

ASSASSINATION OF HON. T. D'ARCY MCGEE.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, April 13.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT rose to move a Resolution, expressing the deep regret of the House at the sad assassination of the Honorable Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the members of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada. There were, he said, very few members of the House who had not seen that hon. gentleman, and those who had not were familiar with his history, and had read of his patriotic speeches in Canada before and since Confederation. All must therefore feel with him a deep regret that so worthy a man had met a violent death at the hands of an assassin. It was not his intention to make a long display of words to express his feelings upon this occasion. He had been intimately acquainted with the lamented gentleman, having been a Delegate from this Island at the Quebec Conference, at which he was a Delegate on the part of the Canadian Government. The disposition which was then invariably shown by him to do justice and make matters agreeable as possible to the Lower Provinces, as well as to Canada, had given him a high place in his (the hon. member's) estimation. Nothing had ever occurred to which he had given so great a shock as a public man, as did the intelligence that this great statesman had been assassinated—perhaps for giving free utterance to his opinions upon public questions. All public men must feel that it behooved them to deprecate this act. He also stated that he had the honor of being acquainted with Mrs. McGee and sympathized most sincerely with her and her family in their sad bereavement. He would therefore move the following Resolution, which, he believed, expressed the feelings of every member of the House:—

The assassination of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, of the Dominion of Canada, having been reported by Telegram.

Therefore Resolved, That this House regard with horror and detestation the atrocious and blood-thirsty act; deeply sympathize with the bereaved widow and orphans; and sincerely regret that the Dominion Government should have lost such an able and patriotic statesman.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION in seconding the resolution of the Hon. Leader of the Government did so with very painful feelings. He had also the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Hon. Mr. McGee, during the Quebec Conference in 1864, and from what he then saw of him, both in his public and private character, he had come to the conclusion that he was one of the greatest men of which British North America could boast. The conclusion then arrived at, he had never altered. On the contrary, he had, day by day, and year by year, become more convinced than ever that he was one of the brightest lights of British America, and one who had at heart the welfare and prosperity of his adopted country. However hon. members in this House might have differed with him regarding the means of promoting that object, he was certain that they must be convinced that he had no selfish motives in advocating Confederation. Had he merely wished to make himself popular with the people, and receive that applause which public men may have rendered to them one day, and lose the next, he would have accomplished his object far more easily had he exerted his influence and poured forth his eloquence against the Union. He had, however, conscientious views on the subject, and gave utterance to them in eloquence rarely to be surpassed by any. It was well known that in '48, when a young man, and before his judgment was matured, he was strongly tinged with Republican principles, and set up the Utopian idea that Ireland would never prosper except as a Republic. After the crisis had arrived, and he was obliged to leave his native country, he took up his abode in the United States, believing that there he would enjoy greater liberties and constitutional privileges than under the flag of England. He had not, however, resided there many years before he saw from the workings of the constitution, that what was very beautiful in theory, was far from sound and correct in practice, and he crossed the Canadian border that he might dwell within the lines of the British Empire. After having tried the Republican and Monarchical systems of Government, he came to the conclusion, in his matured manhood, that there was more liberty of conscience and action in the latter than in the former. These opinions he had entertained from that time, until his unfortunate, sudden and cruel death a few days since; when, having just left the legislative halls, where he had delivered one of his grand speeches upon an important public question, he was sent into eternity by the bullet of an assassin. He was not the first great man who had fallen thus. William the Silent, the founder of the Kingdom of Holland, and within the present century, an able and beloved statesman, and Prime Minister of England, Mr. Percival, had met a similar fate. Within the last few years, the President of the United States was also the victim of assassination, and now the hon. Mr. McGee swelled the list. Words could scarcely be found to express our sorrow, the tongue almost refused to do its duty, when we contemplated the fearful end which had befallen this great man, before reaching the summit of his glory and the zenith of his fame. There would, he knew, be no dissident voice to the Resolution. One more was added to that band of patriots whom we should imitate and make our examples, as expressed in the beautiful words of Longfellow:—

"Lives of great men all remind us We can make ourselves sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time."

