The Examiner.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND NEWS.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."---Euripides.

VOL. XVII. | CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1867. | NO. 42

Fresh Importation.

4 BALES COTTON GOODS,

Per Steamer from BRITAIN, July 21, 1867, at the BRITISH WAREHOUSE, coupled with the SPRING SUPPLY, *makes the Largest Importation of DRY GOODS* to this market this season.

Bought and Sold on the Best Terms.

W. & A. BROWN.

July 29, 1867.

NEXT DOOR TO THE BANK.

THE Subscriber has JUST RECEIVED, and offers for SALE, on the usual terms—

8 Casks Hennessey BRANDY (pale),
2 do do do (dark), a very superior article;
20 Boxes (Steele & Sons) CROWN SOAP, 26s per box;
70 Boxes (Steele & Sons) PRINCE'S FEATHER SOAP, 20s per box;
200 Bbls. CANADA FLOUR,
50 " CORNMEAL,
100 Bags CORNMEAL.

R. W. BRECKEN,
Next door to the Bank of P. E. Island

Queen-street, June 17, 1867. 3m

West India Produce.

THE Subscriber wishes to inform the Trade that the Brigt *HELEN DAVIES* is now due from BARBADOES, with a full Cargo of the above, consisting of—

10 Hhds. } VERY BRIGHT
30 Tierces } BARBADOES
50 Bbls. } SUGAR.
200 Puncheons } Choice Muscovado
25 small packages } Molasses.

Terms as usual. Apply to J. & T. MORRIS, or to

DANIEL DAVIES.

Charlottetown, July 15, 1867. 5i

TOWNEND'S HATS AND CAPS.

A LARGE STOCK of the above, received ex "LOTUS," from LONDON, of the newest STYLES and SHAPES—

Good Silk HATS, 7s 6d to 14s.
Paris Velvet do, 20s 27s 6d.
Townend's best do, 32s 6d.
Boys & Gent's FELT HATS, in great variety.
A large Stock of Tweed and Cloth CAPS,
And also in Ladies' STRAW HATS, &c.&c.

G. & S. DAVIES.

Charlottetown, June 7, 1867.

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!

THE Subscriber would inform the Inhabitants of P. E. Island, that, on the arrival of the Brig ANN, from Liverpool, G. B, he will offer,

Wholesale and Retail,

For Cash or good Joint Notes of Hand,

Nos. 1, 2 & 3 WHITE LEAD, in 56, 28, & 14 lbs.;
Black, Red, & Yellow PAINTS, in 28 & 14 lbs.;
Boiled and raw LINSEED OILS;
Chance's Smithwick GLASS;
PUTTY, Black and White, in Bladders 28 and 14 lbs.;
CUT NAILS, and CUT SPIKES;
Diamond Head DECK SPIKES;
Bars Refined and Common IRON, assorted sizes;
Barrels and Kegs COAL TAR;
Barrels Black and Bright VARNISHES;
Coils HEMP and WIRE CORDAGE;
Bolts Extra and Navy Boiled CANVAS;
Bars YELLOW METAL, ⅜ to ¾;
YELLOW METAL BUTT BOLTS, 7 × ¾;
CLINCH RINGS, Iron and Yellow Metal;
Crates and Casks GLASS, CHINA, and EARTHENWARE,—Crates assorted for country use;
A NEW MIXTURE for Bottoms of FISHING BOATS, much approved of by English fishermen.

Parties wanting any of the above articles will do well by calling and inspecting them, at the OLD STAND, formerly occupied by W. W. LORD & Co., HEAD of LORD'S WHARF, Water Street.

ARTEMAS LORD.

Oct. 29, 1866.

P. E. ISLAND

Boot & Shoe Factory.

THE Subscriber would hereby inform his numerous friends and customers that he has in course of preparation, a very superior style of

LADIES' KID BOOT,

suitable for the coming season. Also, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Wear, in every variety, such as

Ladies' and Misses'

Balmoral Kid BOOTS,	Congress BOOTS,
Grain Calf Congress do,	Serge do,
do Balmoral do,	Imitation Lace do,
&c. &c.	&c.

Gents' and Boys'

Calf Tap soled BOOTS,	Balmoral BOOTS,
do Single do do,	Shooting do,
Grain Leather do,	Knee do,
Heavy Congress do,	Kip do,
Light do do,	Brogans & Shoes,
&c. &c.	&c.

