European News.

[From the News of the World, January, 17.]

The inquiries which were current some two or three weeks since respecting the negotiations between our own Government and that of the United States may now receive an authorative answer. A Convention was signed on Thursday by Lord Clarendon and Mr. Reverdy Johnson upon almost precisely the terms agreed upon between Lord Stanley and the American Minister. Lord Clarendon took up the conduct of the negotiation with the Government of the United States precisely as it was left by Lord Stanley. On the other side, Mr. Seward has accepted and approved the negotiations completed by the United States Minister. The agreement to refer the original causes of complaint to the arbitration of a competent and independent Power, and the character of the mixed Commission which will be charged with special inquiries when the first principles of obligation have been examined and defined, remain the same. Nothing has been altered, save some practical arrangements involving nothing which can give rise to a difference of opinion. The Convention thus definitely settled will in due course be submitted to the Parliament of England and the Senate of the United States. The differences between the present Convention and the first form of it involve, as we have said, no material change. Some modifications in procedure have been made at the suggestion of the American Secretary of State, and occasion has also been taken by our Minister to get some details made clearer than they were in the first instance. The dispute about the dominion over San Juan has also been referred, and the principle of liability in respect of what are called the Alabama claims has been referred to arbitration. The composition of a mixed Commission, and its forms of procedure, have been defined.

It is stated that the relations between the French Cabinet and the Provisional Government of Spain are not of the best; and that the Provisional Government has protested against the plots which are being hatched in France, and has gone so far as to threaten a corps of observation on the frontier of the Pyrenees.

MADRID, FRIDAY NIGHT.—The candidature of Prince Amadeus is violently attacked by the press. The *Novedades*, formerly the organ of the Progressist party, pronounces in favour of the Duke de Montpensier.

A large meeting of Republicans was held yesterday for the avowed purpose of definitely settling the candidates to the Cortes. Public tranquility prevails in the capital and the provinces.

The *Imparcial* of to-day asserts that the Government has negotiated a loan of one milliard of reals with an English firm.; the basis of the arrangement have been agreed upon, and the contract will be signed as soon as the result of the elections is known. Signor Zorilla has issued a decree authorising the Provincial Deputations and municipalities to establish public schools where students may obtain the same degrees as at the universities.

PARIS, FRIDAY EVENING.—The *Gaulois* of this evening says:—"It is time to announce that the candidate for the Spanish throne who has the most probable chance of success is the Duke d'Aosta, who, if elected, will renounce all his rights to the crown of Italy."

According to official news received, all the volunteers remaining in Crete, including Petropoulaki's son and several Cretan leaders who had surrendered, will leave the island on board a French vessel, in order to return to Greece. The insurrection is considered at an end.

PARIS, SATURDAY, JAN. 16.—The official journal of to-day states that the fourth meeting of the Conference took place yesterday. The fifth sitting took place to-day.

The *Constitutionnel* confirms that the deliberations of yesterday's sitting or the Conference, which lasted three hours, took a decisive turn of a most satisfactory character. Considerable progress was made towards the wished-for solution, although the substance and form of the final settlement were not unanimously agreed upon. The paper adds:—"To all appearance, therefore, to-day's sitting will be the last, and the Plenipotentiaries will have accomplished their task of conciliation which all Europe will welcome with unqualified satisfaction."

VIENNA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 16.—The *Tagblatt* of to-day publishes a private telegram, according to which the Conference will limit its work to the expression of a wish that the Greco-Turkish conflict may not endanger peace in the East and perhaps also a collective note will be sent to this effect to Constantinople and Athens.

PARIS, SATURDAY AFTERNOON.—An Imperial decree, dated the 30th ult., ratifies on the part of France the international declaration recently signed at St. Petersburg, according to which certain kinds of explosive bullets shall not be used in future warfare.

MADRID, SATURDAY, JAN. 16.—The elections to the Cortes commenced yesterday morning in several election districts. There was little excitement. The party in favour of a Monarchy to be established on a broad Democratic basis have obtained a large majority at the election of the members of the bureaux.

HORRIBLE MASSACRE.

THE KILLING OF WHITE WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY THE NATIVES OF NEW ZEALAND AT POVERTY BAY.

(From the New Zealand Herald, Nov. 14)

Never has it fallen to our lot to chronicle a more painful, a more disastrous event than happened on Tuesday morning last at Matawhero, near Turanganui, in Poverty Bay. Tales of bloodshed, rapine, and violence have lately become so rife that it is no common event which could produce the startling effects which the news received yesterday by the steamer Lord Ashler has done; but an attack of such an unprovoked nature upon a peaceful settlement, the wholesale night massacre of men, women, and children, surprised in their sleep, butchered in cold blood, with such horrible accompaniment of cruelty and treachery, has perhaps not been equalled since some of the worst episodes in the Sepoy mutiny in Bengal curdled the blood of Europe with their unheard-of atrocities. Every week seems to add to the catalogue of crimes with which the name of Hauhauism is associated, and their last deed seems to exceed in horror anything they have hitherto done. Gaining in confidence by their successes in various quarters, they seem fairly to have commenced their plan of attempted extermination, and a few more nights' work like that of Tuesday last will place the East coast at their entire disposal. From the lips of a lady who providentially escaped from the midst of fire and sword, and arrived in Auckland, by the Lord Ashler yesterday morning, we have heard the harrowing particulars of this blood-stained story—a red day forever in the annals of the colony. The settlement attacked is called Matawharo, and is situated about six miles above Turanganui, the port for the settlers of the district, and the spot where Captain Cook first landed in New Zealand.

