LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

DESPATCHES ON CONFEDERATION.

(*Committee resumed*)

Hon. Attorney General: In respect, your honors, to the resolution before the Committee, I shall give it my most hearty support. It is very customary for us to say upon speaking to a question that it is one of the greatest importance; but I think scarcely any subject could be of such deep and vital consequence to the Colony and the people who inhabit it as that involved in the question of Confederation. We have had questions of some moment and of a serious nature before us; but we have never had one, in the real and true sense of the word, of such vast importance to the Island as this one. We must remember that if a sufficient number were found in this Island who were of opinion that annexation to the other Colonies was desirable, and should consent to it, that consent could never be recalled—there would not be the slightest prospect of redeeming it—therefore the doom of the Colony would be irretrievably fixed. I am happy to find that the subject is approached in such a calm and grave manner, and that all your honors are still as much opposed to the proposition as ever you were. The few observations which I might address to this committee at the present time are not so much intended for your honors as for the public at large. I was in hope that when resolutions of a similar nature were unanimously passed by this House, and by an overwhelming majority in the other branch of the Legislature, last session, there would be no reason for bringing the subject again before the Legislature of the Colony. I thought the opinion we then expressed on the subject would have been considered final and conclusive. However, it is not the case, for the Colonial Minister requests His Excellency, in the despatch before your honors, to bring the subject again under our consideration. Therefore it will be necessary for us again to give an answer to that proposition, as it will be expected by His Excellency and the Colonial Minister. For my part, in giving that answer, I do not intend to trouble your honors with the details of the question, by reference to revenues or taxation or anything of that kind. These have been gone into very fully by members of this and the other branch of the Legislature last session. They have also been fully discussed by the Press and disseminated, I might say, scattered broadcast over the Island. The public have examined into these questions, and I believe they are fully satisfied that the subject bears a strong aspect against annexation to Canada or the other Provinces. It would, therefore, be superfluous for me to go into questions of this kind, and I will confine myself to a few observations on the great question itself. Her Majesty's Minister has expressed a strange and decided opinion that Confederation would be for the advantage of the different Colonies; but when the question of union was first mooted, the British Government was not of that opinion. I believe it was their determination to abstain from giving any opinion till the views of the different Colonies were first expressed; and when I find that the Colonial Minister has announced such a strong opinion, when the Colonies had not declared in favour of Confederation, it shows me that some new influence has been to work to bring about such action of the British Government, and I do not think it will tax our ingenuity to divine whence that influence comes. Any person who looks at the transactions of the last twelve months can see that there have been some spirits at work to influence the British Government, so as to bring about Confederation. I may be asked whence they come from, and where they abide? I answer, it is the Canadian Ministry. Their interests demand a Union of the Provinces, as you said this morning, Mr. Chairman. They have arrived at the stage of discontent, among themselves, and they are so oppressed with taxation, that their statesmen have declared that the necessities of Canada demand this union. Then I take it for granted that the opinions of the Colonial Minister are inspired by the wishes, the movements, and the machinations of the Ministers of Canada. Now, your honors, whatever may be the policy and interests of the other Colonies, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in particular, I cannot see, and never could, that their vote, or their interests, should in any way influence persons in judging of the merits of Confederation as adapted to this Island. New Brunswick stands in a widely different point of view to this Colony. They have a long frontier on the borders of a jealous foreign power to defend, with nothing but an imaginary line between them. Their taxation is much assimilated, and there are various influences which might induce them to unite with Canada. If I were an inhabitant of that province, and in public life, I would probably be an advocate for union; but these things should not influence the mind of a single individual of this Colony. Much the same may be said of Nova Scotia. Perhaps she is not so dependent upon union. She may be in better circumstances — in a different geographical position—but if both those Provinces should assent to the Union to-morrow, and that assent came from every mouth within them, still I would not say that it was any reason that this Island, the circumstances of which are so widely contrasted to the other Colonies, should go into the Union also. Now, there are various influences brought to bear upon this question, and there is a force which it is endeavoured to bring to bear upon it by those who look forward to Union; few they are, in this Colony, I am happy to say, and I hope they will become less and less. They say, "O, if New Brunswick and Nova Scotia go into the Union, it is folly for you to think of standing out! The British Government will force you to go into it." Your honors, I cannot, I will not suppose that the British Government will do any such thing; for, much as it may be their desire that we should go into Confederation, yet I believe it is a fundamental principle of British law, that they will not force this or any other Colony to take such a step without the sanction of a large majority of the people. Having once granted us a constitution, assimilated to that of Great Britain, and that constitution being suitable to the people, no complaint existing against it, and all parties having accepted and being satisfied with it, they will never attempt to coerce the people to surrender that constitution. It can only be done by an act of the British Parliament. And when there is such respect for British Representative institutions as in the present age, there is no Minister who would dare to go before the British Parliament with a bill to take away the constitution of a loyal and peaceable Colony against the will of the people. Though we are less in population than 100 000 people, they will never compel us to go into a Union which we believe would be fixing chains upon us for ever. I do not think any British Minister would attempt such a thing; neither do I believe that so much art and persuasion would be used on the part of those who desire it so strongly, to get this Island to consent to the Union, if thought otherwise. Therefore I think all we have to do is to guard being led or wheedled, or ensnared into it. It rests with ourselves, and if we are not vigilant, the Island may be entrapped. Therefore, I think it is incumbent upon us to be vigilant and guard well our own interests; I would pay little attention to the arguments of men who say—"O, it is no use to resist it—we will be forced into it—the British Government wish the Provinces to unite, and they will have to do so." These arguments, Sir, come from miserable shallow-minded persons, who have not the sense to discern, nor the spirit to resist the chicanery and scheming which are being practised to deprive the people of this Colony of their constitution. I have an utter contempt for such men. No, if we stand out to a man, as we should do, to resist this insinuating application, we will be free still; and our children and children's children will rise up and bless us that we had the moral courage to stand up for our liberties. History will remember the persons who have thus stood up in defence of our birthright. If little Prince Edward Island should become part of the Union, and, after a few years, find an overpowering Legislature grinding us down, and raise its feeble voice against it, what effect would four or five representatives have in an assembly of 194?