Wholesale Dealers before sending their orders abroad should call and examine the large and varied stock of

Ladies' & Misses', Gents' & Boys'

BOOTS & SHOES,

Specially manufactured for the Trade of P. E. Island.

GEORGE NICOLL.

South Side Queen's Square. March 4th, 1867. tf

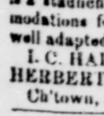
REMOVAL.

THE Subscriber informs the Public that he has REMOVED from his old premises in the rear of the Bank of P. E. Island, to the Store next door south of the said Bank, formerly occupied by Mr MORIN LOWDEN.

RALPH W. BRECKEN.

May 20, 1867. 3m

Packet between Charlottetown AND CASCUMPEC.



THE Schooner "JOSEPHINE" having secured the Government Contract to run as a PACKET between CHARLOTTETOWN and CASCUMPEC, will, for the remainder of the Season, run once a fortnight between the above mentioned Ports, for the conveyance of FREIGHT and PASSENGERS, remaining at each place for forty-eight hours on every trip. The "Josephine" is a staunch vessel, well fitted, has *good* accommodations for Passengers, and is in all respects well adapted for the route.

I. C. HALL, ESQR, Agent for Charlottetown;
HERBERT BELL, ESQR, Agent for Cascumpec.

Ch'town, June 24, 1867. 3m

Pianoforte for Sale.

A VERY handsome and superior toned Cottage Cabinet 6¾ Octavo PIANOFOTE, Rosewood Case in excellent order, for sale. Original cost, Forty guineas

For particulars enquire of MR. GEORGE DOUGLASS, Kent Street.

Ch'town, March 25, 1867.

Peaches! Peaches!

JUST RECEIVED, per *Alhambra*, Nine Cases PEACHES, in hermetically sealed cans—put up in such a manner as to retain all the delicious flavor of the Fruit. Sold by the single can or by the dozen.

I. C. HALL.

Charlottetown, July 1, 1867. p b i

The Centre of Attraction

is at ROBERT YOUNG'S, *Queen's Square.*

The Best and Cheapest **Hoop Skirts** in the Trade, are at R. YOUNG'S.

The Best Assortment and Newest Styles of **Summer Dresses** are at ROBERT YOUNG'S.

The Cheapest place to buy **Shawls & Mantles,** is YOUNG'S.

The cheapest COTTONS are at R. YOUNG'S.

Ladies and Gentlemen's Paper Collars & Cuffs for the Million at ROBERT YOUNG'S.

Beautiful BONNETS and HATS, cheap at ROBERT YOUNG'S.

The Original Weed SEWING MACHINES, the best in the Market, at ROBERT YOUNG'S.

Real Paisley Shawls for less than they can be imported, at ROBERT YOUNG'S.

Ladies' SERGE BOOTS, from 7s 6d per pair, a first rate article, at R. YOUNG'S.

FIRST RATE TEA, at ROBERT YOUNG'S.

Charlottetown, 15th July, 1867. tf

Bristol Line to New York, VIA BRISTOL, R. I.

FARE: Cabin, $5; Deck, $4.

CARS leave the Depot of the Boston and Providence Railroad, Pleasant street, daily, Sundays excepted,

At 5.30 P. M.

For steamer PROVIDENCE, Capt. Benj. M Simmons, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
For steamer BRISTOL, Capt. Benj B. Brayton, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Passengers going by this line to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, can connect with the New Jersey and Camden and Amboy Railroad.

This line connects also with the Athens line going to Saratoga and the West, landing at the same Pier in New York.

Baggage checked through.

Tickets, State Rooms and Berths can be secured at the Agent's office, Old State House, corner Washington and State streets, and at the Boston and Providence Railroad Depot.

GEO. SHIVERICK,
Passenger and Freight Agent.

July 15, 1867. 3m

Every Man his own Fire Brigade.

"A little fire is quickly put out, which being suffered, rivers cannot quench."—Vide Mr. Cardwell in the British House of Commons.

L'EXTINCTEUR,

A new Portable, self-acting Fire Engine, for the Extinguishing of fires in their early stages.

