THE CATTLE DISEASE.

Sheriffs to Continue in Charge of Blissville Stables.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

Dairymen Organize a Society for Mutual Protection.

NEW JERSEY AFFLICTED.

The unclassic shades of Blissville did not reek with carnage yesterday. The Sheriff of Queens county in person was in command of the deputy sheriffs stationed at the cow stables, and Dr. McLean merely made a short visit to them and examined a few of the cattle. Permits were signed for the slaughter of thirty-seven of them, all belonging to a man named Henry, for sale as beef. In regard to the ruffianly treatment of a HERALD reporter on Monday by the owners of the swill-fed cows, the Sheriff said that he and his son were unavoidably absent at the time, but that in future he should remain there day and night until the quarantine is ended.

Groups of the swill milk men were idling about the streets and in the barrooms yesterday, and, as usual, discussion upon the situation of their personal affairs was monotonously prolix. Many of them loudly lamented the slaughter of their stock, saying that they had paid for some of it much more than it will now bring when offered in the market for food. Proposals to sell out were made on every hand, but they, as a matter of course, met with no acceptance.

General Patrick told a reporter that he could not say when he should again go to Blissville. He had received a telegram from Professor Law announcing that he will return to Brooklyn to-morrow. Several new pest spots were discovered in Kings county yesterday. N. Smith has sixteen cows at New Lots, three of which are affected with the pleuro pneumonia. At No. 100 Eighth street, South Brooklyn, there are six cows belonging to J. Martin, and one of them had the pleuro-pneumonia. A cow died on Tuesday of pleuro-pneumonia at No. 473 Thirteenth street, South Brooklyn, and the carcass was removed to the offal dock. Two cows belonging to William Ryan, at No. 1,496 Warren street, Brooklyn, have the pleuro-pneumonia in its advanced form, and have been marked for slaughter. In Ralph avenue, near Central avenue, one out of the three cows kept there has the pleuro-pneumonia. An examination of some cattle at No. 480 Sackett street was made and permission to slaughter them was given. All of the localities just mentioned are under the strictest quarantine. It is alleged that a milkman at New Lots keeps about forty diseased cows in a stable which is in a very filthy and unhealthy condition. An investigation will probably be made to-day. A number of cattle were taken to the Johnson avenue slaughter house yesterday, and some of them were killed.

SHERIFF RUSHMORE AROUSED.

The HERALD reporter found Sheriff Rushmore as he left the stables.

"Sheriff," asked the reporter, "what do you think of the action, or rather inaction, of your deputies on Monday, when a HERALD reporter was threatened with violence?"

"Oh, well," was the reply, "there has been too much about that."

"But, Sheriff, is there no more protection to be afforded than was given in that case?"

"Well, you see, we can't be responsible for the acts of a crowd like that. It was simply a lot of cowboys that collected around the place, and you know very well how easy it is to get up an excitement among them, especially at this time."

"What measures have been taken to prevent its recurrence?"

"Oh, I promise you it will not occur again. I have put a stop to that."

"How about the vigilant deputies employed at the stables?"

"I have settled that also. Hereafter the place will be carefully guarded by ten deputies, and, if that number does not prove sufficient, I will increase the force to twenty."

"Have you seen General Patrick to-day?"

"Yes, I was down to Brooklyn to have an interview with him. I presume you anticipate that some extraordinary measures were devised in view of the report in the HERALD."

"Not at all, Sheriff. But you don't object to state the substance of the interview?"

"Well, you HERALD gentlemen are awfully persevering and I suppose I might as well tell you. The General informed me in a very friendly manner that he desired either myself or my son, who is my chief deputy, to attend in person at Blissville and see the Governor's orders carried out till this trouble is over. I have acted on that suggestion and hereafter my son will remain in charge of the deputies during the night."

The Sheriff wore an air of disappointment at the delinquencies of his subordinates, and when he left by the half-past six P. M. train from Hunter's Point for Hempstead he was accompanied by his son to the depot. Mr. Rushmore, Jr., took his place at the head of the quarantine squad at half-past nine o'clock last night.

The attack on the HERALD reporter was freely commented upon in Blissville during the day, and the occupants of carriages returning from funerals at Calvary Cemetery stopped within view of the stables to make inquiries in regard to the affair. But the rowdies were not without sympathizers in an unexpected quarter. As a HERALD reporter was wending his way to the Hunter's Point ferry last evening, he was recognized by a police officer who forced an acquaintance by a not very polite "I seen you before." He followed the reporter, however, and remarked in a most offensive way that any man who would come over to "vindicate that thing" (the first word remarkably well pronounced) for the sake of making money—a sharp hit in his opinion at the reporter—ought to be ashamed of himself.

"Poor min," said he, "with cows may have one sick out of ten and then they must be all slaughtered, and they don't care how he's beggared."

UNDER SHERIFF RUSHMORE.