—one in 37? It would be a mere mockery. "No, you have consented to go into the Union—you did so with your eyes open—the subject was brought before you from time to time, and you have voluntarily gone into the Union; therefore you cannot separate without a violation of the whole compact, and you must bear your fate." Now, it is our duty to see that it shall not be brought upon us in this insinuating way. I know something about the designs of such crafty men as the Ministers of Canada. I know that nothing is wanting on their part which ability and ingenuity and cunning and artfulness could devise, and which can be brought to bear upon the question in any possible way. Their influence is operating upon the Colonial Office, and it is re-acting back upon this Island. Gentlemen in this Island, I believe, are keeping them posted up in all that transpires in this Colony. Yes, any motion, or act, or expression of opinion given here to-day, which could operate to their advantage, would be telegraphed to Ottawa, in a short time, and in a few months we would have a Despatch from Great Britain such as would seem to serve the designs of these annexationists. Now, there is one consideration connected with those influences which I feel it my duty to touch upon, that is, the influence of the Governors of these Colonies. When we look at the conduct of Governors Gordon and Williams, we cannot say they are more than the agents of the Colonial Minister, to carry the Union if they possibly can. They may have come out at first as the friends of the Colonies; but when they oppose the interests of the people in every way—when they have become the the mere agents of the Colonial Office—I look upon them as quite different persons. I look upon them as having their rewards in view. I do not look upon them as the friends of the people. In making these observations I wish to be understood as not speaking in any disrespectful way of any of the Colonial Governors, more especially of that highly respected gentleman, our own Lieutenant Governor. Few persons have more sincere respect for him than I have. I do not know his present views on confederation, but I hope and trust that he will act in that straight-forward manner in which we have always found him to act; but I say, and I believe I represent the views of a vast majority of the people, that if he turns round and supports confederation, he will be opposing the interests of the people, and I will cease to support him. Therefore, I do not think those influences should act upon the minds of any of your honors, or upon the mind of any person who is patriotic, and has the interests of the people at heart. We are told that if we go against the will of the British Government, we will be thrown on our own resources — that we will not only have to maintain, but to defend ourselves from foreign aggression, as well as other disturbances which will require physical force. Well, I have never denied the obligation of every British subject to do what he can to defend himself and his home from foreign aggression; and I do not think there is any indisposition, on the part of the people of this Colony, to contribute their fair share, and even beyond it, for that purpose; and if we do so, no argument on that point should have any force against us. It is said that our fate is linked with Canada—that if Canada fall, as a natural consequence we must fall also—and therefore we should be prepared to be taxed as much as Canada, in proportion to our population, for Military defences. Now, I do not agree with that line of reasoning. I consider that there is a vast and wide difference in the relative positions of the two Colonies. We are told that Great Britain will leave us to our own resources—that we need not expect they will give us any assistance if we refuse to go into confederation. Well, I never pretended to any great knowledge of military subjects; but I do not think it requires any great sagacity to perceive that if Nova Scotia and New Brunswick should, by any misfortune of war, be in danger of falling into the hands of the neighbouring Republic, Prince Edward Island must be defended; for it would be utterly impossible for those other two Provinces to be held by Great Britain, and this Island to be retained by the enemy as a basis for their naval operations. Therefore our geographical position renders us as necessary to be preserved to the British Crown as either of the other two Colonies; and if we make a liberal provision for the defence of the Colony there will be an end to that question. I do not see that there is any injustice in taking this view of our geographical position as regards our Military defences. Some will say it is mean—that it is throwing the burden of our defence upon our neighbours; but I say if we contribute our proportion, to go into some general fund for the defence of the Colonies, we are relieved of the obligation, and there is nothing unjust or mean on the part of this Island, in taking that view of the case, and for these reasons more especially: Canada and New Brunswick have vast advantages, arising from their geographical position, which we can never enjoy. Their trade and communications can be kept up all the year round, except it be for two or three weeks in the most intense part of Winter. Thus they have all the advantages of interchange of commodities with a large and wealthy neighbor upon their borders; and if upon a proposition of certain terms to go into Union, we should advert to those advantages, and ask for some specific consideration to make up for our disadvantages, what would be the answer? They would say, "You have chosen to settle down on that Island where navigation is closed for four or five months of the year—you have chosen your country and you must put up with its disadvantage." That would be the answer we would receive. Well then, in the name of all that is good, ought we not to enjoy the advantages which our position gives us as some compensation for others enjoyed by our neighbors but not by us? And I know very well that though the Canadians, who have given us such a very warm invitation to go into their pretty little parlor and enjoy ourselves—I say though they look upon this Island as a little spot, and very insignificant, yet I am inclined to believe they do not feel so very indifferent about us. They know, and I suppose were about to feel the loss of free trade with the United States, and they would willingly see that trade revived to their advantage—perhaps to the advantage of both parties. And negotiations were again opened for a renewal of free trade relations with the United States, and the advantages and disadvantages on either side were to be weighed. They know very well the weight that our Island, this little gem of the St. Lawrence, would have in the scale. They would say to the Americans, "We will give you the privilege of fishing around the coast of Prince Edward Island, that little gem of the St Lawrence, which is swarming with fish." They know those advantages very well. But if the day should come when negotiations for a treaty should again be opened, let us have those advantages to ourselves, so that our voice may secure us commensurate advantages in another way. I shall not trouble your honors with minute calculations, such as were made last session and remain unanswered; but I may say that, in looking at the calculations made a year or two ago, the population of Canada is taxed 17s. sterling per head, while ours is only taxed 10s 4d. per head. And looking at the vast expenditure which that Province has been subjected to within the last two or three years, without being engaged in actual warfare, but on account of some little troubles in the shape of raiders or a threatened Fenian invasion (and such troubles may arise again), I think I may say, without contradiction, that their taxation is not less at the present time than 20s. per head, while ours is only ten, and is likely to be less, for the ratio of increase in the population is greater here than there. I am speaking of their general taxation, and if we take the local taxation into account, it will augment the rate per head very considerably. I should not have wearied your honors with these dry observations, because I feel that every one of your honors is not less animated with feelings of opposition to going into this scheme of Confederation than ever you were. I am happy to find men of years and experience, such as your honors are, entertaining but one opinion on this subject, and that opinion the same as it was last year. Therefore it is merely to the public I address my words in case they have not weighed the matter so carefully. I hope the people will not place too much confidence in any person, but trust in themselves, and watch with care and jealousy every movement, from whatever quarter it comes, whether from the Canadians or from the Colonial Office; for I feel that if they sleep upon it, they will be caught in some unlucky hour and fetters bound upon them which they will never be able to unbind or unloose. I will therefore heartily support the resolution before the committee.

