LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The English Mail, which arrived at Halifax on the 27th instant, in the R. M. Steamship *Canada*, was received here, by the Mail Steamer *Princess of Wales*, on Friday morning last. We are in possession of English papers as late as the 16th instant. But the news furnished by them is not of a very important character. The most interesting items, however, which we can glean from our files will be found below.

GREAT BRITAIN.

From the opening of the week, ending October 15th, more confidence began to be felt, and an improving tendency to pervade all Stock Exchange Securities. No great increase of business certainly took place, but the tone of the various markets was much better than it was a week before. Still a large amount of sensitiveness remained, which caused a relapse, on the announcement that the Banks of France and Holland had raised their rates of discount. At the close of the week a better feeling prevailed, and Consols more than recovered the fall, whilst the markets generally assumed a better tone

The terrible calamity which occurred at Erith, on the banks of the Thames, on the morning of the 1st instant, when two powder store-houses exploded, destroying life and property, is not the first case of the kind that has taken place of recent years, but it is incalculably the most disastrous. Five persons were killed, five more are missing, and seven of the sufferers are in the Hospital, one of whom is not expected to survive. To give an idea of the terrible nature of the accident, it will be sufficient to state that 1040 barrels of gunpowder, or 104,000 lbs, exploded on the instant, and the shock was felt like that of an earthquake at forty and even fifty miles from the place where it occurred. Indeed, the shock is said to have been distinctly perceptible at Cambridge, which must be from the scene of the calamity nearly twice the largest distance mentioned. It was at first believed that the catastrophe arose from some burning tobacco, used by one of the men on board of the two barges conveying the powder to the storehouse, having come into contact with the inflammable material; but this statement has been contradicted by Messrs. Hall, who declare that the cause of the calamity is purely conjectural.

The lamentable increase in the number of distressed operatives in the cotton districts is beginning to attract general attention. Between the early part of September and the commencement of October the number of the parochially relieved had increased by upwards of 12,000. The increase was general, only two districts—the Fylde and Macclesfield—showing opposite results. Still, the contrast this year as compared with last year is encouraging. In October, 1863, the number parochially relieved amounted to 133,000. This year, during the same month, the number in the twenty seven unions of the cotton district was 89,000. These are the figures of Mr. Farnall, the Poor-law Commissioner, but the statistics of the Relief Committee show that the number of persons in the receipt of relief amounts to 114,000.

It is announced that the Prince and Princess of Wales will shortly return from their *incognito* visit to Sweden and Denmark. It seems to have been the intention of the young couple to have returned home by way of Paris, but for some reason or other this intention has been abandoned.

The health of Lord Carlisle is so critical that a successor had to be found for him in the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland, and Lord Wodehouse has been induced to accept the position.

The owner of the blockade runner Laurel publishes a letter, denying the statement that Semmes had sailed in his vessel as stated, the and ridiculing idea that the little steamer Ranger, of less than 100 tons, is to be manned and armed from the steamer Laurel and converted into a rebel cruiser.

Coburn, accompanied by his friends, had personally demanded from stakeholders the stakes for the intended fight, on the ground that he was at the place fixed for the fight, while Mace failed to appear. Stakeholder explained that Coburn could have no claim owing to the non-fulfilment of conditions as to referee, and unless mutual agreement was come to, the affair was a draw. Coburn expressed a wish to fight, but only in Ireland, or failing that, Canada.

Another London Corn Merchant, Mr. A. Drewton, committed suicide in consequence of embarrassments.

Engagements between French troops and Arab insurgents in Algeria, on the 29th and 30th September, resulted in 800 Arabs being killed and wounded, and over 100 French.

INDIA.

The last Bombay mail confirms the impression which previously prevailed that the Indian Government were preparing for an expedition into Bhootan, to punish the Khan for the outrage offered to the Hon. Mr. Eden, the British Envoy, when he went to that country on a mission of peace. The conduct of our Envoy, as we showed at the time, was the reverse of prudent; but he was treated with such marked indignity that to allow the brutalities practised on him to escape chastisement would be to encourage those barbarians in their insolence. At the same time, it is painful to know that official imbecility will involve us in a war from which neither honor nor profit can be derived. We learn also by the same mail that an embassy from Koland, in Central Asia, had arrived at Cashmere, on its way to the Viceroy of India, the object of which is to procure assistance from the Indian Government to repel the attempts of the Russians to make a high-road for troops through that country. Sir Charles Wood does not appear to be very popular with the Indian authorities. He and Sir Charles Denison, the Governor of the Madras Presidency, are at issue relative to an order which the former has insisted upon being carried out. It relates to the position of the Indian local officers, and the Governor of Madras refuses his assent on the ground that "the instructions are opposed to the Royal wishes, and are a flagrant violation of the guarantee granted by the Imperial Parliament to the officers of the army of the late Company." This is bearding the Indian Secretary in London with a vengeance, and there must be strong ground for dissatisfaction when language so uncompromising is used.

NEW ZEALAND.

It is satisfactory to know by a telegram from Suez that the revolted Maories in New Zealand have acknowledged defeat by making their submission, and giving up their territories as a proof of their sincerity. It is to be hoped, now that peace has been restored, that the experience of the past will not be lost upon the New Zealand Executive. These savages were entitled to more consideration than they have received, and the sense of wrong under which they laboured has produced a war which no one can look back on with any feeling akin to satisfaction. Now, that it has closed, a new era ought to mark the policy towards them in the island.

ITALY.

MARSEILLES, Oct. 7.—Prince Humbert has arrived here, and will embark immediately. Letters from Rome to the 4th instant state that the Pope had declared, in the presence of visitors, that prudence was necessary, but that it were idle to hope that the Holy See would treat with the Kingdom of Italy. A rumour was current on Sunday that a demonstration had been projected, but the requisite precautions having been taken by the French troops, tranquility was maintained. The Austrian Ambassador was expected at Rome on the 14th.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

The ninth sitting of the Conference took place on Tuesday. It daily becomes more apparent that the negociations, which are being vigorously carried on, are taking a favorable turn. *Faedrelandet* says:—"The conclusion of peace is near at hand, Denmark having consented to fix at a round sum of nine millions of rigsdalers the share which the Duchies are said to have in the public property of Denmark. This amount is consequently to be deducted from the portion of the Danish public debt which it had been arranged should fall to the charge of the Duchies."

