

The "Northern Light."

"The opposition P. E. I. EXAMINER is, or pretends to be, dissatisfied about the winter steamer, the Northern Light, which the Dominion Government keeps on the route between the Island and the mainland during the winter at a very great expense. According to the EXAMINER, this vessel is not run on the proper route, the mails are not forwarded by her as they should be, the rates of freight are excessively high, &c. The one wish of the Dominion Government in this respect is to make the Northern Light as useful as possible to the people of the Island, and it is to be hoped that they will succeed in doing so."

This is from the St. John Freeman. If it be the one wish of the Dominion Government to make the Northern Light useful, we can only say that they have adopted an extraordinary arrangement to carry it out. Every mail and passenger from the mainland for this Island is delayed at Pictou as follows:—

Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's, 20 hours  
Tuesday's and Thursday's, 44 "  
Saturday's, 68 "

What would the Freeman say were the English mail for St. John delayed on the road—by "arrangement"—four days?

As to the rates of freight, they are simply "prohibitory."

With the route we find no fault. The Freeman is mistaken in supposing that only the "Opposition P. E. Island EXAMINER" is "dissatisfied about the winter steamer." Every man in the Province who takes the slightest interest in our winter communications is dissatisfied.

The Patriot, we observe, lauds the Northern Light as a "safe and sound boat." Her recent performances prove that there is more truth in this estimate of the Northern Light than in other statements of the Patriot. And if the Northern Light is a "safe and sound boat," why keep her in dock half the time?

The crew, we suppose, is a good one—paid well to perform a dangerous service. Why keep them half the time doing nothing?

The Government is bound by its solemn contract to keep up constant steam communication between the Mainland and this Island. Why, when not the slightest obstacle interposes, do they not try to meet their obligations?

With a good boat and a good crew—and no ice—we might just as well as not have constant (daily) communication with the mainland. Why do not the Dominion Government try to keep up daily communication?

The Horrors of War.

The following brief account of the awful sights witnessed in Plevna when the Russians took possession of the city, by given the correspondent of the London "Daily News" describing the state of Plevna, says:—

Before the recent great storm Plevna was simply a charnel house. Modern warfare has no parallel for it, and its horrors can only be compared to those which followed in the wake of Genghis Khan or Timur, as their savage Tartar hordes swept over and desolated Asia.

The famished dogs, of which they are always large numbers in every Turkish town, were feeding on the corpses of the dead and the bodies of the still living wounded. The savage howls of the greedy brutes as they tore the putrid flesh of the dead or crunched the bones between their teeth, the cries and groans of the wounded as they vainly struggled with the dogs might be heard for miles around and made the soul sick.

Birds were pecking at the skulls, hopping from body to body with beaks and plumage besmeared with human blood and screaming with fiendish delight. Dogs fought among themselves, and birds struggled with bird for possession of a morsel of human flesh and the most indescribable horror prevailed.

In one house alone thirty-seven dead and fifty-three wounded Turks were found, some of the former in a half-decomposed and putrid state, and the wounded in a condition that can be more easily imagined than described. Some of the wounded were able to crawl about, and clutched at odd morsels of food that were found in the hand of the dead, devouring it with feverish avidity; but thousands of them were utterly helpless and awaited death or succor with a listless fatalism.

Eighteen hundred prisoners were huddled together on the bank of the Vid, and the horrors of their position equalled those of the great plague which ravaged Europe in the fourteenth century. Living and dead were piled together promiscuously in heaps like wood, and carted away. There were only three carts available for the work, and the confusion was indescribable.

Gaman's bravery is stained and blackened by his treatment of the Russian wounded that fell into his hands. His gallant defence of Plevna for a minute blinded the victors and Europe to the fact that all prisoners were butchered by the troops under Osman's command.

Those of our readers who bear the name of Metzger will do well to spend the long winter evenings in putting their pedigrees in order. Lieutenant-General Metzger died at the Hague in 1601, leaving a fortune of \$23,000,000. The Dutch Government took the estate to itself on the alleged ground of want of heirs. General Metzger was of Alsace. Some of his distant relatives there laid claim to the property. The suit lasted 150 years, until 1704, when William III. of Orange declared it outlawed by time, and confirmed the original seizure by the State. New proof having recently been discovered the Metzger heirs petitioned the French, Swiss and American Governments to assist them in securing the rights of branches of the same family, living under their protection. With simple and compound interest, it is estimated that the estate in question equals in value the whole amount of coined gold in the world.