This little Engine can be carried on the back to any desired spot; throws a small stream of water, impregnated with eight times its volume of carbonic acid gas, which is the most simple and most effective means yet known to science for destroying fire. They have the advantage of being always ready for use. All that is necessary in applying them is to turn the tap with one hand and with the other direct the stream upon the flame. The cost of them is but trifling, ranging from $18 to $35. They are also made in copper, up to $60. They are indispensable for houses, stores, warehouses, factories, public offices, halls, &c., &c.

J. R. WOODBURN,
At Mr. Young's Store, Queen Square.

July 15, 1867.

BEALES & CO,

Merchant Tailors & Drapers,

Late Smardon's Corner.

THE Subscribers desire to return their sincere thanks to their friends and customers for the very large amount of patronage heretofore extended to them, and trust the same favor may be continued towards them. Having now secured a very commodious and suitable business stand, beg leave to bring the following facts before the public, viz:—That they are now prepared to carry on the above business upon a more extended scale, and, being in possession of the modern improvements, which, coupled with their usual style of cutting and careful workmanship, they trust to merit an increase of that very liberal patronage already received at the hands of a discriminating public, since their commencement in business.

As usual, Garments warranted to fit.

Residence and place of business—corner of Great George Street and Queen Square, where moderate charges and punctuality will be the order of the day.

BEALES & CO.

Ch'town, 10th June, 1867. 3m

Fishermen's Outfits.

THE SUBSCRIBER is prepared to furnish promptly to FISHERMEN, at reasonable prices, all the OUTFITS necessary to prosecute all the different branches of FISHING carried on about Prince Edward Island, and in the adjacent waters, such as

Salt,	Flour,
Barrels,	Bread,
Pogies,	Beans,
Clams,	Peas,
Mackerel Hooks,	Butter,
Cod do	Pork,
Mackerel Lines,	Beef,
Cod do	Lard,
Mackerel Jigs,	Tea,
Cod Leads,	Coffee,
Cotton Duck,	Sugar,
Do Sail Twine,	Molasses,
Bait Knives,	Spices,
Splitting Knives,	Pickles,
Jig Rasps,	Lanterns,
Bait Heavers,	Boiled Oil,
Clam Choppers,	Kerosene Oil,
Oil Clothes,	Vinegar,
Sou' Westers,	&c., &c., &c.

He also possesses excellent facilities for INSPECTING and PACKING MACKEREL and other FISH.

I. C. HALL.

Charlottetown, May 20, 1867.

Flour, Tea, Sugar, Molasses, Gin and Rum, &c.

THE Subscriber has in Store and for Sale—

11 Hhds. Bright Porto Rico SUGAR,
25 Puns. Bright Retailing MOLASSES,
80 Puns. Demerara RUM, Pale & Colored,
150 Chests Superior Congo TEA,
25 Hhds. Holland GIN,
500 Bbls. Superior Extra FLOUR,
80 Boxes Liverpool SOAP,
140 Bundles White Cotton WARP,
Hhds. and Q r Casks Pale BRANDY,
Hhds. Port and Sherry WINE.

OWEN CONNOLLY.

Ch'town, 25th Feb., 1867.

POETRY.

THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

When the skies grow warm and bright,
And flash with gold the hours,
And in her pale, faint robes, the spring
Is calling up the flowers;
When children, with unslippered feet,
Go forth with hearts of glee
To the straight and even furrows,
Where the yellow corn must be;
What a beautiful embodiment
Of ease devoid of pride,
Is the good old-fashioned homestead,
With doors still open wide!

But when the happiest time is come,
That to the year belongs,
Of uplands bright with harvest gold,
And meadow full of songs.
When fields of yet unripened corn,
And daily garnered stores,
Remind the thrifty husbandman
Of ample threshing floors—
How pleasant, from the din and dust
Of the thoroughfare aloof,
Seems the old-fashioned homestead,
With steep and mossy roof,

When home the woodman plods, with axe
Upon his shoulder swung,
And in the knotted apple tree
Are scythe and sickle hung;
When light the swallows twitter
'Neath the rafters of the shed,
And the table in the ivied porch
With decent care is spread—
Then hearts are lighter and freer
Than beat in the populous town,
In the old-fashioned homestead,
With gables sharp and brown.