HON. MR. MCGEE.—There was no individual in whose breast the tender feelings of humanity were roused in a greater degree upon this occasion, than in his own. The hon. gentleman, whose career had thus been cut short by a ruthless assassin, had, perhaps, in the impetuosity of youth gone to too great length; but a calmer and more matured judgment led him to repudiate, by a life of patriotism and wisdom, the follies of his youth. That a greater man than he was, existed in these Colonies, he was not prepared to acknowledge. He had not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him, but had seen and read his writings with profound admiration. The world had lost in him a great man; in the words of one of our old poets: "a great man has this day fallen in Israel." It was to be regretted that a community could harbor in its bosom a being capable of perpetrating the outrageous act, and he sincerely hoped for the credit of humanity, that the guilty person would be proved to be a madman.

HON. MR. HOWLAND regretted that the House was called upon to record its vote upon so sad an occasion. The consideration that the hon. gentleman was one of the best cultivated minds in America,—one possessed of the largest ideas,—that in him were combined all the virtues and graces of a statesman and scholar, must contribute to make the heart sadder to think that any friend in human shape could launch such a noble soul into eternity. He had, however, left a name behind him that would not be forgotten. If, in his early days, he had given his support to a misguided project, there was some excuse for him, coming, as he had, fresh from *Alma Mater*, imbued with the ideas there acquired. Other men would have taken credit to themselves for this, but he did not. He found that he had thrown away his early days in his native country, and endeavored to atone for his errors in the land of his adoption. He would, doubtless, have risen to eminence in the United States, but he considered that there was a nobler work before him in these Colonies—that here he could be more useful—that his soul could find safety and rest, and he could make some atonement to the public, and to Great Britain, for the inaccuracies of his youth. He (the hon. member) had never seen him, and did not agree with him on the subject of Confederation, but every one who had read the articles from his pen, knew that British America had lost in him a great scholar and one of her brightest minds. His loss could not be too deeply regretted, for there was a place in the literature of the country which he would have filled. He was a great poet, and after he had retired from the turmoil of public life, with his mind richly stored, he would have added to the literature of America, works which would be great and lasting. No man, too, was more capable than he of writing the history of the present times, having acted a prominent part in them. He trusted that the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, to which he had given some of

the best years of his life, and for expressing the views for which he had perhaps been assassinated, would take an interest in and assist his widow and family. His eloquence had sounded through the whole Colonies, and when he heard men like the hon. Leaders of the Government and Opposition speak in such high terms of him, only one conclusion would he arrive at, and that was, that in losing him, British America had lost one of her best and ablest friends.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL was satisfied that no rightly constituted mind could fail to concur heart and soul in the Resolution. It was a lamentable fact that of late years, such tragic events as that now before the House, were of frequent occurrence. The President of the United States, and others, had been referred to as examples. Mr. McGee must have been entirely ignorant of any design against him. He was at his own door when the assassin crept behind and shot him. He (Attorney General) had not been as intimately acquainted with him as had the hon. gentleman who had moved and seconded the Resolution. He knew him well, however, from his political reputation, and if ever there was a statesman he thought highly of, as a man and gentleman, it was he. The hon. member then alluded to the actions of Mr. McGee in 1848, and to his subsequent residence in the United States, and said that he had, after testing the matter, given it as his conscientious conviction, that nowhere was the liberty of the subject so well protected, as where the British flag waved. As regarded his talents, his fellow-countrymen and the United Kingdom might well be proud of him. The vile assassin had not only deprived the country of one of her ablest statesmen, but had plunged a widow and children into sorrow. He was glad that the Resolution would be communicated to Mrs. McGee, though it was but a small tribute. Whether anything else would be done he did not know.