This young gentleman has been charged, perhaps unjustly, with the failure of the first attempt at quarantine. The duty was new to him and it was unfortunate that the men appointed to act as his deputies were those the least fitted in every sense for the trust. Hempstead and Jamaica did not in this instance furnish desirable or vigilant officers. As a prominent resident of Long Island City remarked last evening, "There has been no quarantine; it's only a sham," and that sentence expresses the opinion of nine-tenths of the residents of the district. The Sheriff declined to say that he had dismissed the lazy and negligent deputies, but he is determined that no more swaggering roughs shall be permitted to pass within the enclosure at the stables. One of the negligent deputies was on duty yesterday, but the Sheriff will supersede him to-day.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES OF SAFETY.

A presentation was made by the Grand Jury of Kings county yesterday, calling the attention of the Court of Sessions to the condition of the cow stables of Adam Boslet and the Ward stables, on Quincy street, near Nostrand avenue, and asking the Court to request the Board of Health to revoke the permits granted to the persons named. Judge Moore said that though he had no power to request that the permits be revoked he would order the presentment and the testimony taken to be sent to the Board of Health.

Secretary La Fetra, of the Board of Health, suggested to General Patrick the propriety of appointing an additional veterinary surgeon, and to have some one authorized to establish an office of cattle inspection at Long Island City, as there were two ferries and a railroad at that place, over which cattle are taken to Brooklyn. This would also enable the authorities to concentrate on any rowdy element earlier than can at present be done in that section. The subject of appointing another surgeon is under advisement, but no steps will be taken in the matter until Professor Law arrives from Washington. He is expected to arrive to-day.

COMBINING FOR MUTUAL PROTECTION.

The milkmen of Kings and Queens counties held a meeting on Tuesday night last at Martin Bennett's Railroad Hotel, corner of Vermont and Atlantic avenues, East New York. A large number of milkmen and their friends were present, and deep interest was taken in the proceedings. Mr. Wilmarth, the owner of a large farm on the Jamaica plank road and an extensive milk dealer, called the meeting to order and suggested that T. J. Ryan, a milkman of Cypress Hills, be appointed as chairman. He made a motion to that effect, and the motion was adopted: The object of the meeting, Mr. Ryan said, was to take some action to protect their interests. Owing to the late exposures of the cow stables at Blissville the people had become alarmed, and failed to discriminate between the dealers in pure and impure milk. The consequence was that the trade of those milkmen who did a legitimate business was falling off, and they found that something must be done to abate the fears of the public in respect to themselves. They wanted the people to know that during the winter months their cows were fed on grain and hay, while during the summer season grass was their chief article of diet. General Patrick, he said, had informed them that they could not exchange, sell or buy any cow without first notifying the Brooklyn Board of Health. In case they failed to do so they would be liable to fine or imprisonment or both. The act, they thought, was a very unjust one and should be modified. It was the desire of many of the milkmen present to have a committee appointed to wait upon the Governor for the purpose of having the act modified, if possible. The chairman then introduced Counsellor Frank C. Lang, who, he stated, would inform them how to act in the matter. Counsellor Lang said that pleuro-pneumonia was first brought to this country in 1848, by an importation of Dutch cattle. It had never died out. He suggested that a permanent organization be effected, officers elected and resolutions and by-laws drafted and adopted for their government. A committee of five was then appointed to draw up a set of resolutions, which were in substance as follows:—

Whereas we have witnessed a gross and wanton seizure of property belonging to dairymen, and, as we believe, without justification and due process of law; and whereas no one of us is secure or able to say that in the next moment his whole stock will not be quarantined, under the pretext that the disease pleuro-pneumonia has taken hold of the cattle; be it

Resolved, That we organize a mutual protective society, and that the same be named "The Kings and Queens Counties Dairymen's Association. Be it further

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draw up a set of by-laws to govern this organization.

The resolutions were adopted, after which officers were elected and the necessary committees appointed. Sixty-seven milkmen signed the roll and paid their initiation fee.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE IN NEW JERSEY.

The HERALD's agitation concerning the contagion among horned cattle known as pleuro-pneumonia and the closing of British ports against suspected animals is giving great satisfaction to the farmers of Union, Essex, Hudson and Bergen counties, N. J. They have suffered from losses by the scourge for four years, but until the prohibitory action of the British government and the agitation of the subject by the HERALD they have been unable to secure the simplest preventive measures either from State or municipal authorities. The farmers are usually large milk raisers, keeping from six to sixty cows, valued at from $20 to $80 each. They have as a class averaged a loss of ten per cent from pleuro-pneumonia for four years, and they have felt until now that it was one of the dread evils which was to be borne without a protest, because it was inevitable. Now they see light breaking through, understanding well that legislators are apt to move when the press thunders at them. A reporter recently took a drive through the lovely country which lies back of the cities of Jersey City, Newark and Elizabeth. The farmers in this region are exceptionally well to do, owning from twenty to one hundred acres each, with comfortable dwellings and excellent outbuildings. They understand fully the value of their proximity to the cities, and almost without exception profit largely by it. Some of them rank high among the capitalists of the counties they reside in, and from nearly all the dwellings the sound of the piano may be heard and the faces bear the impress of education, albeit browned by exposure to the elements and roughened by contact with the mother earth from whence they wrest their well earned sustenance. They read the newspapers thoroughly and have clear cut ideas on current affairs, especially those which affect their interests.

FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE DISEASE.

The pleuro-pneumonia first became familiar to these farmers in 1875. The disease had been known before, but the cases were comparatively few. It first entered the State in 1843, coming from the same region on Long Island which is now affected, and spreading throughout the counties of Essex and Union, though not generally in fatal form. Every six or eight years since it has been noticed, but it was not until 1875 that the proportions of the plague began to strike terror into the hearts of cattle owners. It was not that the disease was so widespread as that its mortality was so great. One cow in a herd would be attacked, and before the owner had made up his mind that the animal was seriously ill the contagion would be communicated to the others. Cases are quoted where sixteen out of eighteen animals died in less than a fortnight. It took the farmers a long time to understand the nature of the plague, and even now there are many who lose their cattle by neglect or ignorance of the simplest measures of relief.

The winter and summer of last year were measurably free from the scourge, but the surcease was only to result in a doubly severe attack this winter. While city people are bemoaning their misfortune in being obliged to drink milk from diseased animals, farmers are counting their losses by thousands. Nearly every herd of more than five animals has lost from fifteen to sixty per cent of its numbers. Some have had all their stock swept off; others have been more fortunate and escaped with scarcely any fatal cases, but these are exceptions. Perhaps the worst feature of the plague is that it leaves the animals that recover in such enfeebled condition that the slightest cold is apt to put an end to their existence. The milk producing qualities of the animal are reduced considerably also, and the prudent farmer gets rid of the beast as soon as possible.

THE SWILL STABLES CAUSE THE OUTBREAK.

The origin of the plague in New Jersey is believed to be swill stables in Hoboken, Jersey City and Newark. Cows are brought there and fed on distillery and brewery refuse until fattened and then taken into the country for sale. The milk meanwhile is sold to the poorer classes in the cities round about. The filth of these stables is sufficient to condemn the milk alone, but the pleuro-pneumonia finds an easy foothold and adds its death-dealing horrors to the general nastiness. When the owners find the disease is among their cattle, the first thought is to prevent the loss falling upon themselves. They take the animals that have not begun to show the effects of the disease and start out upon the country roads. At every farmer's gate they attempt to trade and in a few hours, by cunning inducements, they have disposed of their bad stock and received a reasonably sound lot of cows in their stead. The diseased animals are taken into the farmers' herds and thus the scourge is spread. Now, a Jersey farmer does not like to be beaten by any man, yet he can seldom capture the wretch who cheats him, and there is really no law to punish the offender when caught. The farmer takes refuge or revenge in following the example of the man who defrauded him and thus the plague is spread still further.

Nor does the evil end here, since farmers are unscrupulous enough to sell the diseased cattle to low butchers and the animals are killed and cut up on the spot. The diseased parts, so far as they show, are cut away and then the meat is sold. That the meat is filthy is unquestionable, but it is worse—it is poisonous. How far this practice prevails it is impossible to state, but close investigation by the HERALD reporter convinces him that it has occurred with great frequency. The farmers of the region referred to do not believe the milk from the diseased cattle is capable of doing much harm, as it is necessarily limited in quantity, the drying up of the cow being one of the earliest signs of the disease. Some bad milk is sold undoubtedly, and in the case of infants a very small portion might do a great deal of harm. The most serious danger to people in the cities is the butchering of diseased cattle and the sale of the meat for good beef.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The New Jersey State Agricultural Society has had its attention called to the matter and at the meeting of its executive committee on Saturday last, a committee of three was appointed to confer with the legislative committee on the subject. They met the committee at Trenton yesterday and had a long conference. Their recommendations embrace the plan of a law for the effectual stamping out of the plague. It was stated that a law is now in existence authorizing township committees to order the slaughter of any animal suffering from a contagious disease, but that it provided no remuneration when healthy animals were killed through mistake and was consequently so unpopular that it is a dead letter. The Agricultural Society's committee generally favor a law providing for the inoculation of all animals by veterinary surgeons, to be paid by the local governments, the law to enforce the appointment of such an official. This, it is believed, would prevent the spread of the plague. The difficulties in the way of general inoculation now are that it costs $3 or $4 for each cow, and farmers cannot afford it, even at the risk of losing their herd. The proposed law would also enforce the absolute seclusion of infected cattle when there are hopes of their recovery and the slaughtering of those beyond saving. There would be a strict prohibition of the sale of diseased animals. An attempt will be made to also include the suppression of swill milk stables in cities by granting additional powers to local boards of health. The farmers would heartily indorse the above outlined provisions, and it remains to be seen whether their interests will receive the attention they deserve at the hands of the legislators.

