job of work. The Rawstalls are still holding their own, and are becoming scores, and hundreds are there who are bitterly disappointed? Notwithstanding all the brilliant instances of success here, I would not advise any one to try the diggings. I can tell you a good deal of the success. An old couple—A Dutch farmer and his wife—were driving a wagon-load of wood the other day, down to the drift-here, when, lo and behold, a diamond of 174 carats blessed their sight. There it lay in the sand. They grabbed it. What a lucky couple! This has been told to me by a truthful man. But, let no couple at Cape Town, or anywhere else, imagine that they would have the least chance of picking up a diamond at the drift; were they to come up. Such a thing happens once in a lifetime.

It will help you to form some notion of the happy frame of mind in which the Puel diggers are when I tell you that the owner of a merry-go-round is making his fortune here. Grow-up, heavy bearded men, who have been working hard in the pit or at the dray all day, mount the wooden horses, and are whirled around for ten minutes at a shilling a ride. Well, what the amusement is as innocent as it is stupid. Mr. Commissioner Truter often borrows one of the noble steeds. I wonder whether Mr. Commissioner Gurney will do so when he comes here. Talking of amusements, I may say that the Harper Laffer Company intend to combine concerts with digging. I am afraid that the pick will spoil Mr. Harper's work for the violoncello. But no man can count on his leisure time, and the fascinations of diamond-digging. As another illustration—drawn from recreations—showing the state of mind of some diggers, let me tell you that the other day a lot of married men enjoyed themselves at the Scotch game of putting the stone, instead of a stone they used a Yorkshire ham. The Zulus, of whom there are hundreds here, help the camp to a laugh. They are lively fellows, always ready, of a Saturday evening or a Sunday afternoon, to dance a vander-dance and sing a war-song. As they go in very undress, the capers they are on their way from Natal. I predict tremendous success for the amateurs. Life here is so rough, rude, and dismal, that anything is hailed as a relief. If the London morning could be put down on the diggings, its staircase would be clogged with crowds at half-a-crown a climb.

PROVISION SUPPLY IN PARIS.

The captured staff officers of the Saxon Crown Prince related on their release that they had been surprisingly entertained in Paris, and it is inferred by some correspondents, whose letters we have published, that there was plenty in Paris. The *London Times* correspondent in the capital intimates that the "delicacies of the season" are still to be had by those of good food is sufficient to be proved by this sort of evidence. The correspondent alluded to says, under date of Dec. 14:—

"Those who have the courage to go to the restaurants can still get meat, without any sign of scarcity, and at no mean and as regards quality. At first-class restaurants—as the *Veillon*—one finds either beef or veal an imitation of it that it is impossible, with all one's skepticism on the alert, to detect the forgery. I have been told, in answer to

my inquiries how meat could still be got, that a greater number of private speculators, many of them belonging to the so-called poor classes, have contrived, either on the sly or on some plausible pretext, to keep a cow or sheep up to the last moment, in order to sell to the restaurateurs ready to pay high prices. Among rich people the amount of private provisions stored away is said to be very great. They are not, however, so plentiful as they are at breakfast, quite as a matter of course, fresh butter, eggs, milk, and perhaps cold beef or a chicken. It is at first hard to repress the uncharitable suspicion that they must be in secret communication with Versailles, but the mystery vanishes when one learns that the host had the forethought, when the siege was about to commence, to fill a garret with poultry and find a quiet corner, out of reach of inquisitive eyes in which to stow away a cow. I hear that the Government agents are beginning to ferret out these supplies—rather indirectly, however, commencing by asking quietly questions about them, instead of quietly seizing them as soon as the right moment for confiscation arrives. Some of the restaurateurs have private farms just outside Paris within the shelter of the fortifications, and are thus enabled to provide such luxuries as fresh butter, eggs, and milk—at rather heavy prices, however. A cup of chocolate au lait, a pot of butter, two eggs, and bread à discretion, cost 5s. or 6s.; but then the bread alone can be considered a necessary of life, and this has not yet even been rationed. There was a panic about it the other day, and a report that it was rationing short, in consequence of a few loafers shutting up their shops; but on inquiry it turned out that the shops had been emptied by an unexpected rush of customers, each anxious to lay in a stock of flour for his own private use, to protect himself against the possible outbreak of some war, which would render his loafers arrived. I have already mentioned that a few are sanguine enough to hope that this moment can be postponed to the end of February, but that the beginning seemed to me a great deal more probable. The first week in January named on very high authority, but this was on the assumption that the population would not consent to hold out on bread and wine, but would insist on surrendering the Government under duress. The politician who expressed this opinion, and who has every facility for obtaining information, ought to know his fellow-countrymen a great deal better than I do; but I confess I have a higher opinion of them, and believe that Paris will stand out to the end of the war, and the provinces continue what is supposed to be their present policy of strenuous resistance, be they successful or not.