Although no immediate danger was apprehended, a party of scouts had been for some time patrolling around the outskirts of the settlement, all picked men, and under the command of Mr. Gascoigne. Around and beyond the settlement were several sheep stations, as far as Wharngahida upon which were living those in charge of them with stock-keepers, &c. Captain Bloomfield's house and that of Major Biggs were a few minutes' walk apart, and were situated at Matawhero. Captain Bloomfield but lately died, and his widow was residing in the house with her four children, a sister, and Miss Parker, who, with a little brother, was on a visit, and a boy servant. About 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning a boy named Charlie James, a servant a Major Briggs' house, came to Mrs. Bloomfield's house breathless, and woke up the boy, telling him that the Hauhaus were attacking Major Briggs' house, and murdering the family, and that Major Biggs was killed. The whole household was at once aroused, and the three ladies, not having time to dress, wrapped a few shawls and cloaks around themselves and the children, and leaving the house, fled for their lives across the flats in the direction of Turanganui, accompanied by the two boys. On looking back after leaving their home, the house of Mr. Wilson, distant five minutes' walk, was observed to be on fire. After more than an hour of exposure and great exertion, the party arrived at the redoubt at Turanganui about 5 a. m., and were the first to convey the dreadful news to the people there, who had only heard some firing, and did not know any particulars of what was going on.

Shortly after the arrival of Mrs. Bloomfield and party at the Redoubt, parties of refugees began to drop in, each of them having escaped by a marvel, and all with some tale of horror to relate.

The boy Charles James thus relates the attack upon the house of Major Biggs. He says that about 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning the Major was awakened by a noise outside the house, and imagining it to be caused by the return of some of the scouts, went outside and asked who was there; the reply was a volley from the wretched savages, by which, however, the Major was only wounded. He immediately cried out to awaken his family, and told them to run for their lives, as the house was attacked by the Hauhaus The boy Charlie at once ran to the front of the house but found natives there, he then tried the back a d found that blockaded also, and finally he managed to elude the vigilence of the natives by crawling underneath the verandah boards, and concealing himself in some flax in the immediate neighborhood of the house, whence he had a view of the entire proceedings of all parties. On looking back he saw that the Hauhaus had got into the kitchen, and were lighting the fire, and eating food they had discovered; poor Major Biggs was laid upon the ground outside, and one of the fiends was beating out his brains with the butt end of a musket. Mrs. Biggs was held in the arms of others of these brutes, screaming to be allowed to go to her husband, and struggling to escape, and Jane Farrell the nurse, whose husband was wounded on a former engagement at Napier, and whose parents reside in this city, was holding the baby, an infant of seven months old, and was heard to say that she would stay with Mrs. Biggs, and would live or die with her. The whole family were afterwards seen killed and lying on the ground outside. The boy, Charlie James, after witnessing the frightful scene, fled towards Mrs. Bloomfields house, and in passing that of Mr. Wilson, heard the doors being battered in and volleys fired, and shortly afterwards saw flames breaking out of the windows. He states that the yard around Mr. Biggs' residence was full of Moors, and that they seemed to be very numerous in the immediate neighboorhood. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and their four children were afterwards seen dead.

A little boy, a brother of Mrs. McCulloch, aged eleven years, arrived at Turanganui on the afternoon of Tuesday, accompanied by Mrs James and her six children, who had made her escape from Mr. Goldsmith's through the scrub The little boy says that whilst Mr. McCulloch was getting in the cows to milk in the early morning, he was surprised and chased by the Hauhaus He fled towards his house, and his family hearing the alarm rushed out and endeavoured to escape. Mrs. McCulloch's little brother ran ahead of the others, and relates that on looking back he saw his sister following him, and he beckoned to her to hurry on. Shots were then being fired in rapid succession, and in reply to his signals she shook her head and fell. Mr and Mrs. McCulloch, and a niece, aged seven years were all victims to the attack. Goldsmith, a stockman on Captain Reed's station, heard firing at an early hour on Tuesday morning in the direction of Mr Mann's house, and, saddling a horse at once galloped off to the spot. Coming suddenly upon the house, he beheld a most dreadful spectacle. The Hauhau demons were dragging Mrs Mann out of the door by the hair of the head, and striking her and upon getting her outside they were proceeding to set fire to her clothes, when some of them, catching sight of Goldsmith, made a spring at the bridle of his horse. Goldsmith, however, being an excellent rider, put spurs to his horse and rode right over one of the wretches He was hotly pursued by a number of them, but fortunately their firearms were not loaded and he effected his escape into the redoubt. Mr and Mrs. Mann and their child were all killed.

About five o'clock on the fatal morning a man servant in the employ of Mrs Bloomfield awoke, and on going out of his hut which was some little distance from any house, he saw some natives retreating from Walsh's house Thinking that all was not right he went to Mrs Bloomfield's house, and found the family gone; he went to Walsh's house and there he found Mrs. Walsh lying dead outside; beside her lay her infant child, two months old; the poor little creature was shot through the head, but life was not extinct and it was still meaning. After leaving Walsh's house the witness to these awful atrocities went to Makaraka, and having packed up a few valuables, went down to the redoubt at Turanganui.

A large number of settlers have, it is believed escaped in the direction of Walroa The direction whence the Hauhaus came is quite unknown, and it is a matter of great doubt as to what route they took after their work of destruction was completed. On Tuesday night, however, the whole of the settlement of Matawhero was seen to be in flames It is therefore probable that they were still in the neighborhood. The redoubt at Turanganui contained some friendly natives and a few military settlers, all armed.

The losses sustained by station holders and settlers by this bloody foray will be most extensive.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

London, Feb 2.

It is understood that the Ministry, in the forthcoming Budget, will reduce the army and navy estimates one million sterling each.

Madrid, Feb 2

It is probable that Marshal Prim, Gen. Serrano and Senor Rivero will constitute the proposed directory. All those opposed to a monarchy base their hopes on the permanence of the directory when once established.

Reinforcement to the number of 5,000 men sailed last week for Havana.

London, Feb 4, eve.

The appeal recently made in the case of Costello, an American citizen convicted of complicity in the Fenian revolt, has been denied.

London, Feb. 5

There was a large meeting here last night in favor of granting an amnesty to the Fenian Prisoners.

Madrid, Feb. 4.

Bands of Carlists have made their appearance in Catalonia. They came from the valley of Audona, and seek to produce a rising against the Provisional Government Troops have been sent out to disperse them.

