VERY LATEST NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR IN THE STATES.

THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK—INTERESTING DETAILS OF THE FIGHT.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Oct. 20.

To Maj. Gen. Dix.—Another great battle was fought at Cedar Creek, threatening at first a great disaster, but finally resulting in a victory for the Union forces under Sheridan, more splendid than any heretofore achieved. The Department was advised yesterday morning of the commencement of the battle by the following telegram:

HARPER'S FERRY, VA.,
8.45 p. m., Oct. 19.

To Hon. E. M. Stanton: The enemy attacked our army with great impetuosity this morning at daylight. The attack was made on the left of the 8th corps and was successful, they capturing some guns, prisoners and wagons. Our lines were re-formed and heavy fighting continued through the day.—Sheridan was reported at Winchester this morning and went out to the front. The particulars received are not official, and are not favorable, though no serious disaster could have occurred without direct news from Sheridan. Respectfully,
J. D. STEVENSON,
Brig.-General.

Matters continued in the doubtful state represented by the foregoing telegrams, until this morning at half-past nine, when the following telegram was received, unofficially reporting the great victory won by Sheridan's army:

HARPER'S FERRY, VA.,
9.30 a. m., Oct. 20.

News from Sheridan's headquarters at midnight is to the effect that the enemy surprised our forces yesterday morning, driving the command in some confusion this side of Newton, capturing artillery and prisoners.

Sheridan arrived in the field and reorganized our forces, drove the enemy beyond Strasburg, capturing, it is reported, 43 pieces of artillery, 100 wagons and ambulances, and some 2000 prisoners. The route of the enemy is said to be complete.

This is not official but I think reliable.
J. D. STEVENSON,
Brig.-General.

A few minutes later the following official report of his victory was received from Maj. General Sheridan:

CEDAR CREEK,
10 p. m., Oct. 19.

To Gen. Grant: I have the honor to report that my army at Cedar Creek was attacked this morning before daylight, and my left was turned and driven in confusion.—In fact, most of the line was driven in confusion, with the loss of 20 pieces of artillery. I hastened from Winchester, where I was on my return from Washington, and found the army between Middleton and Newton, having been driven back about four miles. I here took the affair into hand and quickly united the corps, formed a complete line of battle, just in time to repulse an attack of the enemy, which was handsomely done about 1 p. m.

At 3 p. m., after some charges of cavalry from the left to right flank, I attacked with great vigor, driving and routing the enemy, capturing according to last report, 43 pieces of artillery and very many prisoners. I don't know yet the number of my casualties. Of the losses of the enemy, wagon trains, ambulances and caissions in large numbers are in our possession. They also burned some of their trains.

Gen. Rosmeur is a prisoner in our hands, severely and perhaps mortally wounded. I have to regret the loss of General Bidwell, killed, and Generals Wright, Grover, and Ricketts, wounded. Wright is slightly wounded. Affairs at times looked badly, but by the gallantry of our brave officers and men, disaster has been turned into a splendid victory. Darkness again intervened to shut off greater results.

I now occupy Strasburg. As soon as obtained I will send you further particulars.
P. H. SHERRIDAN,
Major General.

The battle was fought on the same day (19th) of the month that witnessed Sheridan's victory in September. What the number opposed to Gen. Sheridan has not been reported to the Department, but the boldness, vigor and success of the attack strongly indicate that heavy reinforcements had been sent from Richmond, with the expectation of fulfilling Longstreet's boast to smash up Sheridan. Longstreet was known to be in the valley, and had assumed command of the rebel army, and confident hopes of an overwhelming disaster to the Union army were boastfully expressed for several days, backed by rebel adherents in Washington and Baltimore.

EDWIN M STANTON,
Secretary of War.

RAID FROM CANADA.

ST. ALBANS, VT., Oct. 19.—An invasion of this town took place to-day. Some twenty or twenty-five desperadoes, supposed to be in rebel employ, from Canada, made an assault on the several Banks, about 4 o'clock this afternoon. The National Bank was robbed of about $50,000 mostly in bills. The St. Albans Bank was robbed of between $70,000 and $80,000, and the Franklin County Bank of a considerable amount. Some twenty horses were also seized and carried off by the desperadoes. Several citizens, who resisted, were deliberately shot; two were wounded seriously, and, it is feared, fatally. E. J. Morrison, a contractor, C. H. Huntington, a jeweller, and several others are injured slightly. The raiders threatened to burn the town, and left in the direction of Canada. A large party have gone in pursuit.

LATER.—Mr. Morrison, who was shot through the body, has since died.

INVASION OF KENTUCKY.

CAIRO, Ill., Oct. 19.—Great excitement prevails in this section in consequence of the raid into Western Kentucky by Forrest's force. Gen. Merredith, commanding this District, has issued a proclamation calling on all citizens to suspend business, rally to arms and drive back the rebel horde. Forrest himself is reported to be at Corinth with a strong cavalry force, and expresses the intention to free Western Kentucky from the hand of the oppressor and allow the people to vote as they please at the coming election. The rebel force left at Eastport, Miss., is estimated at 300.

There were about one hundred arrests of merchants and their clerks in Baltimore on Monday. They were all sent in a special train for confinement in the Old Capital at Washington. Their branch houses in Washington were also closed, and the proprietors and clerks there likewise imprisoned. All these parties are suspected of contraband trade, either as principals or accomplices with the South, and being extensively engaged in blockade running.