(*To be continued.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE EVENING WIND.

Spirit that breathest through my lattice, thou
That cool'st the twilight of the sultry day!
Gratefully flows thy freshness round my brow;
Thou hast been out upon the deep at play,
Riding all day the wild blue waves till now,
Roughening their crests, and scattering high their spray,
And swelling the white sail. I welcome thee
To the scorched land, thou wanderer of the sea!

Nor I alone—a thousand bosoms round
Inhale thee in the fullness of delight;
And languid forms rise up, and pulses bound
Livelier, at once coming of the wind of night;
And, languishing to hear thy welcome sound,
Lies the vast inland, stretched beyond the sight,
Go forth, into the gathering shade; go forth—
God's blessing breathed upon the fainting earth!

Go, rock the little wood-bird in his nest,
Curl the still waters, bright with stars, and rouse
The wide, old wood from his majestic rest,
Summoning, from the innumerable boughs,
The strange, deep harmonies that haunt his breast,
Pleasant shall be thy way where meekly bows
The shutting flower, and darkling waters pass,
And where the o'ershadowing branches sweep the grass.

Stoop o'er the place of graves and softly sway
The sighing herbage by the gleaming stone,
That they who near the churchyard willows stray,
And listen in the deepening gloom, alone,
May think of gentle souls that passed away
Like thy pure breath, into the vast unknown,
Sent forth from Heaven among the sons of men,
And gone into the boundless heaven again.

The faint old man shall lean his silver head
To feel thee; thou shalt kiss the child asleep,
And dry the moistened curls that overspread
His temples, while his breathing grows more deep;
And they who stand about the sick man's bed,
Shall joy to listen to thy distant sweep,
And softly part his curtains to allow
Thy visit, grateful to his burning brow.

Go,—but the circle of eternal change,
Which is the life of nature, shall restore,
With sound and scents from all thy mighty range,
Thee to thy birth-place of the deep once more;
Sweet odors in the sea-air, sweet and strange,
Shall tell the home-sick mariner of shore,
And, listening to thy murmur, he shall deem
He hears the rustling leaf and running stream.

The correspondent of the London *Morning Star*, who accompanied the telegraph fleet as far as Valentia, thus describes the place which is destined to some historical fame in the future, as the Old World terminus of the Atlantic Cable:—

