reached Avranches, and would have the laugh on his side when we came in, with wet clothes, after a drive through the rain. In fact, I played my part admirably, in my own opinion, but I could not deceive a woman's instinct, and my sister laid her hand on my arm with—

'Hush, George, pray. You frighten me, dear, for I see that you are afraid for *him*. Oh, it is all my fault; I should have begged him, urged him to stay with us, and if he, if he should——'

Just then the eldest of the English schoolboys who had raced past us some time before with his noisy crew of young comrades, came tearing back with his pony in a lather of foam and heat.

'O, Captain Lethbridge,' said the boy, 'we have seen a gentleman on horseback trying to escape from the sea, and I'm sure it's Mr. Hilton, and the poor horse seemed so tired, and the tide's coming in dreadfully fast, like a millrace.'

I tried to stop the boy. It was of no use. The words were spoken, and Emma gave a scream so piercing and heart-broken in its agonized accents, that it haunts me to this hour, and will haunt me to my dying day. Lashing the vigorous little nag into a gallop, in an instant I gained the point whence our young informant had come, and there I sprang out, and assisted Emma to scramble up a steep ridge of sand that overlooked the whole of the desolate flat, now terribly encroached on by the advancing tide. A few drops of rain fell, and the wind whistled shrilly by, and the sea-gulls and gannets flew hoarsely screaming around, and fluttered off inland on their white wings. The muttering growl of distant thunder resounded, but we cared nothing for rain or thunder. Our eyes were riveted on a horseman who was making his way, slowly and painfully, through deep and moist sand in which his weary steed sank fetlock deep at every bound.

Hilton! there was no mistaking him; but how came he there, and how had he lingered so long among those dangerous wastes? No doubt he had missed the safe way, hardly to be found, even by natives of the country, and had wandered long among the treacherous quagmires and pools of sullen waters, for I could see that his noble horse flagged wearily, and that there were stains of mud and sand upon his heaving flanks, as if he had floundered through more than one of the *lises*, as they are locally called. The sea was behind him, swift and pitiless, like a low wall of dark blue water, crested with foam, and seeming to devour the shore as it swept onwards. Worse still, the coming tide was 'quickening' the sands as it advanced, for we saw pools appear where dry banks had lately been, and the surface heaved and glistened, and the horse had to make desperate efforts to advance shorewards.

I shouted loudly to encourage the poor fellow, but the wind drowned my voice; and now the thunder rolled, and the lightning flashed redly over the sea, and it seemed suddenly to grow dark, while torrents of rain came dashing down; but we did not heed them. If my own life had been trembling in the balance, I could scarcely have felt more cruel anxiety; and as for Emma, I hardly dared to steal one glance at her pale and anguish-wrung features, as she stood on the highest point of the rock, clinging to me for support, and waving her handkerchief, poor thing, while her eyes pierced the twilight, rivetted on the figure of that lonely horseman on whom the sea was gaining with fearful rapidity.

'Why does he not head straight for the shore? Ah, now he takes the right course; but the horse can scarcely answer to the spur,' I muttered between my set teeth. 'Oh, push on, for Heaven's sake, press on!' I shouted with the full strength of my lungs, using my outspread hands as a trumpet, and Hilton heard the call, started, and knew us, for he gave an answering hail which only reached us as an inarticulate cry. But the voice of human sympathy, or the sight of her he loved, seemed to revive him, for he lifted the steed with the rein, and pressed on more steadily, while immediately afterwards the horse seemed to find surer footing, for he no longer sank beneath the surface, and as he broke into a quicker pace he shook his head with a long neigh of triumph. The carriages had by this time arrived, and had come to a halt, but the horses were alarmed by the lightning, which was now almost incessant, and they were with difficulty kept under control, while two or three of the party came scrambling on foot up the bank, uttering exclamations of dismay and compassion.

'He is nearer, nearer now. The horse goes fast. He will be saved, he is safe! Harry! Harry!' cried Emma, taking hope as the firmer ground was reached; then as the storm gathered, she turned wildly to me: 'George, brother, say that he is safe!'

I said something, I do not remember what, to encourage Emma's despair, perhaps, should her hopes be disappointed, but I meant it for the best, and the boys who were excitedly watching the struggle, set up a cheer.

'Well done! he can gallop now. He is on firm ground. Mr. Hilton is safe, papa; he is out of reach of the sea! Hurrah!'

But the joyous shout died away on their young lips as, with an awful plunge, the good horse sank to the saddle-girths, snorting, plunging, rearing wildly, but in vain, for every effort served but to bury him deeper and deeper in the tenacious quick-sand, and his neigh of distress changed to that horrid scream, seldom heard but on the battle-field, which nothing but extremity of pain or fear can elicit.

We shouted to Hilton to throw himself from the saddle—to fling himself flat upon the treacherous surface—as the only chance of life; but I do not think we were heard, so hoarsely did the thunder roar overhead, while the darkness deepened so much that it was only when a flash of lightning showed every detail of the scene that we could distinguish the sufferer.

Emma's despair was fearful to witness, and in her passionate grief she upbraided us for allowing the victim to perish, unhelped, before our eyes; but human aid was useless there, and we could but remain spectators of what we were powerless to prevent. At every fresh flash we could see, by the vivid though momentary light, the horse sinking deeper and deeper. The moist sand was up to his withers now, a few short moments and it reached his neck; now the horse was wholly lost to sight, and the rider was waist-deep in the quagmire, sinking, still sinking, as if dragged down by some viewless monster below into a living grave. And the sea came on, triumphant, relentless, its blue wall curling and frothing as it ran, arrow-swift, over the strand, and already a foamy line of shallow water had reached to within a few yards of the spot where Harry remained, helpless.