FROM THE POTOMAC ARMY.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11.—The Herald's 9th Corps correspondence of the 9th inst., says, Gen. Wilcox's division this morning made an advance, with the intention of advancing our position and reconnoitering that of the enemy. Over a mile and a half was marched under slight skirmishing, when the 57th Massachusetts regiment was fired upon by the enemy. Some fifteen men were lost. Captain Twitchell, with the 4th Massachusetts battery, accompanied the party; but no opportunity was offered to use the pieces, so well known for their destructive powers. The deduction from the reconnoissance was that the enemy were not in force this side of Petersburg or the Appomattox, and any effort on our part would force them to a new line on the Appomatox.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—Information from the Army of the Potomac to-day states that Sunday night, between 12 and 1 o'clock, the enemy opened fire towards the second corps, and continued to fire for twenty or thirty minutes. Our troops did not reply. It is not known whether the enemy inflicted any damage on our troops. When the mail boat left yesterday everything was comparatively quiet.

FIGHT BEFORE RICHMOND—A FEDERAL REPULSE.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—The *Herald's* correspondence from the Union armies before Richmond says:—"There was an important reconnoissance last Thursday (13th) by two divisions of the 10th corps under Gen. Terry. The expedition proceeded to the right (our right wing), and after advancing some distance came up with and drove in the rebel pickets, and continued on to the Central or Darbytown road, running up to Richmond. They had not gone up this road far before they were met by opposing skirmishers, and pressing on, they found themselves in front of a new and formidable line of rebel works, strongly garrisoned by Hoke's and Field's divisions. This was an important discovery. These works had been built since the battle of the 29th ult., and were designed to supply the place of those taken from the rebels on that day.

"The enemy opened on our men from these works, and a severe fight ensued. Gen. Terry made an assault on the fortifications, but deeming it impracticable to take them with the force at his disposal, and having satisfactorily accomplished the design of the expedition, returned to camp. As soon as his troops commenced to withdraw, the rebels sallied out and attacked, but they were repulsed, their dead and wounded thickly strewing the ground. After that our forces were unmolested. Our loss in killed, wounded and missing was about 400. The enemy suffered to an equal extent. A portion of the Army of the Potomac is so near the Southside railroad that they can hear the trains moving."

The *Herald's* correspondent with the 18th corps, under date of the 11th, says:—"The rebel force in our front is being rapidly replaced by Lee's veterans. At first it was composed entirely of impressed material of all descriptions that could be seized in Richmond. The prisons even were emptied to defend the city. Gen. Lee is kept constantly on the move, first north of the James and then south of Petersburg, and the strain upon his physical endurance is very great. The rebel works in front of Fort Harrison are so constructed as to completely enfilade each other. Directly in front of them is a swamp. The taking of these works appear to be the next movement of this army, but it will be a hard job."

NEW YORK, Oct 17.—The *Herald's* correspondent with Gen. Butler says our losses in the reconnoissance on the 13th, were three officers and 30 men killed, and 14 officers and 296 men wounded. One officer and 23 men are missing.

The rebel firing on Dutch Gap Canal has ceased since Gen. Butler placed the rebel prisoners in it. The trees in front of the 18th corps have been cut down by the rebels, to obtain a better view of our operations.

Gen. Kautz's cavalry on the right still holds the position gained by the reconnoissance on the 13th. Lee's official report of this affair claims a rebel victory. At latest accounts the rebels were massing cavalry on our left, who it was thought would make a dash on the Weldon Railroad.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 12th says:—"Though Grant is quiet, he is not idle, being busy night and day rendering his positions impregnable. His next point of attack will be Boynton road, over which the rebels wagon their supplies around the positions held by Federal troops on the Weldon Railroad."

FROM SHERMAN'S ARMY.

CHATTANOOGA, Oct. 15 — 9.15 P. M. — Our forces to-day re-occupied Ringgold and the block-house, three miles in advance, and found the railroad and bridge safe. It is generally believed that Dalton, with the 46th colored regiment, surrendered to Hood's army yesterday, but nothing official has been received.

There is no communication yet with Gen Sherman.

Abundance of supplies have been collected in Atlanta in anticipation of such a movement by the rebels. Maj.-Gen. Steadman had arrived and resumed the command of the District. Six month's supplies are on hand, and the officers of the army feel that Hood is making a movement which will certainly prove his ruin.

CHATTANOOGA, Oct. 16.—Gen. Schofield arrived here to-day, and assumed the general direction of affairs. The enemy are reported to be in force at Dalton. Col. Johnson, of the 44th U. S. Colored Regiment, was making a determined defence at Chattanooga, which is strongly fortified and supplied with troops enough to make a protracted and successful defence. Gen. Sherman is close on Hood's rear, and undoubtedly will make his situation too warm for him.

The rebel papers of Monday have official despatches that Rome, with 3,000 negroes, had been captured, but Sherman's despatch of the 9th inst., one day later, does not mention it.

A correspondent of the New York *Times* says Gen. Forrest captured 2200 Federal soldiers, one half of whom were negroes, in his last raid north of the Tennessee river. He escaped from Rosseau by feigning a movement toward Chattanooga railroad, while he really was retreating.

Cairo is full of rumors of a threatened attack on Columbus, Ky., and reinforcements have been sent there. A large rebel force at Mayfield threatening Paducah.

FROM MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, 16.—About 3,000 rebels, with two pieces of artillery, under Jeff. Thompson, attacked Sedalia at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and drove the militia out of the place.

A few of the militia in the fort resisted the attack, but finally surrendered, and were paroled or shot. The citizens were released without parole. The rebels left during the night, and the Federal infantry arrived this morning.

The rebels robbed the stores of several thousand dollars worth of goods, and burned the water station, but did no other damage to the railroad. The rolling stock had all been sent to Tipton.

Price is reported to be moving on Lexington Bill Anderson cut the North Missouri railroad at High Hill. He also visited Florence. Anderson says his only orders are, "To raise hell in North Missouri.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17, 1864.

