[From the N. Y. Albion.]

THE PROPOSED CESSION OF GIBRALTAR BY THE BRITISH.

We gave recently several of the arguments urged in favor of the proposition, now being extensively discussed by the English Press, to give up the fortress of Gibraltar to Spain in exchange for the port of Ceuta opposite. It may now be interesting to note some of the arguments used on the other side. Since wooden sailing vessels gave place to iron-clad steamers the value to the British nation of a naval station close to the entrance of the Mediterranean, has been much enhanced. The old port of refuge has now become a coaling station, and so long as England holds India she must have naval stations at intervals as stepping stones on the way. The advocates, however, who urge the English people to yield up Gibraltar, asserts that a better position might be found equally near to the mouth of the Mediterranean, in Ceuta. But even they acknowledge that Ceuta is not now a port. They assert that five years and a million and a half of money would be required to make the secure harbor and the defensible fortress needed. Even this estimate is probably below, rather than beyond, the mark. Ceuta would require to be newly fortified, the old works being of little or no value; and every one knows what new fortifications are apt to cost. It cannot be supposed that Great Britain would be willing to give up Gibraltar before Ceuta is prepared, and, in the meantime, who is to design and build the new works? Will Spain permit a temporary occupation of both places as would be necessary, or is the construction of the fortification to be taken on trust? These difficulties would stand in the way even if Ceuta was proved to be superior to Gibraltar as a naval station. It is also taken for granted that Spain would resign not only the peninsula, but sufficient of the mainland to afford space for the construction of such advanced works as are necessary to keep an enemy's batteries at a sufficient distance from the port. This is exactly the difficulty that stands in the way of making Gibraltar perfect for its intended office. Still nature destined Gibraltar to be a stronghold, whether possessed by England or some other power. The place is naturally more defensible than Ceuta. The garrison is more than ordinary protected. A large number of guns are in such elevated positions that they can attack the only weak part of iron-clads—their decks. The one thing needful appears to be the erection of a high and solid mole, behind which ships could supply themselves with fuel and stores. Much time and money would be required before Ceuta would possess either a harbor or sufficient defences. Again, in retaining Gibraltar Great Britain would prevent its occupation by any other naval Power, and probably for the sake of Spain, as well as the protection of her own commerce, it is well that a fortress so much coveted should be in the hands of a peaceably disposed nation.

A STRANGE STORY.

A Brussels journal, the Echo de Parlement, publishes a statement of a very singular character. It appears that about eight or ten days ago, at seven in the morning, there was found, lying in the mud on the high road of Scheveningen, the body of a young man of distinguished appearance. He was transported to the nearest police office, and a physician, Dr. Vinckhysen, was immediately sent for. On examination he was found not to be dead, but merely in a swoon. On being restored to animation, he was questioned in Dutch, but he made signs that he did not understand that language. He was then asked in French what his name was and where he resided. He gave his interrogators to understand that he was unable to speak, and made signs for writing materials. They were accordingly furnished to him, and he then stated in writing that he was the son of the Count de Moustier, residing at No. 3, Rue Grenelle Saint Germain, Paris, and nephew of the late Minister of the same name.

As he was unable to account for the manner in which he had been conveyed to the spot where he had been found, and the first impression created by his story was that it was a pure invention. The facts were at once communicated to the Marquis de Seves, Secretary to the French Embassy, and he telegraphed to the address in Paris indicated by the sufferer. A few hours after a reply was received from Count de Moustier, stating that his own son had really disappeared for several days, and that he was about to start by railroad to investigate the facts in person. On further examination, the mouth of the young man was found to present evidence of strong compression, and his tongue was discovered to be lacerated. This was sufficient evidence for the physician that a gag had been applied.

An effort was then made to revive the youth's recollection of the facts, and in reply to the question as to how he had been conveyed without his knowledge to such a distance from his home, he stated that on returning from college, in Paris, at 9 o'clock, he was attacked in the street and received a heavy blow on the head, after which he fainted away and remembered nothing until he was brought to his senses by the persons by whom he was now surrounded. The traces of the blow described by him were visible. His clothing was impregnated with salt water and his linen quite stiff.

Further researches led to the discovery of the fact, that a small vessel had touched on the coast near Scheveningen on the very night on which the young stranger had been found on the high road. He was taken to the hospital, and on his arrival there, some hours afterwards, the Count de Moustier, to his great consolation, found he was his son. The Count declared that he could not comprehend the motives of the attack and abduction, as his son was only eighteen years of age, and of irreproachable conduct. — There was no reason to suppose that robbery was the motive of his assailants, for all the articles of value which he had on him when he was attacked still remained upon his person when he was discovered at Scheveningen.

A SINGULAR ACCIDENT.

[From the Detriot Free Press]

As the day express going west on the Michigan Central Railroad was nearing this station the other day, the passengers waiting for the train were startled by the frequent whistling of the engine, indicating obstructions on the track. It was soon found that Mr. Sagon, of Sheridan, was driving at a most furious pace to get his horse and waggon across the track before the engine reached the crossing. The engineer did his best to stop the train, but it was too late, and the cowcatcher struck just between the wagon and the horses, separating them instantly and consigning each a place on opposite sides of the track, little or none the worse of the collision. But the strangest part of the story remains to be told. Mr. Sagon and his wife (both about 60) were caught upon the platform above the cowcatcher and just in front of the engine; where instead of losing presence of mind and throwing themselves off, they settled themselves composedly as though nothing had happened. The old lady put her hands in her muff, while the old man, with one hand extended, as if grasping the reins, and the whip raised in the other, assumed an attitude that Dan Mace might envy; and thus the old couple rode up to the station triumphant, amid the cheers of the bystanders. As soon as the train stopped, a number rushed to their assistance, but they declined all aid, manifesting no concern for themselves but considerable for their horse, and wagon. The former were uninjured while the damage to the latter was found to be very trifling.