As the extreme westerly point of the coast of Ireland, and therefore of Europe, its harbor presents advantages which have been recognized by the highest authorities from Oliver Cromwell to the Duke of Wellington. Within a few minutes sail of the ocean, and with the swell of the Atlantic at one's very feet, there is yet room for every steamer in the British navy to anchor in safety, while the angry billows are hurrled against the Titanic cliffs which give to the coast line so bold and menacing an aspect. The Island of Valentia is 6,000 acres in extent. It has three proprietors, of whom the Knight of Kerry is the chief, the others being Trinity College, Dublin, and Colonel Herbert, of Mucdross. The population is about 2,000; but although the Knight is a staunch Protestant, his co religionists do not number more than 150. The harmony of this little community is, however, undisturbed by religious discord. The old priest, who is now between eighty and ninety years of age, has had charge of the parish for half a century, and his watchword has always been "Peace." *The average value of land is about 15 shillings an acre.* Much more of it is used for grazing purposes than for cultivation, the principal article manufactured being butter. Most of the cottages are simply for'd hovels; but there is a considerable number of a better class, and the peasantry have a well-fed comfortable appearance. They owe much to the Knight, who spends nearly the whole of the income he derives from this property in improvements, and in giving employment to the people. He is regarded with a feudal reverence tempered by modern manners. His traditional title gives him no precedence at Court; but his ancient lineage really places him far before the mushroom creations of yesterday. The late Knight who was a *protege* of Lord Castlereagh, and a distinguished politician, being once addressed as "My Lord" by an officious servitor, impatiently replied: "Don't call me lord; I don't wish to be anything of the kind." Perhaps he remembered the Arab proverb—"The dog when he has money must be called 'My lord the dog.'" It is pleasant to be able to reconcile these relics of feudalism with the humanising claims of modern civilisation. It is pleasant also to find that the *Racoon* has been here three months without disovering a single Fenian; and that although yesterday I saw the Fenian flag—the harp and the sun on a ground of green—hoisted on a skiff, this was done more on bravado than in earnest, and proves *by its singularity that this imbecile form of* disloyalty is altogether exceptional in Valentia and the adjacent mainland.

Horrors of Modern Warfare.—The terrible scenes which attend the prosecution of a great war are vividly depicted in the *Standard*. Here is a passage:—"What is a village in the way of an army, or when it might be put to mischievous use by an enemy? What is a farm or a cottage? The flames consume them and the huge absorbing power goes on, devouring capital by millions, human beings by thousands, the wealth stored up from the past, the industry of the present, the expectations of the future. It may not, as a rule, permanently diminish population in Europe, but its effect on the moral and material life of a nation must be terrific nevertheless. Germany has learned the lesson often enough. Victorious or defeated, her nations have never once yet come out of a war as they went in to it. And what do they now seem to be providing for themselves? Wounds and death—endless conscriptions—hunger and disease—devastated lands and ruined habitations—cities in conflagration and fields laid waste—orphan children and childless parents. All domestic habits disturbed—all useful and beneficial pursuits interrupted — commerce paralysed—no social confidence surviving the wreck—every man's plans and employment set aside—fortunes melted out of the hands of those who have possessed them without contributing in the least of their own will to the common calamity: these are the most obvious incidents of such a struggle as that which, deliberately and in the face of all mankind, some of the Powers of Europe seem approaching."

The Hottest Season of the Century.—For full two weeks in the early part of July, New York has resembled a well heated oven. The weather was not mere sultry and oppressive, it had the attribute of a sirocco heat; the earth, under foot, as it were iron, and the heavens brass. Thermometers were consulted in vain. They were all nearer one hundred than ninety degrees Fahrenheit for ten full days. But they all utterly failed to convey any impression of what the wayfarer on the burning pavement endured, whether on the sunny or shady side of the street. There was hanging around us for several days a feeling of *consuming fire* as if things human could not last it, and as if the earth itself and the things that are thereon were about to be burnt up. Men and women, hard-working and honest of heart, left their work from no idle disposition, but from sheer inability to do their allotted task. The ship-yards were closed for several days. Brick layers threw down their building stuff because the handling of it burnt them. Painters on outer walls dropped from their scaffolding in sheer exhaustion. Women trying to do some marketing for the household dropped helpless, and in not a few cases lifeless, on the sidewalk. The Southern sojourner from Texas and Louisiana complained grievously that in seeking for relief from a summer heat in a Northern climate, he had walked into a furnace. The death record corresponded with all this. During the first week of the heated term, the mortality returns showed a frightful increase. The lower and overcrowded wards of the city naturally suffered most. But no portion of New York or its suburbs escaped from the effects of the visitation. To sum up the record in a word, there has been no such heat experienced in New York within the remembrance of any one living.—*Scottish American Journal.*

The Emperor Napoleon and the Needle Gun:—The *Evenement* tells the following story: The other day the Emperor was explaining, gun in hand, the mechanism of the Prussian musket to the Prince Imperial. Wishing to join practice to theory, the Emperor descended into the private park at St. Cloud, and called a soldier. "Load your musket," said he, "and fire to please these children." (The son of General Espinasse was with the Prince Imperial.) The soldier obeyed, but before he could fire once the Emperor had fired five times. The soldier was struck with astonishment! "Hem!" said the Emperor, "one goes a little quicker with my gun than yours! Would you like one of the same sort?" "Certainly, I should like it sire," said the soldier. "You shall have it," replied his Majesty.

Mortality of New York.—There was a great increase in the number of deaths in New York last week. The whole number was 827—334 more than the previous week, and 167 more than in the corresponding week of last year. Of these about 550 were from acute diarrheal diseases, 50 from sun-stroke and effects of heat, and about 50 from other nervous diseases. Considerably more than half the mortality occurred among children under five years of age. The great increase was in *diarrheal diseases and diseases of* the nervous system, including sun-stroke. The temperature at the beginning and the end of the week was the most unprecedented on record in the city of New York. Cholera had but little to do with the increase of mortality, there being but very few deaths from that disease. The causes operating for increased mortality occurred principally in the poor and over-crowded tenement house districts.