MR. BRECKEN.—The Resolution which had been moved was a tribute of respect due to the memory of the brave man who had been so suddenly cut off by the hand of the assassin. He had but slight acquaintance with him, but from what he knew of his career as a statesman, he thought that he did not over estimate him when he said that he was one of the most valuable men in British America. As a literary man he was one of our greatest scholars, but he was not valuable for that only. He had passed through a trying ordeal, and the sentiments expressed, and opinions given by him in his latter life, when his judgment was more to be relied upon, proved that he had at heart the good of the country which he lived in. He had been a literary character almost from his boyhood. As a journalist, the articles which proceeded from his pen, attracted the attention of the great Daniel O'Connell. It was true, that at that time, he had not that appreciation for England, which he had in his latter days; but his great value arose from the fact that he had investigated that political problem for himself, and found out the merits of the English Constitution. No man was more beloved by his countrymen and supporters than he was. He (Mr. B.) had seen him in Montreal in the midst of his admirers, and had never seen any man command more respect. Melancholy it was, that on account of the principles which he had adhered to and advocated, he had been sent to his long account unannounced, unprepared, but might we not hope among a people of such noble instincts that he believed, they would allow neither his widow nor children to be unprovided for. Some of us had differed with him on the question from a higher point of view. Be that as it may, nothing but manliness and integrity had characterized him in his advocacy of the measure. He (Mr. B.) could deeply sympathize in the feeling of desolation which bowed down his family and friends.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—No hon. member could approach this subject without feelings of emotion. He had not had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with the departed gentleman, whose melancholy end was now the subject of hon. members' remarks. He had, however, perused his writings and speeches, and had, he believed, ample evidence to sustain him in the opinion which he had formed of him, namely, that what he was in his youth he was in his mature age—a man who did and said which he believed to be right and true, with transparent honesty. He had first followed a line of policy which though wrong, he had by his after actions proved that he then considered the wisest and best. When he looked back upon his actions and revised them by that best of teachers, experience, he gave utterance to those sentiments which he had found the best, and proved himself possessed of a large and patriotic mind. We must therefore acknowledge that he pursued the course which he considered right, whether under the smiles or frowns of his country. We could not but sympathize most keenly in all the sentiments that had been expressed in regard to his melancholy end, and the very serious principles involved. He had met his sad fate in consequence of a warm-hearted utterance of his principles in a speech where he had no right to suppose any danger menaced him. He (Mr. Henderson) could fancy that he heard his protest in this Island, that gentleman whose death all regretted, speaking on this subject, as he had on the subject of the Patriotic fund when he delivered one of his most eloquent and telling speeches. Had Mr. McGee died as so many of his countrymen had, in the Crimea, at the memorable charge at Balaclava, different feelings would have been excited, for he would then have died as a hero, by the hand of a powerful enemy. He had died by the hand of an assassin, but he believed that every statesman in British America, would regard him as having perished in the cause of liberty, as truly as did his countrymen in the Crimea. He (Mr. Henderson) concurred with every sentiment of regret and sympathy which had been expressed, and trusted that, if it were deemed a duty to do anything for his family beyond the limits of Canada, this Island would not be behind.

HON. MR. KELLY.—His feelings so overpowered him that he could scarcely find words to express himself, but as a countryman of Mr. McGee could not allow the opportunity to pass without thanking hon. members for, and expressing his gratification at the sentiments of sympathy which had come from both sides of the House.

HON. MR. DAVIES spoke of the loss which British America had experienced, and said that it mattered not whether he held opinions in favor or against those of the late lamented gentleman, when we came to view the noble actions of the man. After he had delivered a speech upon what he considered best for his country and British America, could anyone imagine a being so debased as to attack him in so dastardly a manner—a fiend in human shape who could follow him from the House of Parliament, where he had expressed those sentiments which he believed to be right, and deprive him of his life in so cowardly a manner? Every one must feel the atrocity of the act, and when we considered that he had been cut off in the prime of life, while devoting himself to the cause of liberty, and that he left the world without a stain upon his name, and that his death must surely be regarded as next in glory to that of the soldier. He could only repeat his regret that so bright a light had been swept away without a moment's warning, and expressed his assurance that if anything were done for his family this Island would contribute its share.

MR. REILLY.—When a man so gifted died, every one felt regret, but when his death was untimely it was deplored and regretted more. He was satisfied that there was no member of the House, or person in the community, possessed of right feelings, who did not feel horrified at the atrocious act by which he was cut off. As to the services which he had rendered to British America it was not now for him to speak—now was not the time to view his character and judge him despatchedly. He was happy to support the resolution which had been moved by the hon. leader of the Government.

MR. McNEILL coincided heartily with the ideas expressed in the Resolution. He had not had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr. McGee, but he had read his writings, and must confess that he had admired his speeches more, perhaps, than any he had ever read. He believed, as other hon. members had said, that however misguided he may have been in his youth, he had always done whatever he believed to be right. In all the speeches of his which the hon. member had read, he might mention that which he considered his leading trait

—an entire absence of bigotry. His loss would be felt as a politician and literary man, for he was not only a speaker and writer of elegant prose, but a poet also. It would, perhaps, be long before his equal or superior would be found.