Holloway's Pills.—Nervous Debility.—Person constitutionally weak are much depressed by changeable weather that the ordinary offices of life beome a labour, the necessity of thinking a toil. The nervous system is unhinged and each day brings to such pitiable objects nothing but a succession of real or fancied miseries. To escape from such torments it is only necessary to take Holloway's Pills, which purify and strengthen a debilitated, shaken constitution more than any other medicine in the world. They cleanse the body from all impurities, gives tone to the stomach, regularity to the brain, activity to the kidneys, bladder, and bowels. They remove dejection of spirits and bodily lassitude, and restore to the mind decision and cheerfulness.

We understand that the whooping-cough is quite prevalent in the towns around us; but that no cases have proved fatal. Some families use nothing but *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment.* Our Doctor, however, says a little ipicac, to produce vomiting, would be an advantage.

A Roman correspondent of a London paper writes:—

'As far as we can judge, the 'beggining of the end' is very fast approaching. The sect are, although split into three or four hostile sections, united on two points—enmity to the Church and resolve to overthrow the government of Florence. Garibaldi, who had determined to resign his seat in parliament, writes at great length to his electors of Gallura, exposing the double dealing of Victor-Emmanuel under the Rattazzi Cabinet, and especially relating several facts of a most telling character as to the recent invasion.

"Garibaldi openly states, and defies the government to deny it, that the Cabinet gave its assurance in October, 1867, that, at the first shot fired in Rome, the Royal troops would attack the Capitol—that, on the faith of this precious assurance, Enrico Cairoli and the seventy Garibaldians attempted to effect their entrance into the Eternal City and were sacrificed. Garibaldi having doubts as to the good faith of Rattazzi, sent a message to Cairoli to order him to retreat. This message he never received, and the catastrophe ensued. There is no doubt that this letter will make the Cabinet even more unpopular than it is, and that the Italian monarchy is very shortly to be consigned to the sepulchre of political failures, of which it is so glorious an example.

"The agrarian riots have taken a most serious form in the usurped provinces especially, and hatred to the present government is everywhere coupled with the names of Pius IX, and the deposed Princes, and a universal desire manifested for a return to the past *regime*.

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There is a general feeling that the present state of matters cannot possibly go on long, and that between over taxation, over conscription, and an utter absence of public morality among every class of statesmen, the country must infallibly come to ruin. Here war is considered certain, and every preparation is making for it in Rome, as in France and Germany."

A Protestant soldier writes to the Wanganni *Times*, in enthusiastic terms, of the conduct of a Catholic Priest who voluntarily accompanied the volunteers who lately went to attack the Maories in their fastnesses.

"Through the rapid river, waist deep, along the weary forest tract, across the ominous looking clearings, where at any moment a volley from an ambush could have swept our ranks, Father Roland marched cheerfully and manfully, ever with a kind word, a playful sentance to any man that passed him. And when at last, in the clearing of To-Ngutuco-te-Manu, the storm of bullets burst upon us, he did not wait in the rear for men being brought to him, but ran with the rest of us forward against the enemy. So soon as any man dropped, he was by his side; he did not ask are you a Catholic or Protestant, but kneeling prayed for his last words. Thrice noble conduct in a century of ultilitarian tendencies. What Catholic on that expedition could have felt fear when he saw Father Roland by his side, smiling at death, a living personification, a fulfilment of many a text preached; what Catholic could have but felt proud to be a Catholic on that day on Father Roland's account."

A Domestic Romance.—A singular narrative is published by the Louisville *Journal*. About eight years ago, the story runs, an Englishman, who lived with his wife and two children in that city, became peculiarly embarrassed by unsuccessful speculations, and in consultation with one of his friends decided to leave the city, and seek for the means of mending his fortune elsewhere. Committing his family to the care of his friend, he started for the North, finally locating in Philadelphia, where he began business. He wrote often to his friend, who informed him that his wife and children had left Louisville directly after his departure, and that reports of a very disreputable character concerning his wife were in circulation. In sorrow he pursued his business, and at the end of five years married an estimable lady, by whom he had one child. He succeeded so well in business that two years after he paid off all his debts, but never thought of returning to his Kentucky home. A few months ago he received a Louisville paper, in which was recorded the death of his first wife. The idea that she never left her home, but had been all these years waiting his return, took possession of his mind, and he resolved to satisfy himself by a visit to Louisville and the grave of his wife. He made known his purpose to his second wife who agreed to accompany him, and with their little boy they left for Louisville. On arrival he was astonished to learn, on enquiry among former acquaintances, that his first wife was not only alive and well, but had not once been out of the city. The "friend" who had written him the account of her departure could not be found, and he sought out his wronged wife and two children. The joy of the poor woman on once more seeing the husband she had loved so faithfully, was great. She told him the story of her trials, of how she had toiled for the support of herself and children through all the dreary years, never for one moment doubting him, or that he would some day return and be happy with her once more. She further related that the friend to whose care he had left her, had betrayed the trust, and had not only defamed the absent husband, but had sought her hand in marriage, and being refused had left the city, swearing vengeance. On being asked if he had remained true, the unfortunate husband sorrowfully revealed all and sought her forgiveness. Not only did she forgive him, but besought him never to disclose the fact of her existance to his second wife, who as yet believed her dead, and to go back to his home in Philadelphia and forget the terrible past.