On Saturday an extra train carrying nearly 300 sick and wounded soldiers from New Haven hospital to the general hospitals at Readville, Mass, run off the track near New London. Twelve soldiers and two brakemen were killed, and thirty soldiers more or less injured..... Late advices from Gen. Grant report an advance on Tuesday by two divisions under General Terry, who discovered new and strong fortifications; the works were found too strong to attack, and the Federals retired, the rebels following, when a severe fight took place, resulting in driving the enemy back to his entrenchments. Federal loss 300..... A large side-wheel blockade runner had been sunk by our fleet at the entrance of Charleston harbor. Another steamer which was trying to run out was driven back .... Gold 222.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17th, P. M.

Steamship *Damascus* with dates to 7th has passed Farther Point. Confederate loan had declined to 59 a 58. Consols 88 a 88¼ for money. Bullion in Bank of England had decreased £123,000. Breadstuffs steady, with slight advance in wheat. Provisions dull. Political news unimportant..... It was rumored at Havana on the 12th that steamer Roanoke from that port for New York had been captured by 25 rebel passengers, among whom were Lieut. Braine, *alias* Johnston, who captured the Chesapeake, and the Engineer of the Harriet Lane, who would take charge of the Roanoke..... Advices from Sherman are to Saturday, noon. He was in close pursuit of Hood, who was making a strong demonstration to cut him (Sherman) off from his communication with Chattanooga and Nashville..... The rebels continue very active and destructive in Missouri..... Gold 214.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.

British steamer *Bat*, from Halifax, was captured off Wilmington on the 10th instant, while attempting to run the blockade..... Maryland has adopted the New Constitution, which makes her hereafter a Free State..... Number of business houses in Baltimore and Washington have been closed and their proprietors arrested by military authority on suspicion of running goods through blockade..... Advices from Sherman are to 16th. Hood, after destroying 15 miles of railroad north of Resaca, fell back before Sherman without fighting, and retreated towards the south west..... Sheridan has again defeated the rebels in the Shenandoah Valley, capturing 4 guns from Mosby, and completely scattering Longstreet's force..... Gold 215.

NEW YORK, 18th—P. M.

Scotia arrived. *Bell's Life* says neither Coburn nor Mace can claim the stakes of the recent intended prize fight, and recommends Coburn to accept Mace's challenge to fight in England..... There was continued uneasiness in financial and commercial circles in England, and several additional failures reported. Consols 88 a 88¼.

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.

Advices from Sherman continue favorable. He took Ship's Gap on the 16th, capturing the 24th North Carolina Regiment..... At latest accounts Gen. Hood (Confed.) was fifteen miles south of Lafayette and retreating..... The Richmond *Whig* of the 15th says that Gen. Grant has largely reinforced the army on the north side of James River, and a heavy engagement is probably near at hand. When fighting commences it will be at both ends of the line..... Gold 210.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.

Official Bulletin from Secretary of War states that Sheridan won splendid victory over Longstreet at Cedar Creek yesterday. Forty-three pieces of artillery and two thousand prisoners captured. Federal Gen. Bidwell killed; Wright and Rickets wounded. Longstreet attacked at daylight, breaking Federal lines, and for a time gaining apparent success. Sheridan reached the field about noon, took command, and achieved a great victory..... Yesterday 25 armed men, supposed from Canada, entered St. Alban's, 8 miles from Canada line, robbed Banks of $150,000, plundered stores, shot several citizens, killing one, then fled across the line; seven of them have been caught and $50,000 recovered..... Federal steamer *Roanoke*, captured by Braine, was burned by him off Bermuda. Crew landed in boats, Braine arrested by authorities..... Gold 209.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21st.

The trial of the parties recently arrested in Baltimore and Washington for selling goods to the rebels is now proceeding before a military commission..... Advices from Sherman continue favourable. Hood's attempt to cut his communications has utterly failed, and his retreat Southwest was becoming a route..... The Conference at Quebec for uniting the British Provinces is still in session..... Official advces from Sheridan state that his cavalry had driven Longstreet from Fisher's Hill, where the latter attempted to make a stand, and were continuing pursuit. Fifty guns and 1600 rebel prisoners have been brought in. .... Gen. Grant had ordered a salute of 100 guns from each of his armies, before Richmond, in honor of Sheridan's victory..... Gold 203.

NEW YORL, Oct. 22nd.

Price is being severely pushed by Rosecrans and Curtis. There has been heavy skirmishing but no general battle. Price is endeavouring to make his way out of Missouri. He has accumulated much plunder..... Telegraph is working to Atlanta..... Sherman has recovered Dalton and other places, lately occupied by Hood..... Canal at Dutch Gap nearly completed. .... Richmond papers predict speedy advance by Grant on both sides the James River..... French took possession of Matomoras on 26th ult. Town surrendered unconditionally..... Quebec Conference agreed upon Constitution of Lower House on basis of representation according to population. Total number to be one hundred and ninety-four..... Gold 206.

THE CONFERENCE AT QUEBEC.

BY TELEGRAPH TO COLONIAL PRESS.

QUEBEC, Oct. 17th, 1864.

The Conference progresses slowly. .... The constitution of the Federal Legislative Council is reported settled as follows:—Seventy-eight members for the Canadas, twenty-four each of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and ten each of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland..... The Quebec Board of Trade entertained the Delegates at dinner on Saturday. There was a large attendance. A number of speeches were made..... Report says that invitations have been received by the Delgates from Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London, to public demonstrations in their honor. They are unacccepted as yet, as the date of the rising of Conference is uncertain.

QUEBEC, Oct. 18th.

The Conference holds two sittings daily, and the discussion continues on the constitution of the Upper House..... An English Company has made favorable offers to the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to construct a railroad uniting St. John and Halifax, forming a part of the Inter-colonial Railway.

COLONIAL NEWS.

CANADA.