The loss by the disease in New Jersey cannot be known exactly, but it is undoubtedly very considerable, as its presence is known in nearly all parts of the counties named, and it seldom strikes that it does not kill. Much of the weakness of the animals in withstanding plague is doubtless due to the habit of many farmers of feeding their cows with "brewer's grains," which is little better than distillery refuse, thereby increasing the supply of milk but injuring the cow.

DISEASED CATTLE.

Assemblyman John Owen Rouse, who is chairman of the legislative committee appointed to inquire into the subject of the cattle disease, was interviewed by the HERALD reporter. He said that the committee was very anxious to obtain data from any quarter so that proper legislation might be had before the adjournment of both branches of the legislative body. He is in favor of an interview between the committee on one side and General Patrick and Professor Law on the other, and remarked at the close of the interview, "Depend upon it this matter will receive more ventilation in the New Jersey Legislature than the poor cattle enjoyed in some of the Blissville stables."

OUR BEEF SUPPLY.

THE GREAT CATTLE BUSINESS OF TEXAS, ILLINOIS, MISSOURI, OHIO AND OTHER STATES—THE WEEKLY SLAUGHTER FOR HOME AND FOREIGN CONSUMPTION—HOW DISEASE IS DEVELOPED.

That Texas is one of the largest cattle producing quarters of the civilized world none who have seen her almost countless herds can deny; not even when the cattle produce of Texas shall be compared with the vast herds that roam the steppes of Russia or those that wander on the great stations of Australia. Still, boundless as the production of beef may appear to be in Texas, the quality is so indifferent that other States of the Union, though numerically far inferior, are, in point of wealth derived from cattle growing, greatly in advance of Texas. Probably the cattle interests of the State of Illinois represent the largest capital and the richest revenues derived from this branch of industry. While other States have certain seasons of the year during which their trade in cattle is active, Illinois from the 1st of January to the 31st of December ships from her broad prairies and from her numerous feeding farms. Not alone is the feeding interest closely and diligently attended to in Illinois, but the rearing of calves is steadily carried on. Corn fed Illinois steers are always to be found on the great cattle markets of the States, and such herds invariably command the highest prices and when sold on net weight obtain the most liberal allowance. Kentucky as a beef producing region can justly lay claim to some of the very finest and best bred herds that can be found; she might, without fear, challenge the British Isles and Canada for high bred stock, from whence are drawn those animals purchased for the purpose of improving the blood of the herds of the Western States and Territories. During the summer months, when the pastures are rich in blue grass, the herds of Kentucky are at large, and from the early days of August up to the end of October or middle of November, should the weather continue mild, the grass-fed herds of Kentucky arrive on the Eastern markets. Their beef is very wholesome, being light, nutritious and full of juice, most suited for invalids and children. The carcasses do not inwardly contain the same proportion of fat as do those of beeves corn fed; still the adipose matter is generally spread throughout the muscle, and the color and flavor of Kentucky beef are excellent. Some few feeders there are in Kentucky who use corn and who ship off their herds all through the winter and spring. Ohio as a cattle State ranks next to Kentucky, save that she cannot boast of as much excellence of blood as her sister State enjoys.

OHIO AND MISSOURI BEEF.

In Ohio where the blue grass flourishes the herds are pastured; while in other sections of the State corn feeding is the rule. Ohio steers come to market most freely from the 1st of August to the end of February. The quality is good, sometimes even superior. Where the blue grass flourishes in Virginia the practice observed is the same as in the States before named, save that less corn is fed than in Ohio, and that in the mountain districts the cattle of Virginia are small and apt to be scrubby. Virginia cattle are shipped for the East all through the year, and are in prime condition occasionally rather than invariably. Missouri is rapidly becoming a great cattle centre. About midwinter Missouri steers are at their best. At other seasons of the year the herds from Missouri are coarse and light in flesh. Toward the end of the summer is the time of the heaviest run of grass fed Missouri cattle. The quality is inferior and the carcasses dress to slight advantage. The great markets of New York city and that at Brighton, close to Boston, are supplied from Albany and Philadelphia, as the two nearest points for rest and feed and water for the herds arriving from the West. Deposit is a great resting station on the Erie Railway. The Western markets for East bound herds are East St. Louis and Chicago, both in Illinois. Cincinnati and Pittsburg are also great cattle points of union. To these places resort the Eastern shippers, and buy of the dealers or owners, as the case may be, the herds they need for their Eastern trade. The great carrying lines of this country are the New York Central, the Pennsylvania Central and the Baltimore and Ohio, being fed by the roads that diverge from Kansas City, from East St. Louis, from Chicago and from Cincinnati.