The press of the city, fearing civil war, urge the Government to take active measures, and the people unite against the reactionary party.

London, Feb 4.

Latest despatches announce the probable adherence of Greece to the Protocol of the Paris Conference.

Madrid, Feb. 5.

Espartero has refused to accept the seat in the Spanish Cortes to which he was recently elected.

London, Feb 5.

The powers participating in the Paris Conference have granted a brief space of time for Greece to decide on their proposals.

King George has returned to Athens, and is engaged in forming a new Cabinet. He finds great difficulty in completing the ministry, owing to the hostility of Greeks to the Conference. Great excitement prevails at Athens.

M. Bulgaris, the retiring Prime Minister is immensely popular, and extensive demonstrations of sympathy are made in his favor by the citizens.

Paris Feb 6

The Marquis Moustier, late French Minister of Foreign affairs, died yesterday.

Despatches from Algeria announce that the insurgents have met the Troops and after a brief engagement were routed and dispersed.

The Bullion in the Bank of France has increased 9,800,000 francs.

Madrid, Feb 6.

Advices announce that the Provisional Government will present to the Constitutional Cortez the draft and Constitution embracing the clause prohibiting slavery in all the possessions. It will be left to the Cortez to decide as to the method of freeing the slaves.

London, Feb. 5.

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Paris, Feb 6

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London, Feb. 5

Espartero has refused to accept the seat in the Spanish Cortes, to which he was recently elected.

London, Feb 7.

The Pope has forbidden the Prelates recently elected in Spain to take seats in the Cortes

Benjamin Lee Guinness, M. P. for Dublin, has been unseated

FROM THE STATES

New York, Feb. 5.

The reports from the Cuban insurrection are very contradictory. Some of the letters from Havana state that the revolutionists are hopeful, and that the feeling against Spanish rule grows stronger daily, and that demonstrations have been made at several places where the rebels had previously received no encouragement whatever.

The officials say that hundreds of the rebels are surrendering. They predict that the troubles will soon be at an end.

FROM CANADA.

Ottawa, Feb. 2.

A cable despatch has been received from England stating that Whelan's appeal case could not be taken before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. When the information was conveyed to Whelan to-day, he at once sent for a priest, and it is expected that he will make a confession.

Montreal, Feb. 3.

In the course of his speech, last night, the Governor General expressed his satisfaction that the cloud of misapprehension that had hung over Nova Scotia was clearing away, and gave his assurance that every ground of grievance would be removed that could be removed with justice to the other Provinces.

The 'Daily News' this morning publishes the entire correspondence between Howe, McLellan and the Dominion.

Whalen, when told of the result of Cameron's exertions, replied that he supposed as much, viz: that he would be unsuccessful. Since then he has become fitful and morose He has changed his Confessor, and is now attended by Rev. Mr. O'Connor, the Bishop's Secretary.

A heavy fall of snow is just now being experienced.

Montreal, Feb. 5.

The Parliament of Quebec has been adjourned for ten days. The reasons assigned for so doing are that Sir G. E. Cartier is absent, that Mr. Dunkin is seriously ill, and, therefore, unable to make his financial statement, and the printing of Bills and other documents have been unavoidably delayed.

Several persons known to be Fenians have suddenly left for the States, fearing, no doubt, the confession of Whelan may materially affect them

A petition is in course of signature in Montreal and Quebec, asking the Governor to reprieve Whelan.

It is said that the Governor General has given his opinion that Montreal should be the seat of Government, and that he will use his influence to have it removed to this place.

The Governor General, Sir John Young, and Mr. Howland, Lieut. Gov. of Ontario, dined at St. Jame's Club to-night. They leave for their respective homes to-morrow morning.

No lives were lost by the accident of St. Patrick's Hall on Wednesday night. It is feared the walls will have to be taken down.

Montreal, Jan. 4.

The roof of the new St. Patrick's Hall fell in last night. A concert and Ball were going on at the time. About 2000 persons were present. About 12 o'clock, while the company were engaged in a waltz, they were startled by a short sharp crack as of a pistol shot in the roof, directly over their heads. Not much notice was taken of this till a few minutes after, when a second report was heard, louder than the first, and pieces of plaster began to fall. A panic now seized the people, and a rush was made towards the stairs. The excellent facilities for egress which the hall afforded in the two wide flights of stairs leading out upon Craig Street and Victoria Square, allowed the room to be cleared in a surprisingly short space of time, and without much difficulty, else a number of lives must have been lost The flight of the company was hastened by the increased noise of the breaking roof, and hardly had the room been cleared when the entire roof fell in with a tremendous crash. About thirty persons were injured, some seriously, and five are reported killed. An examination of the ruins this morning, shows the two upper flats of the building to be almost a complete wreck The great weight of the roof, falling from such a height caused it to break through portions of the hall floor into the rooms beneath. Indeed the whole length of the flight of stairs on the side of the Victoria Square is covered with rubbish and a large mass of timber having broken through the floor hang threateningly over the landing, looking as though the slightest movement would participate it into the shops below.

What was last night the hall, presents now an indescribable scene of wreck and confusion. The long and heavy iron girders, cornices, mouldings and wood work are all thrown together with seats, gasaliers and paraphernalia of the ball room, while the statue of St Patrick lies prostrate amid the ruins, having fallen inside.

We can only contemplate with a shudder the terrible catastrophe that would have occurred had the roof fallen in without the premonitory cracking sound which warned the people to escape. It appears impossible that any could have escaped with life.

Montreal, Feb 4.

The Governor-General this afternoon visited various public buildings and institutions, including the Geological Survey. To-night he attended a grand ball at Gen Windham's.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and lady visited the St. Lawrence Glass Works this afternoon, and took much interest in the various processes of the manufacture of glass. They were afterward entertained at a collation by the directors.

The damage by the fall of the roof of the St Patricks Hall is estimated at twenty-five thousand dollars. Four architects have been appointed to enquire into the cause of the accident.