THE STATE OF JUTLAND.

The *Berlingske Tidende* contains a very distressing account of the hardships to which the people of Jutland are subjected by the army of occupation. After showing the great interest, commercially and financially, which Denmark must have in a speedy settlement of the matters in dispute between her and Germany, and the absurdity, therefore, of supposing that Denmark is throwing any obstacles in the way of an equitable adjustment, the *Berlingske Tidende* proceeds to say:—"The information we receive from Jutland is most afflicting, and it would appear as though the German authorities were striving to make the yoke which they have imposed more intolerable every day to the unfortunate inhabitants of the province. It is well known that after the armistice the allied Powers engaged to keep in Jutland only such a number of troops as was required by purely military considerations, yet the army of occupation amounts to between 35,000 and 40,000 men, and the cost of their maintenance is nearly £112,000 per month. Moreover, by a recent order of General von Falkenstein, all the troops have been concentrated in the principal towns of the eastern coast, even in those which were not occupied on the 2d of August, for the purpose of making them their winter quarters. The rations of provisions and forage have been so much augmented that it is materially impossible for the people to meet the burdens imposed on them whilst they have only one or two rooms in to German soldiers and officers. But this is not all. Under pretence that the ordinary revenues of the province are inadequate to supply the wants of the army, all the imports from the Danish isles are subjected to a customs duty, whilst, at the same time, the exportation of the cattle, butter, and the other agricultural products of Jutland is prohibited. These measures, added to those which were already in force, and which are entirely opposed to the text and spirit of the armistice, are causing the total ruin of the people."

PRUSSIA.

The semi-official *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* contradicts the news published by some journals of the resignation of the Minister of Finance on account of a disagreement with the Minister of War. The rumored resignation of Privy Councillor Duncker, confidential adviser of the Crown Prince, is likewise declared to be unfounded.

REDUCTION OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* says:—"The reduction of the Austrian army is a positive fact. In Venetia alone the reduction will amount to 15,000 men. All soldiers on furlough will leave Venetia at latest on Saturday next."

SPAIN.

MADRID, Oct. 13.—The *Politica* asserts that the Democrats will demand permission to hold public meetings. The *Correspondencia* and *Epoca* state that the Pacific Squadron will be reinforced. Senor Maon will accept the post of Ambassador to France.

GREECE.

VIENNA, Oct. 13.—The Vienna journals publish advices from Athens, stating that Earl Russell had addressed a note to the Greek Cabinet, declaring that England recognised no factions in Greece, and condemned anarchical demonstrations. Earl Russell further stated that in case of necessity England would, in conjunction with France and Russia, take measures for the maintenance of order and the strengthening of the reigning dynasty.

CHINA.

According to the latest intelligence received here from Japan, the state of affairs had become more complicated. There was a prospect of hostilities in the Straits of Shimonnsaki. An attack on Prince Nagato's fortifications was expected.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

By the mail from Newfoundland, which arrived here on Friday morning last, we are in possession of papers to the 20th instant. But these contain nothing of interest.

Several addresses have been presented to His Excellency the Governor, congratulating him on his arrival and assumption of the Government of the Colony, and requesting his acceptance of the office of Patron of various institutions. To each address His Excellency returned an appropriate reply.

The *Standard* says that the fishermen of the North Shore of Conception Bay the past summer will not average five quintals per man. What they are to do the present winter to sustain their families, is a mystery to us. Government must come to their relief; if so, the best thing to do will be to make the people clear ground and sell it cheap, and encourage them to cultivate it.

The press calls upon the Government to make timely provision for the impending distress in Bonavista.

H. M. S. *Medea*, Capt. Preston, arrived at St. John's from Battle Harbor, on the Labrador. We are happy to give place to the following note respecting the fisheries:—At Cape Charles and Battle Harbor—seines, from 250 to 300 qtls.; at Occasional Harbor—seines, from 400 to 700 qtls.; at Ship Harbor—boats, from 40 to 50 qtls.; and from 80 to 200 for seines at Indian Tickle. We give the information just as it was received from a person who had landed from the above ship, and who, to apply his own homely phraseology, in answer to us at the moment, remarked "the fishery has been what you may call a fair average voyage, one with the other."

BERMUDA.

H. M. Steamer *Jason* arrived at Halifax, on the 23rd instant, from Bermuda. We are glad to learn that the yellow fever is fast disappearing. The Halifax *Recorder* of the 24th gives the following:—

The Bermuda papers are filled with lengthy accounts concerning the capture of the U. S. Steamer *Roanoke*, and subsequent movements of the captors. The *Gazette*, of the 11th, furnishes the following paragraph relative to the seizure, confirming the statements received through other channels:—

The somewhat unusual spectacle of a burning ship was to be seen from the east end of our Island on Sunday. The *Roanoke* left Havana for New York a short time since, and when some distance from land was captured by a number of Confederates who had shipped as passengers. Most of the officers surrendered quietly; but one, a Dutchman, who does not appear to have understood what was said to him, was shot dead; and another of the crew, who offered some slight resistance, was wounded. The vessel was brought to the neighborhood of this Island this day week, and nightly visits were paid to Fathom Hole, where she was provided with men and provisions. A brig went to her with coal; but the weather proving too stormy, it was finally determined to abandon the prize, which was effected on Sunday—the crew and officers landing in boats, when they were immediately placed under arrest by the authorities.