HON. MR. LAMB concurred with every word contained in the resolution. When he thought of this eloquent and talented man thus cut off, surely a feeling of horror at his assassination must run through our veins. As an orator he had no equal in British America, and was destined, had he lived, to become a greater light. In his youth he had acted wrongly, but he believed that he had been actuated by the best of motives. The hon. member then alluded to the fact that Mr. McGee had found that the United States was not that land of freedom and liberty which he had supposed, and had returned to British soil. This was proof positive that his mind was right, and the hon. member would be the last to blame him for following the dictates of his conscience. He had much pleasure in having the privilege of recording his vote in favor of the Resolution.

MR. BELL was unwilling to record a silent vote on this occasion. He concurred with all that had been said in praise of the departed gentleman. Though not acquainted with him, he always admired him since he had any knowledge of his acts. It was certainly melancholy to see a man of high standing and usefulness thus suddenly cut off, and there was no man but must condemn the atrocious act. In what sad grief, too, must his family be plunged, cut off as he was without their having the melancholy pleasure of seeing him before his death. That death was far more trying to his family than if it had been the result of disease, for he was slain without a moment's warning. The hon. member had much pleasure in recording his vote in favor of the Resolution.

HON. MR. CALBRECK thought he had no personal knowledge of Mr. McGee, but he had a right mind and a noble soul. If he had erred in his youth he had proved himself a man of patriotic spirit, and a man of that stamp was more liable than another to err as he had. He had done what he believed right, and was honest in his public career. If he had differed in his political views from many others, small must be the soul that would therefore condemn him. He could not find words to express sufficiently his abhorrence of that detestable act which had caused his death. A man of noble spirit had fallen and though not upon the battle field, yet under circumstances which reflected honor upon his name. He had fallen because he had done what he believed to be his duty.

The Resolution was then carried unanimously, and on motion of the hon. leader of the Government, seconded by the hon. leader of the Opposition, it was ordered that it be communicated by the Speaker to the House of Parliament of Canada, and to Mrs. McGee.

The Herald.

Wednesday, April 29, 1868.

AFTER a Session of seven weeks, the Legislature of this Colony was brought to a close on Friday last. We can do nothing more this week than merely give a list of the Acts passed. The aim and provisions of some of these measures we have already given to the public; and at an early day, we will review such others of them as deserve a lengthened notice, so that the people at large may have a chance of knowing what their rulers have done for the country during the Session just closed. It is only necessary to say that the Bill for the Settlement of Wilderness Lands; the Bill to relieve the settlers on the Selkirk Estate; the Bill to relieve unfortunate Debtors; the Bill to enable the Government to make further Purchases of Land; and the Bill to assist Farmers in the Purchase of Seed Grain, in addition to the other Bills passed, is a very fair record to show for one Session, and gives an earnest of better things in the future. Let our readers judge for themselves:—

- 1. An Act to amend the Act for the due observance of the Lord's Day.
2. An Act to revive and continue a certain Act therein mentioned.
3. An Act to incorporate the Prince County Agricultural Society.
4. An Act to incorporate the Saint Peter's Bay Agricultural Society.
5. An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Baptist Church of Long Creek, West River.
6. An Act to prevent accidents to persons travelling on the Ice.
7. An Act to amend the Act incorporating the Summerside Bank.
8. An Act for the incorporation of Societies for the sale and distribution of seed grain on credit.
9. An Act for the better security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom within this Island.
10. An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Baptist Church of North River, Lot 32.
11. An Act to continue and amend certain Acts therein mentioned relating to Summerside.
12. An Act to amend and explain the Act passed in the 2nd year of His Majesty King William the 4th, relating to the celebration of Marriages so far as the same relates to the Bible Christian Church.
13. An Act (from the Council) to shorten the language of Sheriffs' Deeds.
14. An Act for the relief of unfortunate Debtors.
15. An Act to amend the Laws establishing the salaries payable to the Attorney and Solicitor General.
16. An Act to amend and explain the Land Purchase Bill.
17. An Act to repeal the Acts now in force establishing and regulating the rate of Interest, and to make some provisions on the same subject.
18. An Act to encourage the settlement and cultivation of Wilderness Lands.
19. An Act to consolidate and amend several Acts therein mentioned relating to the Savings Bank.
20. An Act in further addition to and amendment of the Act to incorporate the Town of Charlottetown.
21. An Act in further amendment of the Laws regulating the sale by License of Spirituous Liquors.
22. An Act to empower the Government of Prince Edward Island to expend Ten thousand pounds in the purchase of Lands in the said Island.
23. An Act to consolidate and amend the several Laws relating to Education.
24. An Act for raising a Revenue.
25. An Act for appropriating certain monies therein mentioned for the service of the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