A Wild Girl.—In Hungary, during a recent bear hunt, a very savage she bear had just been mortally wounded, when all at once a young girl, about 12 years of age, rushed out of the thicket and threw herself on the expiring beast, giving utterance to most lamentable cries. With some difficulty this young savage was captured by means of cords and nets. It has been discovered that a peasant woman, some twelve years ago, lost her child, a little girl, on the confines of the Forest, and has never since been able to obtain any tidings of her. A certain Countess Erdeli has taken the girl under her care, and is obliged to feed her with roots, honey and raw meat—the usual food for bears.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, August 27, 1866.

The news received by the Atlantic Telegraph, via New York, during the past week, is not of great importance. It is, for the most part, made up of new reports, and the contradiction of previous ones. The Sensation Press of New York may find this kind of pabulum worth paying for, but to our unsophisticated eyes and ears it reads and sounds extremely worthless. The cost of procuring a cable *telegram is so enormous* as to be quite beyond the means of any provincial weekly newspaper; and we suppose we must take such stuff as comes before us or take none at all; but we regret to think that the worthy Cable will be apt to fall into disrepute with *the great masses of people* who are not influenced by the sensation papers, if it goes on contradicting itself so often as it has done lately, and giving us besides the very trashiest of news. During the American Civil War the United States Associated Press tampered in the most shameful manner with the Telegraph, giving on one day the vaguest, wildest rumours as matters of fact, and contradicting them the next; so that the phrase "as false as a telegram," was nearly passing into a proverb. So long as we depend upon such papers as the New York *Herald* for European news, we must expect to be hoaxed or amused by such tales as will be manufactured, from time to time, for the columns of that singularly fast paper. We must, however, mainly rely, as heretofore, upon the regular mails for correct intelligence.

BY TELEGRAPH.

CABLE DESPATCHES.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

PARIS GOSSIP.

Paris, Aug. 20, p. m.—It is denied, on authority, that the Empress of Mexico, who is here, has threatened that the Emperor Maximilian will abdicate when the French troops are withdrawn from Mexico. It is also stated by authority that her mission to France is to ask for the assistance of the French forces in Mexico, prior to their evacuation of the country, to quell insurgents.

Paris, Aug. 21, a. m.—It is rumoured that a treaty has been made between Russia, Austria and Bavaria.

A report is also current that the Czar of Russia has taken formal steps towards the negotiations of a treaty of alliance between Russia, France, and Austria.

Paris, Aug. 21, p. m.—The statement that France has demanded territorial concessions from Belgium, is untrue. The *Moniteur* of to-day officially gives denial to the report that Napoleon has written to the King of Belgium, and at the same time confirms the report that France will not demand of Belgium the cession of any part of her dominions.

COMMERCIAL.

Breadstuffs easier. Provisions unchanged. Consols 88¾. U. S. 5-20's 70.

EXTENSION OF PRUSSIAN TERRITORIES.

Berlin, Aug. 18.—A bill is under discussion in the Prussian Chambers, which has for its object the annexation to Prussia of the Kingdom of Hanover, the Electorate of Hesse, the Duchy of Nassau, and the City of Frankfort.

Paris, Aug. 18.—The Emperor Napoleon denies having entertained any design of annexing any of the territories of Belgium to France.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

Prague, Aug. 18.—The Peace Congress is in session, and negotiations are making favorable progress. The ratifications of a treaty of peace will, it is expected, be exchanged in ten days.

GREAT BRITAIN.

London, Aug. 18.—There is nothing of importance to report in British politics.

RUMORS FROM PARIS.

London, Aug. 20, noon.—The following despatch has been received from Paris.

"*Paris, Aug. 20.*—The Paris papers keep silent in regard to the rectification of the frontiers of France."

It is rumored here that the Italian Government will soon treat directly with the Pope for the cession of his temporal dominions and the establishment of Rome as the capital of Italy.

NEWS BY THE "ST. DAVID."

New York, Aug. 21, p. m.—By arrival of *St. David* off Father Point, we have the following:—

London papers say it is understood that the United States and Canadian Governments have assented to the formation of an international commission for the purpose of reducing the obstacles in the way of development of the frontier trade of the two countries.

The *Times* says the speech of the King of Prussia has not made a favorable impression in Paris, even among those who most approved his success. The absence of any allusion to France or other foreign powers offends the Parisians.

The London *Observer* has a highly circumstantial account of an alleged Fenian privateer off Faroe Island, capable of a speed of 20 knots, and the appearance of a Clyde built privateer.

A steamer built during the American war, the steamer "Cyclone," detained on suspicion of intention to infringe the neutrality laws between Spain and Chili, had been released and sailed for her destination.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* thinks the French people would hail a war with Prussia with acclamation.

The weather in England was favourable for crops.

Flour was a shade dearer on the 7th.

Wheat was firmly held at full rates.

Corn was in good demand at 26s. 6d., for mixed.

NEWS BY THE "PERSIA."

New York, Aug. 22nd, p. m.

Persia arrived, and brings following items of news—remainder of the news anticipated per cable:—

The steamer *Sumter* has been turned into a cattle boat.

French papers contain China despatches of June 28th, stating that the rebels had been dispersed, their encampments burned, and their leader killed.

Napoleon had paid the wife of Maximilian a visit.

The abdication of Maximilian was considered as very probable in Paris at no distant day.

The Christians in Candia had risen against the Turkish authorities.

Gold 148.

THE UNION DELEGATION.

The following authorized *statement* of facts and circumstances, from the Halifax *Colonist*, will be read with interest.