Another flash. The line of foamy water crept snake like on, reached Harry, passed him, and rolled on far to landward, and line after line, streak after streak, came in the deepening water, and then rolled on the low blue wall, and still the quicksand gaped, insatiate, for its prey. It was up to his armpits now, the water, and presently another flash showed the poor wretch, his head alone above the salt flood, with a face deadly pale, and eyes that glared, white and ghastly, in the lurid glow of the lightning, while the lips seemed to move, but whether in prayer to Heaven or a hopeless cry for aid, can never be known. No sound reached us. The rain was blindingly thick, and the wind raved as it swept the hurrying clouds before it. There was a longer pause than usual between the flashes. To our impatience it seemed as if the dreadful darkness endured for ages. At last it came, broad and bright, the fierce flare of the white light, but nothing was visible; nothing but grey sea and white foam, where the little waves began to toss and curl, and the curving wall of blue ran far shoreward. We strained our eyes but could see nothing more. Unwilling to trust our senses, anxiously we waited for the next flash, and it came; but we saw nothing but a waste of sea and sky. Harry Hilton was lost forever to man's sight until the Judgment day.

In the agony of that suspense, I had almost forgotten my poor sister. Her voice had died away in sobs, and she had sunk at my feet, and lay there, crouching. But when I saw that the grave had closed over its victim, I bent to raise Emma, and thought at first that she was in a swoon, but a cry of dismay from one of the party aroused me to a new fear. We lifted Emma tenderly, and by the light of the carriage-lamp saw the signs of the mischief I had dreaded, only too plainly. Poor girl, the white handkerchief she had waved so long was pressed to her lips now, and stained with crimson drops that ran heavily down, and left a dark stain on the light muslin she wore, and on the small white wrist that lay passive between my hands.

Why linger on that sad story? Suffice it that Emma's frail health had not been able to endure the anguish of that hideous scene. A blood-vessel had given way, and she never spoke more, and before we reached Avranches she was dead.

We buried poor Emma on the very day that she was to have witnessed her union with him whom she had loved—loved too well to survive his fearful end.

THE LAST POMPEIAN DISCOVERIES.

We clip the following interesting article from a late London (C. W.) paper, relating to the most remarkable discoveries yet made by those who have for years been engaged in exhuming the long buried city of Pompeii in Italy.

"M. Marc Monnier supplies the *Revue des Deux Mondes* with a highly interesting account of the last great discovery made at Pompeii, during the excavations undertaken by Cavalier Fiorelli—the corpses of the Pompeians whom the lava stream surprised in their flight, and whose forms and features are preserved in the attitude in which death over took them. The bodies, or rather the lava mould which covers them, are now to be seen at the Museum, and striking photographs of them have been transmitted to Paris; they give, however, by no means so effective a description as the account of M. Marc Monnier He says:—

One day in a little street under a heap of stones and rubbish, a vacant space was discovered, at the bottom of which appeared something like bones. M Fiorelli was summoned in haste, and he conceived a luminous idea. He poured in some liquid plaster, and the same operation was performed at other points, where bones had likewise been discovered; and as soon as the plaster hardened the mould was lifted with the greatest precautions, and on the hardened ashes and lava being removed four corpses appeared. They are now at the Museum, and no more striking sight is it possible to behold. They are not statues, but human bodies moulded by Vesuvius, and preserved from decay by that great envelope of lava which reproduces the clothes, and flesh, nay even the appearance of life. The bones protrude here and there where the molten liquid did not completely cover the limbs.

Nowhere does anything like this exist. The Egyptian mummies are naked, black, hideous. They appear to have nothing in common with humanity; they are dressed out by the Egyptian undertaker for their eternal repose—the exhumed Pompeians are human beings in the act of dying. One of the bodies is that of a woman, near whom was found 91 silver coins, two silver vases, some keys and a few jewels. She was flying, carrying her most valuable commodities with her, when she fell in the little narrow street. She may be seen lying on her left side. Her head-dress, the tissue of her clothes, and two silver rings on her finger, can be easily detected. One of her hands is broken, and the cellular structure of the bones exposed to view; the left arm is raised, and writhing, the delicate hand convulsively shut, the nails appear to have entered the flesh. The whole body appears swollen and contracted; the legs alone—the round and delicate outline of which has not suffered—are stretched out. You can feel that she struggled long in fearful pain. Her attitude is that of agony, not death.

Behind her a woman and a young girl had fallen. The former, the mother possibly, was of humble extraction, to judge from the size of her ears. On her finger is a single iron ring. Her left leg, raised and bent, denotes that she also struggled and suffered. Near her reclines the young girl—almost a child. The tissue of her dress is seen with wondrous distinctness—the sleeves coming down to the waist, and embroidrey on her shoes. She had through fear, probably, lifted her dress over her head. She fell with her face to the ground. One of her hands is half open, as though she had used it to keep her veil over her face. The bones of her fingers protrude through the lava. She appears to have died easily.

The fourth body is that of a man—a Colossus—he is stretched on his back, as though he meant to meet his fate bravely; his arms and his legs show no sign of struggling; his clothes are very distinctly marked; the *bracca* (trowsers) closely fitting; laced sandles, the soles studded with thick nails; on one finger an iron ring; a few teeth are broken; his eyes and hair are obliterated, but his thick moustache is clearly apparent, and it is impossible not to be struck with the martial and resolute appearance of his features. After the women convulsively clinging to life, we see here, the man calmly meeting his fate in the midst of the great convulsion—*impacidum fe-ient ruinte.*

Nothing yet discovered at Pompeii offers us anything to be compared with this palpitating drama. It is violent death with its extreme tortures, its convulsions and agonies, brought clearly before us, and as it were, taken in the act after the lapse of eighteen centuries."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Dear Sir;