From the Bermuda *Mirror*, of the 15th, we gather the following particulars of the subsequent trial of Braine and his associates:—

The trial, to which we alluded in our last as going on in the town of St. George, in reference to the capture of the Federal merchant steamer *Roanoke*, terminated on Wednesday last, by the withdrawal of the charge of "piracy," the accusation having been found, on examination, to be untenable. It appeared on trial that the *Roanoke*, a steamer plying between Havana and New York as a passenger vessel, left the former place on the 28th ultimo with a number of passengers, amongst whom, it afterwards turned out, were ten Confederate officers, under the command of Capt. Braine. (the same person who captured the *Chesapeake*, the history of which is still fresh in our minds.) When at sea Capt. Braine demanded the surrender of the ship to him, as an officer of the Confederate States. The capture was easily effected, as little or no resistance was made by the crew. It was the intention of Braine, after obtaining possession, to steer for these Islands and land the passengers and crew, and then carry the vessel to Wilmington; but finding, on reaching this place, they had not sufficient coal for that purpose, they burned the vessel and landed at St. George's—the passengers in the meantime having been put on board the brigt. *Mathilde* of Halifax, which vessel put in here and landed them. The captors afterwards landed at St. George's, and were immediately arrested by the authorities and put in prison, to await their trial for an act of piracy in seizing the *Roanoke*. When they landed three of them were dressed in the uniform of the Confederate States, and had their commissions in their pockets. Braine had also special instructions from the Confederate Government, authorising him to seize the vessel, which document he produced at the time; and, notwithstanding that heavy bail was offered, they were incarcerated.

We trust for the sake of all concerned that the authorities have acted right in the matter; though we have our own opinion as to the propriety of their conduct. The matter will probably be settled between the Home and Confederate Governments.

The particulars of the trial had not been published when the *Jason* left.

THE ST. ALBANS RAID FROM CANADA.

The following despatches throw some additional light upon this extraordinary movement:—

Twelve of the St. Albans raiders have been captured in Canada. The one in jail at Saint Johns states that the raid was conducted by a Captain in the Confederate service. Persons concerned in the raid say the amount taken from the bank was $222,000.

The 'Evening Telegraph,' published at St. Albans, says fears are entertained from the sympathy shown at St. Johns for the St. Albans robbers, that an attempt will be made to rescue them. A cavalry force has been called out, and are now guarding the jail. Hon. J. J. Abbott, R LaFlamme and Hon J. H. Cameron have been retained as counsel for the rebels, and Mr. Devlin for Federal authorities.

Bennett H. Young, calling himself a Lieutenant, who commanded the robbers, has sent a letter to the 'Evening Telegraph,' in which he charges the citizens of Vermont with violating the English and Canadian laws.

The arrests were made over the line by citizens from the northern towns of Vermont and the parties delivered to the Canadian authorities. It is reported that a despatch has just been received from Judge Aldis, of the Supreme Court, that two more have been captured, and that $70,000 in all has been recovered.

Judge Aldis of Vermont was especially active in following up the legal steps necessary to bring the thieves and murderers to justice. He proceeded at once to Montreal, where he had a satisfactory interview with the Canadian authorities in order that the rebels might be brought before Judge Cor- feared that they would be brought before an under magistrate, whose sympathies might be at variance with the legal aspects of the case, and discharged, as in the case of the Chesapeake piracy.

I understand that he has been successful, and returns to St. Albans to-night to consult with Governor Smith. He has telegraphed that the rebels have plenty of money, and have sent to Montreal for the best counsel. They are probably acting under the direction of Sanders and other noted rebels in Canada.

A despatch from St. Albans, 22nd, says:—

The preliminary hearing will probably be at St Johns on Monday or Tuesday. The raiders now admit the facts, but may then deny them. If identified, as some, if not all, will be, the facts will be proved, and Judge Corsoul will so report to Governor-General Monck, when a requisition will be made.

The decision will be of such magnitude as a precedent that the status of the rebels will not unlikely be referred for the Home Government to determine. The Canadian authorities show every disposition to administer the law impartially.

Clyde, the leader, was taken at a house about three miles southeast of Frelighsburg. He expressed to his captors his regret that his party did not burn St. Albans, but they were so fast for plunder that they neglected to do so.

Two companies of 'Veteran Reserves' from Concord, N. H., went to Derby Line yesterday, to protect that locality from invasion.

The raiders are mostly young men and claim to hail from Kentucky, and insist that they are in the rebel service. Two of them claim to have captain's commissions. A small quantity of rebel money was found on them.

Respecting the Calais Bank "raiders," Collins & Co., we find the following in the Bangor *Courier* of the 21st:—

"Yesterday morning, Wm Collins, Francis X. Jones and William Philips, were taken to Thomastown to serve three years in the Maine State Prison. Deputy Warden Maxey took them to jail at Machias and brought them through this city, where they took the steamer Katadin. These three men were arrested when the raid was made on the Calais Bank, and were the only ones secured. When they were taken from the jail at Machais a large crowd collected around the stage. The prisoners commenced hurrahing for Jeff Davis, much to the satisfaction of the copperheads, who expressed their sympathy as openly as they dared to.

These prisoners were quite talkative and pretended to expect to be released as soon as Jeff Davis made a demand for them, which be would do at once, as they were prisoners of war. The captain or ringleader, Collins, said they were regularly in the Confederate service, and were sent there to take the place, a feat which they should have accomplished had it not been for treachery.

He said the St. Albans affair was by his men and that he had plenty of friends on the other side of the line—and that they had friends on this side who would assist them if they dared. He knew who to call upon in this city for help, and it would not be refused. He evidently knew his copperhead friends in this city. One of the men claimed to be from St. Loois, Mo, the captain from Mississippi, and the othes from New Orleans.

CAPTAIN SEMMES AGAIN AFLOAT.—Capt. Semmes sailed from the Mersey on Sunday last, on board the barque *Laurel* under the command of Capt. J. F. Ramsay. The destination of the *Laurel* is rather, at present, mysterious, but so far as the Customs' bill of entry show, the vessel has certainly cleared for ports where Confederate proclivities predominate, viz., Nassau, Havana, and Matamoras. She is merely a tender and carries out to a certain latitude guns and ammunition for a new screw-steamer, of which Capt Semmes is to take command. This vessel is supposed to be a new screw steamer which was lying at Maderia on the 3d instant, and was there known under the name of the *Ranger*. The *Ranger* is large and very swift, and will, no doubt, should she actually turn out to be the new cruiser, prove a tough antagonist to any Federal war vessel. Capt Semmes took with him on board the *Laurel* eight officers and 100 men, most of whom served with him on board the *Alabama*.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR IN THE STATES.