"We are authorized to state that on the arrival of the 'Cuba' in the Mersey, a telegram was received from the Right Honorable, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, inquiring the names of the Delegates; and that, on Saturday, they received at Liverpool information that His Lordship would receive them at 3 p. m., on Monday the 30th. At the interview, which took place at the Colonial Office on that day, the Secretary of State, after discussing the whole subject fully with the Delegates, expressed his great regret that the Delegation had not been accompanied by the representatives of the Canadian Government, and that His Lordship stated that he would at once send a telegram by the Cable to Lord Monck, to ascertain whether they were on board the Canadian steamer about to arrive, before deciding that it would be impossible to pass the required Imperial Act during the present Session. On the 31st Earl Carnarvon informed the Delegates that as he had received no reply to his telegram to the Governor General, and that as there was no intelligence of the Canadian Delegates having passed Londonderry, he would be compelled to abandon the hope of taking action the present Session on the subject of Confederation, and would have to reply to that effect in the House of Lords on that evening, *where the Delegates were invited* to be present. Lord Lyveden, in asking the intentions of the Government, expressed the opinion that on a question of such importance Parliament would be disposed to act even at the close of the Session.

"The Earl of Carnarvon explained that the absence of the Canadian Delegates would prevent the taking immediate action, but stated that he expected them to arrive immediately, and that the Imperial Government would at once arrange the whole matter with the Delegates from the Provinces. The Marquis of Normanby stated that there were opponents to the measure in Nova Scotia, but he said 'I do not concur in their views, for I think that the Union of the North American Colonies is essentially necessary.'

"We give below the report of the debate in the House of Lords, and the comments of the *Times* thereon. Lord Derby had previously referred to the proposed Confederation in the House of Lords in terms of the warmest approval. The Colonial Secretary had, immediately on assuming office, sent a despatch to Lord Monck, expressing his desire that the representatives of the Colonies should lose no time in perfecting the requisite arrangements; and there is no doubt but that, at an early day, this great question will be so matured by the Delegates from the Provinces and the Imperial Government, as to become law immediately after the next meeting of the Imperial Parliament. Throughout Great Britain all look upon this measure as not only fraught with the highest advantage to the Colonies, but as being essential to the preservation to the Crown of one of the brightest jewels of the Empire. The Delegates will now have ample time to review carefully all the details of this important work, and, we trust, will be enabled to arrive at conclusions which will render it not only eminently successful to promote the advancement of the Colonies, but also render it highly popular with all classes of the people. There can now be no room to doubt the early and final consummation of this wonderful advance in the position of British North America, which, under the fostering care of the Imperial Government, will doubtless expand into a prosperous and powerful country.

FENIANISM IN THE STATES.

Sweeney's plan for the next Fenian raid is thus given in the Montreal *Gazette* of the 14th instant:—

"We have it from reliable authority that, on Friday last, Sweeney and a number of other persons were holding a conversation at St. Alban's—Governor Smith of Vermont was present—when Sweeney remarked that if influence could be brought to bear on President Johnson so that the arms and ammunition seized by the U. S. Government should be given up to the Fenian organization, and if no further arrests were made, they would take Canada before the cold weather arrived. Sweeney also went on to say, that if they did not succeed with President Johnson, there would be no raid this Fall, but they knew the Republican party were all in their favour—*that the first raid was only a feint* to try what force the Canadian Government could bring against them. It is so far successful, as it showed that the available force of men on the Canadian side was below what was stated. The arms which had been seized had all been moved forward near the frontier, and if given up would be in a convenient position for use. Such is reported to be the general opinion, and the modest way he interlards the whole is worthy of remark. We are further informed that a Canadian, lately returned from haying at Fairfield, reported that he had seen three guns in a barn, which were placed in the mow, but were removed into the open part of the barn when the hay was put in. He was also assured by different people that there were guns in three other barns in that vicinity. They were described as 'nice pieces.'"

The Washington Navy Department has received from Commander Cooper, of the U. S. steamer *Winooski*, a report dated "Off Picton Island, N. S., July 12, 1866," communicating matters in reference to the fisheries. He communicates the *instructions issued by Sir James Hope with reference* to the granting of licences to American fishermen from which we quote the following:—

"The late period of the season at which this system of granting licenses has been achieved will lead to many vessels having proceeded to the fishing grounds without having had the opportunity afforded of procuring them. You are therefore not to interfere with any vessels fishing within British waters without a license prior to the 1st of August next, provided the masters sign an obligation to obtain a license on or before the day above named, and they are to be acquainted with the reason for which I have granted them this indulgence.

In an article on "International Courtesies," we find the following in the *Scottish American Journal*:—

"It has been the special pleasure of the British naval and military authorities in the Provinces to show respect and courtesy to American officers of either service, visiting them on private or official business. Just as we are writing, there comes the report of the American naval officer recently commanding on the Fishing station at Magdalen Islands. This officer not only reports favorably on the *large number of fishing licenses that have been taken out by American vessels, and upon the general good feeling prevailing*, but he praises in the highest terms the good offices rendered to him by Admiral Sir James Hope at Halifax, who, it appears, put his naval supplies freely at the use of the American officer. No diplomatic service could accomplish half as much for peace and a good understanding as these courtesies, and it is exceedingly appropriate that they should be shown at this particular crisis."

It is stated that General Doyle—who arrived here on the 18th inst., from Halifax—brought with him the handsome sum of $120, being the proceeds of a Concert given in Halifax, by the Band of the 4th Regt., in aid of the sufferers by the late fire in this City.