I refrained, for a great length of time from passing any opinion on the events of the times, as they fleeted by, partly because public opinion would listen to no other voice than the dissembling cant of the day, that ceaseless whining, sighing pretended remorseness for the sins of all who could not cloak their straightforwardness under the self-sanctified wing of a Fitzgerald, a Sutherland, or bury their reason under the bullying fanaticism of a McDonald, or the combined influence of the proprietary faction with that of a heartless Government. Probably no previous party demeaned themselves by abandoning every principle of virtue for the purpose of joining together such a combination of seperate and distinct interests for its support as the present ruling power. In summing up these materials, Mr. Keir, in a late letter to the *Examiner*, happily remarks on its component parts being made up with political professors of christianity and infidelity together, with the proprietary and tenant interests blending as it were in harmony at the late elections for the support of Protestantism, William of the Boyne, and the tenantry in a fog. It staggers belief. It is no wonder that the liberals were out heroded on the land question, when crooked ways were about being made straight, rogues to become honest men and fools wise. Under this centralization of all the virtues, the liberals were put down under it, and a perfect jubilee reigns triumphant throughout the land. The opposition ceases. The demagogues, as we were termed, are silenced; proprietors easy, the tenantry contented, and the last obstacle to the general peace of the country about being overcome, through the Delegation to the Duke of Newcastle, who now feels the displeasure of the triumvirate. Happy day! everlasting honours to their patriotism. But while the country labours under these hallucinations, it is scarcely worth my while, or that of any other, to endeavor by reason to awaken it from so pleasant a dream, or to convince them of their misplaced confidence. That the abuse of the Liberals, the rejoicing at their defeat and the hopes and expectations of the followers of the Governmentt are a delusion and doomed to bitter disappointment, I leave it to time to shew the abortion, and hail the moment of its ushering in a more wholesome spirit of Christian charity towards all men.

But while I feel it would be mere folly in the present fanatical feeling of the country to stay this incontrollable torrent which sweeps all before it, I would nevertheless offer a few remarks on the folly of giving way to that old spirit of Toryism in cultivating in its various under-handed ways that spirit of antagonism, not only towards the constitution but also towards the citizens of the United States. However strong our sympathies may have been towards the Southern States in their struggle for separation at the commencement of the rebellion, no reason now exists for its maintenance. In the early stages of the outbreak our opinions were formed from the writings of those who held strong antipathies towards republican institutions, coupled with the opinion that a separation of the interests of the North and South would be mutually advantageous and generally conducive to the best interests of mankind. Under such representations, the sympathetic feeling for the South may have been excusable; but now when we know better—when we have learned from the most reliable sources of information that the struggle for seperation is merely for the purpose of extending the interest and influence of the slaveholder, by introducing a more despotic system of government on the American continent than exists even in Europe, to the end that Slavery shall not only be maintained throughout the Southern States, but be countenanced over all the territory which may come under its control: I say, with such facts before us, we ought at least to confine ourselves to a respectful silence, especially when in company with gentlemen of the Northern States. I ask, has the Government not shown a spirit of unbecoming ill-feeling in ordering American Men-of-War out of our ports? and was that order not issued before Government knew the ships were of the U. S. Navy? And have not the subordinates of the Government, and the whole Tory party generally, kept up at least for the last two years a spirit of antagonism to every interest beneficial to the North? And this has been done to a people who have always treated us in a kindly spirit, and on whose good feeling, in a great measure, the trade and interest of this Island depends. I wish to shew, Mr. Editor, the extreme folly of indulging in this spirit of antagonism, and the ills that are not unlikely to follow. It appears to me to be the intention of those men who uphold so undesirable a policy to cultivate the understanding, that loyalty to our beloved Queen and the Constitution and hatred to every principle of the Great Republic, are synonymous; whereas it happens that no two Governments or Constitutions are so nearly allied in the distinguishing features of their constitution as those of Great Britain and the United States—both acknowledging that all power is derived from the people.

It is with this view of showing the preposterous folly of cultivating a misunderstanding between this people, our best friends, and ourselves, that I attempt to shew we should rather cultivate not only a friendly but a social feeling towards them. I would, therefore, direct your attention to the state of trade existing in this country before the Reciprocity Act came into operation. That Act the country ought to know opened to us the ports and markets of the United States, and from that time to the present the country has made extraordinary progress when compared with previous years.

Agricultural products are the staple commodities of this Island, and on their encouragement and prosperity we depend. It should, therefore, be the first duty of the Government to endeavour by every means to keep open for export the ports of those countries where the best markets offer, where the highest prices can be realised. We know there is no other country that offers the same advantages to us as the United States. It was the policy of the Liberal Government to direct its attention towards this attainment, and after a persevering struggle they finally obtained their desire, viz: *Free Trade with the United States*; and with this view towards its maintenance, that administration on various ways showed their appreciation of the boon by paying that respectful attention to the officers and citizens of its Government which a great nation had the right to expect. Previous to free trade with the United States, our best oats commanded no more than 1s. 6d. per bushel; neither were the payments at that time more satisfactory—the farmer being generally obliged to take half cash and the balance in truck, as it was called. Even at this low rate shippers rarely found it a paying article in the old country, and it was in consequence felt to be unsafe to speculate in. But no sooner were the United States markets opened under the Reciprocity Act than oats immediately took a rise from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per bushel; and they have almost variably maintained that price ever since, with payment in cash.

It appears to me to be the policy of the present Government to undo all which their predecessors did. Certainly they are taking the most effective steps in their power to prevent a renewal of the advantages of this Act.

I ask the farmers, merchants, and all the industrial classes in the community if it would not have been more discreet, more business like, and more honourable of the Government to have sent Delegates to Washington, for the purpose of maintaining our trade with that country, rather than going on an errand to Downing Street, where they have been politely referred back to their Island home?

I cannot close, Mr. Editor, without commenting on a late article which appeared in the *Monitor*. Before doing so, I would refer you to the general tenor of its writings in disparagement of the United States Government, which no doubt contributed towards the late outrage committed on the Flag Staff of the American Consul. After this insulting act had been perpetrated, that paper disapproves of it and recommends that the Government should restore it, which I think they ought to do at once; but before doing so to apologize. The recommendation is quite in keeping with the cant of the day, and forcbly reminds me of a circumstance that took place in Charlottetown many years ago. A brawl took place in one of the streets between an Irishman and a Scotchman, whereon a countryman of the latter party stepped into the crowd, and being a Magistrate, commanded peace in the Queen's name, but added in his next breath, in Gaelic, "Strike him, Donald."