War news is of a quiet nature. General Butler's retaliatory order has had a salutary effect upon the Confederates, as will be seen by the following:—"Richmond papers of the 19th say that the rebels have withdrawn the Union prisoners from work on the fortifications on account of Butler's retaliation in placing rebel prisoners in the Dutch Gap Canal."

By the steamer *Morning Star* at New York, from New Orleans, we have late information from Mobile. Several army officers made a daring reconnoissance in Mobile Bay on the 10th, passing inside of all obstructions, and returning safely. One of the gunboats, while reconnoitering in Navy Core, was fired into, but no serious damage was done. A severe storm had occasioned some damage to one or two sailing vessels, and a coal laden brig was driven ashore, which will probably be lost.

The extreme severe trade regulations of General Canby have effectually stopped all business at New Orleans. There is nothing later from Mexico to confirm the capture of Matamoras by the French.

A letter to the New York *Herald*, dated Chattanooga, 16th instant, states that the small garrisons at Dalton and other places were ordered to evacuate, which they did, saving much valuable property. They were then occupied a very short time by Confederates, but on General Sherman pressing them so closely, they also evacuated, and all those places claimed to have been captured by the Confederates, are now occupied by Northern troops. Southern papers consider General Sherman's position critical, and also that of Hood's equally so, but say they think, if Hood can keep his supplies, Sherman must evacuate Georgia. But they admit that Sherman's position cuts off Hood's communication with his base. The Georgia militia have again been ordered out, and are to rendezvous at Macon.

A despatch dated Lowell, Mass., 22d, says that a very destructive fire occurred last night, about 9 a. m., at what is known as Dracut Navy Yard, which was totally destroyed. The large new brick mill, counting room and two wooden houses belonging to the Merrimac Woolen Company were also destroyed. Total loss about $250,000. Insured $200,000.

A raid into Western Kentucky, by Confederates under Forrest, is in progress. The raid is for political effect. Great excitement exists in consequence of it. The steamer J. C. Irwin blew up on Sunday morning, while lying at Eddyville, on Cumberland River, destroying the boat and killing a large number of persons.

A Federal expedition, composed of colored troops, made a successful foray from Rodney to Fayette, Miss., on the 2d, while another expedition attacked the enemy at Woodville, killing 40 and capturing two officers, 54 men and 2 guns. Gen. A. L. Lee's expedition, towards Clinton had passed through that place, still pressing onward.

The result of a recent raid by Federal cavalry in the Luray valley, Va., as reported by an army correspondent, was 6500 head of cattle, 500 horses, the destruction of 32 flouring mills, 39 distilleries, 4 blast furnaces, and upwards of 50 barns.

From Missouri, we learn that Glasgow was captured by the Confederates on Saturday, together with six companies of the 43d Missouri. Ridgely, Platte County, has been plundered by guerillas, and Smithfield, Clay County, burned. Business was suspended at St. Joseph and Kansas City, and Leavenworth was being fortified.

The rebel Congress meets in Richmond, on 7th Nov. General Lee reports that Mosby, in the capture of a train at Duffield, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, on the 14th, took 20 prisoners, including two paymasters with $168,000 in Government funds.

Rebel accounts state that 200 Federals were drowned in the attack by Forrest's men on the Federal force near Eastport, Tenn., (before reported), and claim the capture of 3 guns and 25 prisoners.

The Richmond *Examiner* says the report of the capture of Rome, Ga, with 200 prisoners, is without foundation.

The trial of the 150 persons recently arrested in Washington and Baltimore on the charge of furnishing goods to rebels, commenced in Washington on Thursday, before a commission of which Gen. Doubleday is President. The first case was that of Johnson & Sutton, a business firm of Washington. The principal witness was Pardon Worseley, a resident of Massachusetts when the war broke out, who testified that he was officially employed to discover blockade runners, and also to obtain information in the valley from Mosby and other rebels. As a means to this he peddled goods among them, some of which he purchased from this firm, who were informed of his contraband trading, but not the ob-

THE FIRE AT EASTPORT.

Through the kindness of Mr. W. F. Alexander, messenger for Turner's Express, we (St. John *Telegraph*) are enabled to lay before our readers the particulars of the destructive fire at Eastport on Saturday night, by which the principal business portion of the city was destroyed. The fire originated in a liquor store kept by J. Hulbert, and no doubt seems to be entertained that it is the work of an incendiary; but what motive could have induced the act, or who the perpetrators were, seems to be involved in impenetrable mystery. That it was the result of a preconcerted plan appears certain. The first alarm was about 12 o'clock, at which hour a fish house at Dog Island, about half a mile from the city, was discovered to be on fire. About an hour afterwards, when all the firemen and engines were away at this fire, the conflagration broke out in the place already indicated. The wind was blowing from the eastward at the time, and the fire extended along Water street in both directions, until it reached the Frontier Bank on one hand, and Crawford's Hotel on the other. Extending back from Water street, it reached Mr. Joseph Gunnison's residence on Boynton street, and Mr. Knox's house on Rice's Lane. The Engines were brought to the spot with all the speed possible, but the fire had already attained such headway that the most strenuous exertions of the firemen were unavailing to stop its progress, until the best part of the city was a mass of ruins. Several of the neighbours from Campobello went over and rendered valuable assistance. The total loss, it is said, cannot be far short of $500,000. Dealers had just laid in their fall stock of goods, upon which many of them had little or no insurance; and out of the whole, there were not more than two or three who were fully insured.

It is remarkable that out of a very large number of safes, not more than one or two stood the test of the fire, the contents of all the others being completely ruined.

