prosecutions ordered, which were instituted in the courts of the United States against those who took part in the expedition as not only political in its nature, yet also in a great measure foreign from the United States in its causes and objects. The attempt was understood to be more in sympathy with an insurgent party in Ireland, and by striking at a British province on this continent it was designed to aid in obtaining redress for political grievances which it was assumed the people of Ireland had suffered at the hands of the British Government during a period of several centuries. The persons engaged in it were chiefly natives of that country. Some of them had, while others had not, become citizens of the United States, under our general laws of naturalization. Complaints of misgovernment in Ireland continually engage the attention of the British nation, and so great an agitation is now prevailing in Ireland that the British Government have deemed it necessary to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in that country. These circumstances must necessarily modify the opinions which might otherwise have been entertained in regard to an expedition expressly prohibited by our neutrality laws. So long as these laws remain upon our statute books they should be faithfully executed. If they operate harshly, unjustly, or oppressively, Congress alone can apply the remedy by their modification or repeal. The political and commercial interests of the United States are not unlikely to be affected in some degree by the wars which are transpiring in the eastern region of Europe, and the time seems to have come when our Government ought to have a proper diplomatic representation in Greece. This Government has claimed for all persons not convicted or accused or suspected of crime, an absolute political right of self-expatriation and a choice of a new national allegiance. Most of the European States have disclaimed this principle and have claimed a right to hold such of their subjects as have emigrated to, or have been naturalized in the United States and afterwards returned on transient visits to their native countries, to the performance of military service, in like manner as resident subjects. Complaints arising from the claims in this respect, made by foreign States, have heretofore been matters of controversy between the United States and some of the European powers, and the anxiety consequent upon the failure to settle this question, increased during the war in which Prussia, Italy and Austria were engaged. While Great Britain has never acknowledged the right of expatriation, she has not particularly insisted upon it. France has been equally forbearing, and Prussia has proposed a compromise, which, although evincing increased liberality, has not been accepted by the United States. Peace is now prevailing everywhere in Europe, and the present seems to be a favorable time for an assertion by Congress of the principles so long maintained by the Executive Department, that naturalization by one State fully exempts the native born subject of any other State from the performance of military service under any foreign Government, so long as he has not voluntarily renounced its rights and benefits.

In performance of a duty imposed upon me by the Constitution, I have thus submitted to the representatives of the States and of the people such information of our domestic and foreign affairs as the public interest seems to require. Our Government is now undergoing its most trying ordeal, and my earnest prayer is that the ordeal may be successfully and finally passed without impairing its original strength and symmetry. The interests of the nation are to be promoted by a revival of fraternal relations, the complete obliteration of our past differences, and the reinauguration of all the pursuits of peace. Directing our efforts to the early accomplishment of these great ends, let us endeavor to preserve harmony between the co-ordinate departments of the Government, so that each, in its proper sphere, may cordially co-operate with the other, in securing the maintenance of the Constitution, the preservation of the Union and the perpetuation of free institutions. ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, December 3, 1865.

LATE EASTERN NEWS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.—At a late hour last night the *World's* extra appeared on the streets with exciting news from Ireland. The effect upon the city is unequalled since the news of great victories of the rebellion. Places of amusement were cleaned out by people anxious to hear the news. Fenians rushed to meeting places of circles, hoping to get additional information. Telegrams were sent to circles in distant cities, and intensely enthusiastic responses were received. Stephens, the chief organizer, was invisible, and it is confidentially believed that he reached Ireland. It is said that the Treasury of the Fenians was never in a better condition than now. The Irish of the city were excited to fire heat, and kept up a constant call for fresh dispatches over the cable.

News from the Rio Grande.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.—The *World's* New Orleans special says: Dispatches are just received from Flukes Bulletin announcing that Union General Sedgwick crossed the Rio Grande Thursday November 22d, with a Brigade of U. S. troops, and occupied Matamoras, assuming as he did so to protect the interests of American residents in town. The movement created great excitement, as it is not known whether the Government sanctioned it. The *World's* Washington special says that the President has received a dispatch from General Sheridan, announcing that Sedgwick had crossed the Rio Grande and now occupied Mexican territory with U. S. troops. It is understood that this movement has been made without knowledge of the President.

More News from Dublin, Ireland.