I am, Dear Sir,
Your old Friend,
PUBLICOLA.

Charlottetown, Dec. 13, 1863.

Mr. Editor;—

Having observed in your last issue a statement headed "Tenant Outbreak," in which you state that "you were informed" that an attempt to enforce the payment of all arrears of rent on the Melville Estate, Lot 29, near Crapaud, has been met with armed resistance, and that a Tenant League has been organized there to keep aloof the bailiffs of the Agent: and that the "rebels," as you term them, are not Catholics or Irish, but good Protestants and strong supporters of the present Government, in reply to which, I, as Agent, consider myself called upon to contradict part of the statement; and wishing to do justice to the Crapaud and DeSable part of the tenantry, that none of them had hand, act or part in the affair. I have been for several days previously amongst them collecting rents, who, with very few exceptions, paid their rent honorably.

The few who did assemble to obstruct the bailiffs were from the Melville Road, and were not the supporters of the present Government, save and except one family, the Beer's, one of which, namely William Beer, in connection with John Bell, were the ringleaders, as I have been informed. This was when the Bailiff was in the act of distraining upon John Beer, Senr., his being the last house they had to go to. Mr. Beer holds 200 acres of land, and is in arrears nearly £90. His first objection was that he had not his complement of land. I sent Mr. Ball to ascertain how much he was short. Mr. Ball said 12 acres. I told Mr. Beer that I would try and get him the land or deduct it from his lease. His next objection was that he was bound to give his son 100 acres of the land, and he had nothing to do with it. This I considered a paltry excuse. There were some others who never paid me a shilling rent, though able to do so, and who owed from sixty to one hundred and twenty pounds. I could not think that I was doing justice to Lord Melville nor the tenants that were paying their rent, that I should force them and not make others pay. It was not my intention to injure them to any extent, but force them to pay sooner. This can be seen by others that I distrained upon previously; when they came and paid me part, I was satisfied, and gave them more time. I have seen every tenant repeatedly, and not an uncivil word was ever spoken to me since I became their Agent. Some of the tenants who were distrained upon, and who assembled to obstruct the bailiff, came to me a few days after and paid me rent, some of whom never paid me a shilling before.

In conclusion, I would say that the ringleaders shall be dealt with as the law directs; and that no Tenant League, country or politics will prevent me from doing my duty as an agent, always bearing in mind to administer justice with mercy when I see it may be deserved; but if they persist, and to use your own words, let the screws go on, and let them get out of their troubles as best they can; they bearing in mind Hughes, of St. Mary's Road, who is yet paying the penalty of the law.

J. R. BOURKE,
Agent to Lord Melville.

Melville, Dec. 16, 1863.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, December 21, 1863.

We publish in another place a Letter from J. R. Bourke, Esqr., Agent for the Estate of Lord Melville, in which Mr. Bourke denies the correctness of the *whole* of our statement about a "Tenant Outbreak" on Lord Melville's property, published last week. Our readers will remember that we did not vouch for the correctness of the statement, which we merely gave as the substance of common report; but the Agent's letter confirms the most material part of it: namely, that distraints WERE made for arrears of rent—that the distraints were resisted by an organized party of the tenantry; and if the retractory people were not the supporters of the Government, it is admitted that the ringleaders were—one of whom, at least, is said to be a prominent and zealous supporter of the party in power. We refrain from any lengthy remarks, at present, on the policy of Lord Melville's Agent enforcing the payment of old arrears of rent. Of course he has the right to do so, as well as the other Land Agents who have lately prosecuted the claims of their masters or employers, with extraordinary rigour; but we deem it only right and proper to draw public attention to this fact; and we leave our readers to contrast that fact with the promise held out by the present Government to the tenantry generally, that the Land Commission—or in the event of the failure of that, the Delegation—would secure the remission of arrears of rent. We believe that the tenantry on every Estate were never so severely driven as they are now, and have been for two or three years past, to pay up their arrears—that in nearly all cases where, in the absence of cash, security could be had, security has been obtained,—and that, therefore, if ever the time comes when the Government shall have the power to remit *any* rents, their services to the tenantry in this respect will be about as satisfactory as those of the Agents generally are to their Principals in England — the remittances or remissions will be exceedingly small. Mr. Bourke says he is determined to "put the screws" upon those who may have the hardihood to hold out against his demands. He is just the sort of man to keep a promise of this kind; and we cannot say that we blame him overmuch; if all the other Agents and resident Proprietors are running pell-mell to collect their arrears, why should not he be in the race, and get what he can! This worrying of the tenantry is one of the blessings we enjoy from having a Proprietary Government.

The news received from the States is not important. There appears to have been no battle fought since the last great affair at Chattanooga. We give in another place, from a New Brunswick paper, a detailed account of the capture of the *Chesapeake* by Southern "pirates," as they are called. We have only one side of this story at present, and that the Northern side. We must wait for the receipt of further accounts before we can truly estimate its criminality or importance.

The Mails.—Now that the winter has set in and no regular communication as yet established with the Mainland in any direction, the Mails come somewhat irregularly. On Friday morning we had Mails by the *Heather Belle*, via Picton, from the Colonies and the United States. We cannot, however, depend upon a regular receipt or transmission of the Mails until the ice shall be fully made in the Straits, and the Winter Boats are fairly underweigh.

The London Quarterly Review, for October, was received by the last American Mail. Its table of contents, (not having yet read the articles,) seems to be particularly rich. They are:—Progress of Engineering Science; Life and writings of Thomas Hood; Antiquity of Man; Co-operative Societies; Japan; Anti-Papal Movement in Italy; Froude's Queen Elizabeth; The Church of England and her Bishops. A work so well known requires nothing further than the enumeration of its contents.