The weather has been unfavourable for the securing of the part of the harvest remaining uncut. A great quantity of the grain crops had bene rendered worthless by long-continued rain.——The Grand Jury of Montreal have acquitted conductor Birney of the Bilœil railway accident, but in a lengthy presentment on the subject of that terrible catastrophe, reflect on the management of the Grand Trunk Company, in reference to the treatment of the emigrant passengers. They attribute the accident to circumstances within the control of the company, and say that 'the Company is mainly responsible and to blame for the accident.' ——It is rumored in military circles that two of the three batteries of Royal Artillery now stationed at Quebec will proceed to England before the close of the navigation.——Another attempt to desert was made by two soldiers of the 17th Regiment, at Quebec. They succeeded in eluding the military police for some time, but were subsequently found hid in the cellar of a house in Champlain street.

Mr. Cornish, the Mayor of London, C. W, has been charged with bigamy before a Magistrate's Court. The complaint was made by Mrs. Victorine Cornish, now separated from her husband, who charged him with having since married Anne Fortner, of the township of London, and with living with her as his wife. The case was dismissed, on the ground that the wife cannot give evidence against her husband, and that according to law the second wife is the aggrieved party. Anne Fortner was in the Court during the trial, but she did not appear, from her silence, to endorse the statement in the deposition of Mrs. Cornish. No further evidence was brought against the defendant, and the proceedings terminated.

A soldier of the 47th Regiment, at Hamilton, C. W., deserted and got as far as the Suspension Bridge, at Niagara, on his way to Yankee land, where, after one or two unsuccessful attempts to pass over, he finally succeeded by a novel expedient. He got into a barrel, and found an obliging friend who "headed him up," and tumbled the barrel into a wheelbarrow. This friend in due time presented himself at the bridge with the wheelbarrow, and on paying the usual fee, of course, was permitted to pass unquestioned, the "look out party" not paying the slightest attention to him or his barrel. In crossing he rested once or twice, but on reaching terra firma on the "other side" he threw up his cap and gave a loud huzza, then knocked in the head of the barrel, when out popped a soldier, a little stiff from the cramped position he had occupied, but lively enough to go to the front to fight for Uncle Sam.

TWO WOMEN KICKED TO DEATH.—At Stratford, C W., a horrible affair has occurred. Two men and their families dwelt in a sort of pigsty shanty, which was a rendezvous for the worst characters. The other night a gang of rowdies assembled there, and all got drinking and fighting, and in the disturbance the wives of those who kept the houses received such brutal usage that they died, one immediately, and the other after giving evidence at the inquest; the latter's face was then swollen with erysipelas, and it turned out that they had been kicked to death. The brutes who did it are caught.

The Kingston *British American* says that a citizen of that place, of hitherto unimpeachable character, has levanted, carrying off large sums of money horrowed from friends and a young married woman, leaving his creditors and family to mourn.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

IMPORTANT TO COLONIAL SHIPBUILDERS.—Several gentlemen of St. John, N. B., interested in shipbuilding, while recently in England, had an audience with the committee of Lloyd's Register of British shipping, with a view to procuring at Lloyd's a higher classification for certain kinds of Colonial ships Spruce ships are now classed 4 A 1, while it is held that the materials used in them, and style of construction and finish, entitle them to a higher grade. The Committee received the St. John gentlemen courteously, and promised to give the subject their attention and in the meantime would communicate with their Surveyors. Should Lloyd's Register Committee determine to grant an additional year to the classification of Spruce built ships, and raise them to 5 A 1 grade, the result will be most beneficial to our Colonial shipbuilders. The extra year, if granted, would be equal to an advance of ten shillings per ton; this invests the matter with very special interest.

Marks, of St. Stephen, N. B., won the Prince of Wales' Cup fired for at Fredericton last week. He scored 27 points at 200, 300, and 400 yards.

A St. John paper says that the largest ox probably in British America is owned by Deacon Eliphalet Reid, of Sackville, Westmorland County. He was seven years old last May, and now his measurement in height is 6 feet, length 12 feet, girth 8 feet 9 inches, and weight 3500 pounds. He has used for food the last year 100 bushels of potatoes, 50 of turnips, 60 of barley, 10 of oats, 2 of flax seed, and 1 ton of hay, costing in all not far short of $100.

A special despatch contained in the Boston *Courier* of Monday confirms the report of the loss of the blockade running steamer *Condor*, which sailed from this port a few days ago. It is stated that she was chased by a Federal gunboat, and with the intention of saving the cargo she was beached near Wilmington. It is announced that Mrs. Greenhow was drowned. The Hon. J. P. Halcombe, who was also a passenger, escaped. An account of the disaster is said to be contained in the Richmond papers of the 4th inst. We have heard it affirmed by persons well informed upon such matters, that there is no truth in the report of the loss of the steamer *Constance*.—*Nova Scotian*, Oct. 17

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, October 24, 1864.

INTER-COLONIAL CONFERENCE AT QUEBEC.

No. 2.

QUEBEC, Oct. 11, 1864.

RESUMING my narrative at the place I left off when the last Mail for the Lower Provinces was about closing, there is only one fact to notice connected with the proceedings of the Conference to-day. The resolution declaratory of a desire for a Federal Union was put to the vote, and carried by acclamation, amid loud cheering. Two members were absent—Mr. Carter, of Newfoundland, owing to illness, and Mr. Whelan, of P. E. Island, preparing his letters for the Mails. The Conference adjourned shortly after the vote was taken, no other business having been done.

A grand Drawing Room and Levee were held at the Parliament Buildings this evening by His Excellency the Governor General, in honor, it was understood, of the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces. There were about six hundred ladies and gentlemen presented. The whole building was brilliantly lighted up—the Assembly Room and Council Chamber being quite gorgeous in that respect. The reception took place in the latter Chamber. His Excellency arrived at half-past eight o'clock, attended by the members of his suit. The members of the Executive Council, the Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia and his Lady, and the Delegates, were the first presented. It never before occurred in any Provincial City, I think, to see so many public men assembled in one place. Whether the event will be worthy of remembrance, depends very much on the result of the Conference.