FATTENING TEXAS CATTLE.

Another feature of the cattle trade is the fattening of cattle on brewers' slop. Bulls condemned to die are thus fattened; also dry cows in small numbers, but in great numbers and with much profit on the lean grass fed steers of Texas converted into fat heavy beeves. When the grass withers up on the prairies of Texas the herds must go north in search of pasture or be shipped for sale.

The routine of the Texan cattle trade is this:—In July and August the herds are rounded up, the calves are branded, and all are again let loose. Early in April the great droves commence. Carefully laid out cattle trails are observed, and the herds pasture as they march. Ellsworth, on the line of the Kansas Pacific Railway, is a wonderful place for a few weeks of the year. Early in summer it is thronged by Texan ranchmen and drovers, also with immense herds of Texan steers. At this point the herds are shipped. Some never changed hands, but in general sales are effected at Kansas City. From Kansas City these grass fed Texans drift off into Missouri and Illinois, there to be part corn fed and shipped East in September; and up to the 1st of January others are forwarded direct and are sold in New York, Philadelphia and Boston for what they will fetch. The flesh of the grass fed Texan steer is coarse and hard, the color is bad and fat is scarce. Again, other herds from Texas those that constitute the end of the run are purchased by feeders, and, being housed, are fattened on brewers' refuse, and are to be found on the markets of New York from March to the end or middle of May. Bulls doomed to execution arrive on the Eastern markets earlier in the year than do the still fed Texan herds. From Texas, via Ellsworth, also through Denver, Col., pass year by year countless droves of Texan cattle. These droves, old and young, calves, cows and steers, go to feed Indians and miners and such like people, forced to live on the skirts of civilization. Rarely, indeed, are bulls driven from Texas. The herds in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana are a rugged, large boned class, bred from the Texan cow and native bulls obtained from the Eastern States. Thus is the breed improved, and even already some bulls of undoubted pedigree are to be seen west of the great rivers. Eventually Colorado and parts of Wyoming will be the source from whence the East will derive its supply of beef. The climate of Colorado in two winters renders a Texan steer healthy, that is, the beast loses the incipient disease known as Texan fever; a loathsome affliction that is to be found in the liver of even the otherwise perfectly healthy Texan steers, and a sickness that is highly contagious, so much so that herds supposed to be clean have been known to leave the disease on their trail, and serious loss has thus been sustained among native herds which have passed over or pastured on the tainted lands.

HOME AND FOREIGN CONSUMPTION.

The weekly average of beef cattle sold on the open market for the year ending December 31, 1879, was 9,625 head. About 8,000 head supplies weekly for the home trade. In this is included New York city, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, Staten Island and many minor places lying adjacent. This gives an average of close on 2,000 head weekly shipped for foreign ports. The export trade demands the most choice herds that reach the Atlantic seaboard, and has been carried on through all seasons of the year both by trade in dressed beef and by the shipment of live cattle. The recent order of the Privy Council which now hampers trade in American cattle is the result of too much haste on the part of American shippers. The fear of contagion is proper and should have been guarded against. Had the best course been observed for the general benefit of the trade, no shipments of live cattle should have been made after the 1st of October until the 1st of April. A fat beast taken from an open cattle yard and shut below hatches is far more likely to develop disease than were he exposed to the most severe weather. The hot air between decks causes feverishness and congestion of some one or other of the inner organs, and pluero-pneumonia is most frequently developed albeit, the beast was sound and healthy when placed on board. On the other hand animals carried as a deck load in fine weather, or even in moderate weather, improve after the first two or three days, the sea air invigorates them, and the total rest causes them to improve in condition and appearance. The great buyers of and dealers in Texan cattle are N. Morris and S. W. Allerton, of Chicago. The great feeders and shippers from Illinois are J. D. Gillette, Alexander Mann and Mike Sullivan, the latter being a king among cattle men. In Texas the firm of Allen & Poole not long since represented an immense business in cattle. They were shippers of beeves and of beef. They owned a territory of land close to Galveston and had contracts from foreign governments. In California the firm of Miller & Lux absolutely control the cattle business of the Golden State. There are many lesser lights than those named, many of them eminent in their business as dealers, feeders and shippers.

The cattle industry of the State of New York is small. The male calves are eaten as veal, the cows are kept for dairy purposes and the few herds sold as beef are Western cattle which have been State fed.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

An earnest appeal by circular is made to the agriculturists, merchants and manufacturers of New York and the adjoining States to attend a meeting at the Cooper Institute, this evening, to discuss the question of a concerted movement on their part to secure the valuable trade of the American continent. This appeal will bring together such distinguished advocates of the proposed movement as Mr. Peter Cooper, the Mexican Minister, the Brazilian Consul General and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans. Our commercial relations with Mexico and South America will be fully explained.

AFFAIRS IN ALASKA.