Blackwood's Magazine, for November, has been received, and contains the following articles:—Chronicles of Carlingford; Old Maps and New; Tony Butler, Part II; Ducal Darmstadt; The Fall of King Otho; Hawthorne on England; Tara; May Song; Our Rancoroes Cousins. We have read several of the foregoing articles, and think that the whole table of contents may be safely commended to the subscribers or buyers of this excellent Magazine.

The Union Bank.—We are glad to learn that this Bank, the necessity of which is now almost universally felt, may be expected to commence operations shortly. The Books and other apparatus connected therewith came out by the last mail steamer from England to Halifax. The Notes and Bills have also been engraved and printed, and are daily expected here. The Provisional Committee are only awaiting the arrival from England of the Royal Allowance to their Act of Incorporation, which is looked for by the next English Mail; and on its publication in the *Royal Gazette*, a public meeting of the Shareholders will be duly called and permanent Directors appointed. In the meantime, the Share list is still open for Subscribers in the hands of the Provisional Committee.—*Isl.*

A Bazaar, in aid of the new Wesleyan Church in course of erection in this City, got up by the children of the Rev. Mr. Brewster, was held yesterday afternoon in the Vestry of the Old Wesleyan Chapel, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion with evergreens, flags, pictures, etc. The tables were well supplied with fancy and useful articles, cake, and coffee, which were displayed to the best advantage, and most of which met with ready purchasers. In the evening there was a large accession of visitors. Several hymns, etc. were sung by the Choir with melodeon accompaniment—Miss Preedy presiding with her usual ability at the latter instrument. At about half-past nine o'clock, the Bazaar was closed, and the proceeds, we are happy to learn, amounted to the handsome sum of £50.—*Mon.*

The schooner *Transit*, from this port, Cassady master, bound to Bermuda with a cargo of oats, potatoes, barley, cattle, sheep, poultry, &c., drove ashore on Carribo Island, in a snow storm, on the 10th instant, and is a total wreck. The cattle swam on shore, and the sheep and poultry, we understood, were safely landed, and sent on to Halifax.—*Isl.*

The Steamer *Regios Ferrios* left this port on Monday evening last, for New York, having on board a large cargo of Oats. She was to call at Pictou, on her way, to take in Coal.

CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY INSTITUTE.

Lectures, before popular assemblages, has become one of the leading institutions of the present age in every intelligent community. It was once considered in England a disgrace for members of the nobility to write a fair hand, but such notions have passed away, and every one wishes to be able not only to write in a fair hand but also to make a fair speech. Men of the first positions and abilities regard it as an honor to occupy the lecture stand to set forth their favorite views on Science and Literature. Every one in respectable circumstances, at present, affects, at least, to be a patron and lover of learning. The public gives its high places to those only who are distinguished for intelligence. It is true that sometimes a very illiterate person may be placed even in the Executive Government of a country, but such happens but seldom, and then the individual receives his appointment through great proprietory influence, great family connections, or it may be through great rascality. But, besides qualifying one for the gifts of the capricious public, Literature has advantages innumerable to confer upon those who seek them. The path of learning, however, is beset with many difficulties, and nothing is better calculated to remove them than public lectures. They awaken the curiosity of those who attend them, on some branch of Literature or Science, and thereby incite to love of study, or at least create an interest in reading some work upon the subject. When this is accomplished, the first difficulty in making progress in learning is overcome. What is it but curiosity in the subject, that enables one person to peruse with delight an abstruse scientific article in one of the Quarterly Reviews, which another person would turn from with disgust? The man who takes an interest in scientifical themes reads a new treatise on his favorite study with the same avidity as another would read one of the novels of Bulwer, Dumas, or Victor Hugo, or the romances which are designated truly as "trashy yellow covered light reading."

We observe that the lecture season commences earlier in other places than it does in this colony. This year our different Literary Societies have commenced their course of lectures even later than in previous years. Many persons join and attend literary institutions because of the novelty of the thing, and when the novelty ends their patronage ceases. In what other way can we account for the fact that the Charlottetown Debating Club, for instance, has not yet opened its discussions, because, as we are informed, the members take no interest in them? This Society may then be said to be in its decline, and yet two years ago it was the most flourishing Institution in the place, and with some show of reason, boasted of possessing "all the talent." We fear that notwithstanding the great amount of money expended upon Education in this colony, there is not a corresponding appreciation of the pure pleasures and real advantages of literature by any considerable portion of the community. As above stated, lectures in other places are a leading institution amongst the people; with us they ought to be a necessity, inasmuch as in the winter we have no regular communication with the rest of the world; begirt with a circle of ice our Island is isolated (no pun intended), and its inhabitants must depend upon themselves for their intellectual recreation.