I noticed that the etiquette observed at this brilliant presentation differed from similar displays in Charlottetown, in so far as no name was announced when the person was presented. The Card of each was handed to the Aide-de-Camp in waiting—the bow was given and returned, and the party passed to one side of the Chamber. The Governor-General shook hands with all whom he knew, and with all the Delegates, I believe. I felt apprehensive that the worthy gentleman would feel something like a kink in his neck the next morning from the great number of bows he had to make.

It will be expected, perhaps, that I should say something regarding the *personnel* of the Levee—of the ladies more particularly. Well, I was in a good place to see everything, and to note every countenance, and I availed myself of the position. Amongst a collection of, say, three hundred women—for fully half those presented were of the gentler sex — one would suppose there ought to be *many* beautiful ones; but I am inclined to think the majority were not entitled to that designation. I have seen more pretty girls at a Government House Ball in Charlottetown—more at the late Banquet in the Province Building there — than I witnessed at the great Drawing Room. I have certainly seen a larger number of beauties in Granville or Hollis Street, Halifax, or in Prince William Street, St. John, than I was able to see amongst the gorgeously dressed belles of Quebec. But, perhaps, I shall be able to form a different opinion of this fair City's animated loveliness after or at the stunning Ball which is to come off at the Parliament Buildings on Friday next.

One remarkable feature about the Quebec ladies is the almost universal tendency to corpulency. For one of the lean kind, I think it would be easy to count ten "fat, fair," and under as well as over "forty;" and there appears to be no compromise between rotundity and height; rotundity appears to have the matter all its own way. Of course I speak of those only whom I saw at the Drawing Room; and I shall not easily forget the cheerful, pleasant, "jolly" expression of countenance which characterized them all—the easy, well-bred manners which marked their intercourse with strangers, and which went very far to compensate for the want of that delicacy (not of manner, but of blood and muscle), effiminacy, regularity of feature, and symmetry of body, which we, in the Lower Provinces, are too apt to suppose to be the chief attributes of beauty. In short, the Quebec ladies—and particularly those of French origin—appear to be the most healthy, vigorous and good natured daughters of Eve whom I have ever had the pleasure to meet. As for their modes of dress, it appeared to be eminently graceful, so far as I may be permitted to form an opinion upon such a topic—silks and satins blazed with jewels and precious gems; and gave one the idea that the husbands and fathers of the fair wearers were as substantial in their pecuniary means as the solid fatness to which millinery and the jeweller's art had lent so many attractions. But I must not extend this account of the Drawing Room, lest I should lead my fair readers in the Island to suppose that I am hopelessly smitten by the fair dames of Quebec, notwithstanding the small drawback to their beauty at which I have briefly hinted. I return to my Hotel with an enhanced appreciation of my humble Island home, and with a keen recollection of its attractions made all the more softening in its influence by the comparison.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 12, 1864.

The Convention met at 11 o'clock—all the members being present—Messrs. Carter, of Newfoundland, and Mr. Whelan, of Prince Edward Island, briefly addressed the Conference, accounting for their absence at the taking of the vote yesterday, in favour of a general Confederation. Both those Delegates gave their adhesion to the principle, and wished to be considered as having voted for it. A record was made on the Minutes to that effect.

The forenoon was occupied in discussing, or rather adverting to, a mere skeleton outline of the Federal constitution, which the Attorney General for Canada West briefly indicated. It was agreed that the Canadian Government would submit their views to-morrow in the form of resolutions, and the Conference adjourned early to enable them to prepare them. The Delegates from the Lower Provinces had then a long discussion amongst themselves as to the amount of representation in the Federal Parliament which each Province was entitled to from its area, trade and population. But the discussion was informal, and no conclusion could be arrived at.

THURSDAY, Oct. 13.

On the assembling of the Conference, a resolution was submitted by one of the New Brunswick Delegates, declaring that all the proceedings of the Convention, and the new Constitutions to be framed for the local as well as for the general Government, were done with the view of perpetuating the connection with Great Britain. I do not pretend to give my readers the words of any resolution submitted. Indeed, I could not, for I have no access to the Minutes. The information I communicate to the EXAMINER is only such as might be gathered by any person in Quebec of an inquiring mind, but it is nevertheless quite correct. The resolution above noticed was strongly objected to, on the ground that no one in the Conference ever contemplated separation from the Mother Country — that the connection was pre-eminently desirable; but that in framing a Constitution for the Federation, the action of the Conference ought not to be trammelled by too close an adherence to the forms of the British Constitution. The debate lasted for a long time—was characterized by much warmth, and ended in the adoption of a resolution, somewhat the same in spirit as the one first proposed—being a declaration, to the effect, that the Constitution of the General Government should be formed on the model of the British Constitution, as far as is compatible with our Colonial condition, and so framed, likewise, as to maintain British connection.

The remainder of the day was devoted to the discussion of a resolution which proposed to define the number of representatives which each Province should send to the Upper House of the Federal Parliament. The numbers are yet blank, and the discussion has been postponed until to-morrow. It has been agreed that Canada shall be regarded as two Provinces—Upper and Lower—and the number of representatives which she claims is greater than that which all the Lower Provinces would have. Well, her population is more than double that of the whole of them put together; and the claim does not appear to be unreasonable. But the incomplete state in which this part of the question rests for the present, prevents me from saying anything more about it.