After His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had given his assent to these Acts, he prorogued the Legislature with the following Speech, read in distinct and measured tones:—

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: In relieving you from further attendance here, I am glad to express to you my thanks for your assistance and advice.

By the Act which you have passed to amend and explain the Land Purchase Bill, you have empowered me, so soon as the purchase of any Public Estate shall have proved to be self-sustaining,—to relieve from further payment tenants on that Estate, who have paid their full proportion of the purchase money of their farms.

Under this Act, I shall be enabled to comply with the prayer of the Petition, which, at the commencement of the Session, I informed you that I had received from certain persons who had purchased their holdings on the Selkirk Estate.

The settlement and cultivation of Wilderness Lands cannot fail to be encouraged by the liberal Measures, in which you have authorized me to relax, on such parts of the Public Estates as may be deemed expedient, the provisions of the law which regulates their sale.

I have given my Assent, with much satisfaction, to the Bill, by which you have placed in the hands of the Government a discretionary power to expend a limited amount of Public Money in the purchase of lands, whose value may exceed the limits of the Land Purchase Act.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: I thank you for the Supplies which you have granted for the Public Service.

I earnestly hope, that the timely aid which you have offered to farmers who are unable to procure grain for seed, may avert the suffering to themselves, and the loss to the Colony, which their inability to procure such seed must inevitably produce.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The important subject of Education has received your anxious consideration, and I trust, that the Measure, which you have matured for consolidating and amending the Laws thereupon, may be of benefit to the community.

The able Report of the Committee on Highways, has been laid before you: Although you have not seen fit to take any Legislative action upon it during the present Session, the whole subject will be carefully considered during the recess, with the view to the adoption, at your next meeting, of a system of management which will afford a better security for the judicious expenditure of the money appropriated for this service. I now release you from further attendance here by proroguing this Session of the Legislature.

The City Artillery and the Irish Volunteers, under command of Major Beer, did duty as a Guard of Honor on the occasion. The attendance at the prorogation was as large and aristocratic as usual—the Patriot to the contrary notwithstanding.