We subjoin a list of the chief sufferers:—

William P. Auckman, Dry Goods Dealer; C. Jackson, Confectioner; S. Sherlock, Dry Goods (a portion of his stock saved); Campbell Bros., Dry Goods; Daniel Savage, Jeweller (no insurance); J. Gleason, Shoe Dealer (both store and residence burnt); T Burgin, Dry Goods; George Rice, Shoe Store; E. E. Shead, Apothecary: in addition to this stock Mr. Shead lost $2500 in Government bonds which were in his safe. Gideon Stickney, Furniture; James McGuirk, Liquors; J. Witherall, Boots and Shoes; P. Cobe, Clothier ($1300 worth of stock lost and no insurance); I. C. Norwood, Confectioner; D. Barry, Dry Goods; Bradford Bros., Clothing; Shead Bros., Apothecaries; Turner's Express Office, (furniture and papers saved); W. Winchester, Confectioner, (stock partly saved); Eastern Express Office, (safe and papers saved, but furniture and a large stock of goods belonging to an auctioneer burned); Fisher and Milliken's large store burned, but most of the stock saved; Hinckley & Co.; G. F. Wadsworth, Groceries; J. Shields, Liquors; P. Houghton, Groceries; R. Mowe, Jr, Grocer and Ship-Chandler; D. J. Odell, Groceries; Peabody & Cummings; Wadsworth & Ritchie, Groceries; S. B. Hume & Co.; D. Perkins, Groceries; W. W. Chapman, Furniture; Union Store, Groceries; R. M. Tuttle, do; Clark & Webster, Hardware; E. H. Andrews, Groceries; H Pike, Butcher; Simon Steves, do; P. Whalen, Groceries; Dr. Spinney's Office: Dr. Patterson, Dentist; John Steves, Boots and Shoes; W. H. Mack, Watchmaker; Miss Bowman, Milliner; John Buckman, Fish; J. G. Fewcomb, Gas Fixtures.

In addition to the above the Offices of Hon. Byron Bradbury, J. W. French, Dr. Mowe, and others, were consumed; several stores also, besides those mentioned.

The *Sentinel* Office, we are informed, was quite destroyed. A schooner laden with coal, lying at Union Dock, was burnt to the water's edge and hull sunk. The schooners *Astrea*, *Benjamin* and *Atlanta* were all more or less injured. Wadsworth's, Union and Kilby's wharfs were all destroyed. The Frontier Bank, as already announced, with the Telegraph and other offices, were burnt to the ground. The property of the persons mentioned above were all destroyed except those otherwise noted.

A Public Meeting of Inhabitants of Lots 11 & 12 was held this evening at the house of Mr. Hugh Callaghan, on the Main Western Road, for the purpose of applying to the Board of Education, to form their settlement into a School District and giving a name to the same; when, after several names had been proposed and rejected, that of INVERNESS was unanimously adopted.

JOHN CAMPBELL, Sec'y of Meeting.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, October 31, 1864.

INTER-COLONIAL UNION.

(No. 4.)

QUEBEC, OCT. 18, 1864.

When I closed my last letter at this date, I understand that the debate in Conference was then in progress touching the constitution of the Upper House under the Federal Government, as intimated in my last. I believe this principle was agreed to: that in choosing Councillors, the choice should be confined to the several Legislative Councils in existence in the respective Provinces at the time the Union was to take effect, excepting Prince Edward Island. That favoured place was to have the whole Island for a choice. Whether this may be deemed complimentary to the Island, or whether it was supposed that the present Legislative Council there does not, or is not likely to afford suitable materials for a selection, are points which I am not prepared to discuss But certain it is, the principle, as I have stated it, was carried.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19.

The most important feature in the whole fabric of the Federal Constitution engaged the deliberations of the Conference for the whole of this day, that is—Representation of the several Provinces in the Lower House, or House of Commons, as it is to be styled. The principle agreed upon at the Charlottetown Convention was, as I am informed, that population should be the basis of representation. This principle did not appear to be acceptable to the P. E. Island Delegates, owing to the scantiness of the population of the Island, and they laboured strenuously and unanimously, I understand, to have their case made an exceptional one. But it was argued that if the principle were departed from in one case, it would afford serious ground for discontent if rigidly enforced with regard to all the rest of the Provinces. I cannot now review the arguments on both sides with which I have been made acquainted, but this I hope to do when the whole framework of the Constitution is ready to be presented to the public, which it is the intention, I believe, of the Conference to do. I can only state now a few bald facts, such as come to my knowledge, the same as they do to any other person in Quebec, and such as I find noticed in the Toronto journals. The following has been agreed upon as the scale of representation in the House of Commons. Canada, Upper and Lower, to have 147 members; Nova Scotia, 19; New Brunswick, 15; Newfoundland, 8; and P. E. Island, 5. The Island Delegates wanted to get six representatives; but as a concession to this would disturb the whole principle on which representation was to be based, the Conference did not feel at liberty to agree to it; and the Island Delegates had to content themselves, I understand, with voting against that part of the arrangement. Indeed, I do not see that six would be any more service to them than five in so large a Parliament. But my opinions on this point, with some additional information as to population, &c., will be given in a subsequent letter, when the whole business shall be completed.

A grand Ball was given this evening, expressly in honour of the Delegates, at the splendid residence of Mons. and Madame Tessier. The worthy host is President of the Legislative Council, is a Lawyer of high standing, and is one of the Professors of Law in the Laval University. The party was chiefly French—indeed the only ones of British and Irish origin present were those from the Maritime Provinces. Bad and broken English was much in vogue during the evening when conversation was carried on with the English and Irish, who have all determined upon studying French forthwith. Indeed, the venders of French Dictionaries and Grammars are beginning to find a considerable number of customers amongst the people from the Lower back to their Down East homes, forgetting much of their mother tongue, and talking a strange conglomeration of English and excessively bad French. But one word for Madame Tessier's gay and brilliant party—the crowd was excessive, I could not compute the number present; but they all seemed to enjoy themselves—the spread in the Supper Room was superb, and the party did not separate until about 3 o'clock on the following morning. I think it would be advisable to be somewhat reticent hereafter regarding the social parties in which the Delegates engage in this stupendously hospitable City, lest it should be supposed they do nothing else but frolic. I will try to do it; but I am afraid I will not succeed.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, Oct. 20 and 21.

