

of them rolling down into the yawning chasm with a dull, hollow sound. I sprang forward. I seized a hand of the guide—we both struggled hard, and the next moment we had both fallen into each other's arms, upon the steep slope above. I was free, but still on the verge of the pit, and at any moment we might both be hurled to destruction. "Quick, master!" cried the guide; "up! and run for your life!" I staggered to my feet, with a wild cry of hope and fear, and half supported by my faithful companion, hurried up the sloping sides of the crater. As we reached the sloping ridge above the ground, it shook with a heavy explosion, and looking back, beheld with horror, a dark, smoking pit, where we had so lately stood. And then, without waiting to see more, I turned and fled over the rough road as fast as my bruised limbs would let me. We reached our horses in safety, and hurrying down the mountain, gave the alarm to the villagers, who joined us in our flight across the country till a safe distance was gained. Here I bade adieu to my faithful guide, rewarding him as a man grateful for the preservation of his life might be supposed to do. A few days later, when the long extinct Hecla was again convulsing the island, and sending forth as many tongues of fire, and streams of melted lava, I was far away from the sublime and awful scene, thanking God that I was alive to tell the wonderful escape from the burning tomb.

New Advertisements this Day.

- Hotel to let—Ge. Burns Sycos & Co. Cottage to let—E. G. Cannon. Surgical Instruments, &c.—J. Musson & Co. Government Notice—Chas. Alley. American Dry Goods—Haughton, Sawyer & Co. Proclamation—Charles Alley. Notice—Gough Division, S. of Temperance. Houses to let—James Dinning. Quebec Gas Company—P. Peables. Government Notice—C. Alley. Literary and His. Society—G. T. Cary. House to let—Saml. Corneil.



The Quebec Gazette.

QUEBEC, FEBY. 10TH, 1862. SEE FIRST PAGE.

MUNICIPAL. The annual report of the Mayor of Quebec has just been published. It is quite a formidable document, and from the amount of information it contains as well as the systematic manner in which it is arranged does great credit to the present incumbent of the civic chair. The very first fact stated is highly satisfactory, namely, that a shilling of debt has been added to the liabilities of the city during the past year, the Council having wisely decided that they would cut their coat according to their cloth. The total revenue collected during the year are as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes: Avenues of Assessment, \$31,474 48; Current Assessments, 70,947 06; Market Revenue, 102,421 54; Palais Harbour, 25,996 25; Licences, 7,137 33; Special Taxes and Miscellaneous, 7,004 50; Total (apart from Water Works), 154,712 45.

It is further satisfactory to learn that not only has the interest due on the debentures issued here and in England, together with that upon the municipal loan fund, been punctually paid, but old debts amounting to upwards of \$30,000 have been discharged during the past year. Through the judicious management of the Finance Committee, the debentures of the Finance works as well as those of the city proper have increased in value, while to add to the security of the municipal creditors, a sinking fund has been successfully established, for the support of which an annual sum from the ordinary city revenue is set apart to redeem the debentures at maturity. The interest upon this fund was last year added to the fund itself, which now amounts to \$113,600. The following is a statement of the entire debt of the City and Water Works Department, from all causes:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes: Total amount of Debentures issued here and in England, \$1,229,040.74; Total amount of special debentures of which interest thereon special ward taxes are levied, 13,700.00; Total amount due by notarial obligations in respect of which corporation property is hypothecated, 30,618.33; Total amount of Bills Payable, 65,940.20; Total amount of City debt proper, \$1,345,027.04; Total amount of debentures issued here and in England, \$1,102,880.00; Total amount of bills payable, 3,600.00; Total amount of the Water Works debt, \$1,106,480.00.

tax during the past year was \$58,044.24, which was only \$638.78 less than the total amount due. The sum raised, however, fell short by \$24,000 of the interest and the expenditure for ordinary management, an amount which has to be met out of the city revenue. The drainage of the city cost, according to the report, \$500,000. The Mayor then shows how the city revenue has been affected by recent legislative enactments, respecting the goals and jury funds and the maintenance of goal police. Until last year, all fines recovered in the city courts from persons contravening the statutes, were appropriated to the city funds, but now they are paid over to the Government in aid of the funds above mentioned, while, in addition, the city is bound to pay \$1600 annually to maintain the goal police, and a further sum equal, probably, to about \$1000, as its contribution to the goal building and jury fund; making (with the loss of the fines) an additional annual charge or deficit of about \$3800. In addition, his Worship observes, Quebec labours under very peculiar disadvantages in respect of the vast amount of Government and other property, which the law exempts from taxation. The report next alludes to the Markets, with reference to which we learn that the revenue during the past year amounted to \$25,026.25, being an increase of \$2,411.24 over the preceding year. Various other matters follow, are intelligently discussed, such as roads, police, &c., but our present limits do not permit us to extend our notice much further. The report concludes, we may state, with a series of suggestions, some twenty in number, most of which, we are persuaded, if carried out would contribute materially to the interests of the city. Prominent among these suggestions we are glad to find one referring to facility of accommodation through St. John's Gate. The accomplishment of an amelioration such as this would of itself immortalize the mayoralty of Mr. Pope.