I have just returned (11 o'clock, p. m.) from dining at Spencer Wood, the residence of the Governor General. It is hardly necessaryto say that the dinner was a superb one—lacking nothing in the departments of the cuisine and vintage; but rendered especially charming by the ease, affability and good humour which characterized the intercourse of the numerous guests, which included many of the Delegates, several of the Canadian Ministry; and last, but not least, several of the fair daughters of different parts of Canada, one or two of whom I should like to particularize, but dare not.—The Governor-General is very easy and accessible in his manners—is not past middle life—is good-looking, well built, middle height, neither too stout nor too thin, wears large bushy whiskers of the same cut and colour as those which adorn the physiognomy of our friend Major McGill; and his Lordship might, indeed, be regarded as an improved likeness of our friend the Major. He has a keen relish for humour, and converses in a free and easy matter-of-fact style, same as any sensible man would; so that if his companion in conversation is not a born fool, he need not be oppressed by any of that stupid awe which fools sometimes feel in the presence of a live Lord. So much for the present. I hope to know more of Lord Monck before I leave Canada, and I have no doubt my appreciation of his character will be strengthened and intensified.

FRIDAY, 4 p. m., Oct. 14.

The Conference has just closed, and as the Mail for the Eastern Provinces will also close in a very short time, I may as well tell the readers of the *Examiner* some of the talk about town in regard to its deliberations. It is understood that the resolution regarding representation in the Upper House of the Confederate Parliament was debated all day with considerable warmth and ability, but no agreement come to. Lower Canada complains that in the number proposed for her—24—she would not be fairly represented—it being proposed that Upper Canada (against whom there is great jealousy) should have the same number, while the Maritime Provinces, it was proposed, should have thirty-two members. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia claim 22 members out of the 32, while Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, it is supposed, will not be allowed to have more than 10 between them, which the representatives from those Islands will not agree to And with so much diversity of opinion, it is very difficult to say whether the Convention will not be compelled to break up prematurely. Matters do not certainly look very promising for a completion of the deliberations. I hope there may be concession and reconciliation, but I have very grave doubts respecting a satisfactory result. The mail is just about closing. I hope to be able to give more cheering accounts in my next letter.

E. W.

INTER-COLONIAL UNION.

No. 3.

ST. LOUIS HOTEL, QUEBEC,
FRIDAY, Oct. 14, 1864.

"There was a sound of revelry by night,
And CAN'DA's capital had gathered then
Her beauty and her chivalry, and bright
The camps shone o'er fair women and brave men.
A thousand hearts beat happily, and when
Music arose with its voluptuous swell
Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage bell."
—BYRON.

The great Government Ball, for which the most extensive preparations had been in progress long before the arrival of the Delegates from the Lower Provinces, was given to-night in the Parliament Buildings. There was evidently no expense spared—nearly every room in the buildings appeared to be filled, and every room was well prepared for the reception of the guests, who commenced to assemble about 9 o'clock — Lord Monck, the Governor General, and Sir R. G McDonnell, Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia, and his Lady, being amongst the guests. Invitations, I understand, were issued for about 1200, but not more than between 700 and 800 were present The Dancing was of the same character as you find in every fashionable Ball Room: Lancers, Quadrilles, Polkas, and Waltzes; and I assure you that the string and brass bands of the two Regiments stationed here were not allowed to have any idle time upon their hands. Grave and venerable Ministers of State contended with the youngest and gayest votaries of fashion for the possession of the floor; ancient matrons, who have long since passed the autumn of their lives, and cast their sere and yellow leaves along the high ways of Time — were not insensible to the seductive pleasures of the dance.

I will not pretend to give a minute description of the Ball. I cannot do so. The bewildering scene baffles all my descriptive powers. The patient reader who peruses this veracious diary of mine, must appeal to his own imagination for a description. Let him fancy that he is elbowing his way from the House of Assembly to the Council Chamber, with all its rich paintings, portraits of the different Speakers —he sees the two floors occupied incessantly from 9 until 4 o'clock in the morning, — beautiful women, (and indeed they are beautiful here, and appeared to my view ten times more attractive than they did at the Drawing Room, which I noticed in a former letter), are floating past you every where in all the rich trappings of fashion—numerous gay officers in uniform, some exhibiting on their breasts Royal decorations given for distinguished merit,—here is grace, loveliness and politeness at every step you take. The charm of the scene is immeasurably enhanced by the admixture of the various nationalities. There is no fun in seeing two persons from the same country in conversation with each other; but to see those who are foreigners in language and race striving to communicate their thoughts to each other, is an incident peculiarly charming. Here is the gay, garrulous, and polite Frenchman, (or French lady, if you will,) gesticulating with hands and head, striving to make the Englishman, or Irishman, or Scotchman, (who does not know a word of French any more than he knows Sanscrit), comprehend a strange jumble of French and excessively bad English. The French ladies here give a delightful tone to society,—though lusty in flesh, they are quite as effiminate, if not more so, than their sisters of British origin. There is infinite grace of manner and faultless politeness in their intercourse with strangers. They make no difficulty about falling in love—or appearing to do it—with a dozen gentlemen at a time; and the gentlemen, I have no doubt—(of course *I* don't write from experience)—must find it hard to resist their attractions. But it is time to close this notice of the Ministerial Ball. It was a stunning and crushing affair as regards numbers, gorgeous dress, lavish expenditure on the part of the Government: and, indeed, everything that was calculated to make a sensational sacrifice at the shrine of pleasure. I do not think the arrangements were quite so good and regular as they were at our small Ball in Charlottetown when the Delegates met there. *There*, the Delegates from the other Provinces were introduced to our Society, such as it is, by persons appointed for the purpose. *Here*, the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces —(and I speak of the whole of them without exception)—had to trust to their own natural impudence for an introduction to the Quebec belles and gentlemen. Those who brought ladies from the Lower Provinces had to do, for the most part, the cicerone business themselves: and it was not pleasant to see the lady of the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia—a very fine and handsome woman—led to the Supper Room by an antiquated, grey-headed Cockney fop, without influence or position, and who seems to be dogging the steps of the Delegation through the Provinces. However, I will say nothing more upon this point. The Canadian Ministry, I am sure, were desirous of making the entertainment as agreeable as possible to their guests; and if any error were committed, it was not of the heart but of the head.