THE American Press has very little to say about the assassination of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. The Boston Pilot and the New York Tablet, leading papers in the interest of Irish Catholics, have appeared in mourning out of respect for the memory of the deceased. The Fenian Organs, on the other hand, whilst tame on the foul deed, repudiate the charges implicating the Organization in the assassination. The evidence, however, thus far made public, although circumstantial in itself, is nevertheless very strong against Whelan, and indicates that he was merely the agent of an Organization which plotted the assassination. Whether that Organization was the Fenian Brotherhood or a combination of the political enemies of Mr. McGee, the result of the trial will demonstrate. The developments of informers anxious to secure the large rewards offered, and the investigations of the Police authorities strengthen the already strong conviction that Whelan is the assassin. There can be no doubt that if he is convicted, as seems morally certain, he will swing for the horrible crime. The telegrams from Ottawa containing the evidence adduced at the trial, come down to us in a disjointed manner. Our readers, therefore, may read with interest the following summary of evidence which tends to fasten the crime upon Whelan:—The first link in the circumstances against Whelan is that supplied by the pistol which has been found upon him. This pistol was of the same make and pattern as the weapon by which the bloody deed was accomplished. That it made out, at any rate to the extent of very strong preliminary probability, by the bullet which was found sticking in the lodging house which the deceased was about to enter. Pistols of this pattern, however, are not uncommon; but when this one was examined it was found that one barrel had been recently—how recently we have not seen tested by any evidence—discharged and reloaded. Moreover, the ball which had taken the place of the one previously discharged, though a Smith and Wesson's ball, was of a newer make than those which were remaining in the other barrels, and again, a box of the newer kind of cartridges, corresponding in pattern to that of the latest charge, was found upon the prisoner. Strictly analysed, all this only comes to prove that one chamber of the pistol had been discharged and reloaded after the time when all the chambers had been loaded together. But here comes in another fact, and one of that kind, which, if it be rightly represented, always carries presumption of guilt with it—it is the use of grease upon the barrels, in a manner which is accounted for by the desire for concealment of the recent loading. Now, all furtive action—all attempts at concealment of an act indifferent in itself, are indications of conscious wrongdoing, and if it shall appear by the testimony of experts that this greasing of the pistol was a suitable method of preventing a discovery of the recent loading, and could not naturally be referred to any other cause, it would establish a clear legal presumption of an interest which the owner of the firearm had in dissimulating a proceeding which he supposed might be attended with risk. The next circumstance to which we may refer as tending against the prisoner is the discovery in the snow, on the stairs of the empty house adjoining McKenna's, of foot prints, which on comparison were found to correspond with the boots which the prisoner wore. Here again we have an indication rather than a proof, inasmuch as boots made by machinery are made to certain numbers, and all men using the same number will have boots with soles of the same size. Taken with the pistol it forms, however, a cumulative suspicion, a concentration, so to speak, of rays of light thrown upon the prisoner from different and independent quarters, which, though at present valueless, except for preliminary purposes, may hereafter be so connected as to form a compact circumstantial proof. Of course if we assume a certain theory of the culprit's mode of action, the foot prints fit exactly into their right place in the dark story of the tragedy of the 7th; at all events they put us upon a line of enquiry which may probably turn out to be fruitful in results, though of themselves they establish nothing. The other causes of suspicion are drawn from the prisoner's character and conduct. As to the first, we know that no good man could have been the murderer, and we assume, in the absence of other known motive, that even a bad man must have been influenced by that kind of feeling which makes Fenians, and have perhaps been prompted by that kind of instruction which may be supposed to proceed from the secret conclaves of Fenianism. Finding that Whelan has sympathies with this evil conspiracy, therefore, we presume that there is nothing in his reputation to exclude him from the number who may have committed the crime. As to his conduct, again, we find him, though in the situation only of a journeyman tailor, removing from one place to another, without cause so far explained, though perhaps capable of explanation, and during the hours before and after the murder acting in a manner unusual for any one, and inconsistent with his own habits. Immediately before the dastardly shot was fired, the prisoner repeatedly passed up and down the stairs of the gallery of the House of Commons, leaving it for the last time at an hour, long after that at which it is usual for strangers to become heartily wearied out of a Parliamentary de-

bate; then re-appearing close to the spot of the murder, but hearing of it with an unconcern which cannot but be considered extremely wonderful, if that was the means by which he became acquainted for the first time with so startling a fact; disappearing, with no account of his time; sleeping elsewhere than at his lodging house; returning only at breakfast, but taking no breakfast; and, finally, after saying that he was going to work, not going there, but wandering about from tavern to tavern till late in the day he fell into the hands of the police. Like the incidents already enumerated, these last really establish nothing connected with the crime; but they do show that the prisoner was, about the time it occurred, acting in a very extraordinary manner—we may say, apparently, in an agitated manner; and in the absence of any explanation of the cause, we hypothetically refer it to murder. Other links in the chain of evidence have been furnished by later telegrams, such as the testimony of Lacroix, and the detectives who overheard the confidential conversation between Whelan and his supposed accomplice, Doyle, in prison. From these it would appear, that all doubt as to the guilt of the prisoners is now removed, and they are fully committed for trial on the charge of murder.