ENTRUSTED.—On Sunday evening, about eight o'clock, the shock of an earthquake was noticed at several localities in New London county, Ct. In East Lyme and Old Lyme it was particularly carried into effect. The latter place. At Colchester a most severe, and excited no little alarm in the village. A congregation in one of the churches cut short the service and ran for the doors, comprehending the complete evacuation of the building. The quickest time ever made in going out of meeting. It seemed really probable that the house might be thrown down, so violent was the heaving of the ground there as well as in all the neighbourhood. People from their dwellings in terror, and sought the streets. Such a scene was never before witnessed in Colchester. This is not the only recent occurrence of the kind in this section of the State. On Tuesday the 29th ult., about half past seven of the morning, a smart shock was felt at Saybrook, Essex, Chester and other localities in Middlesex county. It lasted but a few seconds, however, and was nothing like so violent as the one which seems to have made Colchester the central point of its operations.—New London Chronicle, 5th.

LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

A BRILLIANT SCENE. The first ball ever given at the present Presidential mansion took place on Wednesday evening, the 5th inst., when the representatives of the wealth, beauty and fashion of Washington were present and the magnificent decorations were filled with richly dressed and gallant gentlemen, and the Diplomatic Corps and gentlemen in private life. Over eight hundred invitations were issued, and the preparations for the grand fête have engaged the attention of Mrs. Lincoln and her circle of admirers for several days. At so largely attended an entertainment it was necessary that more than usual precautions should be taken to prevent, not only confusion, but the admission of uninvited persons. With this view the care of invitation were required to be presented at the door of the Executive mansion as the guests entered. The company began to assemble at nine o'clock, at which hour the President and Mrs. Lincoln entered the East room to receive their guests. The President was dressed with Republican simplicity, in a plain suit of black. Mr. Lincoln was dressed in a magnificent white satin robe, with a black bow tie and a low crown trimmed with black lace, and a bouquet of corsage of cape myrtle. Her head-dress was a wreath of black and white flowers, with a bunch of cape myrtle on the right side. The only ornaments were a necklace, earrings, brooch, and bracelet of pearls. The dress was simple and elegant. Among the first to arrive were the Diplomatic corps, prominent among whom were Lord Lyons, Mr. Henry Mercer, Mr. Edward Stoeckl, Gen. Mervill, Mr. Rousell, Chevalier Tessier, Count Pater, Mr. Rosoff, Chevalier Cernatini, Mr. Blondeel von Culbroeck and Senor Romero. Thus all the European powers and Mexico were fully represented. Generals of brigades and divisions were plentiful, and the full dress uniforms of the army, and the sombre broadcloth of the civilians. General McClellan and his wife were prominent in their appearance, and the commanding general was the target for all eyes. He was accompanied by only a few members of his staff, Gen. McCoy being the most important. The members of the Cabinet were of course present, with their families, and the Secretary of State, being comparatively a new man and one upon whose energy many hopes are now centered, was much talked of as the star of the evening. A majority of the members of both branches of Congress was present, and many of the members had their families with them. Not a lady present was attired in dress becoming the drawing room of the Empress of France. At the entrance of the room, the ladies and gentlemen were met by the display of ornament was less than on many of the levees of yore. The company as they entered the East room were met by the President and Mrs. Lincoln, after which they moved out of the room to the other salons and corridors; promenading until half-past eleven. The music was furnished by the Marine band. At half-past 11 o'clock the doors of the supper room were opened, and the guests feasted their eyes upon its wealth of gastronomic art. On this portion of the entertainment, great efforts had been made, and artists from this city were called in requisition to fittingly provide the grand feature of the entertainment. The carte de menu was as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Description. Includes: Stewed Oysters, Chicken, Roast Turkey, etc.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.—Mr. G. W. Kinney of Barston, communicates to the Standard Journal the following statement of an extraordinary appearance on the west side of a small lake in that Township. It is evidently what is termed a mirage, but the question is, where was the army thus reflected? Were they British troops on their way from Halifax to Canada? Two weeks ago to-day in the morning, I discovered that the mountains on the west side of the lake looked very different from what they usually do. It came to my mind what I had heard had been seen a few days before this in the same place. I stopped and saw, apparently, a train of cars, four in number, and I advanced towards them, and they came together, forming into one body, one side of which was perpendicular to a great height; and then another similar form made its appearance at a short distance, I then saw as it looked to me, an army of men advance towards each other from these large forms. They came within a short distance of each other and then disappeared; it then passed away into some distant position. I then saw a ship come in sight, turn broadside to the apparent army of men, and thus they appeared and disappeared for six hours, passing before my eyes like a splendid panorama. There were no clouds to be seen in the sky that day in that direction, or any fog. This is no idle dream or fancy, and I can substantiate it by the names of the men, and very good number of people, who were with me in the morning, and saw the same sight.