SATURDAY, Oct. 15, 1864.

The Convention met at the appointed hour (11 o'clock), and discussed until 1 o'clock the question of representation of the Maritime Provinces in the Upper House of the Confederate Parliament. The French Canadians seem to apprehend that they will be swamped in the Upper House, and desire a larger representation than the Maritime Provinces ask for, so that they may not be overpowered by the British element. The admission of Newfoundland into the Conference perplexes the arrangement, as the agreement was, at Charlottetown, to give equality of representation to the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, with Upper and Lower Canada. This balance is disturbed by the admission of Newfoundland. What solution will be arrived at, it is not at present possible for me to say. The debate, which is conducted with great ability, stands adjourned until Monday.

Invitations, both public and private, are being poured in upon the Delegates from all quarters. They are invited to visit the principal cities of Lower and Upper Canada, to be entertained by the several Corporations, and special trains on the two great lines of Railway in the Province are placed at their service. To-night the Delegates were entertained at a superb dinner by the Board of Trade of Quebec. I have not time to give a description of it. The company who sat down numbered one hundred and twenty-five, embracing representatives of the commercial wealth of this great and ancient City, besides the representatives from the Maritime Provinces and the two Canadas. The national flag of England covered in graceful folds the spacious dining hall of Russell's Hotel—one of the best in the City, and owned by the proprietors of the St. Louis, in which I take "mine ease"—and each Province was distinctly designated by name and by appropriate mottos. The table arrangements were on the grandest scale. In short it was a "great spread," such as a wealthy Corporation like the Board of Trade might be expected to give. There were only five or six toasts given altogether—the one to the Delegates from the Maritime Province was that which called forth most eloquence. In responding to this toast, none but the Leaders of the several Provincial Governments spoke, on behalf of their several Provinces—there being no time for others to indulge in the flow of words. The best speech made, in my opinion, was that of Sir E. P. Tache—the Premier of the Canadian Government—for though a Frenchman, and apparently labouring under difficulty to express himself in English, he certainly seemed to give utterance to more genuine common sense views, and more good humour than any of the Maritime Delegates. Of course the speeches were non-committal, and of the same general character as those delivered at Charlottetown and elsewhere by the Delegates. But I must close the brief and hasty record for this day. The cosey bed before me invites me to repose; and the excitement which one experiences in this *fast* city, together with the gushing and overwhelming hospitalities of its generous-hearted people, render repose absolutely necessary.

SUNDAY, Oct. 16, 1864.

A quiet day. No invitations, for which I heartily console myself. An hour spent in humble devotions at St. Patrick's Cathedral,—a visit to the historic monument to Wolfe and Montcalm, in the Governor's garden,—a walk on the Esplanade,—a cursory view of some of the great battle fields of the last century; and a return to my quiet room in the Hotel for the remainder of the evening, to think and dream about home, and all its endearing associations. The above noticed and other objects of interest about Quebec, will be more particularly referred to hereafter.

MONDAY, Oct. 17, 1864.

I understand that the debate on the question of representation in the Upper House was resumed to-day in the Parliament Buildings; and the Delegates from the Lower Provinces adhered, by an almost unanimous vote, to their claim for an equal representation with the two sections of Canada; providing for a separate representation for Newfoundland, the North West Territory, British Columbia, and Vancouver's Island. The Canadian Ministry retired from the Conference, I am informed, to consider this ultimatum; and in an hour returned, conceding all that the Lower Provinces demanded. The representation in the Upper House will be as follows, if the scheme should be approved of by the Imperial and Local Parliaments;—Lower Canada, 24; Upper Canada, 24; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, 24; the maritime Provinces to be represented as follows: Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 10 each; P. E. Island, 4; and Newfoundland, as an addition to the general arrangement, 4. I give the readers of the EXAMINER the above information, as the subject of current report about Quebec. I will not vouch for its accuracy, but I think it is *very near* the truth.

The Conference, I am informed, next proceeds to consider the question, whether the Upper House should be nominated by the Crown, or elected by the people, or by the several local Legislatures. Each view was ably supported, and I regret I am not at liberty to give the arguments or the names of the different speakers. The debate was kept up until 12 o'clock to-night, and then adjourned. The Conference now meets at 10 a. m, adjourn at 2, reassemble at half past seven p. m.; and propose to carry their deliberations far into the night.

TUESDAY, Oct. 18.

Conference met at 10 a. m. Debate on the mode of constituting the Council for the Confederate Parliament resumed. I am informed that nomination by the Crown was the mode which met with the approval of a large majority of the Delegates, when the vote was taken at the 2 o'clock adjournment. The age and property qualifications of Legislative Councillors were the next points discussed. The age was settled, I understand, at 30 years—none but British-born or naturalised British subjects to be eligible for nomination; and as for the property qualification, I believe that is an open question at the time I write, (Tuesday, 4 p. m.), but I am inclined to think the qualification will not be less than four thousand dollars in real estate, above debts and incumbrances, and may be more. All these points afford an immense field for speculation; but as my readers will understand that my information comes to me in the most incomplete and unofficial form, it would be profitless to indulge in speculation at this stage of the proceedings of the Conference. I shall continue to write down, from day to day, the result of my observations, and communicate such items of information as I think I may do without any breach of propriety.

I am yet nearly a stranger to the historic places in this old City, as well as to the great monuments of skill, industry, art, and enterprise, which abound in every street; but I hope to get time to form an acquaintance with all these things; and I hope, also, that my good friends, the readers of the EXAMINER, will not consider my remarks concerning them unworthy of their perusal.

E. W.

UNION QUESTION.