SPECIAL AGENT WILLIAM GOUVERNEUR MORRIS ON THE SITUATION AND NEEDS OF OUR LATEST ACQUISITION—WHY BRITISH PROTECTION WAS EXTENDED TO AMERICAN CITIZENS—A TERRITORY PRACTICALLY ABANDONED.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 21, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I observe in your paper of the 19th some well directed remarks touching the petition which has been sent by the citizens of Sitka to the commander of Her Majesty's ship Osprey, at Esquimault, British Columbia, asking protection from a threatened Indian massacre at that place. Affairs must certainly have been very alarming for such a request to have been preferred, but when the fact is known that we have not a single vessel of the navy north of Mare Island Navy Yard, near San Francisco, and such cutters as are on the Pacific coast at the disposition of the Secretary of the Treasury are either lying at their respective stations, where the custom houses are located, or absent on their cruising grounds, it is not at all to be wondered that white American citizens in danger of being murdered by savage tribes should ask the red cross of King George for protection when our own beloved Stars and Stripes are floating 2,000 miles away.

THE WHITES AND THE INDIANS.

The people of British Columbia, Puget Sound and Alaska are near neighbors and homogeneous and upon terms of intimacy in business relations and social life. They have intermarried and visit each other frequently. The coast of British Columbia extends to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude and joins Alaska, being separated by what is known as the Portland Canal. This whole Northwest English coast is inhabited by savage Indians, who are kept in due state of subjection and obedience by the occasional presence of an English gunboat. The captain of a British man-of-war has supreme authority, and the chastisement these tribes have hitherto met with from the British gunboats has produced a most salutary effect in the preservation of the peace. It is not at all unnatural to suppose that in view of the reported disturbances at Sitka the English commander should deem it incumbent upon himself at once to proceed to the scene and ascertain if the trouble would extend to the tribes in British territory.

The Alaska Indians and those in British Columbia are in constant communication with each other, and once let the ball open and there is no telling where it will stop. It is a well known fact that Sitting Bull, seconded by Joseph, the Nez Percé chief, before the massacre of Custer sent runners and emissaries among the Indians of British Columbia to endeavor to incite them to deeds of blood, and a great deal of uneasiness was felt at the time, but owing to the far superior policy of Indian control as exercised by the British government they dared not attempt a revolt.

ACTION OF THE BRITISH COMMANDER.

To my mind this action of the commander of the Osprey is well timed and shows what fraternal feeling should exist between the two nations speaking the same language, united by the same ties of blood and brotherhood, governed by the same principles of common law, reading the same literature, embracing the same religion and worshipping the same God. We who live far away from Eastern civilization on the distant Northwest coast are proud that our near neighbors, living as they do in juxtaposition to us and in perfect amity and accord, should so readily show a desire to extend such aid to our citizens as would prevent what the whole civilized and Christian world stands aghast at—an Indian massacre.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

This brings me to the question of who is responsible for this trouble. The California press are much excited upon this subject, and in unmeasured terms denounce the administration for the present state of affairs. This is no new thing to me. In my report to the Secretary of the Treasury of an inspection of Alaska Territory, made by his order last year, and now in the hands of the Public Printer by order of the Senate, the whole subject is reviewed and the responsibility is there located. As that report will not be published for some days I think it incumbent upon me to offer to the public, through the columns of your widespread journal, some reasons for, as you say, "Britain Protecting America."

The executive branch of the government must be held blameless, and the responsibility shifted to the lawmaking power at the other end of the avenue. Upon the abandonment by the War Department of Alaska Territory and withdrawal of the troops in June, 1877, the sole government and control of the Territory was virtually turned over to the Secretary of the Treasury, insomuch as he had custom houses and customs officers there. This and nothing more. This officer has been most unjustly blamed for not affording such protection as the requirements of the Territory demand.

The error committed in withdrawing the troops—and this General McDowell now sees—was in taking them away before Congress had legislated some form of government for the protection of the people and appropriated means to build a suitable gunboat to patrol the coast.

RULED BY A DEPARTMENT.

The condition of affairs in that region is without comparison or parallel in the history of nations. The Secretary of the Treasury is charged with the collection of the revenue, and the vessels of the revenue marine are by law directed to be used in the performance of certain duties in that connection. There is no law, written or unwritten, which devolves upon him the government of the entire Territory. It is different with the War Department. That can use troops to repress or prevent an outbreak in many instances where there is no warrant of law for the Secretary of the Treasury to interfere. For nearly two years there has absolutely been no government of any kind whatever in Alaska, and although Congress has been repeatedly petitioned by its citizens and aid asked, it has turned a deaf ear, and neglected to legislate in any manner or form whatsoever for this section of our national domain.