A petition against the ratification of the *Alabama* treaty is being extensively signed in Boston. It says:—"This so-called treaty proposes to put upon the same footing claims by British subjects which have arisen under a disagreement in regard to the ordinary forms of neutrality and claims of our own citizens upon the British Government, piracies committed by British-built, British manned, and British armed vessels, by vessels and armaments which left British ports under the protection of the British flag, and burned American ships upon the high seas, without taking them into port for condemnation, and without any action being taken upon the part of the said British Government when these atrocities were laid before it to prevent the same; but, on the contrary, these pirates were everywhere received with rejoicing when visiting British ports, and when the notorious builder of one of them boasted of the same in the British parliament, of which he was a member, he was received with cheers and expressions of satisfaction. This shows, in the opinion of your memorialists, the animus of the British Government towards the Government of the United States.

The Ottawa *Times*, which clamoured loudly for Whelan's death, in an editorial on the late execution says:—

"Patrick James Whelan acquitted himself in the awful presence of a violent death like a penitent Christian and a courageous man. No one who saw the poor fellow in his last awful moments, but must have been stricken to the very heart by the scene. With the officers of the law, and the priests of his church beside him, neither his voice shook nor his step faltered. His eyes trembled visibly and his lips vibrated in token of the human feelings within him; but otherwise we have no record that Whelan stepped manfully upon the scaffold; and held his face up and his body erect without a single tremor, under an ordeal that sent a cold shiver through almost every one of the spectators. His mind had evidently been well tutored by his spiritual directors, and we have much pleasure in stating that such was the case. It is a sad thing to see a fellow creature in the full bloom of manhood launched into eternity by a single and most barbarously cruel jerk of a rope! Poor Whelan! May the Lord have mercy on his soul!

"As stated elsewhere Whelan had of late been exceedingly attentive to the instructions of his spiritual advisers. He had evidently resolved, according to his lights, to make his execution a source of merit hereafter. In his manner there was nothing but what was deserving of the most unqualified praise. No bravado; no pretension; no swagger; and no cowardice. The man was there. Agitated undoubtedly, but still with all his senses about him. His voice was round, clear and distinct; his step light and firm; his whole carriage that of one who knew what he was about, while the ashy paleness of the countenance, and the restless movement of the eye, told unmistakably that he felt the awful importance of the solemn occasion. He answered the prayers of the priests with a firm and earnest voice and exhibited throughout an earnest spirit of devotion."

RECIPROCITY.

[*From the Hx Express*]

It is asserted that the Committee of Ways and Means have decided, eight to one, to report to Congress in favor of Reciprocal Trade with the Dominion.

We cannot hold out any hopes of this being immediately brought about, for the Washington correspondent of the New York "World" says, "it is not likely the measure will be considered in this Congress, and will have to be brought up in March in the Forty-first Congress." The "Scottish American" says:

"We cannot truthfully encourage our Provincial friends to anticipate the early success of any fresh measure of Reciprocity. It will come at some time, but not at present. The friends of such a measure are on the increase, and the attention which influential journals give to the subject indicates general interest in it, and a general desire for legislation. The high tariff men, however, are strong and unyielding; and, besides, domestic matters are too urgent to allow of any action not absolutely unavoidable. We have no hope of Reciprocity this year."

In connection with the above, we copy the following from the "Citizen" of last evening:—

"A telegram from Ottawa dated the 15th inst., to a merchant in this city, says that the private committee of Ways and Means at Washington have reported in favor of Reprocity by eight to one; and that it is probable the Dominion Government will be asked to send delegates to Washington to assist the British Ambassador in the negotiations which he may soon be called upon to undertake in the commercial interests of this country. Everybody in Nova Scotia must hail this as a most important announcement. For the last few weeks fears have been entertained that the subject of reciprocity was not likely to be brought before the present Congress; and should this be the case, all official action must have been postponed until next November or December. By the report of this committee, however, the subject is placed officially before the country; and before Congress adjourns on the 4th of March, the report of the committee will probably be considered, and either negatived or sustained. If the report be thrown out, that is an end of the matter for this year. But there are good grounds for believing that the report will not be thrown out, but that it will be sustained by Congress, and that the duty will thus devolve upon the new President and his advisers, during the recess, to enter upon a negotiation in the spirit of the resolution, with the British Government, through the Ambassador at Washington.'

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

London, Feb. 13, evening.

The formal opening of the New Parliament, which was postponed last year in consequence of the resignation of the Disraeli Ministry, took place this afternoon.

The members of the House of Commons were summoned to attend at the bar of the Chamber of Peers to hear the royal speech. The Queen was not present, but Her Majesty's speech was delivered by a royal commission, and was read to the assembled houses by the Lord Chancellor. The speech is in substance as follows:—

"The Queen assures the Lords and Commons that the relations of Great Britain are at present on an excellent footing.

"The hostilities which threaten to break out in the East have been prevented by the Conference of the great powers at Paris.

"Hope is expressed that the negotiations with the United States will place on a firm and durable basis the friendship which should ever exist between England and America.

"The disturbances in the colony of New Zealand are to be regretted, but the Queen is sure that prudence and moderation on the part of the government will prevent a recurrence of such unhappy events.

"The estimates which will be laid before the House by Her Majesty's Ministers are framed on a basis of economy, coupled with efficiency in the administration of the public service.

"The continued suppression of the Writ of Habeas Corpus is regarded as unnecessary.

"The ecclesiastical arrangements for Ireland are to be considered by Parliament. The legislation for their final adjustment will make large demands upon the wisdom of both Houses."

On this subject the Queen concludes as follows:—

"I am persuaded that careful regard will be had to the interests involved and to the welfare of religion, and that through the application of the principles of equal justice to the question before them Parliament will secure the undivided feeling of the people of Ireland on the side of loyalty and law, efface the memory of past contentions, and cherish the sympathies of an affectionate people."

Consols closed at 93.

London, Feb. 16.

M. Walewski has reached Paris, on his return from Athens with the reply of the Greek Government to the resolution of the Conference.

The Conference will meet again to receive the response of Greece.

London, Feb. 17.

Considerable excitement was created in Madrid on Monday by an unsuccessful effort to assassinate Gen. Prim. Three arrests have been made.