GEN. CHAUZY'S ARMY AT LE MANS.—The army of Gen. Chauzy, which was lately driven from the Loire, has apparently concentrated at Le Mans, the most important railway station west of Paris; and here his forces have been greatly increased, preparatory to the proposed advance upon the capital. The *Le Mans* correspondent of the *London Standard*, writing on Dec. 20, thus speaks of Chauzy's numbers and their appearance:—

"From what I can make out, Gen. Chauzy has at least 60,000 men with him, and there are at least 100,000 more, so that the French ought to make a good stand, for the troops I have seen here are, on the whole, a very fine body of men, and, if well led, ought certainly to defeat the 60,000 Prussians who are advancing on this place. From what I can make out, the great want of the French is artillery, and their officers think that what they have is not made the most use of. An engineer officer, who was at the battle of Beaune la Rolande, told me that 40 guns were allowed to remain at the place, and that the commandant Beaune, with a few shots, and columns of infantry were hurled at the village without a shell being thrown into it, and the Prussians having strongly fortified the place, the French were repulsed with fearful loss, although the guns were used to great effect, knocking the whole place to pieces in half an hour."

"The appearance of the men whom I saw to-day was most pitiable—their arms useless from rust; many without boots; several completely out of gear; the cavalry even, if possible, in a worse state than the infantry. In many cases the soldier helped the horse, not the horse the soldier, to cover the ground; for the wretched animals, hardly able to crawl along, had to be led through the streets by their owners. As to the artillery, they were to be seen nowhere. True, I caught sight of a few nondescript field guns, but gunners to use them I utterly failed to observe. The only men who really seemed in anything like a state of efficiency were the engineers. Both they and the horse lookers were well; but they have, I should think, been spared as much as possible, seeing that they are the best corps France at present possesses."

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THE LATEST NEWS.

By the Atlantic Cable.
Important from Europe.

GREAT BRITAIN.
 London, Jan. 9.—Lord Derby, in a speech at Preston, urged the Government to provide the volunteers with field artillery.

DUBLIN.—The majority for Mr. Martin, elected to the House of Commons from Meath is 456. In response to a call made upon him, by the inhabitants, however, Mr. Martin expressed doubts, whether he should attend the British Parliament.

THE RIGHT HON. WM. MONSELL, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR LIMERICK COUNTY, has offered the Pope a residence on his estate in Ireland. In a speech at the House of Commons, Mr. Secretary of State for the Home Department, Mr. W. E. Gladstone, said that there were great disturbances and some fighting.

THE SINKING OF THE ENGLISH SHIPS.
 London, Jan. 9.—Barnston, the Prussian Minister, has received the following despatch from Bismarck:—

"Versailles, Jan. 8.—The report of the German commander at Rouen, respecting the sinking of the English colliers has not arrived, but the facts are known. Tell Granville that we sincerely regret that the English ships were in danger, were obliged to accept British ships. We admit the claim for indemnity. If regrettable excesses were also committed, we regret it, and will call the guilty to account. Signed, Bismarck."

Further explanations represent that the vessels were seized for fear the French would use them to land troops.

THE RELEASED PRISONERS.

London, Jan. 9.—When the steamship *Cuba*, with the Fenian prisoners on board, reached Queenstown, a committee visited the prisoners and gave them an outfit of £20 each. The news is given that the Fenians are being released by the Government. The people gave them a rouser, and the *Cuba* sailed. Their pardon is not complete, so long as they remain within the British dominions. They are subject to the general laws of the land under which they were sentenced. Halpin still refuses to accept a conditional pardon.

Jan. 2.—The released Fenians, Ross, O'Connell, Devoy, and Malloy, left for New York per steamship *Cuba*.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

London, Jan. 10.—The *Standard* of to-day, intimates, that if the new negotiations upon the subject of the Alabama claims should fail, the Government will be obliged to pay the delay is due to the United States and not to England.

GERMANY.

London, Jan. 9.—A despatch from Frankfurt-on-the-Main says:—Petitions have been forwarded to King William at Versailles, praying him to respect the historical title of that city to be the seat of his coronation as the Emperor of Germany.

Berlin, Jan. 9.—The writ for election of members of the Reichstag, German Parliament will be issued during the present month. The second instalment of the German loan has been taken up by contractors at an advance.

Stuttgart, Jan. 8.—Count von Tatten has resigned the Ministry of War. The Affairs, and is succeeded by Herr von Waser.

SPAIN.

London, Jan. 9.—A republican inscription has been broken out in Bañia, province of Granada, Spain. The movement is unimportant.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Aspinwall, Jan. 5.—Arequipa, Peru, was visited by an earthquake on the 21st December. Buildings were somewhat damaged, but no lives are reported as having been lost.

BURNING OF A COOLIE SHIP AT SEA—425 LIVES LOST.

Boston, Jan. 10.—A