The Secretary of the Treasury has on the Pacific coast but a limited number of revenue steamers, none of which are fitted for extended cruises in Alaskan waters. This he called attention to in his annual report to Congress. A bill introduced by Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, is now pending in the Senate to remedy this defect, and appropriating $175,000 for the construction of a proper vessel. Unless this and other needful legislation is had for that remote land, no one can foreshadow what may take place, and we shall again be compelled to call upon Britain to protect America.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PROTECTION.

It is the proud boast of an English subject that no matter in what corner of the earth he may pitch his tent he is assured of the protection of his flag. How different with the American Republic. The converse of the proposition is the fact, and right here at our own doors we have an integral part of this Republic, embracing one-sixth the area of the whole United States, rich in minerals, timber, fish and furs, wholly neglected by the law making branch of the government.

The revenue cutter Wolcott has been ordered to Sitka. She is small and illy adapted for the service. She can take about coal enough from British Columbia to steam to Sitka and back, and should there be any trouble in other portions of the Territory she would be unable to extend aid. Secretary Sherman is anxious and willing to do everything in his power for Alaska, but in the absence of any law for his action and no money to do anything with, he is not chargeable for the present existing unfortunate state of affairs in the Territory.

Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent of Customs.

EXPLANATION OF THE REAL CAUSES OF THE TROUBLES—IS ALASKA WORTHLESS?

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 18.]

Unless the news of a threatened Indian outbreak at Sitka, as telegraphed from Victoria, is grossly exaggerated, the situation of the small colony of American citizens at Sitka is extremely critical. Details of the murder of Brown, the proprietor of the Warm Springs, a sanitarium eighteen miles from Sitka, were brought here by passengers in the January steamer. The Warm Springs were improved and cared for by the Russian authorities at Sitka, and were a favorite place of resort during the later years of the Russian occupation. On the transfer of the territory the United States military authorities took charge of the Springs and buildings and kept them in tolerable repair until the troops were withdrawn from Sitka, when the place was abandoned and was shortly afterward occupied by Brown. They were occasionally visited by invalids from Sitka and Wrangel, who paid Brown for their lodgings and the use of the waters. Adjoining the Springs was a small Indian village, principally inhabited by dissolute Indians from Sitka. Late in December or early in January Brown was robbed and murdered by some of his Indian neighbors. The murderers went to Sitka to dispose of their ill gotten plunder and were there arrested by Anahootz, the chief of one branch of the Sitka tribe, and handed over to Colonel Ball, Collector of Customs for Alaska. Colonel Ball kept them in custody until the arrival of the mail steamer California at Sitka, when they were placed on board the steamer to be taken to Portland and thence transferred to the United States authorities. It is the opinion of Major Berry, ex-Collector of Alaska, and of other gentlemen who have lived in Sitka and Wrangel for several years and who are now in this city, that the families of the Sitkas who are connected with the accused murderers outnumber the few families who acknowledge the control and authority of Anahootz, and that they have demanded the accused men and threatened the resident whites and their few Indian allies with summary vengeance for refusing to release the two men. Major Berry considers the situation critical and alarming, and fears that the sending away of the men may be made the pretext for a general massacre of the whites and the few friendly Indians. At this season the Indian hunters and fishermen are all at home idle, and the Sitka village can turn out from twelve hundred to fourteen hundred fighting men. Opposed to them are not more than one hundred to one hundred and fifty whites and friendly Indians. Many of the houses in Sitka are built of heavy logs, and, protected by brave men, they might stand a siege of several days against rifle shots, but unhappily they have no supply of water within their walls, their daily supply of that indispensable article being brought from a small river half a mile away from the town. The cannon which were formerly mounted in the blockhouse and water batteries are all within reach of the Indians, and may be easily mounted on improvised carriages and dragged to within short and murderous range of any building in which the whites may take refuge. The presence of a powerful gunboat, with her guns trained upon the Indian town, which is built along the strand, would soon restore reason and moderation to the Sitka savages, and a few well delivered volleys would teach them a lesson which would keep them in order for half a dozen years. Louis Schloss, of the Alaska Commercial Company, having been interrogated in regard to the troubles, said that he thought they were of very little consequence. As far as their trade was concerned they were of no more consequence than a riot in Maxatlan. They were confined to one corner of a very extensive territory and did not affect at all the peace of the rest of it. The Fur Company had twenty stations on the islands of the region and on the mainland, and they never had had any trouble whatever with the Indians. There had been one murder by a Youcon Indian on the Koushkequin River, and the murderer was now confined at Alaska. This place is not near Sitka. The hostile Indians are the Koloshes, who are in and about Sitka, and who number about five thousand souls. The white population at Sitka does not number over twenty-five persons, and there is no reason why they should be there at all. There is not more trade than would decently support one trader. They might as well pull up stakes and move at once to some more peaceful locality. Alaska is worth nothing, except for the furs and fisheries. The danger to the white settlers was exaggerated for the sake of getting troops sent to Sitka, and the steamboat company had something to do with the reports. Such stories preceded the monthly arrival of every Alaska steamer in San Francisco. The steamer company was largely responsible for the trouble, for a large part of their freight to the Territory was molasses, which was made into rum and sold to the natives. An experience of ten years had shown him that the native tribes were generally peaceful, still the whites had a right to the protection of the government, no matter how few they were, as long as they were good citizens.