The advantages of Literary Institutes for affording improvement and recreation, were well set forth in the opening Address before the Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute on Thursday evening last by the President of the Institute, Rev. Angus McDonald. He commenced by sketching the proceedings of the past year, and congratulating the members upon the success which had marked the affairs of the Institute. The receipts were greater than the expenditures, although some large amounts had to be paid. The lectures were varied, and on highly important subjects; amongst them he referred to the interesting discourses of His Lordship the Bishop and the Very Rev. Dr. McDonald upon topics connected with the early history of Christian Rome. He believed and hoped that they and other gentlemen of education and influence would lecture during the present and future seasons. The debates, which are one of the most pleasing features of the Institute, the Rev. gentlemen said were spiritedly sustained; and although often the discussions were upon exciting topics, the greatest courtesy always prevailed amongst the speakers. He then stated that the most important petition to the Queen, in reference to the infamous Orange Bill, originated in the Institute last session, and was successfully carried through by the Committee appointed by the members. The Duke of Newcastle was pleased to comply with the request of the petition,—a great victory had thereby been gained over the aiders and abettors of that vile Orange Society, which, had it been legalised, would have proved a curse to the Colony. The President hoped that the same good sense and moderation which characterised the Catholic body through the period in which they were exasperated by their enemies would always be the same. He next referred to the establishment of the night school in connection with the Institute. Many young men who had not an opportunity in their earlier days of attending school have now the means of improving themselves by attending the night school. The lecturer pointed out the duties of masters sending their apprentices and servants to places of improvement. He shewed that it would be for their interest to do so, as young men sent there would be prevented from frequenting taverns and the resorts of immorality. He dwelt forcibly upon the fact that if persons do not engage in innocent recreations, they will indulge in vicious pleasures. He then, in some eloquent passages, proved the superiority of intellectual pursuits over mere frivolous amusements, and gave as illustrations the pleasures and advantages to be derived from the study of mathematical and metaphysical subjects. The contrast, he observed, betwixt the young man who read books and one who did not was always in favor of the former, and would become more so as both grew older. He recommended every young man to procure a few good books of his own; and brought his Address to a close by thanking the officers and members for the assistance given him in carrying out the objects of the Institute.

Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute.

On Thursday evening last, the 17th instant, the Rev. Angus McDonald, Rector of St. Dunstan's College, delivered the opening address for the ensuing season at this Institute. The Rev. gentleman first showed the advantages which literary Institutions confer on society, as affording the means of eliciting a community of sentiment upon any subject, and exciting a spirit of generous emulation among the different members of a community. Mr. McDonald next treated of mental discipline, showing, in pleasing and eloquent language, the inestimable advantages of a well cultivated and evenly balanced mind, as exemplified in decision of character, and a capability of comprehending the bearing of the common occurences and employments of life; after which he pointed out the best mode of cultivating the intellectual faculties, the effects of the different sciences in enlarging the compass of the mind, and giving acuteness and strength to its powers. In the course of his observations on the Sciences, Mr. McDonald showed the importance of the study of Mathematics, Metaphysics, Ethics, Jurisprudence and Political Economy in concentrating the thoughts, governing the social intercourse, and contributing to the happiness of man. The Rev. gentleman concluded his chaste and eloquent Address by referring to the good results which the Institute has already produced, and appealing to the sympathy and inviting the support of the community in its behalf.

After the meeting closed, the members having remained, they proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the following appointments, viz:—

Patron—The Rt. Rev. Peter McIntyre,
Vice Patron—Hon. D. Brenan,
President—Rev. A. McDonald,
Vice President—Hon. E. Whelan,
Assistant Do.—Mr. Patrick Bowers,
Treasurer—Mr. John Gahan,
Secretary—Mr. W. W. Sullivan.

Committee of Management—Officers *ex officio*, P. Gaul, Esq., Messrs. E. Reilly, W. Malone, E. Roche, M. McCormack, P. Reilly and John Murphy.

The regular lectures before this Institute will commence after the Christmas holidays, of which due notice will be given through the press.

A meeting of the Committee of Management will be held at the Institute Rooms on Wednesday evening next, the 23rd inst., at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of arranging some business matters connected with the Institute.

W. W. Sullivan, Sec'y.

Dec. 21, 1863.

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE STATES.

(From the New York Herald.)

East Tennessee is free from rebel invasion. Gen. Foster's official despatch from Tazewell, Tenn., yesterday, confirms the report that the rebel Gen. Longstreet is in full retreat up the valley, *en route* to Virginia. The Union cavalry followed him closely, and drove him step by step through the passes of the Clinch Mountains. Other despatches which come from Chattanooga state that Gen. Sherman's cavalry had arrived at Knoxville on the 3rd instant, and also joined in the pursuit of Longstreet along the north side of the Holsten river, while General Foster's forces were pursuing him on the south side. It was reported that Gen Sherman had the enemy hemmed in, and that his chances of escape were very small. It is evident that the rebel force in East Tennessee is utterly broken. The rebel accounts admit the retreat of Longstreet towards Virginia. The President, upon the receipt of this news yesterday, has issued a proclamation announcing that East Tennessee is clear of the "insurgent forces," and recommending that the people shall, upon receipt of this intelligence, assemble at their places of worship, "and render special homage and gratitude to Almighty God for this great advancement of the national cause."

It is stated that General Grant has captured, since his campaign in the West commenced, no less than four hundred and seventy-two cannon and ninety thousand prisoners from the enemy.

The cavalry of the Army of the Potomac are kept busy looking after the guerillas of the indomitable Mosby. Stewart's rebel cavalry also keep up a constant raid on the north side of the Rapidan, occasionally picking up some of the stragglers of the Union army. The enemy, however, do not make any attempt to cross the river in force, or to interfere with the quiet progress of the Union army in settling down into winter quarters. The probability of Gen. Pleasanton succeeding Gen. Meade in command for the present was discussed in the army, in as much as the winter operations will be most likely confined to the cavalry service, of which Gen. Pleasanton is so bright an ornament.

The condition of our imprisoned soldiers in Richmond is considerably improved by the receipt of the provisions forwarded to them. During the past week three hundred and thirty-five packages, consisting mainly of solid food, delicacies for the sick, clothing, reading matter and stationery were received by them. They were conveyed to Libby Prison, Belle Island, Castle Thunder and the tobacco warehouse.

The Richmond papers of the 3d instant contain some interesting news. The *Examiner* says that General Bragg's successor has not been appointed, but that General Hardee remains in command. The *Examiner* congratulates the Southern public that the late disasters in East Tennessee are counterbalanced by the activity of the rebels in West Tennessee, which is now formed into a new military district, including West Tennessee, West Kentucky and Northern Mississippi, and placed under command of Colonel V. R. Richardson. The Richmond *Whig* says that the tobacco belonging to the French government is about to be removed from Richmond within the next few weeks, on French vessels.