The snow storm continues unabated Over two feet of snow has fallen.

Halifax, Feb. 5.

Political news is of no great importance

Mr Northup's resignation of membership of Repeal League, and acceptance of the situation has created considerable excitement.

In well informed circles it is pretty generally believed Repeal is played out, and that Annexaton will be the last and only game left for repealers to play

A pamphlet has been published here in favor of Annexation, supposed to be written by renegade Styles, of Washington. It alludes to the Local Government organs as assisting in the good work.

It is reported that John Young, Esq, the father-in-law of the Hon A J Smith, of New Brunswick, has been waited on to run the County of Hants in opposition to Howe. His decision is not yet known.

Howe has not yet arrived. His coming is anxiously looked for by all parties. Unionists are especially keen to hear from his own lips the future policy he intends to adopt, whilst repealers long to express their chagrin in vituperation and abuse upon his devoted head.

Montreal, Feb. 6.

The Governor-General left this morning for Ottawa, accompanied by Lieut-Governor Howland, Sir Henry Havelock and others.

Another roof of a house in Notre Dame Street fell this morning, smashing its way through four floors to the cellar. Fortunately the house was unoccupied, the owners having refused a rent of £300 per annum for it. The damage done was very great.

Great fault is found with the management of the late banquet to the Governor General and the extreme parsimony which characterized it. In the Council last night the Mayor said he would never act with one member of the committee again. To his disgust they refused to invite Colonel Duchesnay, Provincial A.D.C. Turville, the Governor's Private Secretary, and the Delegation from the Quebec Legislature. A public meeting to denounce the meanness of the committee is spoken of.

Twenty men of the Montreal Government Police have gone up to Ottawa, to be present at the execution of Whelan.

Monday, Feb. 8th.

The Governor General left this morning for Ottawa, and Lieut. Governor Howland for Toronto. The Governor General expressed his opinion that Montreal should be the seat of Government, and he will use his influence to have it brought here.

Several well known Fenians have left Canada for the United States, fearing a revelation by Whelan,

Ottawa, Feb 8

The excitement about the Whelan case is increasing. Certain suspected parties held a meeting in Gloucester, near Ottawa. The police is on the watch; and guards have been doubled around the prison where Whelan is incarcerated.

The Privy Council will take the application for a respite to Whelan into consideration

Ottawa, Feb. 8.

It is thought likely that Whelan's case will be considered to-day by the Privy Council. It is considered unlikely that a respite will be granted. The guards have been doubled since Friday last

Lady McDonald, wife of Sir John A McDonald, gave birth to a daughter early this morning. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

Holloway's Pills.—The variable temperature and damp weather fearfully tell on the human frame, deteriorating the blood and producing morbid results in its reservoir—the lungs. Hence, on all sides we are surrounded by bronchitis, pleurisy, asthma, consumption, all of which might be readily cured by Holloway's never-failing remedies, whose active principle purifies the blood, and causes all morbific matter to be speedily expelled from the body. In cases of indigestion, dimness of sight, headache, mental and physical lassitude, these restorative Pills act as a charm. They expel rheumatism and gout, while they infallibly correct female complaints in young and old, delicate and robust.

It is now generally admitted by honest Physicians, that when once the Consumption is fairly fastened upon the lungs, no human power can save the patient from death. They also say that about fifty per cent of those who die from this disease can trace the cause to a neglected cough or cold which might have been cured by a small bottle of Liquid Opodeldoc, or what is the same thing, *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment*.

Cut this notice out and bring it with you. We are authorized to refund the cash to any person or persons who shall buy and use *Parson's Purgative Pills* and fail of relief and satisfaction.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

REV. DR. McGREGOR'S SECOND LETTER.

To the Editor of the Evening Express.

SIR,—In my former letter, I alluded to the claims of the petitioners for "distinct schools" on the two-fold ground of absolute right *in rerum natura*, and of relative right under a constitution which guarantees liberty of conscience to Christian subjects. In this communication, I will endeavor to demonstrate the propriety of conceding the claim, on the three-fold ground of expediency, of consistency, and of the evils to be averted by modifying our existing legislation. In a future communication, I will notice such of the objections as have been urged, and are relevant to the point at issue. I claim the indulgence of your readers, for not putting my views before them with that vigor and logic, and grace of composition which the subject demands.

It requires little penetration to perceive that the continuance of any law that causes dissatisfaction to a large portion of citizens is a policy the reverse of expedient. It is the manifestation of a desire to provoke endless dissatisfaction; and when, as in the present case, the persons dissatisfied belong extensively to one religious body, it indicates that the spirit of proscription has not ceased to be operative, even after wise and good citizens have agreed to bury sectarian animosity in oblivion. Roman Catholics, so long as they retain their distinctive creed and tenets, can never be contented with the actual school law Agitation will be, must be, their *mot d'ordre*, until it shall have been modified. They can submit only as to the less of two evils, just as one parts with his purse rather than his life to the gentleman of the road, that presents his revolver with a "stand and deliver." Time and repetition cannot overcome a repugnance which is based on a principle that varies not its nature with the contingencies of surrounding circumstances. Refuse their demands in the present Parliament, they will appeal to the next; and each succeeding refusal will simply provoke a recalmation more angry than its predecessor. The Hon. Mr. Flynn's Bill, or some similar measure, the Canadian Bill, if you wish, or the English School Law, will alone allay their discontent. This is a matter which our legislators ought to thoroughly understand; and, then, I ask them are they prepared by sheer brute force to inflict everlasting discontent on a body of men so numerous, and so well inclined, if they be treated with common justice, to stand by the fortunes of our country, and work out her destinies with all the energy of freemen?