SINCE—as respects the advantages or disadvantages, probable or assured, which would result to the people of this Island, as a consequence of the consummation of the projected Confederation scheme—we have not yet had data or information before us, sufficiently certain and comprehensive, to enable us to decide positively whether, in the conscientious discharge of our duty to the people, we ought, in a direct manner, to advocate or oppose the measure; it seems to us that the only honest course which, as a Public Journalist, we can pursue, is to endeavour to lay fairly before our readers all the facts and reasonings, of either real or apparent weight or substance, both for and against the scheme, which, whilst the question shall remain undecided, shall come under our notice; to the end that we may thus excite in them the spirit of enquiry, and afford them opportunities to form their own conclusions concerning the project, by a free exercise of their own unprejudiced judgments. If we are to have Confederation the popular mind should be prepared for it. If the people generally are averse to it, now is the time for them to speak out.

It has been asserted, by parties in favor of the Union scheme, that little or no difficulty seems to present itself on the subject of the Federal Finances; and that on the consummation of the Union, by the assumption, by the Federal Government, of all the debts and assets of the several Provinces, no injustice would be inflicted on any; for that, by a close examination of the Financial position of each of them, it appears that the debt and annual burden now borne by their several peoples, are pretty nearly equal, and that the Public Exchequers of all of them show a surplus.

As has been observed by one of our contemporaries, the arrangement of the financial affairs of the different Provinces lies at the foundation of the Union platform. If that matter cannot be adjusted on a basis fair and equitable to all parties, the negotiations evidently can go no farther. By the statement of the debts of the Provinces, submitted to the Convention when sitting here, in Charlottetown, it was shewn that New Brunswick owed $17.80 per head of her population, Canada $16 66, and Nova Scotia about $14 per head — that of P. E. Island, we believe, about $6 per head. This statement, we have been told, was accepted as correct by all the Delegates: and upon it, as was understood at the time, the outlines of a financial basis of Union were agreed to — the obligations of the several Provinces being so nearly equal in amount that no great difficulty could be found in arranging them.

But already this state of affairs is changed; for, by one of our Nova Scotia exchange papers, we are told that since the Government of Nova Scotia told the Convention that they owed only £1,200,000, they have advertised the whole Pictou railway for contract, and have officially announced that the Annapolis road is also to be built. The completion of these two lines of railroad will, our authority declares, cost not less than £1,120,000; and thus, it says, "with this addition to our liabilities, the debt of the Province, instead of being $14, will be $27 50 per head of the population."

In the opinion also of our Island contemporary, the *Protestant*, and of one of his correspondents, the Hon George Beer, the financial difficulty arising out of the debts of the several Provinces is, as respects Prince Edward Island, an insuperable obstacle to the Confederation scheme. Mr. Beer says: "Supposing the Union of the British North American Colonies to be consummated, the public debt of the whole to be consolidated, the number of the inhabitants of the Federated Provinces to be 4,000,000, then the proportion of interest on the Canadian debt alone" (assumed to be $62,203,339) "that would fall to the 80,000 inhabitants of Prince Edward Island to pay, would be £20,000 per year, or one-third of our whole revenue; to which we may add some £3,000 a year as our proportion of the interest of the public debt of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, leaving Newfoundland out of the question." Further on this subject, Mr. Beer says: "Contingent upon the establishment of the Union — if I am correctly informed — is the building of the Intercolonial Railroad from Nova Scotia to Canada, at a cost of many millions of pounds, and at the Federal expense. In all probability we should be called on to pay over £5,000 a year as our proportion of the interest on that gigantic undertaking."

Were Prince Edward Island to enter into a Union with her Sister Provinces, liable to the payment of £28,000 a year as her proportion of their debts, besides having to pay —as Mr. Beer calculates she would have to do—£5,000 a year additional, as her share of keeping up the Central or Federal Parliament and Government, the act would be nothing less than suicidal. But on such terms, we venture to predict, she never will enter into the Union; and, moreover, we cannot believe that it will ever be required of her to do so.

The arrangement of the financial part of the negotiation will, doubtless, prove the greatest difficulty with which the Convention will have to deal. It will be the *Gordian knot*, which it may greatly puzzle them to unloose. They may indeed, perhaps, after having by the most patient, earnest, and persevering attempts, vainly endeavoured to unloose it, *cut* it altogether, turn from it as matter too obstinately inextricable to be manipulated at their will, and leave it just as they found it; so that each Province may be responsible only for its own debt.

As respects the £200,000 which it is said the Canadian portion of the Convention have —as a condition of the Union — agreed to advance to the Government or people of P. E. Island, to buy up the claims of the Proprietors, — it appears to us that both the *Protstant* and his correspondent, the Hon. George Beer, in adverting to the subject, have laboured under a misapprehension of the condition on which it has been proposed the advance shall be made, and also of the manner in which, if made, it is to be applied. In justice to the Hon. George Coles — who has always been conspicuous as one of the most earnest promoters of our agricultural interests—the best interests of the country—from whom, we believe, the proposal for the advance of this sum proceeded; and also to disabuse the minds of such of our readers as may be impressed — through the misapprehension of the *Protestant* and his correspondent, the Hon. George Beer—with erroneous ideas concerning the terms upon which the said £200,000 are to be advanced to the Government or people of this Island by the Canadian Government, if advanced at all, and as to its intended use; we conceive it to be our duty to give—as we believe we are able to do—a correct explication of the matter; but precluded by want of space from doing so in our present number, we are obliged to reserve it for our next.

In the words of an English paper of a recent date, we may here remark that "the wildest notions are afloat about England's interest and readiness to cut the bonds that bind the Colonies to the Mother Country"; and we regret to find that these notions—if we may judge by the *fearful* anticipations of the consequences of a Union of the Provinces, to this Island, as elaborated in the first number of our new contemporary *The Herald*,—are likely to have acceptance amongst our own people. Discoursing upon these *fearfully anticipated* consequences, the editor of the *Herald* arrives at the most startling con-