Popular demonstrations have been made in favor of the freedom of Religious Worship, and also for the abolition of capital punishment.

The people gathered in the streets of Valladolid yesterday, and protested against Military Conscription.

Active preparations are going on for the immediate embarkation of six thousand more troops for Cuba. Don Esculanto will go out with the reinforcements with instructions from the Provisional Government.

London, Feb. 17.

The address in reply to the Queen's speech was agreed to unanimously in both Houses of Parliament.

In the House of Commons last evening, Mr. Disraeli expressed his sorrow that the ratification of the convention with the United States was not announced. He hoped, however, for a speedy completion of the treaty.

Mr. Gladstone was sure that the negotiations would end in the same spirit as when they commenced. The final issue would doubtless be satisfactory to both countries.

March 1st has been named for the opening of the debate on the question of the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

London, Feb. 18th.

The reports that ex-King Ferdinand of Portugal has consented to be a candidate for the Spanish Throne are premature. Though strongly urged, he still refuses to allow his name to be connected with the Sovereignity of Spain. The majority of the members of the Cortes now in session at Madrid are opposed to the Duke of Montpensier, and there is little prospect of his success.

In addition to the large detachments of reinforcements about to sail from Cadiz for Cuba, the government will send out, as soon as the necessary transportation is ready, another expedition which will number at least 6000 men.

London, Feb. 18, evening.

The Conference of the Great Powers met today in Paris to receive a communication from Athens, of which Walewski was the bearer. The reply of the Greek Government to the proposition of the Conference was satisfactory, and a resolution was adopted that Greece having yielded, the Great Powers reserve to themselves the right to protect the lives, property and interest of the Christian inhabitants of Turkey. The representatives of the Powers finally gave their signatures to the protocol, and the Conference dissolved.

London, Feb. 19.

Madrid advices state Minister of Spanish Colonies has issued an important decree to take effect in all the Colonial possessions of Spain. It establishes a uniform system of Legal Jurisdiction, abolishes Ecclesiastical Courts and makes various modifications in the Financial administration of the Colonies. The Cortes have requested Minister Serranno to re-arrange the Cabinet. All the present members are likely to continue in office.

London, 19, evening.

The Times, in an article on the Alabama Treaty, says the want of a definite basis of arbitration will reconcile England to the rejection of the Convention by the United States. This point should be kept clearly in view in the event of offers for further negotiations. England now awaits proposals from America. The Times continues, "We have done our best, we have gone to the very verge of national humiliation to secure the settlement of the question at issue; we shall now await propositions from Gen. Grant. It is admitted that the claims are a fair subject for friendly arbitration."

London, Feb. 22, evening.

In the House of Commons to day, in reply to an inquiry of the O'Connor Don, Mr. Fortescue said that the Government proposed to release from imprisonment 45 Fenians who were convicted of treason last year in England and Ireland, including several of the leaders.

Baron Lionel de Rothschild, Liberal, has been elected to Parliament from London city, in place of Mr. Bell, Conservative.

Warren and Costello, Fenian prisoners, have been set free.

London, Feb. 23.

The decrees and orders recently issued by the Sublime Porte against the Greeks have been revoked and Turkish Ports have been thrown open to Greek shipping.

Despatches from Athens announce that the Greek Chambers have been dissolved and elections for members of a new Legislature are to be held in May.

Madrid, Feb. 22.

The press of the country urge upon the Provisional Government the necessity of preserving the friendship of the United States.

London Feb 23rd.

The press of Lisbon almost unanimously condemn the movement for a union of Spain and Portugal under the old name of Iberia which has been recently contemplated.

FROM CANADA.

Montreal, Feb 16.

It is rumored that Sir G. E. Cartier is to remain in London as Plenipotentiary of the Dominion Government, and that he is to be made a Lord.

The Quebec Assembly met to-day, and again adjourned for want of a quorum. There were only twelve present.

The trains are so snowed up and delayed, that it was impossible for members to reach Quebec. No mails have been received from the East or West since Saturday. The storm is now abating.

Flour is dull, and lower in price, ranging from $4.75 for ordinary, to $4.90 for choice superfine.

Montreal, Feb 17.

The snow is deeper by eight inches than it has been for twenty years.

Col. Gray lectured last night in Ottawa, on "A Soldier's life twelve years ago, or the relief of Lucknow."

There is likely to be a squabble about rewards for conviction of murderer of McGee. Claims are being sent in from all directions.

Flour market continues quiet.

Quebec Legislature resumed its session to day.

Montreal Feb 17.

The Quebec Legislature adjourned yesterday for the want of a quorum, only 12 members being present.

A snow storm stopped the trains and prevented the members from reaching the capital. The snow in the streets here is eight feet deep, and some streets are almost impassible. The roof of the drill shed fell in this afternoon, owing to the weight of snow upon it. The trains from the East and West are very much delayed. A statement is published showing that the fall of snow so far is about 118 inches, which exceeds by 38 inches the total fall in any year for twenty years past. Several extensive lumber merchants in Ottawa district have closed their operations for the winter, owing to the difficulty in getting provisions into the woods for the men.

Montreal, Feb. 18.

No arrivals from the West to-day. The trains are all blocked up by the snow storm, which has raged since morning. The snow is so deep that it is difficult to pass through the streets of Montreal.

The Montreal Mining Company are offering a part or the whole of their property for sale.

Flour is very dull and lower, $4 70 to $4.85 for ordinary to choice superfine. Sugar advancing rapidly during the week, and now hold very firmly at $10 25 to $10.50 per 100 lbs. for raw. Speculators are buying in this market for New York.

Montreal, Feb. 19.

The Quebec Legislature sat for three hours yesterday, but did nothing of practical value. Another batch of petitions from French Canadian exiles were presented.