We learn that about three hundred feet of Souris breakwater were washed away,

Entertainment in St. Patrick's Hall.

The entertainment which took place, as announced, in St. Patrick's Hall, on Friday evening last, in aid of the funds of St. Joseph's Total Abstinence Society, passed off very successfully. The Hall was decorated with flags and banners of different Societies, and presented a very neat appearance. At about 8 o'clock, the seats were occupied by a select audience, and the overture played, after which the Hon. A. A. McDonald briefly addressed the audience. During the performance, the St. Dunstan's Cathedral Choir sang a few choruses in fine style and, especially the last, "Moonlight on the Lakes," was loudly applauded. The choir showed signs of much improvement since we last had the pleasure of hearing them. The songs sung by Professor Caven, Dr. Creamer, and Mr. A. Hermans, will still keep these gentlemen favorites with the public, and the comic songs by Mr. J. Laws, were loudly enjoyed. The duett, "Home to our Mountains," by Mrs. Pennee and Dr. Creamer, and the trio, "The Distant Chimes," by the same lady, with Miss McEwen and Miss Cox, were both well-rendered. The violin solo, "Il Balen," by Mr. Vinecombe was played, as all pieces are by that gentleman, with much taste and skill. One of the best features of the entertainment, was the performance on the harp by Mrs. Kickham. The sweet music played by that lady on the occasion, and the grace with which it was executed, won the admiration of the audience. The song, "Far'er the deep blue sea," was sung in very good voice by Mrs. Gaffney. The "Quie vive Gallop," a piano-forte duet, was rendered in a brilliant and effective style by Mrs. Pennee and Miss Quirk. The recitations by Messrs. T. A. McLean, and James McEachern, would reflect credit on professionals. The comic address by Mr. Coyle, was laughable, though we do not think he did himself justice. Mrs. Pennee, Mrs. McEwen, and Miss Newbery accompanied the different singers. Although the Programme seemed long, no time was lost between the pieces, and the performance was brought to a close about 10 o'clock. The committee were fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Pennee to conduct the music of the evening; and, we understand, the ability and experience of this accomplished lady, contributed much to the success of the entertainment. Quite a handsome sum was realized.

A Horrible Story.

General Richard Taylor, son of a former President of the United States, who was one of the leading Generals of the army of the Confederate States, in an article published lately in the North American Review, makes the following shocking statement:—

After the battle of Chickamauga, in 1863, General Grant was promoted to the command of the armies of the United States, and called to Washington. In a conference at the War Office between him, President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, the approaching campaign in Virginia was discussed. Grant said the advance on Richmond should be made by the James River. It was replied that the Government required the interposition of an army between Lee and Washington, and would not consent at that late date to the adoption of a plan that would be taken by the public as a confession of previous error. Grant observed he was indifferent as to routes, but if the Government preferred its own—so often tried—to the one suggested, it must be prepared for the additional loss of 100,000 men. The men were promised. Grant accepted the Governmental plan of campaign, and was supported to the end. The above comes to me well authenticated, and I have no doubt of its correctness.

The attempt was made, and after a fearful loss of life the Government were forced to adopt McClellan's plan for the advance on Richmond. The New York World says:—

This is certainly a horrible story. The immolation of 100,000 men to avoid a confession of error on the part of an Administration matches anything in the annals of the most despotic governments on earth. To believe that the long agony which the nation endured in 1864 was borne to make good the blunders of civilians involves so much that is revolting that nothing but the reputation of the soldier who vouches for the tale could make us entertain it. General Taylor expressly and significantly says that it came to him on good authority. No authority for such an accusation can be good which is less than that of one of the men directly concerned. President Lincoln was dead before Gen. Taylor came North after the war. Edwin M. Stanton was probably capable of the atrocious calculation charged, but he is not likely ever to have had an opportunity of communicating it to Gen. Taylor. There remains, therefore, but one source from which it could have reached Gen. Taylor. This consideration will make our readers shudder with us at the possibility of its truth.