They ask to receive the same measure of regard that they receive in the other colonies, and that they have always accorded to their dissenting brethren in this. In Antigonish, for example, the residence of a Bishop, where they are vastly in the majority, they chivalrously granted at the first request the right of a "Distinct School" to the minority; and from personal knowledge I am aware that one individual would not desire to upset the arrangement Schools work harmoniously there; and so far as social intimacy and neighborly feeling are concerned, I am sure that in an public enterprise, it never occurred to one to ask whether his neighbor believes in the total depravity of man, or in the efficacy of invoking the saints. Away with the libellous imputation that the effective inculcation of Christianity produces social discord. The religion that would train man to love God and hate thy neighbor is not worthy of paganism. He who believes the reverse, has yet to learn the alphabet of Christianity. Away also with the legislation that would impose on minorities the anti-social obligation of yielding against their conscience, to the unfeeling mandates of majorities; and this, too, year after year, in a country whose boast is to be free.

Consistency in our laws is desirable. A code defective, in which the enactment of one page conflicts with that of another, in letter or in spirit We have a number of denominational colleges whose status is recognized by law, and whose expenses are paid, in whole or in part, out of the public treasury. The fact is proof that there is nothing in the tenets of the various creeds thereby inculcated, which collides against the civil duties and obligations of good citizens. Much benefit to the Province has beon derived from these same colleges. Nearly all our professional men—some of them endowed with abilities that would do no discredit to any country in the world—have been trained in them. Men, too, they are, whose voice and pen have nobly interfered to allay the sectarian animosity and bigotry, which the less educated classes were sometimes only too ready in their well meaning ignorance to render darkly operative in turning the machinery of our social and political life.

Why not make our laws consistent with themselves? and carry into our lower, the principle which has operated so beneficially in our higher, seminaries of learning? The law, as it stands, involves a hybrid confusion of two opposing elements, European in one portion, and American in another, it is, as the old saw hath it, "neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring." Abolish the discrepancy, say the petitioners, and have regard to the important feature—consistency—in your legislation.

I come now to the last of the arguments I shall urge in favor of "distinct schools;" and, in the very beginning, I enter a protest against the manner it has been alluded to editorially and anonymously, in some portions of the city press. When men, instead of dissecting a claim on its own merits, rush wildly into print, proclaiming aloud that priests are urging a certain measure, and resting their opposition thereto on that fact alone, their action may furnish evidence that they are very uncompromising anti-Catholics; but the public will be slow to suspect them of remarkable proficiency as jurists. If I could not propose my reasons in favor or disfavor of "distinct schools," without inveighing against one or more dissenting denominations, my appearance at all in the press of Nova Scotia would be a most unwarrantable intrusion.

Let us argue the matter reasonably; for however much it is to be regretted that His Holiness has lost the tremendous benefits derivable from the good will of certain provincial writers; let us not regard the very lachrymose fact as having the least bearing on the discussion. The rights of Nova Scotian citizens are the questions at issue. All the uncharitable insinuations thrown out, with more violence than truth, against their history and hierarchy, are simply so many indications of small-minded spleen, that ought not to come directly or indirectly into the controversy.

I maintain that any system of schools, in which the inculcation of some *ism* is not permitted is godless. I teach an academy under the law; and were it not that I teach my religion to my pupils outside of school hours, the performance of my duties as Head Master would terminate to-morrow, and that precisely because my labors, such as they are, would go to promote infidelity. What have been the results of a law, such as ours, in the United States? Gifted writers and acute observers withal tell us that the general character of United States citizens has been moulded by their common schools. We know what that character is. The exclusion of *isms* has been so seriously and rigidly insisted on, that, barring the pupils who have been carefully trained in private institutions of superior standing, men have grown ashamed to utter the name of their Maker outside the churches they semi-occasionly visit of a Sunday's afternoon

Religion, if it is anything, is supernatural, *descendens a Patre luminum*. Deprive it of the supernatural element, and it is a caricature,—you assimilate it to the maxims of the heathen sages. It sounds plausibly to say that a teacher is requested to inculcate modesty, patriotism, &c.; but so did Cato and Cicero without influencing for the better the revelling course of pagan immorality.—Natural religion—what is it but an ethical prescription?—very good, so far as it goes, but entirely insufficient. Our present law permits the teaching of nothing else; give it time enough, and we will see an irreligious populace grow up under its inspiration. It is, in all its plentitude, compatible with socialism and infidelity; to teach the one and the other requires no active process. They will teach themselves to youth who see their instructors approach no nearer the supernatural, than Moses did the land of promise. The poor children will enjoy a very remote view across an impassable barrier; and, on asking, will be refused admittance into the delights beyond. Instead of bread, they will be handed a stone, and cruelly told that school organization does not permit unruly pilferings as gleaning a flower from God's legacy of direct revelation to mankind. Tell a child that it is wrong to ask questions about religion, and you have sent one unsullied soul on the path to infidelity. Teachers, under our law, are left no option. Not even the Divinity of the Saviour can they inculcate; for the simplest deist would rebel. For my part, knowing as I do the inquiring mind most children possess, I confess my inability to perceive how any religion at all can be taught, when each and every article is an *ism*, and *isms* are not to be inculcated. Infidelity is the absence of faith; if you teach no *ism* you teach no faith; and if you teach no faith, you do what they do in the United States, you teach infidelity; and, after 100 years, you will have in Nova Scotia comparatively as many infidels as they have there, and that is more than they have in any other Christian country whatever.

I remain,

D. M. McGREGOR.

Arichat, Jan. 27, 1869.

[*From the St. John Freeman, Feb. 5*]

The New Brunswick papers generally strive to represent the demand for Separate Schools as essentially a Catholic demand. They do this for the purpose of arraying all Protestants who do not give the question much consideration on one side; but such is not the case. Methodists, Presbyterians, and other denominations in Ontario are quite as earnest in demanding Separate Colleges and Schools as the Catholics. Hear for instance the *Christian Guardian*, a Methodist paper published in that Province, commenting on the appropriation for Government House. It says:—

"But John Sandfield's Government ventures a step farther. This model Ministry proposed to give $110,000 for a dwelling house for the Governor. Eight thousand dollars were proposed by this economical Government, for a *stable* for his *horses*. Several thousand dollars were asked, *and granted for a ball room* for the Governor. Now a large, a very large, and a very conscientious proportion of the people, do not approve of ball rooms. So we are to deny money to Christian education, for the sake of giving it to ball rooms. Think of it! Thousands of dollars of public money—of Methodist money—to build a despicable ball room? What business has the Methodist public with a public ball room? We candidly ask a reply from all our subscribers."