THE MERCANTILE AGENCIES' LEGAL GUIDE.—This is the title of a handsomely bound volume of 423 pages, with copious Index, published by J. W. Rookledge, at the Office of John Lovell, Montreal. The work has been compiled by C. V. Price, LL. B., Kingston, John Popham, Montreal, and Palmer & McLeod, Charlottetown, P. E. I. It is designed for the use of Business Men—not Lawyers. Its object is an excellent one, as can be learned from the Preface, which informs us that, "in the course of a very extensive business in the collection of past due debts, extending over the last ten years, the necessity has been constantly apparent to us for a work of the character herewith presented. In the daily experience of every Merchant and Manufacturer, legal questions arise, which, though of hardly sufficient importance to justify the consultation with a professional adviser, nevertheless, possess interest enough to induce the constant need of some authority in which satisfactory answers can be found. The volume herewith presented is designed to meet that end." After glancing through the work, we have arrived at the conclusion, that the end designed by the publisher, has been successfully met, and no business man in the Dominion of Canada and Prince Edward Island, should be without a copy of the "Legal Guide." A reference to its pages will save a vast amount of trouble and expense in consulting lawyers upon many of the transactions of Commercial life. The reader may judge of the value of this work, when we inform him that it treats on Traders; Partners and Partnership; Principal and Agent; Joint Stock Companies; Corporations; Limited Partnership; Peculiar Incidents of Mercantile Property; Shipping; Good Will; Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes; Contracts of Sale; Contracts of Debt; Contracts with Carriers; Contracts of Affreightment; Maritime Liens; Maritime Insurance; Insurance against Fire; Guarantees; Stoppage in Transit; Lien; By Civil Suit; Insolvency; Fraudulent Acts; Property of Married Women; Lease and Hire of Clerks; Mortgage and Security for Debts; Personal Property—Security for Debts; Personal Security; and Currency. We have much pleasure in recommending this Book to the public as a valuable and useful acquisition to the business man's library.

THE news by Tuesday's Mail is somewhat startling. We have news from Australia of Prince Alfred having been fired at and severely wounded by an assassin, supposed to be a Fenian. The miscreant has been caught, and will doubtless receive that condign punishment which his crime deserves. Our only hope is that the wretch will prove to have been insane when he attempted the murderous deed, and thus save Australia the disgrace of having violated those laws of hospitality which are usually extended to the meanest guest. How much graver the offence when committed against the son of one of the best and purest sovereigns that ever swayed the destinies of the British Empire. This foul plot dims the brilliancy of the receptions previously extended to the Prince by the Australians, and is in dark contrast to the happy termination of the welcome visit which their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales have paid to Ireland. The latest telegrams also inform us that in a battle on Good Friday, between the forces of General Napier and King Theodore, his Sable Majesty and a large number of his colored braves were killed. This, as a matter of course, has brought the Abyssinian war to a close. Sad as is the fate of the infatuated King, we cannot regret it since his folly and obstinacy brought it upon himself. The English captives, on whose account the war was proclaimed, will now be restored to their homes and liberty, and the Queen's troops withdrawn from Abyssinia.

THE impeachment trial of President Johnson will not be completed for a week or more. The Boston Post says: "The President continues perfectly calm, and converses with his friends relative to the trial as if he had no special interest in the result. It is thought to-night that he regards his conviction as almost a certain thing, yet there are those who read the signs differently, and confidently anticipate the President's acquittal."

A solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, was celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral, Halifax, on Friday morning last. His Grace Archbishop Connolly pronounced a most eloquent funeral oration, which occupies six closely printed columns of the Halifax Express of the 24th instant.

It is rumored about Town that the following gentlemen have been appointed Sheriffs for the present year, namely:—

Queen's County.—F. Longworth, Esq., (re-appointed). Prince County.—Richard Hunt, Esq., (re-appointed). King's County.—Wm. MacGowan, Esq.

The Steamer Princess of Wales left Charlottetown for Pictou, at five o'clock on Monday morning, and returned the same evening with an English Mail. She started for Shediac yesterday morning.

The 15th Regiment, stationed in New Brunswick, for some time past, has been ordered back to England.

The Newfoundland Seal Fishery this Season has been a most successful one.

In order to get through with the proceedings of the Legislature as quickly as possible, we are forced to curtail our editorial matter and selections.

The Halifax Chronicle denies the truth of the reported interview between the Hon. Mr. Howe and the Duke of Buckingham on the subject of Repeal.

English ships sailed for P. E. Island.—4th—Constance, L. C. Owen. 8th—Undine, Western Queen. 10th—Lion.

An article on the Education Act, and some Correspondence crowded out this week.