The Union feeling gains strength in Arkansas. The people are taking the oath of allegiance by hundreds. At a convention held at Fort Smith, which was most patriotic in the sentiments expressed, Colonel Johnson, of the First Arkansas infantry, was nominated for Congress, and it was voted that Arkansas should be a free State after the war.

We have four days later intelligence from New Orleans. It appears therefrom that the navigation of the Mississippi four miles above and below the mouth of the Red river is seriously interrupted by the presence in force of rebel bands provided with field artillery, with which they fire upon all unarmed boats trading to and from New Orleans. This force, estimated at four thousand, is under command of Gen Dick Taylor, and is a sort of flying corps, appearing from time to time at different points of the river, preying upon its commerce as opportunity offers. The merchants of New Orleans and traders generally are seriously alarmed at the audacity, the frequency and success of these attacks, and have applied to the military authorities to have all the river boats armed and manned by a few artillerists. The steamer Black Hawk was lately attacked, and only escaped entire destruction through the coolness and courage of Captain Fulton, his officers and crew.

From Natchez we learn that every thing is quiet in that city and vicinity. Two steamers laden with government stores, on their voyage from St. Louis to Natchez, were sunk. No lives were lost.

From our correspondent with the Texas expedition we have received further particulars. The landing of the troops at Brazos was attended with much peril. The steamer Nassau was sunk, but no lives are reported as lost.

The gunboat Monongahela shelled Mustang Island while General Ransom, with a brigade of Maine troops, made a rapid march across the Island, taking possession of the rebel works on it and capturing a rebel lieutenant colonel and two companies of Texans, with three cannon. A flag of truce was subsequently sent by the rebels; but General Banks deemed it a ruse to ascertain the number and position of our troops, and detained the bearers for a time.

SOUTHERN WAR NEWS.

The defeat of Bragg at Chickamauga is taken hard by the Confederate papers. The Richmond *Examiner* of the 25th ultimo is very severe upon him:—

"The result of Gen. Bragg's useless and unsuccessful attempt to hold a worthless position in front of Chattanooga will not disappoint any over-sanguine anticipations of the public mind. Why he persisted in remaining there so long is a mystery only to be explained on the supposition of concerted action between himself and his tardy Lieutenant in East Tennessee.

"The Confederate army did very little harm from Lookout Mountain to the Federal forces in Chattanooga. The relative positions were advantageous to the enemy. He had not two miles of hauling for his supplies; the Confederates were forced to drag their's over nine miles of a road that was rapidly killing all the cattle of the army and of the country. Meanwhile Sherman had been permitted to bring up a reinforcement of 25,000 men unmolested, and Grant had become strong enough to afford a large loss of life to gain a military advantage. Under these circumstances, a retreat to the old field of Chickamauga appeared reasonable, and was expected by the country. But Gen. Bragg held his position until forced from it.

"How has it happened, with his splendid army and unquestioned superiority of position, that he has sustained an acknowledged reverse? The answer will be made with considerable unanimity, that Gen. Bragg is incompetent to command; that he is maintained in his important position by Mr. Davis against judgment and protest of both army and country; that neither troops nor officers have confidence in him; that he has lost battle after battle by a faulty arrangement of his troops and want of military talent; and that it is right and reasonable to suppose that he has lost another in the same manner.

"Perhaps the result might have been different if Longstreet and his corps of the Virginia army had been in line. His operations in East Tennessee afford little compensation for the reverse of Chattanooga, nor have the late bare and scanty news from that quarter sustained the high hope which the public justly based on the first intelligence briskly forwarded by Gen. Bragg.

"The result is that we have lost on Lookout Mountain the result of the great and bloody battle on the Chickamauga. That battle must be fought again, either in the next fortnight or in the spring of 1864. Now, will Mr. Jefferson Davis any longer persist in maintaining General Bragg in the command of the army on which depends the fate of the Gulf States? This is an inquiry which will be anxiously made by every citizen who reads the news this morning, and who really desires the success of this Confederacy. If that General is kept in place despite of all the proofs that he is a wrong man for such a business, it is possible that the Confederate army may incur a disaster on the banks of the Chickamauga commensurate with its former victory. But we refuse to believe that the consequences even of a defeat in a general battle there will be anything like those which hasty minds assume. They would not be the loss of a State or penetration to the Gulf. The Federal army could not advance five miles further, even if victorious, without risking annihilation; nor will the Gulf States be subjugated by the loss of one battle or twenty battles, unless they are inhabited by a very different breed from that which peoples Virginia."

The papers print a description of the Knoxville fight as follows:—

"The great rebel blow, anxiously anticipated so long, was struck this forenoon. Reinforced by the troops of Sam Jones, Jackson and Williams, Longstreet sought to annihilate the Army of Ohio by one blow, for which purpose he selected seven regiments. Skirmishing commenced last night at ten o'clock, and continued sharply until near daylight on our left and front, before Fort Sanders, commanded by Gen. Ferrer, defended by the 79th New York, Benjamin's 3rd United States artillery and Buckley's Rhode Island battery. Our pickets were driven in, and the enemy had possessed themselves of some rifle pits, but the Massachusetts boys drove them back. Suddenly the rebel storming party led by the 16th and 17th Georgia and 13th Mississippi under cover of our own retreating men, came to the assault, and approached to within 100 yards of the fort unharmed. Then ensued a scene of desperate daring and stubborn resistance, death, carnage, and horror, scarcely equalled during the war. These men, veterans of the Potomac and the flower of Longstreet's army, confident of promised victory, plunged into a "hailing hell" of lead. Wires had been stretched from stump to stump in front of the work, and over these the enemy fell in confused heaps, with the killed and wounded around them. Our artillery men hurled shell by hand forward upon the fallen and doomed rebels. Hot and hotter came the storm of shell; the ground over which they passed was carpeted with the slain. The ditch was filled with the dead, wounded and dying. Not one on their side faltered, not a score of the gallant stormers escaped. The sun rising looked down through the cold mist and thrill of that November morning upon the remains of an army. One thousand killed, wounded and prisoners was the cost of the assault on Fort Sanders. Nobly has it sustained the reputation of its namesake, fearfully revenging its fall."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

PROCLAMATION TO THE SOUTHERN REBELS.