NEW YORK, Nov. 26.—The *Tribune's* correspondent says the political excitement has run to an alarming heighth in Ireland. Every town and village has its full quota of military and gun-boats. These measures plainly bespeak an apprehension of the fulfilment of Stephens' promises. His last speech in America has been published in several Irish journals, and has caused quite a political fever. The Irish people seem to have implicit confidence in his sincerity. Among all classes the conviction grows and spreads that we are on the eve of startling and terrible events. The Fenian organizations throughout the country is in a high state of activity. Its committees are terribly in earnest, and their plans are shaped for a fierce and bloody struggle.

The *Times'* London correspondent writes: The mission of John Bright to Ireland seems to have been a mistake and failure. Of what future consequence it may be it is not easy to predict, but the signs are that the reform leader lost more in England than he can possibly gain on the other side of the Channel. The entire weekly press—and, as far as I have seen, the daily also, with the exception of his own personal organ—is opposed to the sale, the original measure he proposed for the relief Ireland. Bright proposes a scheme of land distribution, which is opposed to all English ideas of Government and political economy.

The *Times*, of November 15th, says of condemned Fenian prisoners in Canada: We are of opinion that no criminals ever deserved capital punishment more than those who are now awaiting their fate in Canada. For these persons Seward has seen fit to interpose in behalf of the American Government. Were parties in America in a normal state, we confess we should receive the news of such application with great surprise. It is unfortunate that indignation meetings should be held by the Fenians throughout the United States, threatening the British Government with vengeance if they should dare to execute their threats, and thus seeming as if we were in their power to rob an act of clemency of all its grace, and represent it merely as an act of fear. Nor can we admit that the case of the American civil war as put by Seward, is in the least a parallel to the Fenian invasion in Canada. The Southern States claimed the right to withdraw from the Confederacy which they had voluntarily entered, and it was easier to refute their claim to secede by the sword than by the pen. But the Fenians have not a shadow of claim to belligerent rights. They have no government, no territory. They are mere citizens of a friendly State, whose object is to murder the inhabitants of a neighboring country on their own account, without the semblance of law or justice. Such is the case against granting the request of Seward.

On the other hand, there is great allowance to be made for the position of the American Government. The President is struggling for his very existence against an overpowering majority in the contest in which he is engaged. The Fenian vote could have been of infinite importance to him, but he was content to forego that advantage at an almost critical moment rather than to tolerate any act which might compromise the good understanding between Great Britain and the United States. So anxious was he to prevent Fenian invasion that he employed Gen. Grant and Gen. Meade, two of the best officers in the American army, in this distasteful and unpopular scheme. President Johnson, had he been lukewarm in the business, might doubtless have satisfied the letter of his obligations towards us by much less energetic measures. We do not doubt that his popularity must have suffered by this honorable and straightforward conduct, and that it was in his power to ingratiate himself with the Fenians without involving the United States in actual collision with us. We owe it to him that Canada has not been made the scene of bloodshed and outrage of every kind, and he asks the lives of obscure wretches who are now under the sentence of death. It is not for us to say what answer should be given to such a request, but we confess we should regard the granting of it with satisfaction, more especially as the President would be hardly likely to renew his intercession in case of a second Fenian invasion.

The recent news from Ireland has caused great excitement at the headquarters of Jas. Stephens, in this city, and the offices are now thronged from morning till midnight. Stephens disappeared several days since and is not expected to show himself here again. It is claimed that money, arms and ammunition are flowing in, and that the California Fenians have pledged $100,000.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.—The *World's* Queenstown correspondent, writing Nov. 17th, says: I send you an inkling of the most important news which has come from Ireland for many a long day. The blow is about to be struck at the Power of Great Britain. Within a month you will hear of the rising of the Irish people from one end of this unfortunate island to the other. The train has long been laid, arms are here, men are ready, officers are appointed and organizations perfected. The movement on Canada was really a feint, for all the while the object was steadily kept in mind to create an outbreak upon the old soil of Ireland. Will not this unreasonable outbreak again attract the attention of the world to the chronic misgovernment of Ireland by the English people? We now suffer and starve and are compelled to leave our native sod. A few of us may be killed, but we can be no worse off after the battle is over and Fenianism is once more crushed. England will not do anything for us by peaceable agitation. That has been tried, and every effort we have made to induce the Government of Great Britain to be just, has utterly failed. We are powerless. Our arguments are unheeded, our prayers are unanswered. For our sufferings there is no pity. Is it not better for us to try to show the English Government that it does not pay? that if they will not do us justice we will make Ireland a clinging curse to her.