When the flowers of summer perish,
In the cold and bitter rain,
And the little birds with weary wings
Have gone across the main;
When curls the blue smoke upward
Toward the bluer sky,
And cold along the naked hills
And white the snow-drifts lie—
In legends of love and glory
They forget the cloud and storm,
In the old-fashioned homestead,
With hearthstone large and warm.

AN OLD STORY.

Softly the sun's last rays are glinting
Over the hillside, over the sea,
Flushing the fleecy clouds, and tinting
With gold and crimson the purple sea,
While hand and hand they wander together—
Youth of twenty and child of ten—
Across the sea beach, and over the heather,
By sloping hillock and shady glen;
A breeze is stirring each rippling curl
On the sunny head of the little girl,
And her eyes, from the shading hat's broad brim,
With innocent love look up to him.

Ten long years—and the mellow gloaming
Casts its glamor o'er glen and lea,
And glides the sands where a maid is roaming
With eyes that wander beyond the sea.
Ten long years—and that daily glory
Has dawned and darkened on wood and grove,
Lighting the page of a lasting story—
The old, old story of maiden's love.
But duty severed those clasping hands,
As the pitiless ocean severs the lands—
And the heart grew sad and the eyes grew dim,
Wearily waiting and watching for him.

Ten years more—while the restless billows
Fret and foam on the patient shore,
And the red beams slant through the drooping willows,
And writes strange words on the greensward floor;
But far from ingle, and glen and heather,
From the purple hills of their native land,
Wander those two as of yore together—
Heart answering heart, hand clasping hand,
No more watching through heavy tears,
No more waiting through weary years,
But eyes, that in radiant love-light swim,
And life-long devotion, look up to him!

[*From Blackwood's Magazine for July, 1867.*]

THE AMERICAN DEBT, AND THE FINANCIAL PROSPECTS OF THE UNION.

"What a mean, contemptible, little, one-horse country England is," said a Western orator in the height of the American Civil War. "It took her nigh upon two hundred years to run up a debt of 800 million sterling, and she is always groaning and sweating under the load, as if it were more than enough to break her back. But our great country has run up nearly as big a debt in three years, and thinks nothing of it—ay, and will run up twice as big a debt, if necessary, to restore our glorious Union. We *are* a great people, that's a fact; and the stupid old monarchies of Europe shall *one day* feel it." "A debt of 2500 million of dollars," said another American, a very distinguished citizen of the State of New York, "will be a great calamity. It will depress our energies, tax our resources, superabundant as they are, produce among us the pauperism that is the curse of the Old World, raise up a banking and moneyed aristocracy, the worst possible kind of aristocracy that can afflict any country, and produce evils worse than the disruption of the Union which it is incurred to prevent. And it is because I think we shall pay a debt of 2500 millions, or the annual interest of it—which is the same thing—that I consider the debt so enormous an evil. If we could but double it and make the debt 5000 millions I should not care: for finding the weight intolerable, we should simply get a big sponge and rub it off the slate. When the multitude feels the pressure severely, good-bye to our liabilities. Repudiation will come to our relief. We shall be ruined on Monday, and start fair again on Tuesday. I am for the 5000 millions' debt for this reason." On another occasion an eminent judge was asked to "run" for the Presidency in opposition to Mr. Lincoln, and presented with a platform of "war" principles. "I don't want to be President," said the judge, "and don't approve of your war platform; but if I *did* want to be President, I should wait for four years after the conclusion of peace." "Well, and what then?" inquired the spokesman of the deputation. "Well, we shall all be ready for repudiation by that time; and I should run on the repudiation ticket, and carry all before me."

It was in a style similar to this that, during the climax of the great struggle between North and South, when men's passions were inflamed, the subject of the debt was treated in America. The Government was printing paper-money as fast as thirty steam-presses in full blast at Washington could throw off the daily millions of dollars required to feed the army and the navy, and keep the war machine going by sea and land. The tax-gatherer, though constantly spoken of as the man of the future, was never seen in the present, so that nobody was much afraid of him; or if the idea of such an uncomfortable person came into the mind of any one, it was relegated to that unseen to-morrow which never comes, or consigned to oblivion with the *poco-curante* apophthegm—"Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof."