A delegation from Newfoundland on Confederation is daily expected at Ottawa.

Dangerous counterfeit tens on the Royal Canadian Bank, altered from ones, are in circulation. Then genuine tens have a vignette of the Queen on the left; the counterfeit tens have the Duke of Wellington.

The flour market drags heavily along. Good superfine sells at $4.60 a $4.65. Choice $4.70 a $4 75.

Haliburton of Nova Scotia delivered an interesting lecture at Toronto last night on the "Man of the North."

San Francisco, Feb 18th.

The Legislature of British Columbia after a long debate, decided against Confederation. The vote stood 11 against to 5 in favor of it.

The appropriation for the encouragement of Female Immigration to British Columbia was unanimously passed by the Council.

The English gunboat "Satellite" arrived at Victoria yesterday from China and Japan.

Montreal, Feb. 20.

It is said the Dominion Parliament will meet on the 8th April. Men are now at work getting the Legislative Halls in order.

Montreal, Feb 23.

Brown's Bank, Toronto, closed its doors this morning. The institution was not a chartered, but a private Bank. The public sustains considerable loss. The suspension causes much excitement in business circles.

Velocipedes are now all the rage in Montreal.

A fearful snow storm has been raging since morning. No mails and no traffic.

The Grand Trunk Railway lose very heavily since the 1st February.

A notary of Terrebonne was robbed, of a valise, containing $9,000, at Bonaventure Depot this morning. There is no clue to the robbers.

FROM THE STATES

New York, Feb. 17.

A Havana despatch dated to-day, says Dulce continues active restrictive measures.

Permission to carry arms has been revoked, and all arms have been ordered to be delivered to the Government within four days.

New York, Feb 18.

A Richmond jury, composed half of whites, and half of blacks, have given a negro $1600 damages against a railway company, for putting his wife by force in a second class car, after selling her a first-class ticket.

Gold 134¼.

New York, Feb. 18.

The Cuban news this morning does not announce any apparent change in the situation on that Island. The revolutionists seem to be gaining ground, as they have been doing since the movement began, and the Government continues to increase the rigor of its administration over the territority it still holds.

The American Consul at Havana has sent to Washington asking proctection for American citizens.

New York, Feb. 18.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has reported against the ratification of the proposed treaty with Great Britain on the Alabama claims.

Gold declined, closing at 133¼.

The next monthly statement is expected to show a considerable reduction in the public debt.

The President and his family will vacate the White House on the 3rd of March and will probably leave Washington on the fifth.

New York, Feb. 20.

Advices from Cuba are contradictory, but there seems no doubt that the Revolutionists are steadily gaining ground. It is said the Government force on the Island now numbers seventy thousand men.

A despatch to the British Minister at Washington announces the release of Costello and Warren, implicated in the Fenian movement.

A despatch from Washington says that President Johnson will refuse to sign any Bill passed by Congress unless the Senate consents to act on on his nominations.

New York, Feb. 23.

President Johnson has vetoed the Tariff Bill on copper, which recently passed Congress.

Boston, Feb. 23rd.

A despatch from Augusta, Maine, says the Legislative committee on federal relations have reported a resolve in favor of Reciprocal Commercial intercourse between the United States and the British North American Provinces.

New York, Feb. 23.

A portion of the Volunteers who garrison the city of Havana have caused considerable excitement in that city by sending deputations to the Captain General, demanding, among other things, that more vigorous measures be employed against the Revolutionists. These demands Gen. Dulce has firmly refused, asserting that he would allow no interference with his political or military plans. In consequence of this trouble the commercial interests have suffered greatly, and all kinds of business are at a stand still. The news from the revolutionary districts favors the government.

There are more than one thousand different kinds of Pills in the United States. Some of them are worthless and injurious, others are good and beneficial. Old Dr. Parsons invented the best anti-bilious pill we ever saw or heard of. They are now sold under the name of *Parsons' Purgative Pills.*

The importance of giving *Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders* to horses that have been out in a cold rain, stood in a cold wind, or drank too much cold water, cannot be over estimated; no man should be without them who owns a good horse.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

LETTER FROM THE REV. DOCTOR MCGREGOR.

To the Editor of the Evening Express.

Sir,—The course of the discussion on "Distinct Schools," I have watched as closely as my opportunities of observation permitted; and as I believe that some of the writers engaged on the negative side of the argument have been overweeningly confident, rather than sternly logic, in their management of the case, I hope that you will give me an opportunity, in the columns of your very ably conducted newspaper, to address the public on the merits of the question at issue. Twenty-seven years of a life, that has not yet reached the meridian of years usually allotted to man, have been passed in Schools—from the Common School upwards—at home or abroad, either as pupil or professor; and I trust that the experience thus acquired will not be entirely fruitless in throwing out some ideas, that may serve to illustrate the subject.

The question of right is, naturally enough, paramount to all others whatever in the consideration of a claim so important as that which three thousand electors, largly belonging to the R. Catholic body, have by way of petition urged on our Legislature with a view to obtain legal recognition for "distinct schools" wherever their institution is feasible. The expediency of granting that claim is a matter of minor, but still of very grave moment. Permit me to make a few observations on the subject, under the one, and under the other aspect.

The petitioners assert that they possess an absolute right to a favorable reception,—namely, the religious and conscientious right which, it seems to me absurd to assume, the State can ever annul by an Act of Parliament. If you make the State the keeper of the individual conscience, you must inferentially admit that no civil law ever was, or ever can be, penal. If there be no individual or personal right valid as against the State then no Government on earth ever perpetrated an injustice. The essence of injury consists in the violation of an actual right; but such an hypothesis would be impossible in fact, if it were competent for the State to render all rights a nullity. Personal freedom would be a myth, or at most enjoyed by sufferance. All the lessons we ever learned in the science of jurisprudence would be fallacious. We would need to read history backwards; and begin after centuries of error, to laud the heathen emperor who ordered his Christian subjects to be thrown to lions in the Coliseum, or the jury of our Scottish ancestors who sentenced a homely female to be burned for imaginary witchcraft. To such absurdities as these, the doctrine, that conscientious rights lie not without the sphere of State power, leads most directly. It simply is marvellous that writers in the Halifax press should urge anything so desperately erroneous. I had previously imagined that intelligent men universally admitted that there are facts, which the State is free only to recognize; in reference to which there can by no licit State action that does not presuppose their inviolable existence.