Treasury Matters.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1st.—A Washington telegram says the statement which is being generally published purporting to be an abstract of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury is put up mainly from official statements heretofore published, and so far it is correct. Other portions of the statement, however, are mere speculations, and generally incorrect. The estimated receipts of the Revenue for the next fiscal year, instead of being $600,000,000, as stated, are really less than $450,000,000. The Secretary will not recommend the issue of 5 per cent. bonds, as stated, and will indicate the time at which, in his judgment, the resumption of specie payments can be safely effected. It is his opinion that this may be done in 18 months, but he hopes the circumstances of the country will be such as to warrant the resumption at an earlier date.

Quartermaster General's Report.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—The Quartermaster General's report shows that there have been sold 104,474 horses, 102,854 mules and a number of oxen, worth $1,524,975. The average price obtained for horses at public sale was about $34; mules, $75. No attempt was made to collect any of the horses belonging to rebels and marked C. S. A. On the contrary, the Quartermaster General decided that no horses or mules, except those left at the surrender of the main armies, should be considered as belonging to the Government. Of the many thousand horses loaned to farmers by Generals Grant and Sherman, and by various Provost Marshals at the close of the war, very few have been or ever will be recovered, as all attempts to regain them have been abandoned. The Clothing bureau reports nearly enough equipments on hand for an army of three quarters of a million of men.

During the war, 327 steamboats were lost on the Mississippi river, 143 of which were valued at $3,900,000 were lost by the accidents of the war and will mostly be subjects of litigation.

For wagon trains for the last year, west of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the Government paid $3,314,495. The rapid completion of the Pacific railroad will materially decrease it next year. Repairs were put on the Southern railroad amounting to over 12,000,000, a discharge of which has been made by government. In addition to that there have been donations of 112 engines and 541 cars, which were given to various Southern roads; 2,644 cars were sold on credit and 1,631 miles of railroad captured from the enemy will be given back absolutely. Of the roads which were the first to avail themselves of the credit offered by the executive order to sell cars on credit have altogether failed to comply with the terms which sales were made, and have paid nothing but what the government has kept of the money due them for fuel or transportation services. The Louisville and Chattanooga railroad, whose original debt was $1,566,555, now owes $1,493,204. The car repairs and improvements put on this road by the Government, on which no charge was made, were $4,679,511. This road is engaged in paying back interest and dividends. The entire amount of reliable property given to the South and sold on credit, which is really enormous, may reach $250,000,000.

Johnson's Mexican Policy.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—The conduct of the Administration in its efforts to hurry Napoleon out of Mexico, when he really seems to be carrying out his pledge as quickly as possible, is looked upon in diplomatic circles as uncalled for and as most certain to force the French into war if persisted in. The Johnson men are losing faith in their ability to create a diversion out of the Mexican question.

Talk of Impeachment—The Fortieth Congress to Assemble in March—Newspaper Comments.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—The *Herald's* Washington special says that Boutwell of Massachusetts, at the Republican caucus last night, said a special committee should be appointed whose duty it would be to inquire into the subject of impeachment of the President, and that the suggestion met with the hearty co-operation of all. He will introduce a resolution at the earliest opportunity after the assembly of Congress for the appointment of joint committee to investigate the conduct and course of the President, and report what action it will be necessary for Congress to take.

It is also stated in Washington that Schenck of Ohio will introduce a bill soon to assemble the Fortieth Congress on the 5th of March.

The *World's* Washington special says that the President, in his message to Congress, adheres firmly to his restoration policy and argues at length in favor of the immediate admission to Congress of duly qualified loyal Representatives from the South. Of foreign affairs, he says that with great efforts the progress toward the adjustment of the Alabama question has been slow, owing in some degree, to the change in the British Ministry, but matters in that regard look favorable. He states that France has not yet complied with her agreement to take her troops out of Mexico. France asks a postponement till spring. This Government has remonstrated, but the President says no reply has been received from Napoleon as to what he will do. A satisfactory adjustment is hoped for.