HORSES.—The Sherbrooke Gazette says—Lennoxville was in a state of much excitement on Tuesday, which was the day fixed for the purchase of artillery horses. From an early hour the arrival of horses commenced, and did not cease till late in the day. It is considered that at least 500 horses of different weights and sizes were brought in. Few, however, were of the stamp required for the artillery service, where great strength is necessary both for carrying and draft. Captain Barton, R.A., and Mr. Evans, the Veterinary Surgeon, were indefatigable, but could not select more than a few to suit them. Prices ranged from \$125 to \$160. Many of those who brought horses went back, we fear, disappointed—their animals not having the requisite strength for the service. Captain Barton was, however, much surprised at the general excellence of those exhibited, and declared it the best show he had seen in Canada.

TWO SOLDIERS DRUMMED OUT OF THE 30th REGIMENT.

A short fire ago two privates belonging to the 30th Regiment, named Tobbin and Sullivan, were tried before a Court Martial, the former charged with general bad conduct, and the latter with an unnatural crime. Tobbin was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and Sullivan to seven years' penal servitude, and both to be drummed out of the regiment. The finding of the Court Martial having been approved of by His Excellency the Commander in Chief, the 30th Regiment was ordered yesterday to sail for the final point. A magnificent candelabra, surmounted by an elegant vase of flowers and surrounded by tropical fruits and birds, tastefully arranged and sustained by kneeling cupids, holding in their hands a chain of ever wreaths. A luncheon of four consecutive bowls, supported by water nymphs—an elegant composition of mouset Parthenon. A beautiful basket, laden with flowers and fruits, mounted upon a pedestal supported by swans. Besides these there were twenty or thirty ornaments of cake and candy, delicately conceived and exquisitely executed. The designs of cream, jellies and ice were multifarious and elegant. The entertainment, though denominated a ball, was not strictly a soiree dansante, for up to half-past one o'clock this morning dancing had not commenced.

A rustic pavilion. The Goddess of Liberty, elevated above a simple but elegant shrine, within which was a life like fountain of water. A magnificent candelabra, surmounted by an elegant vase of flowers and surrounded by tropical fruits and birds, tastefully arranged and sustained by kneeling cupids, holding in their hands a chain of ever wreaths. A luncheon of four consecutive bowls, supported by water nymphs—an elegant composition of mouset Parthenon. A beautiful basket, laden with flowers and fruits, mounted upon a pedestal supported by swans. Besides these there were twenty or thirty ornaments of cake and candy, delicately conceived and exquisitely executed. The designs of cream, jellies and ice were multifarious and elegant. The entertainment, though denominated a ball, was not strictly a soiree dansante, for up to half-past one o'clock this morning dancing had not commenced.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