The Boston papers received yesterday bring us President Lincoln's Message to Congress. The document fills between three and four long columns of those papers, and if not a very able or very important document, is certainly tolerably well written and is somewhat interesting. The following summary of the Message is offered to our readers who would not take the trouble to read it in full.

The President opens with an allusion to the fact that the United States remain at peace with all Foreign Powers. He is not dissatisfied with the fact that the British and French Governments "have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of hostile expeditions" from their ports. The news that the French Customs authorities had been told that the Confederate steamer "Rappahannock" should be permitted to proceed to sea when her Captain might desire to do so, had not been received by Mr. Lincoln. He informs Congress that the Supplemental Treaty for the suppression of the African Slave Trade has been ratified and carried into execution.

He announces his intention to submit to the Senate a proposal for a convention to be entered into between Great Britain and the United States to adjust claims to possessions in Washington Territory; and for an arbitrament between Spain and the United States to determine the maritime jurisdiction of Spain in the waters that surround Cuba. A portion of the message is devoted to an argument in favour of preventing foreigners, resident in the United States, from claiming exemption from military duty on the ground of alienage. He has a slap at the "hereditary aristocracy" of Japan who prevent the Tycoon from carrying out his enlightened policy with respect to other nations. It is announced that arrangements have been made with Russia for building a continuous telegraph line through the empire from the Pacific shore of America; and the Atlantic Telegraph scheme, and a project for connecting all the United States forts on the Gulf of Mexico by Telegraph, are recommended to the consideration of Congress. The President says that laborers are still wanted in the States, and he recommends the establishment of a system of Immigration. He also favors the opening of a Court in which may be considered the claims of foreigners who seek redress for injuries inflicted upon them by persons in the naval or military service of the United States.

Having disposed briefly of Foreign subjects the President comes to Home matters.

He states that the operations of the Treasury for the year have been very successfully conducted. He says that all demands for the support of the army have been promptly paid, and he compliments the people upon the cheerfulness with which they have borne the burdens of the great war. The total Revenue for the year from all sources amounts to 901 millions of dollars, of which 69 millions were received from the Customs, 37 millions internal revenue, — millions at direct taxes, 16 millions from lands, 3 millions from miscellaneous sources, and 776 millions from loans. The Disbursements for the year amount to, say, 896 millions, of which 23 millions were for the civil service, 4 millions for pensions and Indians, 25 millions for interest on public debt, 599 millions for Army, 63 millions for the Navy, and 181 millions in payment of the funded and temporary public debt. The balance in the Treasury at the end of the fiscal year was about 5½ millions.

The report of the Secretary of War is too interesting to be summarized: but with respect to the Navy Department report we are told that the blockade has been continually increasing in efficiency, and 1,000 vessels have been captured in attempting to run it, the value of which was 13 millions of dollars. The naval force of the United States is now composed of 588 vessels afloat and building— of which 75 are iron-clad steamers. The Navy Yards will require alteration, or new ones to be selected. A yard and depot for nautical purposes are wanted on the Western rivers, where alone the naval force exceeds in number the whole force of the United States at the opening of the war. The number of seamen has increased from 7,500 in the spring of 1862 to 34,000 at present. Special legislation, however, is required to help to forward recruiting for the naval service.

The Post Office Revenue and Expenditure are each 11 millions. The President thinks that even when the routes are again opened in the Southern States this Department will be self sustaining.

Some [illegible]41,546 acres of Government lands have been disposed of during the last five quarters, nearly one half of which was under the Homestead Act. The demand for public lands appears to be largely on the increase. A scheme for raising revenue from mineral lands of the United States will be submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior. Several new treaties have been made with the Indian tribes by which their possessory right in large and valuable tracts of land is extinguished.

The President leaves to the wisdom of Congress certain views held by Western men respecting the enlargement of water communication between the Mississippi river and the North Western sea board.

Mr. Lincoln then comes to the subject of the War. After briefly recapitulating the feelings of the country respecting the war, its issues and its management, when Congress assembled last year, he informs the representatives of the people that the Mississippi river has been completely opened, and by it the Southern Confederacy has been cut in two: that Tennessee and Arkansas have been cleared of insurgents, and owners of slaves in each of these States are advocating Emancipation; that Maryland and Missouri are now only disputing as to the best mode of removing slavery from within their limits. He tells them that 100,000 negroes are now in the service of the United States, 50,000 as soldiers, the others as labourers. As regards the coloured troops, "so far" he says, "it is difficult to say they are not as good soldiers as any. No servile insurrection or tendency to violence or cruelty has marked the measures of emancipation and arming the blacks." He thinks that "the crisis which threatened to divide the friends of the Union" on this subject is past. He thinks the Emancipation Proclamation has aided in the suppression of the Rebellion; and he states that while he remains in his present position he will not attempt to retract or modify it, neither will he return to slavery any person who is free under that Proclamation or the Acts of Congress.

The President, "looking to a resumption of the National authority within the States wherein that authority is suspended," accompanies his Message by a Proclamation which some term "an Amnesty." Citizens of the United States who may have been in rebellion, upon taking an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and abide by and support all acts of Congress passed during the Rebellion, with reference to slavery as well as the President's anti-slavery Proclamation, will receive pardon and restoration of their rights of property except in slaves. Exceptions are made to this offer, viz., all diplomatic or civil officials of the Confederate Government; all officers of the Confederate Army above the rank of Colonel, and all officers of the Confederate Navy above the rank of Lieutenant; all persons who have left the judicial or Congressional service of the United States and the Federal