Gen. Sherman has merely gone to Mexico in an advisatory capacity for Campbell. The message is silent on the questions of the Mexican Protectorate, and makes no allusion to Maximilian whatever.

The *Herald's* Milledgeville correspondent states the reasons for rejecting the Constitutional amendment by the Georgia Legislature were that no guarantee was given that even the restoration of the State to the Union would follow the ratification. They regard it the height of ingratitude to disfranchise those who were lately their soldiers. They have begun to look calmly at the possibility of negro suffrage as a means of re-admission, but it is still revolting to them. A bill is under consideration in the Georgia Legislature looking to the establishment of common schools for whites and blacks throughout the State, and it is probable it will be passed. Emigration from the North is encouraged, and much capital has already flowed in from that section.

John H. Surratt.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—The *Times'* Washington special says of the arrest of John H. Surratt: It appears, as we learn from official sources, that Surratt was arrested in Italy, as heretofore reported, whilst in the Papal Zouaves, and at once the Pope promptly gave the necessary orders for his arrest upon the request of Minister King, notwithstanding there is no treaty between the United States and the Papal Government.

PARIS, Nov. 25.—It is stated that the Imperial commission appointed to consider the subject of the organization of the French army, will report in favor of adopting the Prussian military system.

PESTH, Nov. 25.—The Hungarian Diet has adopted an address to the Emperor of Austria, asking the restoration of the laws of 1848, and promising that the Diet will consider the wishes of the Emperor as expressed in his recent proclamation.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—Further arrests of suspected Fenians have been made in Ireland. The national troops are ready to move at a moment's warning. Twelve thousand breech-loading rifles are to be sent by the British Government to Ireland, for the use of the constables.

A prospectus has been published giving the plans for the proposed Nicaraguan route. The *Times* thinks it would be well if the entire scheme were divided between the governments of England, France and the United States.

There has been a renewal of fighting in Candia. The Turks have been badly beaten and have suffered greatly, no less than 3,000 having been killed and 2,000 taken prisoners.

BERLIN, Nov. 26.—The Prussian Government intends to have a Consul General at New York.

LONDON, Nov. 26, noon.—The Fenian troubles in Ireland have assumed considerable proportions, and there is no doubt that a serious outbreak has occurred. Two regiments of national troops were urgently ordered to Ireland yesterday, and transports were being prepared all last night. A large detachment of marines were also sent over to Queenstown on the war steamer *Plymouth*. A gunboat at Chatham has been ordered to sail for Queenstown immediately. Much alarm is felt at Cork and throughout Ireland generally. The London *Times* of this morning believes that Chief Organizer Stephens will soon arrive on the scene if he has not already. The *Globe* editorially hints that a more serious trouble with the United States is really at the bottom of the Fenian outbreak.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28.—Matilda A. Spoards and Robert Liddan were taken to Stockton by last evening's boat. Mrs. Spoards is twenty-four years of age and the mother of three children. She is a native of Texas. Her insanity was caused by her husband deserting her. Liddan is a native of New Jersey, aged 32 years and is married. He is a religious monomaniac.

By the arrival of the schooner *Minna Bell* we have information of the wreck of the schooner *Union* at Trinidad on the evening of the 15th inst. She went ashore during a heavy gale.

St. Andrews Society of this city will celebrate their 4th anniversary by a banquet at the Lick House, on the eve of November 30th.

The North American Steamship Company's steamer *America* sailed from San Juan Del Sur Nov. 16th, and arrived here this morning.

Arrived, Nov. 27.—Siam ship *Silas Gauman*, 18 days from Port Angel, bound to Hong Kong. Put in for a crew and to repair, having experienced a series of bad weather, which started the ship leaking. Ship *Libelen*, 84 days from Newcastle, N. S. W., coal. Bark *Iconium*, from Port Madison.

Sailed, Nov. 28.—Hamburg bark *Sarah and Maria*, Batavia.

A Voyage in 1815—Crossing of the Atlantic by a Sail Boat.