The rights of majorities to rule must certainly be recognized; but the extent of their rule is not so immense as to defy definition. They possess the right to rule, it is true; but then they must rule without violating the rights of minorities. Otherwise, their power becomes a tyranny. All the majorities on earth could not dispense from the obligation of observing the Decalogue; or render it justifiable for one man to bow down in adoration before an idol. Since, then, the objections to the existing school law are located outside the limits, within which it is licit for majorities to enforce obedience, the talk about "majorities" is entitled to very brief consideration. As argument it is worthless; as indicative of the capabilities of the talkers, if it prove anything, it proves that they would be prepared to enact in our peaceful Province, if circumstances were favorable, a system of legislation akin in sentiment to that which, at one time glittered in red letters in the Blue Books of Connecticut. It is not competent for a majority *qua talis* to encroach on one's conscience anymore than it is to sentence one innocent of crime to be hanged and quartered.

But the petitioners assert that they have indisputable claims which rest on a relative right. By the fiat of our constitution, the Roman Catholic is permitted the free exercise of his religion, unfettered by limitation from ruler or subject. Juridically, he is a free man in the plenary enjoyment of all the privileges appertaining to a loyal British citizen. This is his birthright, and, next to his religion, his boast and his pride. He votes at elections, sits in parliament, and, from his place in the Cabinet, gives advice to Her Majesty's representative. He maintains his allegiance pure and unsullied; and would, in case of need, be as prompt to respond to his country's call on the battle field as any of his fellow subjects. He does not forget the patriotism of his co religionists who, though among the most illustrious of Briton's nobles, rushed to the van as private soldiers to roll back the tide of Spanish invasion, during the dark period when they practiced their religion at the risk of exile or imprisonment. He is a free man, and does not shrink from the occasional disadvantages which his position entails on him. He is told by his church to fear God, and love his country. He is devotedly loyal; but he asks in return—what the constitution promises him—that his religious convictions be regarded with scrupulous respect. 'Tis his right, he knows and he feels it. He points to the pages of our political charter and constitution for proof that penalty no longer attaches to his religious profession.

His tenth sheaf is not taken to support a Church whose doctrines he considers erroneous; he demands that his tenth shilling be not taken to support educational institutions which he believes promotive of infidelity. Can our legislators, in the spirit of our constitution, turn a deaf ear to his request; and virtually inform him that his religious liberty is a thing painted, a mockery, a delusion? To dispute his relative right to consideration is to make words lose their meaning, and exhibit our deservedly boasted constitution as contradictory of itself in one of its most essential points.

I can, indeed, understand how the Government of Turkey, which knows only one divine person, and Mahomet for his prophet, might reply to the Catholic Primate of Constantinople, were that prelate to urge conscientious objections to some persecuting mandate:—"Liberty of conscience is not established "here; and if you do not relish the sort of "religion we do inculcate, you are at liberty "to depart from the Moslem dominions with "all possible expedition." Such a reply would be consistent—that's something—with the political organization of the unhappy country in question; but I must confess that, if our legislature were to tell us in words that we are free, and, at the same time, inflict penalty on us in act, the *rationale* of the circumstance would lie so deeply buried in subtleties as to baffle my comprehension.

The casuistry of the scholastics is proverbial; but history must be repeating itself with compound interest, for that of State Schoolists is, under every aspect, a very superior article. One can understand all the quaint, hair-splitting, distinctions of the former from *atqui* to *ergo*, all through the process of argumentation; but it is evidently questionable whether the latter themselves clearly perceive the adhesion presumably existing in their own syllogistic constructions. Certainly, the relevancy of remarks on the Pope's infalibility, on the institution of imaginary Star Chambers, on the difference between religion and *ism*, go far to prove either that casuistry is wonderfully acute, or that stupidity is remarkably audacious.

I defer till another opportunity some further observations [1] on the expediency of modifying the School act; and [2] on the singular genius for blundering evidently possessed by one of the "godless school" retainers.

I am yours, &c., &c.,

D. M. McGregor, D. D.

Arichat, Jan. 25th, 1869.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, March 1, 1869.

THE EFFECTS OF STATE SCHOOLISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

The *Patriot* of the 20th inst., publishes a communication, signed by a "C. W. Hall," in favor of the godless Schools of the United States. Who this Mr. Hall is we know not; but judging from the tone of his letter, we are inclined to believe that he received his education in godless Schools. His principle argument is calling ourselves a number of filthy names. He puts us down as "blackguards;" the Hon. Mr. Brenan and other respectable authorities are disposed of as being ignoramuses, who knew nothing about what they were saying: therefore the Common Schools of his "native land" are the best in the world! If "C. W. Hall" thinks that we are going to degrade our columns by noticing his low tirades, he is much mistaken. When his writings exhibit the least sign of his being a gentleman, and not a pot-house mountebank, we may give his blatant pomposity a passing notice. For the present we treat his letter with that supreme contempt which its beastly vulgarity deserves.