The *Patriot* of Saturday makes another appeal to the bigotry of its least intelligent patrons with the view of exciting animosity between Protestants and Catholics at the forthcoming general election. It informs the public that the Catholic Priesthood are banded together to return Confederate candidates, and that "Father Angus" especially—(meaning, we suppose, the Rev. Rector of St. Dunstan's College)—"has taken the field in favour of Mr. Whelan." In view of this dreadful combination, "Protestant Conservatives" are implored "to be up and doing"—that is, to begin a row with their Catholic fellow Colonists. We hope the unchristian advice will be passed aside with contempt; we feel assured it will make no impression on the minds of intelligent Protestants anywhere. As to the combination referred to, *the writer for the Patriot* knows very well it has no existence beyond his own false and mischievous mind. It is the first time we have heard that "the Priesthood," generally throughout the Island, favour Confederation. We do not believe they do; and we are pretty certain the Catholic people generally do not favour Confederation, so that a combination amongst the clergy to force an unpopular measure upon their people would be a sheer, mad absurdity. As for the story about the Reverend Rector of St. Dunstan's having "taken the field for Mr. Whelan," we assure our readers that it is not true. Such distinguished service was neither proffered to, nor solicited by Mr. Whelan, whose election must, as heretofore, depend upon his own merits. The *Patriot* has just aroused itself to a knowledge of the fact that Mr. Whelan cannot be unseated, notwithstanding all the wild threats about putting him out of the House of Assembly; and the disappointed editor, gnashing his teeth in anger, resorts to falsehood in order to cover his disappointment: which he evidently craves to see the whole Colony once more plunged in religious turmoil. The popularity of the Conservative party must be very low, indeed, when the most disreputable means are thus resorted to on its behalf. It seems it is not at all safe to try the Government at the hustings on the merits of their administration. They got into power by religious strife, and it seems their party hacks are determined to keep them in, if possible, by the same vile agency.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a letter from the Hon. James Warburton, commenting on the Hon. W. H. Pope's letter, recently published in this paper, on the subject of our Military Defences. Want of space alone prevents us from publishing the letter in this No., but we shall cheerfully give it in our next.

A letter from Mr. J. H. Fitzgerald on the cultivation of Flax, is also deferred for want of space. It will appear, if possible, next week.

Debates.—We are glad to be able to inform our readers that with our next No. we shall conclude the publication of the parliamentary debates, when we give in an extra sheet whatever *portion* of them our *regular* issue may not be sufficient to contain. They have been very wearisome reading to most of our readers, no doubt—to ourselves they have been so,—and we have earnestly tried to get at the end of them by devoting a large space every week to their insertion. We have published now a very much greater amount of House of Assembly debates than Mr. Laird of the *Patriot* published last year, when he had the contract for reporting and printing, and he did not finish his work until far into the winter. As soon as we get rid of the tiresome, verbose stuff, we shall enliven our columns with choice literary extracts, and with more original matter, we hope, than we have been able to give for some time.

Concert by the Band of the 4th Regt.—A very brilliant Musical Entertainment was given at the Temperance Hall on Tuesday *evening* last, by the splendid Band of the Fourth Regiment. The Hall was filled to its utmost capacity by an audience rarely equalled for numbers and respectability. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor and Lady, and His Excellency Major General Doyle, graced the occasion; his Worship the Mayor of the City, and his family, the officers of the civil service, and the officers of the Garrison, of course, were also present. The performance lasted from half-past seven until eleven o'clock, and was listened to with rapture, and certainly without the least approach to weariness on the part of the audience. The proceeds of the Entertainment, we understand, the amount of which we have not ascertained, will be added to the Fund for the relief of the fire sufferers.

Musical Treat.—Through the politeness of Major Paton and the Officers of the King's Own Royals stationed here, the fine Band of that Regiment favoured the public with an exquisite musical treat on Saturday afternoon last, on Hillsborough Square. His Worship the Mayor notified his fellow citizens, by means of printed bills, that the band would play during the afternoon mentioned. The notice had only an hour or two for circulation before the time appointed for the coming of the Band, but notwithstanding the shortness of the notice, the Square and precincts were crowded with a very large audience, amongst whom we noticed His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, His Excellency Major General Doyle, His Worship the Mayor, the Officers of the Garrison, &c., &c. The beauty and fashion of the City were largely represented on the occasion, and classes neither beautiful nor fashionable had numerous representatives as well. The playing commenced at a little after three o'clock, and was kept up with slight intermissions until six. It were needless to attempt to describe the music, even if we had the power to do so; let it suffice to say that it was all that could be desired by our fellow citizens, and much more than they expected.

The Theatrical Performances by the officers of the King's Own Royals at the Temperance Hall on Friday evening last were, we believe, fully worthy of the stunning patronage accorded to them. The Hall was crowded almost to suffocation, and the interest of the audience was not suffered to flag for a moment until the programme had been fully gone through at about 11 o'clock. The Band of the Fourth Regt. added largely to the attractions of the whole entertainment. The funds derived from it are to be applied towards the relief of the poorer fire sufferers, who will, no doubt, be long grateful to the generous officers of the Garrison for their exertions in the cause of charity.