The *Courier des Etats* copies from *l'Evenement* an interesting account of the voyage of a French boat across the Atlantic in 1815, which was published in Paris a few weeks ago by Mary Gaston, a well known writer for Parisian journals. The facts seem to be well substantiated, and, if true, take from the little *Red, White and Blue* the credit of being the first sail-boat to cross the ocean. Marie Gaston says in substance that in 1815, when the Great Napoleon went to the Isle of Aix, with the view of surrendering himself to the English, an old naval Lieutenant, named Vildieu, proposed to the Emperor to carry him to America out of the very teeth of the English cruisers. This Vildieu was a rabid Bonapartist, as well as a good seaman, having made a specialty of sailing small boats to the open sea. He insisted that he was willing to go to the end of the world with the *Brise Caillioux*, the name of a little craft which he placed at the disposal of his Emperor.

Napoleon listened for a long time to his arguments without speaking a word, but pacing up and down the apartment; at length he stopped and contemplated the ocean for some minutes, then he dropped his head upon his breast and that was all. He had no confidence in Vildieu's project. The ocean is treacherous! Better trust to the English!

Some months afterwards Vildieu, who had taken the Emperor's refusal much to heart, and wishing to prove to Napoleon's friends that the project of a flight to America was not impracticable upon this same little craft, set sail in her from La Rochelle, with two other persons, of whom the youngest was his own son.

The passage was long and rough. The *Brise Caillioux*, carefully prepared for the trial, had on board several kegs of fresh water, some biscuit and pemmican. As for fresh meat, they could not think of it; and a hen-coop would have filled up the liliputian hold. Up to the last day the distribution of provisions and water was regulated with the greatest prudence, and it was to that fact solely that the crew owed their safety. However, this saline regimen grew at last to be somewhat unpalatable. Mouths became dry and suffered from thirst; but thirsty or not, two rations of water per day were served out and no more.

One day, when the sea was calm, something round was seen floating near the boat. It proved to be an apple—a good sound apple in the open ocean. It had doubtless fallen from some passing vessel. It was presented to the captain, as his right; but he being a good prince shared it with the others; and there was great joy that day on board *Brise Caillioux*. The passage had its pleasant moments, as we have seen; but it had also its hours of anxious suspense and suffering; gales of wind, nights without sleep, and long stormy days. At times when the sea ran too high—trust in God! The helm was lashed, the sails furled, and the crew, crawling beneath the deck, let the tempest blow itself out. When the storm was over, our navigators got on deck again, and pursued their voyage again to the westward.

At length, after six weeks, the coast of America was descried. And it was time. Some hours later the *Brise Caillioux* entered port, and as the roadstead was too deep for her little anchor, she made fast alongside a large frigate which was anchored there. The officer of the deck looked down upon them with astonishment. "Where are you from?" Our three heroes lifted up their hats and replied, "From France." He could scarcely believe them.

This narration was made to M. Marie Gaston by M. Etienne Vildieu, the son of the old Lieutenant above named. He was a boy who made one of the crew, and was the last survivor of them. The young sailor of 1816 was then an old officer in the revenue service, and the writer, who knew him intimately, and used to go with him on his inspection trips, often heard him allude to this trip across the Atlantic, and his father's interview with the great Napoleon. Vildieu, who had been wrecked eighteen times, and had saved many lives by his intrepidity in times of danger, was finally drowned while attempting to rescue some shipwrecked passengers in a storm on the French coast.

TWO DOLLARS AND A HALF ONLY.—The New York *Nation* of October 18th, speaking of the disaster of the *Evening Star*, says:

The expenditure of two dollars and a half would probably have saved the *Evening Star* and the lives of three hundred miserable people aboard of her. She went down in a gale, "hurricane" it is called by some people, in which a small boat lived and came to land. The ship was perfectly unmanageable and lay like a log till the waves broke her to pieces and sent her to the bottom. She was unmanageable because the starboard rudder-chain got out of the sheave. This is a part of the machinery of the steering apparatus, and it is sufficient to say of it that it is of the nature of a pulley-block, through which the rudder-chain above mentioned may be supposed to pass over a wheel. Make a cheap sheave, and the chain slips off it easily, and command of the rudder is lost. Pay a little more for a sheave and you get one guarded with iron, from which the rudder-chain cannot slip.