The Convention has been engaged most diligently those two days in defining the powers of the House of Commons—its duration—mode of election—qualification of members, and particularising the subjects which are to come within the scope of its control. The term of its existence has been fixed, I understand, at five years—the qualification of members to be the same for each Province as that which now obtains in each; and the election laws now existing in each to apply to the election of members for each.

The powers and jurisdiction of the House of Commons refer to thirty-two great general questions; but as these are in progress of discussion, and my information touching them is incomplete, I must defer further reference to them until my next Letter.

A splendid official reception was given to the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces yesterday (Thursday) at the Laval University, when an Address was presented to them by the Very Reverend Superior of that Institution, and an Answer given in return. The great number of learned Doctors and Professors, in their gorgeous academic robes, was, of itself, a sight worth seeing; but all the wonders of the University, and of the Colleges and Seminary attached, were fully disclosed to the astonished eyes of the Delegates—the Right Reverend Bishops of Quebec, Kingston and Hamilton, who honoured the occasion by their presence, acting, in conjunction with the Doctors of Divinity and other Professors, as cicerones to the Delegates. As the Mail is just about closing, I must reserve for another occasion further observations concerning the Seminary, Colleges, and University. I herewith enclose copies of the address and answer presented yesterday:—

From the Quebec Morning Chronicle, Oct. 21.

VISIT OF THE DELEGATES TO LAVAL UNIVERSITY AND QUEBEC SEMINARY.

Our leading educational institution was yesterday honored by a visit from a number of the delegates from the Maritime Provinces attending the Intercolonial Conference now being held in this city. At three o'clock P. M. the distinguished visitors were received in the reception-room of the University by His Lordship the Bishop of Tloa, administrator of the Diocese of Quebec, His Lordship the Bishop of Hamilton, His Lordship the Bishop of Kingston, the Rector of the University, the Deans and Professors of the several faculties, and the University students. The whole party then proceeded to the great hall, where the pupils of the Quebec Seminary, to the number of four hundred, were assembled; and the Rector read the following

ADDRESS.

"*Honorable Gentlemen*,—

"There are in the lives of nations, as in those of individuals, moments of solemn import, on which their destiny hangs.

"The British colonies of North America are now in one of those critical periods, the influence of which may even surpass our prevision.

"History will hand down to posterity the names of all those to whom the confidence of their fellow-citizens has entrusted with this great mission of examining the basis of our political constitutions, and of proposing fundamental modifications.

"It is not the part of a literary and scientifical institution to express an opinion on the all-important questions of the day; yet it cannot remain indifferent to debates which concern our common country, understanding as it does how well worthy of the best wishes of all are the eminent personages on whose shoulders weighs so heavy a responsibility.

"Moreover, the prosperity of an institution such as this is too closely connected with the future of the country not to partake in the anxiety with which from the sources to the mouth of the St. Lawrence, five millions of British subjects await the result of your important labors.

"The students of the Quebec Seminary and those of Laval University, whom you see here united, also share in our emotion: in after years some of them may, in their turn, be called on to guide the ship of the State, and to continue the construction, the foundations of which it is your mission to lay.

"Whatever may be the issue of your deliberations, permit us to assure you, honorable gentlemen, in the name of all our pupils and Alumni, that your visit will be long borne in mind by them. Nor will it be without result, for, while engaged in the task of developing their intelligence, they will be animated by the grateful remembrance of the honor conferred on their *alma mater* by the presence of the most eminent and most influential men of this immense territory."

Hon. Mr. Tupper, on behalf of himself and his delegates, read the following

REPLY.

"*To the Very Reverend E. A. Taschereau, D. C. L., Rector of the University of Laval.*

"VERY REVEREND SIR,—We beg to express our grateful estimate of the very flattering terms in which we have been addressed by you, on behalf of the Faculties and Alumni of this distinguished University, and of the professors and students of the Quebec Seminary.

"Engaged as we are in the important duty of endeavoring, in conjunction with the Government of Canada, so to improve the political institutions of the British American Provinces as to promote the common interests of all, we are much gratified to learn that our high mission is duly appreciated at a great seat of learning from which the public sentiment of the country must be largely influenced.

"The students of the Quebec, Seminary as also the Faculties and Alumni of Laval University, may rest assured that our best efforts will be exerted to find a wise solution of the great question which has been submitted to our deliberations; but in any event we will not soon forget the disguished mark of respect which you have been pleased to offer us on the present occasion.

"(Signed,) Charles Tupper, W. A. Henry, J. McCully, R. B. Dickey, A. G. Archibald, of Nova Scotia.

"S. L. Tilley, C. W. Steeve, W. Johnson, E. B. Chandler, G. H. Gray, Charles Fisher, of New Brunswick.

"J. W. L. Carter, Ambrose Shea, of Newfoundland.

"J. H. Gray, Edw. Palmer, W. H. Pope, A. A. Macdonald, George Coles, T. Heath Haviland, Edward Whelan, of Prince Edward Island."

The Seminary band then struck up a joyous strain, and the visitors proceeded to the terrace-roof of the main building, whence a magnificent view of the city, harbor and surrounding country was obtained. The delegates were highly delighted with the prospect, and unanimously declared it to be one of the most beautiful they had ever beheld. After having thus feasted their eyes on the beauties of nature, they proceeded—accompanied by their hosts—to visit the several departments of the University, including the library, the museum of mineralogy and botany, the cabinets of physics and chemistry, the schools of law and medicine, and the students' residence, attached, &c. It is needless to say that they were deeply impressed with the vast extent of the University and the unrivalled educational facilities which it affords. In fact, we are informed that several of the delegates expressed a desire to send their sons to be educated within its walls. It was almost five o'clock when the visitors took leave, highly pleased with what they had seen.

THE INTER-COLONIAL CONVENTION AT QUEBEC.

(No. 5.)

QUEBEC, FRIDAY, Oct. 21.