A great war always creates more scoundrels than it kills; and it must be said of the American Civil War that the best people connected with it were the native-born soldiers and sailors on both sides. Of the Irish and Germans who fought for the bounty money, and did not care a straw for the principles at issue, we shall speak hereafter. Such a terrific debt was never rolled up with such reckless rapidity and such shameless robbery since the world began. As soon as it was found that no money could be borrowed in Europe for the purposes of the strife, and that European capitalists, chary of American ventures at the best, positively refused to advance a sixpence in support of the contest—neither party to which enlisted much of their sympathy, and the North least of all—the Federal Government saw that there was nothing to be done but to borrow as much as it could of the Northern people, and to issue inconvertible paper-money to supply all possible deficiencies. When the war first broke out, the Northern people and their Government had but little idea of the magnitude of the task they had undertaken. Mr. Lincoln, a modest and timid man, was loath or afraid *to call for so many as 75,000* men for the castigation of the rebels; and Mr. Seward, as all the world knows, thought ninety days sufficient time in which to "whip the South"—using the vulgar Yankee phrase which both Northern and Southern Americans employ, where an Englishman would say to "conquer." General Winfield Scott, who, being a Virginian, better knew the temper of his people than Mr. Lincoln of Ohio, or Mr. Seward of New York, considered, that three years, three hundred thousand men, and two hundred and fifty millions of dollars (fifty millions sterling,) would be none too much for so great a work, and that even all these might be unavailing if a young, an able, and more especially a fortunate general were not discovered to lead his countrymen to victory. The estimate was considered at the time to be highly extravagant. Experience, however, soon proved its moderation in every element except that of time. The three years stretched into four. The killed, the wounded, and the disabled alone amounted, before all was over, to the full three hundred thousand that General Scott considered ample for victory; and the modest two hundred and fifty millions of dollars ran up in one short year more than double the sum; and before the war was ended, in the early spring of 1865, had reached the ascertained amount of 3000 millions of dollars, or just twelve times as much as General Scott had anticipated.

Towards the middle of the year 1861, up to which time the Government had not resorted to the expedient of printing inconvertible greenbacks, and when it relied solely upon the produce of loans for carrying on the war, the vultures who sniff carnage from afar off and delight in the odour of blood—the knavish contractors and jobbers, who are, unfortunately, to be found in all countries, and who think it no sin to rob a nation, however great may be its distress and peril—were busily engaged in the work of plunder. The Government was greatly in want of steamships for the transport of troops, and it was in the matter of steamships that the first organized villanies of the "patriots," who thirsted to grow suddenly rich at the expense of a nation battling for its life, were displayed. The sale to the Government of two steamers, the Cataline and the Killvan Kull, excited at this time particular remark. The Cataline, an unseaworthy boat, it appears, with which the insurance offices would have nothing to do except at a very exceptional premium, was purchased of her owners for 18,000 dollars, though not worth 12,000, and transferred to the service of the Government for 10,000 dollars her month, for the conveyance of troops between New York and Annapolis. At the end of two months and a half, after making three handsome earnings, she was accidentally destroyed by fire. As she was not insured against this risk, the Government, that had undertaken to pay 50,000 dollars for her in the event of her destruction or loss by any peril not covered by her insurance, had to provide this handsome sum; and the speculators—leading patriots all of them—went on their way rejoicing, willing, no doubt, to supply the Government with as many more steamships as it might desire, on equally favourable terms. This was but one specimen out of scores, and by no means the worst. The brood of contractors and speculators did not, however, confine themselves to this particular mode of plunder. Army stores, horses, mules, fodder, and firearms were all in hot request, and all these articles were supplied by greedy patriots, desirous of growing rich by a single operation. Shoes that wore out in a three-days' march were supplied at a price three or four hundred per cent. above the market value of the best article that could be manufactured; thousands of stands of old-fashioned and useless firearms were foisted upon the War Office; and spavined old mules, fit for nothing but the knacker, were disposed of at princely prices. So great was the scandal created—for naturally every needy scoundrel who could not get his finger into this beautiful pie was indignant at, as well as envious of, those who did, and made a great clamour, through the press and otherwise, about the manner in which the country was being robbed—that Congress was alarmed. The result was, that in the summer of 1861 a special committee of seven members of the House of Representatives was appointed, under the presidency of Mr. Van Wyck of New York, to "inquire into all the facts and circumstances connected with contracts and agreements by or with the Government, growing out of its efforts in suppressing the rebellion." On the 17th of December the Committee presented its report, in which they stated that, instead of summoning witnesses from all parts of the country to Washington, they had deemed it to be their duty to take upon themselves the task of visiting the various localities where it was supposed that examinations would be necessary. They held sittings and examined witnesses in Washington, New York, Boston, New Bedford, St. Louis, *Cairo*, Chicago and Harrisburg, and in all travelled between six thousand and seven thousand miles. They examined no less than two hundred and sixty-five witnesses, whose testimony in the Report covered 1109 closely-printed octavo pages. Disgraceful as the facts were supposed to be before the inquiry was instituted, the report and evidence proved that for once rumour had been less of a liar than usual, and that she had under rather than overrated the swindling, the peculation, the fraud, and the robbery perpetrated upon the Government. It was not merely the sellers of ships, of stores, of guns, and all such as had anything to dispose of at as high a price as they could get, but the confidential agents of the Government itself, who scented the plunder with keen olfactories and grabbed it without remorse.