OPPOSED TO CONFEDERATION.—A dispatch from New York, Nov. 1st, says:

A Montreal special states that a remonstrance against Confederation addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been published here to-day. It is a document of great length, entering very fully into the history of the scheme, and is signed by about one third of the members of Parliament representing Lower Canada constituencies. It protests against precipitancy on a subject concerning the highest and most enduring interests of the country, and asks that the subject be sent back to the people of those Provinces for an expression upon it of their calm and deliberate judgment. The list of signatures is headed by the names of Darion, Holton, Habedeur, Nurturgton, Laformebarz, all ex-Ministers of the Crown.

AN ASIATIC RAILWAY.—The railway between Calcutta and Bombay is about 1,000 miles long, and is traversed by trains in about four days. The only through traffic at present consists of mail and cargo. European passengers cannot travel the whole distance on account of the heat.

The population of New Orleans is double what it was during the war, and one-fourth larger than ever before.

A MONTANA SILVER LODE.—We find in the Montana *Post* of the 10th ult., the following account of the yield of a silver lode in that Territory, together with a notice of the process by which it is being worked:

It affords us intense satisfaction to announce the complete success of the first trial of the cupel furnace of Professor Augustus Steitz, who has recently erected his works in the Rattlesnake District. The ore has yielded eighty per cent. of lead, and upon the 4th instant one ton was placed in the furnace and subjected to the heat for the space of six hours. The lead was expelled and fifty pounds of pure silver remained. But this important fact is overshadowed by another of a more satisfactory character. Any person might secure a brick from such rich ore, but few men could run so close to the assay, and, wonderful as it may appear, the loss in silver is between ¼ and ½ of one per cent. We congratulate the company that own these works upon their good fortune in possessing this claim upon the Legal Tender Lode. We also share with Professor Steitz the emotions of joy which must animate him at the present time. He has gained a practical and scientific triumph, and we advise certain parties who wish to learn the proper manner in which to extract the precious metals from gangue, to throw aside their absurd theories and take a few lessons from a younger but wiser teacher.

LATE DISPATCHES.—The following dispatches are dated New York, November 19th:

The *Post's* special dispatch says that the facts divulged to-day show there is but little hope that the President will recommend impartial suffrage in his Message to Congress. He will stand with the Secretary of the Treasury on the financial question.

The *Commercial* says it is confidently expected that a reconstruction policy will be amicably settled early in the approaching session of Congress. Negotiations for that purpose are in progress between the President and leading politicians of all parties North and South. The basis of settlement is universal suffrage and general amnesty. The President has partially acceeded to the proposition, but insists, upon constitutional gtounds, that the question of universal suffrage properly belongs to the respective States, and is, so far, averse to any action of Congress upon the subject. If assurance can be obtained from Southern leaders of the speedy adoption of universal suffrage, the President will waive his objections. The proposed basis contemplates an abandonment of the Constitutional Amendment as a condition to Southern representation in Congress.

LETTER FROM GENERAL SWEENY.—General Sweeny has addressed the following letter to our consul in Canada.

D. Thurston, United States Consul at Toronto (Canada West)—Sir: Although I am no longer connected with the Fenian organization, I consider it a matter of justice to inform you that the prisoner who is styled Colonel Lynch, who has been tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged on the 13th of December next, held no position in the Fenian army, was not a commissioned officer and was not present in any military capacity whatever. It is likely that the Canadian authorities confounded the prisoner with Brigadier General Lynch, of Illinois, who was ordered by me to superintend the carrying out of the expedition against Fort Erie. Lynch may have been present as a newspaper reporter, or a mere straggler, for aught I know, but I am very certain that he had no connection whatever with the Fenian army

Yours, respectfully, T. W. SWEENY,
Late Commander-in-Chief of the Fenian Army.

INDIAN MASSACRE.—The Lassen *Sage Brush*, 17th instant, gives additional particulars of the late Indian massacre near Surprise Valley. It says:

In our last week's issue we mentioned some particulars of an Indian fight, which occurred above Surprise Valley a few days since. We have since learned from a reliable source some further particulars, which are as follows: On the 24th of last month First Lieutenant John F. Small, with 25 men of Company A, First U. S. Cavalry, left Camp Bidwell in search of the Indians who killed Mr. Townsend some time since. A party of eighteen Oregon Volunteers also joined the command. On the 26th of October Lieut. Small's party came upon the Indians among the hills above Goose Lake, and immediately attacked them; the whole party, seventeen in number, were left dead on the field, with the exception of three squaws, who were taken prisoners. Private Nipoth, Company A, First Cavalry, was wounded. The murderers of Mr. Townsend have met their deserved fate.