In Quebec the Protestants all ask for Separate Schools. One of the very first questions raised in the Quebec Parliament, after the meeting last week, was this The rights of the minority in that Province have always been carefully guarded, and the complaints made seem to have little foundation indeed. Yet Mr. Chauveau stated that the Government will introduce a Bill "with a view to remove not only every grievance, but every semblance of grievance in this matter." A Mr. Robertson said:—

"With regard to education, he was exceedingly glad to hear the statement made by the Premier and the Speaker on behalf of the Protestant people of the Province. He could say that they were anxiously expecting such a measure, and he felt sure, in carrying it out, that the Government would receive the support, not only of the Protestants but of the Catholics as well. (Cheers.)

"Mr. Ogilvie fully endorsed Mr. Robertson's remarks He knew there was a good deal of feeling on the point. He himself had been frequently spoken to on the subject by fathers of families and others. He had told them that it was scarcely possible last session for any satisfactory measure to be matured.—But he expected in coming down this time to have such measures brought in as would obviate this feeling"

In the Legislative Council Mr. Ferrier, a very zealous Protestant, said:—

"The expression in the speech from the Throne that a revision of 'some portions of our School Laws' is to be submitted to the Legislature, he considered the most important announcement of the session; it affected the interests of the minority, and it would be one of the greatest calamities which could occur if the majority should, in any way, endeavour to deprive that minority of its rights under the constitution. (Hear, hear.) He for one could not allow himself to think that the present gentlemen who compose the Government could ever bring down any measure calculated to do an injustice to the minority. (Applause.) He had lived fully eight years in French Lower Canada, and, speaking from experience, he could honestly say that the majority have always respected the institutions of the minority. Relying on the past, he consequently thought that we might look forward with perfect confidence to the future, as to the rights of the minority, under the new order of things, with reference above all to this most important School Law. The gentlemen at the head of the Government are personally disposed, he was perfectly confident, to view these rights with favor, and to do perfect justice to all (Applause) He would add that the minority are as deeply interested in the educational progress of the entire population, as are the majority itself: for, if through insufficient education, the interests of the Province should suffer, the loss must be shared by all alike The hon. gentleman did not speak at any length stating that he was unprepared in fact, to do so, but he could not take his seat without repeating his opinion, that the Government will be prepared at all times to do what is right and proper by the minority, and thus fulfil the duties of the Quebec Legislature in aiding to establish the national character contemplated by the Act of Union."

And so it is wherever Catholics have the majority Where, as in England, they are a powerless minority, the denominational system is also maintained, the dissenting bodies insisting upon having schools of their own.

The *News* misrepresents us when it asserts that.—

"The FREEMAN says, *in substance*, we find that homicides, burglaries arsons rapes and robberies are committed in Ontario. We also find that the system of Common School Education in operation in Ontario does not enforce the teaching of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church We therefore conclude, says the *Freeman*, that this system is responsible for the crimes committed in that Province."

Our objection to the system of Ontario is that it is wholly non-religious—not merely that it is non Catholic, and this the *News*, dull of comprehension as it sometimes is, understands very well. The *News* is grevieously in error when it asserts that prior to the revolution the Catholic Church had in effect the education of the French people in its hands, and that it produced the monsters of the revolution. It is also wrong when it describes the French peasantry of that period as "brutal." The mass of the peasantry then, as now, were remarkable amongst all the people of Europe, for their virtues and their attachment to religion and their country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir;

Some weeks ago, when Mr. Peebles was Gazetted to the Magistracy, you commented upon the appointment, not that that gentleman's qualifications were not quite equal to those of many others whose names are in the Commission, but his appointment was made simply because he deserted the Conservative party, to which he always previously belonged—went all the way to Summerside to vote for Mr. Hensley's nominee, and afterwards joined with Messrs. Coles, Clark, Laird, and others, at *the* Oyster feed, in rejoicing over the success of the Liberal candidate. The *Patriot* was, of course, down upon you for daring to question the propriety of the appointment, and instanced the appointment of Owen Connolly Esq, a well-known Liberal, by the late Conservative Government, as a parallel case. Mr. Connolly was put in the Commission because he was a wealthy, prominent, and leading merchant—well known and respected by everybody in the community, and not because he sacrificed his political principles, and joined in a carousal on the defeat of the party with whom, for more than twenty years, he had been politically associated. The appointment, however, to honor and offices of emolument, of political renegades, as you, Sir very well know, has been the prominent characteristic in the Coles, Hensley Government, since they first came into power. Take, for instance, Summerside and St. Eleanor's, and every office worth having is held by these men. The principal office there is that of Collector of Impost, and who fills it? Why, a son-in-law of a prominent member of the late Conservative Government, who was first given this office by his Conservative friends; and, a little while previous to the General Election, was turned out by the then Government. He then joined the Opposition, and, although they did not succeed in returning a Liberal member for the District, this political turn-coat was considered more entitled to the best appointment in the County than any of the old, well-tried Liberals, who, true to their party, had for years fought the battle. Take, again, the Commissioner of Roads for Summerside and St. Eleanor's; the Commissioner of Roads for the adjoining District; two out of three of the Commissioners of Small Debts for St. Eleanor's; one or two of the Commissioners for Summerside; the same at Bedeque, these are all men of that stamp, to be found in every community, who are quite ready and willing to sacrifice their political friends, and join any party likely to be successful. Take, again, the office of High Sheriff, which should, in every case, be filled by a man of position, character and independence. It may be said that the appointment of Sheriffs is in the hands of the Chief Justice and Governor, and not in the Government. So, under the law, it should be; but whether or not Mr Hensley, being a son in-law of the Chief Justice, has been enabled to exercise an influence in the nomination, I am not prepared to say; but, looking at the way in which that office has been filled in Prince County, it looks very much like as if such were the case. Two years ago, when the General Election came off, Mr Richard Hunt was Deputy Sheriff, having got that appointment at the special request of some of his Conservative friends, at the then election at St Eleanor's, it was said that he acted with great partiality—took an active part in the election, and voted for the Liberal candidates. Soon after this the appointment of Sheriffs was made, and, although Mr. Hunt, at that time, had not any of the requisites, which a man should have to fill that high office, his name figured as High Sheriff of Prince County, no doubt as a reward for his political services. Again, last year—although the spirit and intention of the law now in force, is that a new appointment shall be made each year—Mr. Hunt was again appointed, and I speak assuredly when I say that, some days previously to the appointment being made, he did not hesitate to boast that he had the promise of it. The course pursued by this Sheriff at the late Election at St. Eleanor's was most disgraceful. A Sheriff, by his oath, is sworn to act fairly and impartially; and, it is a notorious fact, that Mr. Sheriff Hunt did, at that time, use his influence with those who were in difficulties, and against whom he held executions, to endeavor to get them, not only to vote, but to canvass and work for the return of Mr. Hensley's friend—that he also held out inducements and bribes to others to vote, is also well known; and that at the election he was one of the most active men in canvassing and urging voters to go to the polls for McMillan, was seen by every body present—in fact he takes to himself the credit of carrying the election—is a most important man, in consequence—influenced and secured the appointment of the present Postmaster General, and fully expects, as I have heard, to be again appointed Sheriff of the County; but when these facts are brought to the notice of Sir Robert Hodgson, the community may rest assured, that no such outrage will be again perpetrated and "Richard will be himself again."