A few of the many exposures made in this Report, sample bricks of the whole edifice of fraud, will serve to show the mingled audacity and cunning, and the entire success of the "smart" men who aided the United States in getting rid of the money which it had borrowed from the people, and enabled the enthusiastic Yankees, who considered England "slow," to boast of their own surprising "fastness." In May, 1861, when people unwilling to believe in unpleasant facts had at last begun to open their eyes and their minds to the magnitude of the war in which the two sections of the country were arrayed against each other, the Federal Government being in want of two or three sailing-ships for coaling purposes, and thinking that whaling-vessels, then out of employment and lying idle at the wharves of New Bedford, could be advantageously purchased for that purpose, authorized the naval officer in command at Brooklyn to employ such competent shipbroker as he might select to proceed to New Bedford to make purchases. The broker was found; and purchased a ship called the Roman, for 4000 dollars, and another ship called the William Badger, for 2500 dollars. By a little manœuvring, all of which is fully explained in the Report, this agent of the Government managed to charge his employers 14,500 dollars for these two vessels; and had the coolness, moreover, to demand five per cent. on this sum for his personal services. The Secretary of the Navy, anxious to do a good turn to his friends, appointed his brother-in-law, a wholesale grocer in New York, to act as agent for the purchase of ships generally for the needs of the Government, although he knew nothing whatever of their build, their quality, or their value. In four months and a half the favored grocer made no less a sum than $91,000, or £18,000 sterling, as his commission upon the purchases he effected. The Committee reported also the very notorious case of what were called "The Hall Carbines." It appeared that in the month of June, a Mr. Eastman, a very sharp "Yankee," from Manchester, in the State of New Hampshire, had purchased of the Ordnance Bureau 5400 of a useless arm called Hall's Carbines, at the price of three and a half dollars each. He slightly altered and improved them at a cost of less than three quarters of a dollar, and found a customer for them in the person of a Mr. Simon Stevens, who gave him twelve dollars and a half for each carbine. Stevens, hearing that General Fremont, then in command at St. Louis, Missouri, was greatly in want of arms, telegraphed to him to the effect that he had 5000 rifled cast-steel carbines, breech-loading, *new*, at twenty-two dollars, and asking whether he would purchase. The General telegraphed back immediately to say that he would "take the lot," and they were forwarded accordingly. By this little operation, allowing for the seventy-five cents for each carbine expended on the alterations, whatever they were, the Government lost, or was defrauded of, 89,750 dollars, or close upon £18,000. This was not, however, the worst part of the business. The Committe reported that "General Fremont manifestly understood from Mr. Stevens's telegraphic despatch that the arms were *new*, and ready for delivery, *when in truth, and at the time Stevens made the purchase, a part of these arms were still in the possession of the Government, and unpaid for*—a fact of which he was necessarily informed, for he advanced the money to enable Eastman to obtain them." In other words, the Government was made to sell its useless carbines for three dollars and a half, and buy them back again immediately for twenty-two! Bad as was this case, it did not stand alone. Some time before the outbreak of the war, a firm of foreign merchants and general dealers in Broadway had recived from Vienna a consignment of 25,000 muskets, which had been rejected as unserviceable by the Austrian Government. These muskets were invoiced at two dollars each. General Fremont was shown a specimen, when in New York, on his way to take command in the West, and on the advice of an Austrian officer, then in the Federal service, who explained the uselessness of the arm, declined to purchase, though greatly in need of arms for his men. On reaching St. Louis he telegraphed back to New York, for "arms! arms! arms! send us arms! anything!" And this lot, by some means or other, was sent on to him, at six dollars and a half each, in all 162,500 dollars, or £32,500 sterling. These arms were never used. The Committee reported that they found a large number of them at Cairo, on the Mississippi, and that notwithstanding the urgent necessity for arms at that point, whole regiments being destitute, these muskets were left in the boxes in which they were shipped from the arsenal at St. Louis.