Next day the World said:— "Some one has told General Taylor that Mr. Lincoln was virtually responsible for the hideous slaughter of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, and it is the merest affectation to pretend to be in doubt as to his informant was. The only question to be settled is whether the witness can be believed. Is the word of General Grant good on such a point of history? His truthfulness was made the subject of controversy during his quarrel with President Johnson, and it was more recently debated in connection with his strictures upon Sumner; therefore it is possible that it may not rest unimpeached in the present case. "Unless it can be successfully impeached, however, the history of the war will have to be rewritten in colors rather darker than it is altogether pleasant to think of."

SENTENCING HER HUSBAND TO BE HANGED.—Mrs. Morris, a woman Justice of the Peace of Wyoming Territory, heard a case of scandalous character, in which her husband was defendant. She sentenced him to be hanged by the neck until dead, and was anxious to have the sentence carried into effect at once, until the Attorney explained to her that she was simply sitting as an examining court. She then held him in bonds of \$18,000,000 to await the action of the Grand Jury, and said she would shoot the first man that attempted to raise the sureties.—Virginia City Chronicle.

Crete.

A London Special says: "Great excitement is caused to-day by the sensational news from the Island of Crete. It appears that a number of Christian families yesterday attempted to enter Retimo, a small town of about 4,000 inhabitants on the northern coast of the Island, but were prevented by the Turkish populace, who assaulted them, sparing neither men, women nor children. After driving the Christians back, the Turks closed the gates of the town, and then turned their attention to the British Vice-Consul, threatening his life, and pursuing him with knives until he found shelter in the house of a brother consul. The Turkish soldiers quietly stood by during all these outrages, perfectly inactive, not attempting to stop the riotous disturbances. It is believed England will take temporary possession of the Island, with a view of preventing a repetition of the outrages."

The War in Africa.

A recent Times article on the South African situation concludes as follows:—

It is not pleasant to remember that Cetuy, Chief of Zululú—according to those who know Zululú well—can put 40,000 well armed men into the field, and that he may choose a moment for doing so when we have our hands more than full on the Caffrarian question.

Earl Carnarvon is reported to have said to a deputation of South African merchants:

Zulu King commands a very well armed and comparatively well disciplined force, and during the last few weeks has undoubtedly shown signs of temper which might bring about disaffection. I am glad to see that fresh Colonial levies are being raised. They will render, I have no doubt, very valuable assistance. At the same time I can confirm the report that the 19th Regiment and a battery of artillery will leave the country within the next week or ten days. Preparations are being urged on with all possible speed at the War Office.

A Horrible Tale.

FIVE MEXICANS BURNED TO DEATH FOR PRACTICING WITCHCRAFT.

A Mexican correspondent declares that an auto-do-fe, worthy of the days of Torquemada, has been recently celebrated in the village of St. James, in the District of Concoordeo. For six months a man named Silvester Zacharis had been bewitched, and having drank three glasses of holy water to "drive out the devil," he denounced Joseph Bonilia and Diega Lugo as having bewitched him. These two persons were denounced to the prefect, and having been arrested, Judge Murino, a member of the Supreme Court of Justice, ordered them to be burned alive. At 7 o'clock in the morning the witch and the wizard were bound to the stake, which stood in the center of a hill-ock of faggots. About sixty persons, armed with long Mexican knives, surrounded these criminals. "As soon as the fire reached the witches," says the official report sent to the Prefect of Concoordeo, "they cried out for the gods to be sent to them (probably their soothing or conjuring paraphernalia). The fire was extinguished, and these 'gods' brought. As soon as they had them in their hands, they denounced three other persons as accomplices, and these having been compelled to mount the pile, all five were then burned to death."

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or statements of Correspondents.

To the Editor of the Examiner:

SIR,—A very violent storm raged here on the night of the 4th and forenoon of the 5th inst. Its effects were disastrous to the new Breakwater which was completed here last summer by the Dominion Government, at a cost of sixty-nine thousand dollars. About three hundred feet from the outer end of this work were carried away, and left in fragments strewn along the shore, extending from Knight's wharf in "the Cove," to Mr. Stern's warehouse, near the celebrated Souris Station House. It is not yet ascertained what damage was done to the submerged portion of the destroyed work, suffice it to say that at low water not a vestige of the extremity is visible of what three days ago was considered the finest public work on the Island. The attention of the Minister of Public Works for the Dominion, on his visit here last summer, was called to the necessity of having an embankment of stone placed on the sea side of this work to protect it from the action of the angry sea. This, it was calculated, could be done at a further outlay of ten thousand dollars, thereby rendering perfectly secure the whole work; but alas! "delays are dangerous," and the old saying is in the present instance unfortunately too true. The Government should at once see the actual necessity of protecting the remainder. The County Court is sitting now for three days. Judging from the number of people attending, the new Court House, at present under contract, will not furnish more than one-third the required accommodation. You people of the surrounding country who expect to be sued, and in fact every one interested, see to this fact, get up a petition to our own worthy Minister of Public Works to have the agreement bonds all cancelled and new specifications drawn for a building that will suit the requirements. I have a word or two to say with regard to this public official's insincerity on some local works around this vicinity; but in the hope that he will give his attention to the above suggestion, I will keep silent. Yours, &c., SEMPER EADEM.

Souris, Jan. 5, 1878.

FISH AND FISHERMEN.—The catch of fish in our waters this year as compared with that of 1876, will be generally admitted to be short in all kinds. Exports of mackerel to the United States is 86,000 barrels to date, against 42,000 last year. This does not go to prove that we have had a better catch, but that in consequence of a short catch in their own waters, the United States offered a profitable market for mackerel. Latest reports from the United States show their catch of mackerel this year to be 110,000 barrels against 226,000 last year. Our present stock of mackerel is not more than one-half, and perhaps not more than one-third, of that at the close of 1876.—Herald.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

MR. H. J. PALMER and Mr. D. C. McLEOD are admitted Partners of our Law Firm. The business will be carried on as heretofore, under the style of PALMER & McLEOD. Ch'town, Jan. 7, 1878—all papers 2i

POLITICAL MEETING.

A MEETING of the Electors of the First Electoral District of King's County for the Legislative Council will be held at the Court House, at Head St. Peter's Bay, on FRIDAY next, at the hour of two o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of selecting a Candidate to represent the District in the Legislative Council, for which Writs are issued, and the election will take place on the 24th. Electors from East Point, Souris, Rollo Bay, Bay Fortune, Morell, St. Andrew's, and all other parts of the District, are invited to attend. The Members of the District in both Houses and the Editors of the Press also are respectfully invited to attend.

CHARLES McDONALD, CAPT. JOHN STEELE, JAMES McDONALD, JOSEPH McISAAC, JOHN H. WINSLOE, PETER McLELLAN, ANDREW LEWIS, JOHN PUCELL, ANGUS McAULAY, JOHN LARKIN.

St. Peter's Bay, Jan. 7—

ON CONSIGNMENT

With Positive Instructions TO SELL: 20 HHDS. MOLASSES, 10 do. SUGAR, 200 Bbls. APPLES, 25 Crates ONIONS, 100 Pairs Men, Women & Boys BOOTS 10,000 CIGARS.

Counter and Platform Scales, Direct from the Factories. —ALSO— A few Celebrated Bourne Pianofortes, Mason and Hamlin Organs.

Second-hand Instruments taken in exchange at fair valuations. A. McNEILL, Auc'r. No. 11 Queen St., Jan. 3, 1878—6i tav

Harvie's Almanac

1878 PRICE 12 CTS. Wholesale and Retail at HARVIE'S BOOKSTORE, QUEEN SQUARE, and sold by all respectable dealers throughout the Island. Jan. 3—

THE LATEST YET!

THE new Patent CLOTHES-HORSE, the most complete ever invented, selling cheap. Also WANTED—a first-class Carriage Maker. Apply to J. C. KEEFE, North Side Queen's Square. Dec. 5, 1877.

Notice to the Public.

SUPPLIES for the "Soup Kitchen" will reach the Committee if left at the Store of Mr. Alex. Horne, corner of Queen and Fitzroy Streets. Donations of money will be received by them through Dr. Dodd and Mr. J. Quirk. N. B.—Food for the sick carefully prepared by the Committee. Dec. 27—tf

SEE HERE MEN!

IF you want SLEIGHS or CARRIAGES made of best American Wood, in latest style, or your Horse Shod in FIRST-CLASS STYLE, call on the undersigned. All work warranted or no pay. J. C. KEEFE, North side Queen's Square. Ch'town, Dec. 5, 1877.

FOR SALE

A few second-hand Kerosene Oil Lamps, cheap, at EXAMINER OFFICE. Nov. 27—

International Hotel!