I shall probably trouble you again shortly with a few further remarks on the position now held by Messrs. Hensley, Coles, and the rest of the "able men," in the meantime beg to subscribe myself,

VISOR.

Feb 5, 1869.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 15, 1869.

THE PATRIOT *versus* RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

THE *Patriot* of the 11th inst., says that our leading article of last week was a "curiosity," "one of the purest specimens of twaddle," "a most ingeniously elaborated piece of twaddle," "highly pretentious, too." It says that we make "no attempt at reasoning." The "reasoning" of Mr. Elder Laird is contained in the above extracts, and we are quite satisfied that it shall have its due weight in the opinion of every intelligent person. Mr. Laird's bare assertions are entitled to the consideration due to *so high* a member of his Church. Mr. Laird knows too well the weakness of his position to argue the question in a straight-forward manner; he prefers to catechise us. Every one knows, with the exception of the editor of the *Patriot*, that a fool may ask a question, to answer which it would puzzle a philosopher. For the amusement of our readers we will give one of the questions propounded by the Elder:

"Where will you find the greatest number of those men who openly and shamelessly proclaim their disbelief of everything that Christians consider sacred, and who evince, by their conduct, a total disregard for the ordinances and restraints of religion—in Ireland, in Holland and among the native population of the United States, or in France, in Italy, in Germany and in England?"

To answer this question after the fashion of the *Patriot* would not be a difficult task: for then we would make a bold assertion and nothing more. But we will answer it *seriatim*, The questioner means, we presume, that the people of Ireland, Holland, and the "native population of the United States," are much superior in their morals, in consequence of having "godless" schools, to the people of France, Italy, Germany and England, by reason of their having "denominational" schools.

1st. As to Ireland; we say that the population, taken as a whole, is moral, and that it was so centuries before the infidel or Socinian Whately attempted to undermine the Faith of the Irish by his "godless" system of education, and before evengelicals of the Elder's stamp attempted to cause the faithful Irish to sell their souls for "soup." These tempters were great in their generation, and merited, by their smoking zeal, the name of "Soupers." The "shorter" the necks of the poor soup-apostates, the better, we should think, it was for them. The National System of Education in Ireland, was borne with for a time, by the clergy and people, in the hope that it would prove to be the lesser of two evils; but as soon as it proved to be the means devised by the subtle enemies of Christianity for uprooting the germs of Catholicity in the Irish people, they repudiated it, and do so to this day, clergy and laity "John of Tuam," the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah," always looked upon the National System with suspicion, and never gave his adherence thereto; and events have proved the wisdom of his judgment. The Irish, then, have been moral, not on account of the so-called National System of Education, which they always despised, but by reason of another cause which the Elder may easily understand.

2nd. As to Holland; our reply will be very brief. If the Dutch are of the same moral calibre as the pious Prince of Orange was, we must grant that they are a very superior people!

3rd. As to the "native population of the United States," we beg to offer some remarks. That there are many virtuous and honorable persons in the U. S., we grant; that there were more of such persons there before the national, or "godless" system was introduced into the country, we firmly believe. People are now beginning to perceive that this infidel, or "godless" system of Education is sapping the morals of the nation. As our system was imported from the U. S, we will shew that the whole affair is, to say the least, unsatisfactory. To sustain our position, as to the sad failure of the infidel system of Education in the United States, we will adduce testimony of an unexceptionable character. The tree is known by its fruit, and as such is the case, the poisonous nature of infidel, or godless, or State Education, which an Elder of a Christian Church is weak enough to advocate, should be exposed in order that honest young persons may not lose their immortal souls by walking in the footpaths of a misguided Elder who seems to prefer the ways of selfish, unbelieving, mammon men, to the unerring paths of truth. It is melancholy to think that we have in our midst, a man *high* in his Church, who scruples not to advocate openly, and without reserve, infidel or non-denominational education.