FELLOW CITIZENS.—In a few days the provisional government of the confederate states will live only in history. With it we shall deliver up the trust we have endeavored to use for your benefit to those more directly interested in yourselves. The public record of our acts is familiar to you, and requires no further explanation at our hands. Of those matters which policy has required to be secret, it would be improper now to speak. This address, therefore, was assured that there exists no necessity for us to arouse your patriotism, nor to inspire your confidence. We rejoice with you in the unanimity of our state, in its resolution and its hopes. And we are proud with you that Georgia has been called "illuminated," and we doubt not will be illustrated again by her sons in our holy struggle. The first campaign is over; each party rests in peace, while the winter snow results in the field are familiar to you, and we will not repeat them. To some important facts we call your attention: First.—The moderation of our own government and the fanatical madness of our enemies, which has led to the present state of things among our people and united them forever in the war of independence. In a few border states a warning opposition is giving way before the stern logic of daily developing facts. The world's history does not give a parallel instance of a revolution which has proceeded so unanimously among the people. Second.—Our enemy has exhibited an energy, a perseverance, and an amount of resources which we had hardly expected, and a disregard of constitution and laws which we had hardly credit. The result of both, however, is that power, which is the characteristic element of despotism, and renders it so formidable to its enemies as it is destructive to its subjects. Third.—An immense army has been organized for our destruction, which is being disciplined to the unthinking stolidity of regulars. With the exclusive possession of the seas, our enemy is enabled to throw upon the shores of every state the most numerous and powerful land force, and to disembark the attempt will follow in early spring, to crush us with a single grasp by a simultaneous movement along our entire borders. Fourth.—With whatever clarity our people may wish to see, and with whatever energy our government may use its resources, we cannot expect to cope with our enemy either in numbers, equipments or munitions of war. To prevent a general and unprofitable look to desperate courage, unflinching and universal self-sacrifice. Fifth.—The prospect of foreign interference is at least a remote one, and should not be relied on. If it comes, let it be only to our aid, and not to our aid for ourselves. To our God and ourselves alone we should look. These are stern facts, perhaps some of them are unpalatable. But we are deceived in you if you would have us believe that we are not to be deceived. The only question for us and for you is, as a nation, and individually, what have we to do? We answer: First.—As a nation we should be united, forbearing to one another, frowning upon all opposition and unscrupulous criticisms, and giving a truthful and generous confidence to those selected as our leaders in the camp and the council chamber. Second.—We should excite every nerve and strain every muscle of the body politic to maintain our independence, and to resist, and by rapid, aggressive action, make our enemies feel, at their own firesides, the horrors of a war brought on by themselves. The most important matter for you, however, is your individual duty. What can you do? The foot of the oppressor is on the soil of Georgia. He comes with lust in his eye, poverty in his purse, and hell in his heart. He comes a robber and a murderer. How shall you meet him? With the sword at the side, and the bayonet fixed on the scabbard. More than this: Let every woman have a torch, every child a firebrand. Let the loved homes of our youth be made ashes, and the fields of our heritage be made desolate. Let blackness and ruin make your departing steps, and let the preference of the gods be terrible than Sahara welcome the Vandals. Let every city be levelled by the flame, and every village be lost in ashes. Let your faithful slaves share your fortune and your cross, and let every citizen to the refuge and protection of God, preferring to die in the arms of the charred house as a home than to join some vassalage to a nation already sunk below the contempt of the civilized world. This may be your terrible choice; and determine if you must, and if you must, with patriotism and duty to God require. FELLOW CITIZENS.—Lull not yourselves into a fatal security. Be prepared for every contingency. This is our only hope for a sure and honorable peace. If our enemy was to-day convinced that the British were not so ready to welcome him in every quarter of the confederacy, we know his base character well enough to feel assured he would never come. Let, then, the smoke of your homes, fired by women's hands, tell the approaching foe that over sword and bayonet they will rush only to fire and ruin. We have faith in God, and faith in you. He is blind to every indication of Providence who has not seen an Almighty hand controlling the events of the past year. The wind that waves the banner of the mist, the sunbeams and the storm have all ministered to our necessities, and frequently succeeded us in our distresses. We deem it unnecessary to recount the numerous instances which have called for our gratitude. We would join our thanks to our nation, and say, "It is God for us, who can be against us?" Nor would we condemn your confident look to our armies, when they can meet with a foe not too greatly their superior in numbers. The year tells a story of heroism and success, of which our nation will never be ashamed. These considerations, however, should only stimulate us to greater deeds and nobler efforts. An occasional reverse we must expect—such as has depressed us within the last year. This is only temporary. You have no fears of the result—the final issue. You and we may have to sacrifice our lives and fortunes in the holy cause; but our honour will be saved unscathed, and our children's children will rise up to call us "blessed."

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF A SUCCESSFUL BUT FATAL AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION.

The expedition left Melbourne on the 20th of August, 1860, under the command of Burke, with George Landells, second in command, and in charge of the camels was W. J. Wallis, surgeon and astronomer; Herman Beckler, surgeon and geologist; Ludwig Becker, a very clever artist, naturalist, and geologist, and ten men, together with three Sepoys, 27 camels, several horses, baggage, and provisions. If your readers have curiosity enough to trace the course of this expedition, they will find that in about latitude 32 deg. 30 min. the men pursued a southerly course till it falls into the Murray—about 40 miles east of the boundary line of South Australia, which separates that colony from New South Wales, North of the Murray, and Victoria, south of that river. Where the Darling bends to the south will be found on the maps a few small lakes. The latter place has since been called Menindie, but that name has not yet found a place on any map. To Menindie the expedition proceeded, on its way to Cooper's Creek, and there a fortunate dispute arose between Burke and Landells, ostensibly about the camels, but which was of such a nature that had Burke given in he would virtually have abandoned the command. Landells then left the expedition, and on the correspondence which was published, public opinion pronounced its verdict against Landells. There was, indeed, scarcely colour enough in Landells's case, even on his own statements, to enlist a party in his favour. He was accused of want of courage to face the desert; but there was no ground for this charge, with that it was a struggle for life, in which he was justly beaten. He over-estimated his own importance as having special knowledge of camels. The expedition did not suffer from his absence, which was published, public opinion pronounced its verdict against Landells. 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