HOW LENT BEGAN.

OBSERVANCES IN ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, TRINITY CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S AND OTHERS—PROGRAMME OF SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE GREAT FAST—THE FORTY HOURS' DEVOTION.

Services were held in all the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches yesterday in observance of Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The services in St. Patrick's Cathedral were similar to those ministered there every morning in the year, except the blessing of the ashes, which was done at the early mass and its distribution at that and the other masses of the morning, and except also, that Bishop Wadham, of Ogdensburg, N. Y., being accidentally in the city officiated at the last mass. At the several masses the number of worshippers was large. Ash Wednesday is not a holiday of obligation in the Catholic Church, but it is nevertheless celebrated with great solemnity, because it introduces the great fast of Lent. The altars of the Cathedral and other Catholic churches were yesterday draped with purple, symbolizing penitence and sorrow. The organs were silent, and the priests performed the masses in doleful tones, to which the choirs responded in similar strains. The distribution of the ashes takes place toward the close of the mass, the worshippers meantime kneeling around the chancel rail and receiving this symbol of mortality on their foreheads from the hands of the officiating priests. Cardinal McCloskey was not present at the Cathedral yesterday, but he will be on Sunday, when at the solemn high mass the forty hours' devotion to the Blessed Sacrament begins. This has been made a perpetual devotion by the Pope, so that it is observed daily now throughout the world in different dioceses at the same time. There will be a procession of children carrying flowers, &c., at the high mass on Sunday. It will no doubt be a pretty and pleasing sight.

THE FAST IN THREE DIOCESES.

The regulations for Catholics in this diocese, Brooklyn and Newark, N. J., are not as stringent as in former years, though in the diocese of Newark they are more strict than here. In New York the Cardinal allows one regular meal and a collation every day, but meat is not allowed except by special dispensation, and then on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Sundays are exempt from fast and abstinence. Fish is not allowed with meat, but there is no prohibition against the use of eggs, butter or cheese in prescribed quantities. Lard may also be used in the preparation of fish and vegetables. To the foregoing bishop Loughlin, of Brooklyn, permits the use of tea or coffee in the mornings. Bishop Corrigan allows the use of meat at the principal meal on Saturdays, except on the second and last of Lent. The "black fast" will be enforced in the diocese of Newark for the first time on Good Friday. This fast consists of total abstinence from eggs, butter, cheese and milk, as well as meat.

Evening services during Lent will be held in the Catholic churches of this city as follows:—

On Mondays, in the Church of the Nativity, of the Assumption (German), St. Michael's, St. Anthony's (Italian) and St. Mary Magdalen's (German).

On Tuesday's, in St. James', St. Joseph's, St. Vincent de Paul's (French), St. John the Evangelist's, Holy Cross, St. Gabriel's, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Sorrows', St. Cecilia's and St. Alphonsus'.

On Wednesdays, in St. Peter's, Most Holy Redeemer (German), St. Francis Assistum's (German), St. Francis Xavier's, St. Anne's, Annunciation, Manhattanville; St. Paul's, Ninth avenue and Fifty-ninth street; St. Teresa's, St. John the Baptist's (German), St. Agnes' and St. Vincent Ferrer's.

On Thursdays, in Cathedral, St. Andrew's, St. Stephen's, St. Columba's, St. Bridget's, St. Alphonsus' (German), St. Lawrence's, Yorkville; Holy Innocents', St. Rose of Lima's, St. Nicholas', St. Joseph's (German), Manhattanville; St. Elizabeth's, Fort Washington, and Church of the Assumption.

On Fridays, in St. Mary's, Transfiguration, St. Paul's, Harlem; St. Boniface's (German), St. Bernard's Church of the Epiphany, Church of the Sacred Heart, Holy Name of Jesus, and St. Joseph's (German), Eighty-seventh street.

EPISCOPALIANS INTRODUCING LENT.

In some of the Episcopal churches of New York the lenten season was opened yesterday as follows:—At Trinity church, sermon by Dr. Dix in the morning, followed by communion, and evening prayer at three o'clock. The daily observances in this church have been already published in the HERALD. At the Church of St. Mary the Virgin three masses were observed, with sermon in the forenoon and evening prayer at half-past four P. M. and sermon in the evening at eight o'clock. The forenoon and afternoon services were choral and are so to be during the entire fast. Every Wednesday evening at eight and every Friday afternoon at four there will be lectures. The Sunday services will consist of an early celebration at seven A. M. High celebration at eleven. There will be three Stabat Maters, beginning Sunday evening, March 16. The first will be Mme. de Grandval