The *Patriot* of Thursday last publishes, as an off-set against the testimony of the Hon. Mr. Brenan and the Archbishop of Cincinnati, the evidence of "Bohemian," who scribbles occasionally for the *Progress*. Our readers will be curious to know who this great authority is, and they will not be a little surprised to learn that he is the strippling known to many as "Jimmy Roche." *O tempora! O mores!* What is the world coming to when the scribbling of vain, presumptious, beardless boys is quoted against the evidence of venerable laymen and prelates! The *Progress* boy and the "Bohemian" boy are pushing the "hill of futurity" at a marvelous rate. The Catholic world and pious Protestants should cease their efforts to obtain a religious education for their children when they learn that "my boy Jim" has pronounced in favor of the infidel or godless system of education!

Mr. Elder Laird would fain lead us to believe that the people of the United States are the most moral in the world, and that, in consequence of their godless system of education. Now, we are of opinion that their infidel system of education is fast making the American people the most immoral on the face of God's earth. We can scarcely take up a paper, Protestant or Catholic, but we read therein the most startling facts shewing but too plainly the lamentable effects of the godless system in the neighboring republic. We are not to be understood to say that the whole American people are corrupt in their morals; far be it from us to say so. We think that there are amongst our neighbors many upright, honest and virtuous men and women; but we do say that their system of education is sapping the morality of the nation. Some of our readers may think that we exaggerated in stating the depravity of some of our American friends. We did no such thing: we were below the mark rather than above it. What do we read in a late number of the Halifax *Reporter*, one of the most respectable papers published in British America, and published by a Protestant gentleman, intimately connected with one of the most respectable and leading families in our own City. This paper in its issue of the 20th inst., has the following:—

"The United States, throughout its entire extent, is without doubt the wickedest country in all creation. In England, France, and countries of much older growth, and more extensively populated, we hear of nothing like the amount of crime perpetrated as that daily announced by the papers of the neighboring republic. The worst cities in this respect are New York and Chicago; we are not in a position to say which takes the lead. Chicago is rife in divorce cases and murders, while New York, its rival, excels in robberies and likewise murders. Many cities of less note than either of the above, figure almost as conspicuously in the record of crime; so that, on the whole, the United States may be fairly classed as the "wickedest" place in the universe. To a certain extent this is admitted by American journals—an extract from which we give to support our views. The following is from a leading paper, and we think it is pretty nearly correct in what it says:

"As the days advance, crime seems to multiply. Murderous assaults, homicides, suicides are on the increase all over the country. Lawlessness has become a characteristic of the country. Many causes, no doubt, contribute to this. One of these causes unquestionably is to be found in the demoralising influence of the late war. It has always been so. It will ever be so, so long as human nature remains what it is. Another cause is the leniency with which crime is treated. In great emergencies, extreme measures are not only justifiable but loudly called for. The cure for the growing evil is very much in the hands of our judges and our State governors. By all means let the law be executed. Tenderness for great criminals is at the best mistaken humanity. Let our fashionable congregations also see to it that they are doing their duty. Who can say that they are? If ever a 'tongue of fire' were necessary it is necessary now. The lawlessness is not confined to the lower orders of the people. The vice which is sapping the foundations of order and goodness is to be found not alone amid the filth and squalor of the basements and cellars of our lanes and alleys but sitting in cushioned ease and princely splendor in our palatial mansions. To put down this reign of terror, we need both law and gospel—the strong hand of justice and the tongue of fire."

In New York, supposed to be one of the most civilised cities in the Union, crime is increasing to such an alarming extent, that the well-disposed portion of the community are seriously contemplating taking the law into their own hands, and forming vigilance committees for their protection. Such a state of things was never heard of before in a populace professing so many Christian qualities. The press is beginning to cry out against the evil, and demand a remedy. When we see a journal like the New York "Herald,"—a paper that panders in the follies and foibles of the masses—desiring the inauguration of a new state of things, we may be sure that society is as bad as it can well be in that modern Sodom. The "Herald" says:

"What can be done to check the dreadful increase of crime in this city? Where shall we look for relief? Who is responsible? These are questions that demand serious attention and speedy answers, and the prominent citizens of New York should immediately call a public meeting and let these interrogatories go before it with a force that will admit of no delay. Now is the time. It will not do to wait and leave the work to a vigilance committee."—Ex. Paper.

This is a gloomy, dark picture of the morals of our American neighbors, and there is very little doubt but this sad state of moral depravity has been the natural effect of that infidel or godless system of education which Elder Laird is never tired of lauding to the skies. We could adduce evidence to almost an unlimited extent as to the bad effects of the godless system of education on the morals of the United States, but our space is limited, and we must confine ourselves to a few extracts. The Montreal *Gazette* of the 28th ult., a most respectable Protestant journal, has the following:—

"It is the fashion in these days to worship mere bigness and strength. Persia would have the voices of the world to-day against the best of the Grecian republics. It is well that some men should pursue a more steadfast course, and enquire if the well-being of their fellow-men is being actually promoted by this increase in apparent strength of the great American republic. 'All is not gold that glitters,' nor does all prosperity flow from the nature of political institutions. With almost boundless territories to subdue and cultivate, a coarse material prosperity was almost inevitable for an energetic race in America. That sort of prosperity proves nothing respecting the effect of institutions. In that respect the only fair comparison with European countries is that of cities with cities, where the people are crowded together, jostling each other in the pursuit of gain, vieing with each other in luxury and ostentation. What are the morals of the rich? How are families trained up? What is the condition of that which is recognized as society? Are these improved from the models of the rotten aristocracies of Europe! Let the divorce courts, and the disgusting annals of foeticide answer upon the one hand. Let the Erie railroad and other multiplied frauds give evidence on the other."

Again the same paper says:—

"So here we have two new things in the Bethel attached to this noted church, lectures on anatomy and physiology, and secular news rooms open every Sunday! And this in connection with a church representing descendants of the Puritans and bearing the name of Plymouth Rock. This church, too, and its preachers are among the most remarkable in the United States. In fact the fame of them has almost travelled everywhere.