We have abundant evidence of the deleterious results of State Schoolism in the United States, and this evidence will fall with crushing effect on its supporters and advocates. We will first make a few selections from Protestant authorities and from some of the leading American papers. The New York *Church Journal*, in an article headed "The Common School System a failure," says:—

"The Common School System is proving a disastrous failure It has grown up on the pledges it has given of its ability to make crime less frequent, to confer greater security to life and property, and to give elevation to the tone of national morality. But it does not at all fulfil these promises. The whole system, we regret, is proving a lamentable failure * * The prevailing system is lamentably defective; in that it does not aim at the training of the whole man; neglecting as it does the moral and controling powers of human nature, and concentrating all its force upon the development of the intellectual. * * * The prevalent notion that mankind are vicious, because ignorant, and that to make them virtuous, it is only necessary to make them intelligent, is contradicted alike by sound philosophy and universal experience."

Next we have the report of the Prison Association of New York, revealing "a most alarming increase of crime, since the introduction of the Common School System into the country." The *Richmond Examiner* gives the following picture of the "godless" system which Elder Laird would have our people almost adore:—

"The worst of all these abominations, because when once installed it becomes the hotbed propagator of all, is the modern system of free schools We forget who it is that has charged and proved, that the New England System of free schools has been the cause and prolific source of all the legions of terrible infidelities and treasons that have turned her cities into Sodoms and Gomorrahs, and her fair lands into the common nestling place of howling bedlamites."

In 1856, the Hon. Daniel Brenan delivered, in Charlottetown, a Lecture on Education, in which he exposed without mercy, the deformities of the "godless" system, and clearly explained the necessity for a religious education. Mr Brenan says:—

"But if the fairest way be to judge the tree by its fruit, it may also be as well to judge the American School System by its fruit. The last account which I saw of the United States Census, was in 1851 or 2, when the population approximated in round numbers to 24 millions, and of all that number, only seven millions professed *any religion* whatever, including Mormons. These seven millions of professing Christians were divided into twenty-seven different denominations. Here then is one of the greatest, most prosperous and most enlightened nations on the face of the earth, whose Statesmen, Philosophers, Merchant-Princes, Mechanics and Tradesmen, are not, perhaps, surpassed in their respective departments by any others in the world; and yet only seven persons out of every twenty-four of them can be called Christians!! All wise in their generation, outwitting all the world, as well as over-reaching one another in their accumulation of the Almighty Dollars! What a melancholy picture such a Nation must present to the contemplation of the Christian Philanthropist, who believes that it "profiteth a man nothing to gain the whole world, if he lose his own soul." Who can suppose, if the adults who now compose that 'tarnation great and mighty nation, so celebrated for so many great and good qualities, had in their juvenile days, imbibed a good religious Education, either from their School Teachers or parents, that there could or would be now found, out of every 24 of them, 17 know-nothings care-nothings, or believe-nothings, save and except in and for the Almighty Dollars."—*Remarks on Education, pp* 20, 21.

Mr. Brenan then gives a mass of testimony from American Professors and Clergymen to prove that the "godless" system is the prolific source of all manner of spiritual delusions, Socialism, Mormonism, Woman's Rights, Free Love, &c. If he were now compiling a Lecture he would, probably, find that instead of 7 out of 24, there are only 7 out of nearly 40 of the people of the U. S. who profess any religious creed. Things are fast going from bad to worse, so that those who have any religion are beginning to follow the example of the Catholics, and go out from the abomination of the "godless" system. Not long since the American papers filled their columns with a series of startling revelations as to the morals of the "common schools" in Massachusetts and New York. "These revelations," says a contemporary, "are altogether too beastly for us to transfer to our columns. Suffice it to say, that they establish the fact that the boasted "common schools," especially the "girls" schools," are—we do not say but little better—but a good deal worse than the ordinary places of debauch which abound in large cities"!! These are the effects, the natural results, of that system which the Elder of a Christian Church is not ashamed to laud to the skies.

The venerable and illustrious Archbishop of Cincinnati, the Most Rev. J. B. Purcell, in 1859, wrote the following:—

"The cause of education must ever enlist the sympathies and excite the lively solicitude of every order of the clergy, as well as of the parents and friends of youth. It was the proud boast of the citizen of this State, who labored more than any other to obtain legislation to establish and endow the common schools, that when they were once in successful operation, the criminal statutes would be a dead letter! There would be no more offences against morality, law, or order. Never was any man more implicitly believed. Never were heavier pecuniary sacrifices imposed by the Legislature or submitted to by the people, than in the vain attempt to realize this Utopia. The system has had a fair trial for considerably more than a quarter of a century, in this, and in other States of the Union. But what is the result? Are crimes diminished? Are they committed, especially in their most aggravated form only, or mainly, by the uneducated? The answer to this question is returned to us from the Senate Chamber, the hotel dining-room, the streets of Washington, the Offices of State and County Treasuries, the Counters and Desks of Banks, the Jail and the jury room of Hawesville, Ky. Education without religion is not at all, or only a questionable boon. The hand and the heart must be educated, as well as the mind. Domestic education and the good example of parents must be added to the instruction of the school room. The injustice of taxing Catholics to support schools from which they derive no benefit must cease, and the use of their own money be allowed them to educate their own children. Or, if this cannot be, the common schools should be placed on such a basis as that Catholics may profit by them without the sacrifice of faith. Their religion, the work of God, the religion that conquered Paganism, and Islam, and barbarism, must not be reviled as an apostacy, while sects that sanction divorce, and deny the future punishment of the wicked, and lessen Gospel truths the most essential, and books that teach open and shameless immorality receive the suffrages of the majority, and are commended to the confidence and admiration of the pupils."

"Let the Church and the State, let Catholics and Protestants do what they may to arrest the torrent of evil, it will never wholly cease to flow; for, while there are men there will be vices. But we seek to control this torrent, to confine it to narrower limits, to lessen the volume of its waters, and preserve those portions of society which it has not yet invaded, from the inundation. If the State, if our fellow citizens will let us have our own money to make our own experiments in our own way, we hope to succeed."

"Now what is the duty of Catholics with regard to the right education of youth?"

"In the first place, they must teach them the Catechism, or send them where they will learn it—to the Catholic School and to the

Buyers will find a Cheap lot Grey Cottons at FALCONER & PATRICK's, South Side Queen Square.