It would seem to be the settled conviction of the good people of this gay, ancient, and fascinating City, that the chief end of existence is Pleasure. I am informed, however, that the season for paying particular devotion to this most exacting deity has not yet arrived—that winter, when the mighty river which pours its countless treasures into Lower Canada, is locked in the embrace of the Frost King—witnesses scenes of gaiety and festivity here to which those in which at least for frequency of occurrence. May the good prayers of all our friends at home be copiously offered for us, to the end that we may be removed from this dear, charming, abominable, killing, pleasure ridden City, before the winter shall have set in, otherwise the probability is that the undertaker will effect our removal for us without our own volition.

The Bachelors of Quebec gave a splendid Ball this evening, in honour of the Delegates, at the Parliament Buildings. It was, in all essential features, a reproduction of the Ministerial Ball, at the same Buildings, shortly after the arrival of the Delegates. The same Society was there—French again predominating. The Governor-General and suite were present—the Cabinet Ministers, and indeed all the civil dignitaries of the land likewise honoured the occasion. But the crowd was not near so great as at the Ministerial Ball, while the arrangements as to music, refreshments and supper, were on the same excellent style. The same smiling, pretty, chattering French belles were to be seen, only in different attire. Apropos of Ladies' dress in this City—at least in the Upper Town, so called: it has frequently occurred to me that it would, and must, require a small fortune, on the part of husbands and fathers, to furnish out a lady's wardrobe, judging from the expensive style of dress to which they accustom themselves. I will not attempt to describe the Ball-room dresses, all made of the richest materials, and different on every occasion; but there is scarcely a lady to be met in the streets, at any time of the day, who does not wear a dress of the richest black silk; and the gentlemen are equally fastidious and expensive in their attire. In the Lower Town, where the Shipping and Lumbering Interests are concentrated, and where mercantile pursuits of a rough and course character prevail, elegance of dress is not, by any means, the predominant characteristic.

I shall not say anything more about the Ball. It was a brilliant affair throughout—eminently successful—(I believe that is the phrase used to describe a stunning jollification)—and Everybody and his Wife were hugely delighted with it. One word more: the Cabinet Ministers—the leading ones especially—are the most inveterate dancers I have ever seen; they do not seem to miss a dance during the live-long night. They are cunning fellows; and there's no doubt it is all done for a political purpose; they know that if they can dance themselves into the affections of the wives and daughters of the country, the men will certainly become an easy conquest.

SATURDAY, Oct. 22.

The Conference sat from 12 noon until six p. m. to-day, and commenced the most valuable portion of their work—the arrangement of the financial affairs of the several Provinces. The Finance Minister of Canada made a most able and elaborate exposition of the views of the Canadian Government, which, at the close of his speech, he presented in the form of a resolution. I am not at liberty to give you the resolution, although I should very much like to do so. Indeed, at the time I write the resolution has not been confirmed by the Conference, but I have every reason to believe that it will be confirmed, although it may be somewhat modified in its details. In general terms, I may say that it is eminently calculated to place the Island in an admirable position as regards its financial affairs. That position will be vastly different from the one conjured up by my friend Mr. Beer, whose letter in the *Protestant* of the 15th instant, I have only just now received and read. Some of my friends of the P. E. Island Delegation have carried away the paper to laugh over the absurd delusions into which Mr. Beer has allowed himself to be betrayed by an imagination which, to say the least, has been strangely perplexed, but which has never been deemed to be one of a fervid and excitable character. Mr. Beer assumes that our Island people will be taxed to make up a proportion of the Canadian debt, which he has correctly enough stated at sixty-two millions and odd dollars—that the Island will have to bear a proportion of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick debts, and to help to provide for the construction of the great inter-colonial Railway, and for military defences. Never was there a greater mistake. Canada proposes to deal with the Maritime Provinces in the most broad and liberal spirit. She emphatically declares that the burden of her debt shall fall upon Upper and Lower Canada—*and upon Upper and Lower Canada alone*. It is proposed to consolidate the debts of the several Provinces, the Confederation assuming their liability in consideration of the transfer of all provincial property of a public character—such as canals, public harbours, light houses, steamboats, dredges, and public vessels, river and lake improvements, railways, military, roads, public buildings, custom houses, and post offices, except such as may be set aside for the use of the local Legislatures; ordnance property, munitions of war, armories, and lands set apart for public purposes. The Confederation then proposes to place to the credit of each Province, to meet its debt, $25 per head of the population. If the debt of any one does not amount to that sum, that particular one can draw for the interest semi-annually. The debt of Canada is such that she will have nothing to draw—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick not much each—Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island will have a large balance in their favour. The debt of the Island represents about three dollars per head—that leaves twenty dollars per head to its credit, the interest of which can be drawn semi-annually for local improvements. By this arrangement, the debt of P. E. Island will be guaranteed to the extent of $2,025,000.00—the interest on which, at 5 per cent, will be $101,-250.00. Add to this, the proportion which the Confederation proposes to give to each Province for the support of its local administration, at the rate of 80 cents per head, making for the population of P. E. Island (say 81,000) $64,800.00—and we have a total of $166,050.00, which P. E. Island will annually receive. Deduct from the latter sum $12,000, interest at 5 per cent. on our debt of £75,000 currency, or $240,000, and the balance in our favour will be $154,050.00, or £48,140 12s 6d, P. E. I. currency, which will be, under the Confederation, nearly forty-eight thousand dollars more than we now spend for local affairs, the Federal Government assuming the cost of certain general affairs, to which I shall hereafter refer. And this is, besides having the guarantee of the Federal Government for more than two millions of dollars, equal to about £400,000, by which we could, at any time, effect the purchase of our Township lands. And I have every reason to believe that these golden prospects may be brought home to us without much, if any, additional taxation. So that the alarmists in the Island need not work themselves up into a fever of excitement, touching the financial aspect of the Union question. The only persons who have the least cause for alarm are the proprietors, for if that question be consummated, their oppressive and antiquated tenure will speedely cease.

I have many interesting notes to extend, but I must close in order to be in time for the Mail.

E. W.

THE FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE UNION QUESTION.