The innovation is a sign of the remarkable progress now being made by rationalistic ideas, and worthy of note by thoughtful men. It is not only a surprising, but an astonishing departure from the old ways; and it affords a precedent for further innovations."

These extracts will be sufficient for the Elder to digest for the present.

REPORTING AND PUBLISHING THE DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

An esteemed correspondent has favored us with a very opportune communication on this subject. In his condemnation of the system which has too long obtained, we fully concur. He justly characterises it as inefficient and unpopular; and proposes a scheme by the adoption of which, he thinks, its defects might be, if not altogether, yet in a very satisfactory manner remedied. In that opinion we also concur; but we are sorry to say we fear that their regard for what they perhaps now look upon as *vested interests*, will prevent the House of Assembly's giving it that trial which its propounder seems to look for at their hands. With the system which has hitherto prevailed, we have long been heartily disgusted; and so, we believe, has every other member of our brotherhood. We are all, doubtless, most anxious that it should be completely reformed; and we will just hint that, if, making common cause for the effecting of the desired reformation, we cordially unite in demanding it, *as in the interests of the people at large*, there can be no doubt that we shall find the Assembly amenable to reason. And, indeed—having been informed (and we believe correctly) that the proposed reform in this branch of the public service, has already been under the consideration of some of the most influential leaders of the majority in the House of Assembly, and that they have concluded it advisable to adhere to the old system—we may plainly add, that the conviction forced upon our mind, with respect to it, is, that it is one of those reforms, the effecting of which must be from *without*, rather than from *within*.

We are sorry that we cannot afford space for the publication of the whole of our correspondent's *Scheme*; but the following brief notice of it will, we trust, be sufficient to place its merits favorably before our readers.

The writer proposes that the House of Assembly should appoint a Chief Reporter, and provide for him the assistance of two efficient subordinate Reporters; and that he, so assisted, should be required to give in, every Monday morning, at the office of the newspaper proprietor contracting for the publication of the Reports, a full digest of the whole of the debates, &c., of the Assembly during the previous week.

That the Chief Reporter might be enabled to do this, our correspondent observes: it would be necessary for him to attend the House during the whole of every important debate: not, however, for the purpose of taking down every word uttered by the speakers; but simply for making written notes of the heads, points, &c., of every speech; and of, moreover, at the same time, most carefully recording upon his *mental* tablets, the whole tenor, drift, and bearing of every speech delivered in the course of the debate, for his use and guidance when preparing a digest for the Press. And, *on their* part, the two Assistant Reporters, working on the *relay* system, would, each in his turn, have to supply the Chief Reporter with a reasonable portion of fair *in-extenso* report, as soon as possible after the rising of the House each day, or early next morning, to enable him to make the needful progress with a condensed but comprehensive report for publication.

We may here observe, that to be able to acquit himself, in an efficient and satisfactory manner, of the duty which would thus be imposed upon him, it would be necessary, as is most justly observed in a little work entitled "Aids to Reporting," that the Chief Reporter should be something more than a mere short-hand writer. "An efficient reporter must be able to undeastand and for the time to feel, not merely what a man says, but what he means to say—things, with the most practised speakers, at times, and with young debaters at all times, totally opposed to each other. He must be able so completely to identify himself with the course of an argument, as to know beforehand almost, not merely what the speaker is about to say, but the expression he will or ought to employ to convey his meaning to others. It is most true that in aid of the note-taking power of the reporter, the acquisition of short-hand is of considerable importance; but it is by no means an imperative requisite, provided the Reporter possesses, in an eminent degree, the higher qualifications of his calling. Some of the most distinguished Reporters the gallery of parliament has known were long-hand writers, and there are at present two or three who report in long-hand with a power which enables them to follow a speaker with all but *verbatim* accuracy."

The expense, says our correspondent, incurred by the mode of reporting and publishing the parliamentary debates, hitherto pursued, has, especially of late years, been looked upon by some as a serious item in the public expenditure, and as one which ought to be diminished if possible. And, on this point, he further observes that although the mode which he propounds would not indeed diminish the expense, but, on the other hand, perhaps, a little increase it; yet, as the public would, thereby, be kept duly informed of the proceedings of their representatives in the House of Assembly throughout the whole of each session, and would never, through any defect in the machinery of reporting, be kept in ignorance of those proceedings for a longer period at most than a week at a time, even if so long at any time; the improvement, he apprehends, would be so agreeable and acceptable, both to the people and their representatives—the promptness with which value would be rendered them for their money, would be so satisfactory — that mutual congratulations thereon, rather than murmurs at the expense thereby incurred, would be "the order of the day."

And further, he observes that, as respects the printer who might, under this system, contract for the publication of the Reports, it would be neccessary that he should be bound to issue, every week, during the Session, one full newspaper sheet at least, fully devoted to the Reports. Such a sheet would, no doubt, obtain general circulation; but even if it did not, it would afford the several newspaper proprietors or editors a full and fair opportunity of laying, through the medium of their own several columns, before their subscribers, in due season, such reports and notices of legislative proceedings in the House of Assembly, as would completely obviate all cause of complaint on that head. It is only when the proceedings and debates of the Legislature are published so out of date, and long after the close of a session, that the newspaper readers look upon them as stale, flat and unprofitable: on the contrary, during a session, they have an absorbent interest in the public mind.

He also remarks, that although the adoption of the system which he presumes to recommend, would involve the abandonment of general attempts at the *in-extenso* or *verbatim* system, yet it would by no means preclude the possibility of giving occasionally, at length, any speech of especial weight, power, or significance, or even a whole debate of peculiar interest; and pointedly and truly observes, that the scheme propounded by him, or one closely resembling it, is the only efficient one, for

The Cheapest and Nicest Bonnets are bought at Falconer & Patrick's, South Side Queen Square.