(FORMERLY RANKIN HOUSE) Corner of Pownal & Sydney Streets, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. Private and permanent Boarders can be accommodated on very moderate terms, during the winter season, at the International. D. MCISAAC, Proprietor. Dec. 19, 1877—2m

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CITIZENS' SKATING RINK.

Grand Opening Night, MONDAY, JANUARY 7, AT 8 O'CLOCK—ICE PERMITTING.

GALBRAITH'S BAND

WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE. SEASON TICKET, Gentleman, \$5 00 " " " Lady, 3 50 For afternoon only, 2 50 Promenade, 1 50 Monthly Ticket, gent., 2 50 " " lady, 1 50 Visitor's Ticket, Band Nights, gent., 50 " " lady, 25

RULES.

RULE 1. This Rink shall be open every afternoon, from 2 to 6 p. m. (Sundays and Thursdays excepted); and every Monday and Thursday evening, from 8 to 10 p. m., ice permitting. RULE 2. No intoxicating liquors shall be brought into the building, and no smoking allowed on the ice. RULE 3. Children under the age of 13 shall not skate in the evening, and no boy shall be allowed to smoke inside the building. RULE 4. Violent skating strictly prohibited. RULE 5. The right of ticket-holders does not extend to Carnival nights. RULE 6. Any violation of the above Rules and Regulations, or any unseemly or ungentlemanly conduct on the part of any ticket-holder or visitor, will be punished with expulsion and forfeiture of ticket. Tickets for sale at Apothecaries' Hall. J. R. BRECKEN, Sec'y.

COAL! COAL!

ROUND & NUT at W. W. CLARKE'S. Ch'town, Jan. 5—4w 2w

Provincial Normal School.

The Winter Term of the Normal School WILL BEGIN ON THE THIRD TUESDAY IN JANUARY, and all intending students are requested to make application to the Principal, who will supply them with all necessary information in regard to the entrance examination. Students who intend studying for a First Class License are specially requested to attend during the winter term, in order that special attention may be given to the subjects required for their examination. All students must be present on the day of opening. JOHN HARPER, Principal. Dec. 24, 1877—

Important Decision!

THE SEWING MACHINE AWARDS. [From the Sewing Machine Journal.] The Special Medal to Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company. Extract from the Judges' Report: "The recommendation we hereby submit:— "The great advantage which it obtains in its distinctive feature, the Rotative Hook, over the class of machines using the reciprocating shuttle, is one which needs, to show it, no special demonstration; it being apparent at once, not only to the educated mechanic, but to any intelligent observer. The Report concluded: "The tension is more easily adjusted and needs less regulating than any other that we know of. The range of work successfully performed by the apparatus known as the 'No. 6 machine' in our presence, was larger than we have elsewhere seen on any one machine, going from many thicknesses of tin and cloth together to the finest cambric, without stopping the machine, and the sewing all perfect, showing the perfectment of the tension device used. The machine is well made, all its parts being fitted to gauge, and consequently interchangeable. It has already received from the American Institute all the awards and recognitions under the rules possible to a sewing machine. We consider the apparatus known as the No. 6 to be the most mechanical in construction and as attaining the best results of any machine we know of, and we do not hesitate to declare it, as in our opinion, at present the best sewing apparatus in the world; we recommend for it the highest recognition under the rules that can be awarded—the Special Medal of 1877. "J. G. BRONAHAN, U. S. N., "B. F. WOOD, U. S. N., "J. W. COLLINS, U. S. Rev. Mar. } Judges. The prices of these Machines have been greatly reduced. Mr. Theo. L. Chappelle, Diamond Bookstore, is the Agent in this City. Ch'town, Dec. 29—3i eod.

BUY THE DAILY EXAMINER,

for the latest news—local and telegraphic.

FLOUR FLOUR

Good Family Flour, FOR SALE AT W. W. CLARKE'S. Water St., Dec. 1—eod tf

OSTRICH FEATHERS

Cleaned, Dyed and Curled. Kid Gloves, Neckties and Ribbons Cleaned and Dyed. Also—Gent's Clothing, etc. Orders left at the Shop of Mr. W. W. Stumbles, 27 Great George Street, promptly attended to. G. C. Gilmour, Silk Dyer, etc., Fitzroy Street, Dec. 26—1m 2w