The Band of the Fourth Regiment will give a Farewell Concert on Wednesday evening next. This is in compliance with the earnest request of many of our fellow citizens, who desire this forthcoming Concert to be for the benefit of the Band, who have entitled themselves to the respect and gratitude of the people of Charlottetown. We need not bespeak a full House. The misfortune is, that the Temperance Hall is not large enough to accommodate one half of the people who will seek for admission.

Another Fire.—On Saturday last about half past two o'clock a fire was discovered in the old Wesleyan Chapel, close to the Vestry, we understand, and burnt through a large beam and a considerable portion of the floor before it was noticed and put out. How the fire got into a building which is, we believe, entirely out of use, is quite a mystery. One can hardly *suppose that the incendiary* has been again at work, for the time and place selected for the fire do not favour the supposition. We are gratified to learn that no actual trace of an incendiary, such as a bundle of inflammable materials, has been discovered, and for the present we must conclude that the fire was altogether accidental, caused, perhaps, by the careless lighting of a lucifer match by some person in the building, where there was a lot of shavings that would easily take fire.

A QUESTION FROM ST. PETER'S.

To the Hon. E. Whelan, M. P. P.

Sir:—

Amongst the numerous discussions we have in this quarter respecting your merits and demerits as one of our representatives, you may be sure that there is a very large share of falsehood scattered amongst the truth. I always do my best to uphold *the latter*, as I ever will, and to confute the former; and I am glad to know there are hundreds here who do the same. Your friends here, Sir, are as numerous as ever they were, and that the next Election will prove; for we don't believe that your opinions on Confederation—which many of us, to tell the truth, do not fully understand—will either hasten or keep back that measure. However, it is not to write about that vexed question that *I have taken up my pen.* In one of our disputes the other day, while one of your old opponents was doing the best he could to damage you, he asserted that your claim to be the first introducer of the free elective franchise bill, *which you spoke about to us this summer* as well as on former occasions, was an unjust claim; but, on the contrary, that the merit of introducing the measure to the House belonged to the Hon. Mr. Coles. Now, your friends think that this question might be easily and finally settled by reference to the House of Assembly journals; and if Mr. Coles did first introduce the Franchise Bill, and *not you*, Sir, we should know it. Will you do us the favour to give us some information on this point, and give it to us through the columns of the *Examiner*, where all may see it?

Believe me I have great pleasure in subscribing myself

A CONSTANT SUPPORTER.

Morell, Aug. 25, 1866.

ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING.

My good friend is, I am afraid, a little too sensitive about my political reputation, whatever it may be worth. But the information he asks is easily given, and as it involves a question of veracity between my opponents and my real friends, as well as myself, I give it without hesitation. The Liberal Party came into power in April, 1851. Before the Session closed, in that year, I moved for a Committee—as may be seen by reference to the House of Assembly Journal, page 73—"to prepare and *bring in a* Bill, next Session, to alter and amend the law of election, with the view of extending the elective franchise in towns, royalties, and counties of this Island."

Accordingly, as Chairman of the Committee, with the able assistance of the Law Clerk, I prepared and introduced the Bill on the 4th February, 1852, as the following record clearly proves:—

"The Hon. Mr. Whelan, from the Special Committee appointed in the last Session to prepare and bring in a Bill this Session, to alter and amend the law of election, with the view of extending the elective franchise, presented to the House a Bill, as prepared by the Committee, to alter the qualifications of electors in the Towns and Counties of this Island; and the same was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Friday next."—*Journal* 1852, p. 28.

The Bill was passed through all its stages in the House, and was carried by me to the Legislative Council for their concurrence. That honorable body, not being prepared for such a liberal extension of the people's liberties—rejected the Bill—one member of the Government, the late Capt. Rice, having voted against it, in consequence of which he resigned his place in the Government as soon as he learned that all the members of the Administration in the lower House had supported the measure, and that, in fact, it was recognized there as a Government measure.

In the next Session (1853), some new life having been infused in the meantime into the Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. Coles presented to the House a copy of my Bill, or very nearly a copy of the Bill, without *any* alteration as to the principle; and I regret to state that Mr. Coles did very strangely forget to apprise me of his intention to assume the paternity of the measure previously to its introduction in 1853. But that is of no consequence now. We carried the Bill by all our party helping each other. I wrote in favour of it in this journal, and spoke in support of it in the House, and voted for it there, in 1853, with as much zeal as I used in the previous Session, when, as the parliamentary record proves, the matter originated entirely with me.

I may take this opportunity of saying to all my constituents that I am quite well aware there is a large amount of misrepresentation used against me in town and country. It will afford me some gratification to explain away, as I well can, every atom of misrepresentation when brought under my notice, as has been done in the foregoing instance. I will take an early opportunity of revisiting the District, when, in free discourses, I will endeavour to describe more fully than I have yet done the past policy of the Liberal Party, the causes of its failure, and the present state and future prospects of our political affairs. In the meantime I beg my constituents to believe that I am still their faithful friend,

EDWARD WHELAN.

Charlottetown, Aug. 27, 1866.

P. S. For my views on Confederation, in reference to which I am made the victim of the grossest misrepresentation, I refer my constituents to a speech of mine in this week's *Examiner*, which only came under my notice in the printed proof-sheets for this paper, and of which I did not write a line nor suggest a line to the Reporter.

E. W.

We understand that the President and Committee of the Charlottetown Reading Room have made arrangements to procure Daily Telegrams of the latest European, American, and Colonial News.—*Pat.*