WE have read with considerable attention all that has appeared in our local newspapers against a Union of the Colonies. The gist of the arguments of all the writers on this side of the question is, that the thing won't pay—that we are better off as we are, and so forth. It seems to us that they do not view the question from the proper stand point. The issue between the advocates of Union and its opponents is not whether cause an increase of taxation in these Colonies or not—their relations with the Mother Country remaining the same as at present,—but whether they can best and most economically, unitedly or separately, provide for their own defence, or maintain a separate existence. This seems to us the fair way of putting the question. So long as these Colonies are nursed in the Imperial lap, fed with the Imperial spoon, and protected by the Imperial arms, there is no doubt that such Imperial petting and protecting is much cheaper for the petted and protected than being obliged to defend themselves with their own arms, and to maintain themselves by their own exertions. Whether this system of careful tending and indulgence is best calculated to foster the hardy virtues and develope the resources of youngsters, whose sturdy growth and manly pipe proclaim to all the world that they are no longer children, is quite another question.

The people of Great Britain are now asking—Of what *use* are the Colonies? What return do we get for the three, four, and sometimes six millions annually spent upon them? What return do we get for the millions upon millions that they have already cost us? Are they not able to provide for their own defence? Is it fair that the over-taxed people of England should be still more over-taxed to provide for the defence of those who are, to all appearance, well able to defend themselves? It is becoming more and more difficult to answer these questions to the satisfaction of an intelligent and a burdened people. There is a very respectable school of politicians in England who have for some time been endeavouring to convince the people that the Colonial Empire is an unnecessary and an expensive appendage to the Nation. They argue that the Colonies would be just as available as fields for emigration, and that they would be quite as great consumers of articles of British manufacture, if they were independent States, as they now are in their subject condition. Old John Bull is heard to grumble somewhat after this fashion—"Look at that great hulking fellow, Canada, and his smaller brothers, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with that impertinent, discontented little scoundrel, Prince Edward Island, are they going to be an everlasting expense to me? Must I be continually putting my hand in my pocket to keep them in fighting order? Only the other day, when their neighbour Jonathan doubled up his fists and looked fierce about that Trent affair, I was forced to shell out, I don't like to say how much money, to fit them for the ring; and, after all, I doubt very much if they were fit to come to the scratch. I tell you what, these fellows must put themselves in training. They needn't expect me to fight their battles for them any longer: they must help themselves. If they choose still to board with me, well and good; I'll not turn them out of doors; but if they like better to go on their own hook, and set up housekeeping for themselves, why the sooner they do it the better for both of us, that's all I have to say." Who can blame honest John for these mutterings? His reflections are those of every father who sees growing up around him a family of big, lazy boys, who are a great expense, and who seem unwilling to do anything towards their own support. In short, it seems admitted on all sides that the time has arrived, or has nearly arrived, in which the British Provinces in North America must provide for their own defence.

Let it be granted that our present relations with Great Britain are not likely to remain long as they now are. The next enquiry that presents itself to us is, what career is open to the British American Colonies? How are they to exist in the future? At present there appear three courses open to them. The first is to remain dependencies of the British Crown, *making provision for their own defence*; the *second* is to establish themselves into an independent State, either a kingdom or a republic; and the third is to beg admission into the Republic of the United States. The adoption of either of these alternatives necessitates Union. It can easily be seen that no adequate provision can be made for the defence of the Colonies by the Colonies separately. Five or six different governments, with five or six different policies and interests, would effectually prevent that uniformity of system and unity of action so essential to the conduct of military affairs. Besides, without a Union of some kind, it would be impossible to apportion to each the share it should contribute to the common defence.

We think that the first of the courses we have indicated, besides being most agreeable to the present temper of the Colonists, would be much the cheapest. Although we would have to keep our own fortifications in repair, and to erect new ones where required, to equip and pay our own soldiers, and perhaps to build and keep afloat three or four war steamers, we would still have, in case of war, the assistance of the fleet and army of the Mother Country, and, *in case* of dispute with our neighbours, the weight of her influence and the fear of her prowess. There would, however, be this drawback, that the enemies of Great Britain would be our enemies, and that we would necessarily be involved in any war she might wage with any of the powers either on this or the other side of the Atlantic. It will be evident to the most unreflecting that it would be much more expensive to maintain a separate national existence than to remain under the protection of the Flag of Old England; and it is very questionable whether our material prosperity would be at all increased by our withdrawing ourselves from under its protecting folds. Still, independence have its advantages, but we consider it premature to discuss them now.

However delighted many Colonial politicians would have been, a few years ago, at the prospect of our being peaceably absorbed by the United States, we are happy to think that there is now scarcely one who would contemplate such a contingency with pleasure. In an economical point of view, such an absorption would be ruinous. When this cruel war is over, the people of the States, whether united or disunited, will be one of the most heavily taxed in the world; and those States which hereafter may be admitted into the Union, will be obliged to pay a share of the interest of its enormous national debt.

It seems to us that Union of the Colonies, in some form or other, is a foregone conclusion, and that it only remains for the people of the various Colonies to determine whether that Union shall take place now, when men's minds are calm and undisturbed, and there is plenty of time to arrange the details; or sometime hence, when they will be forced into the measure by some external pressure, and when there will be neither time nor inclination nicely to weigh the clashing interests of its various members or equitably to adjust them.

WILL OR WILL NOT THE CONVENTION SCHEME BE SUBMITTED TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE?

BY a late Telegram it appears that in Quebec, "it is understood that there will be an early session in all the Provinces, to submit the Confederation Scheme to the Legislatures, *to avoid appeals to the people*; and that, if the local Legislatures sanction it, it must then be enacted by the English Government."

Whatever the understanding on this point may be in Quebec, we do not believe that our own *Liberal* Delegates—how favourably soever they may think of the Union Scheme—will ever be brought to give their consent to its being finally dealt with, by our local Legislature, independently of a direct appeal to the people. And, moreover, scarcely indeed can we persuade ourselves, that, even if our Government should determine to submit it to our existing House of Assembly, to be finally accepted or rejected by them, they would consent to be constituted judges as to the propriety or wis-