DRYING UP OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—Old steamboat men declare that the signs of the past four or five years point to the permanent drying up of the Mississippi river. There is certainly some change taking place in our climate that is affecting our lakes and rivers. The average of water is steadily decreasing. There are many theories advanced to explain this. One is that the climate is undergoing a change, which seems plausible, as those who have studied the meteorology of our State are convinced that this change is taking place. Another theory is, that the cultivation of the country, destruction of forests and other physical causes have tended to decrease the rainfall and retard the flowing of extra moisture into the stream. Whatever may be the cause, the effect certainly exists, and the same thing has been seen on all of the western rivers, which are gradually shrinking up.—*Western Paper.*

When the great Richelieu died his head was separated from his body and preserved. After several months of research the head has at length been found in the possession of an ancient family in Bretagne, and forthwith sent to Paris to the Minister de l'Instruction Publique. Those who were present at the opening of the box describe the head as in a wonderful state of preservation. The eyebrows, whiskers, imperial and mustache are of a reddish color, and quite perfect; one eyelid was closed, the other open; the flesh, of course, was black. It bore something the appearance of a mask, but not at all unpleasant.

THE THUNDERER OUTDONE.—The New York *Tribune* of October 13th contained the following excusable bit of self-laudation:

The last number of the London *Times*, now on our table, contains 36½ columns of reading matter of which not quite 1½ columns are by telegraph. To-day's issue of the *Tribune* contains 48 columns of reading matter, of which 8 columns are by telegraph. The *Times* sells in London for 6 cents in specie, and in New York for 20 cents currency. The *Tribune* is sold for 4 cents in currency. The size of the two papers is very nearly the same, the *Tribune's* pages being a trifle larger.

On inquiry at the Navy Department it is ascertained that no Monitors have been sold to any foreign Government, nor have any foreign Governments officially intimated a desire to make such investments. It is true, however, that private parties, all of them American citizens, have offered propositions, without stating for whom they wished to purchase; but the Government has decided not to sell any of that class of ships, whether they were built in the navy yards by Government contractors or outside by private parties.

England has now an organized volunteer militia force numbering 135,000 infantry, 27,000 artillery, 4,000 engineers and a small contingent of cavalry—all well organized, equipped, armed and thoroughly drilled.

FROM VICTORIA.

We have Victoria papers to the 28th ult. We extract the following:

AN UNNATURAL CRIME.

Captain Frain, of the steamer *Emily Harris*, last evening brought down a half-breed girl, named Mary Ann McFadden, daughter of one James McFadden, a resident of Salt Spring Island, who stands charged with the awful crime of attempting to destroy her own father by mixing a deadly poison (strychnine) with a cup of tea, which he drank. McFadden is a farmer in a small way on Salt Spring Island. He is a widower and has three boys and two girls, of which Mary Ann is the eldest, dependent on his exertions. On or about the 12th of October last, McFadden was working for a Mr. Binnet Nanaimo, in whose house the accused was residing. While there a niece of McFadden's—also a half-breed—named Mrs. Sampson, visited the Binns, and it was during her stay that the attempt upon McFadden's life is alleged to have been made. The daughter acknowledges that she prepared the poisonous draught, but says that she was instigated to do so by the woman Sampson, between whom and the accused's father there exists an old grudge.

THE CABLE.

The steamer *Mumford*, Captain Coffin, with Mr. Haines on board, left for Lopez Island yesterday, for the purpose of "under-running" and repairing the cable which connects that Island with San Juan.

KAMLOOPS AND SHUSWAP RESERVES.

The British Columbia Government have adjusted the claims of Kamloops and Shuswap Indian Tribes to the tract of land extending over forty miles along the right bank of the south branch of Thompson river, from Kamloops to the great Shuswap lake. Three portions of this land are appropriated as reserves for these tribes, and will be immediately surveyed and staked off; the remainder of the land hitherto claimed by the Indians along the north bank of the south branch of Thompson river will be open to pre-emption on and after the 1st of January, 1867.

THE HEAD TAX.

Thirty-five passengers, who arrived from the Sound, by the *Eliza Anderson*, yesterday, paid $1 each as a head tax for the blessed privilege of landing here. The *Josie McNear's* passengers, being few in number, contributed a comparatively small amount the revenue. The collection was attended with considerable difficulty, and the tax was bitterly denounced by those who came under its operation as downright robbery. And it is little better. The idea of charging a man a dollar every time he enters this port is perfectly outrageous, if not absolutely illegal.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS.—The *Tribune* correspondent writing from Paris, October 19th, reviews the character and condition of the French press as follows:

There are published in Paris fourteen daily political newspapers, without counting the official *Morning Moniteur* and its seemingly insignificant, seven by nine, one sous dwarf of a brother, *Le Moniteur du Soir* (with an "encouraged" circulation of more than 30,000), and English Galignani. On the literary side they are, to say the least of it, quite up to the standard of the best metropolitan newspaper writing in London or New York. Attached to them, in the editorial way, are men of the finest natural parts and highest culture, men of sincere convictions and sound judgment and generous purpose. And yet, setting aside their literary quality and setting aside their occasional value shown in articles semi-abstract from the directly urgent questions of the day, the fourteen daily political journals of Paris contribute next to nothing to the morning reader's stock of knowledge of fact—I mean, don't cumulate his stock (what one of fourteen gives in that way is mainly what all the rest repeat)—and outside of the safe and necessary consequence in specially interesting cases, commonplace reflection, don't dare furnish him with food for thinking over his second breakfast. The ability with which an editor of one of these compressed journals will write an article seeming to say nothing that is not permissible and yet saying a great deal that to readers practiced in reading between the lines," conveys allusively most of what he would like to say, is truly wonderful; and as work of pen-art, admirable. In fact, the best of what is best in the "leaders" of Paris political dailies, is presented in this disguised way. Fourteen years of weary, painful reading of Paris political dailies—under the law of the press of 1852—will, I trust, justify me to your readers as an honest and competent witness to the general truth of this proposition in regard to the French political press. It is degraded to a dead, pitiful, restricted, sham, false, uniformity of dullness by virtue of the Napoleonic law on the press. The working of this law on the non-political journals, I reserve perforce as theme of a paragraph or two in a future letter.

THE INDUSTRIOUS POOR IN NEW YORK.—The New York *Tribune* of Nov. 1st says:

A. T. Stewart has decided not to erect the houses for the poor on the lands offered by a wealthy citizen for that purpose. He will accept aid from no source whatever, but will himself prosecute the project to completion at an expense approximating nearer $5,000,000 than $1,000,000. A well known and expert architect of this city has been consulted, and the noble work of providing homes for the industrious poor is to be commenced at an early day and prosecuted with energy.

INDICTED.—The New York *Express* of the 31st October says:

Lieutenant Braine, who claims to have held a commission in the ex-Confederate navy, and who seized the steamer *Chesapeake* during the late rebellion, was brought up in the United States Court before Commissioner Jones this morning for a final hearing. The United States District Attorney stated that the Grand Jury had found an indictment against the accused for murder and piracy on the high seas. Braine will be tried in the United States Circuit Court at the next session.

It is a curious coincidence that the battle of Bull Run and the surrender of Gen. Lee took place on land owned by Major Wilmer McLean. A letter writer who recently visited Appomattox Court House, says: "Major McLean is now offering his house for sale, as he is desirous of returning to his farm, near Manassas, where the first battle of the late war was fought, and as he only purchased this place during the war, being a refugee from his home after the Bull Run fight."

The Pacific Railroad has been finished and the cars are running to the 100th meridian, about 259 miles West of Omaha. An excursion party recently took a trip to the terminus. The Pawnees gave a grand war dance, for the amusement of the excursionists, at Columbus, on the Loup Fork. A paper was printed on the cars during the trip, the press and type for which was furnished by the Omaha *Republican*.

THE "OLDEST INHABITANT."—Patty Thomas, a colored woman one hundred and twenty years old, is now living at Newport. She was born at Charleston, S. C., long before the Revolution was thought of. She must be the only and original "everlasting nigger."

TRADE IN LEATHER.—The *Times* states that the sales of California leather in San Francisco alone exceed in value $1,000,000 annually. The quality of the leather is said to be in high repute in Eastern markets.