These specimens of the recklessness with which arms were bought, and of the rapacity of those who sold them, may suffice. Turning to the contracts for the supply of cattle, we find the same carelessness on the one hand, and roguery on the other. "In this matter," said the Committee, "there is much evidence of gross mismanagement, culpable carelessness, and reckless improvidence. Evidence exists of large contracts for cattle having been made without any advertisements for bids, or any efforts on the part of the agents of the Government to satisfy themselves whether the prices to be paid were exorbitant, or even extortionate. Cattle were furnished at prices, per live weight, very little, if any, below the *retail* prices of the meat in any of the markets of the country; and the contractors, without themselves furnishing a single hoof to the Government, made large sums of money by subletting the contracts to other parties who assumed all the responsibilities, and all the risks, and still made in profits sums nearly as large as the original contractors."

"There is every reason to believe," added the Committee, "that there was collusion on the part of the employees of the Government to assist in robbing the Treasury; for when a conscientious officer refused to pass cattle not in accordance with the contract, he was superseded by one who had no conscientious scruples in the matter; and cattle that were rejected by his predecessor were at once accepted. With such a state of things existing, if officers of the Government, who should be imbued with patriotism and integrity enough to have a care of the means of the Treasury, are ready to assist speculating contractors to extort from and defraud the Government, where is this system of speculation to end, and how soon may not the finances of the Government be reduced to woeful bankruptcy?" This was a pregnant question, which there was none to answer. Perhaps the most monstrous job of all was the fortification of the city of St. Louis, when General Fremont was in command—a fortification that, after it had made considerable progress, was declared by competent military authority to be wholly unnecessary, and ordered to be discontinued by the War Office. Five forts were built in a few days, under the direction of a Hungarian engineer officer on Fremont's staff, at a cost of 60 000 dollars. Other five forts smaller than these were intrusted to a Mr. Beard, one of the General's Californian friends, who speedily ran up a bill for 246,000 dollars, and received 171,000 dollars of the money. After the War Departmen had ordered the cessation of the works, Beard claimed 60,000 dollars more, and the sum was ordered to be paid by General Fremont. Major Allen, the Quartermaster to whom the order was sent, refused to obey; "and thus," reported the Committee, after a compliment to the Quartermaster for his vigilance and firmness, "this last sum of 60,000 dollars was saved from going into the capacious and already gorged pockets of Beard." In concluding this part of their subject, the Committee, after stigmatising Beard as "a cormorant," expressed a hope that means might be found to make the parties to the "atrocious contract" disgorge the sums out of which they had defrauded the Government. Who the parties were, besides Beard himself, the Committee did not state; and whether they did or did not disgorge, the muse of history has omitted to record.

It will serve no useful purpose to enter into further details of these and other frauds quite as gigantic and heartless. Any one who is curious on the subject may refer to the Report presented in the second session of the thirty-seventh Congress by Mr. Washbourne, and ordered to be printed for the use of members. It may be sufficient to add, however, that no action was taken on the document, unless it were in the case of Mr. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, who was not accused of any personal corruption, but was pointed at by public opinion as being a little too easy, too good-natured, and too anxious to serve his personal friends at the expense of the public Treasury. This gentleman found it necessary, or expedient, on comfortable—it is difficult to decide upon the exact word to apply—to resign the portfolio of the War Office, and was forthwith appointed, as a solatium to his wounded feeling, to the post of Ambassador at the Court of St. Petersburg.

At this time the war was but young, and all the plunder possible to contractors was but little compared with the chances that afterwards presented themselves, when Mr. Lincoln found it necessary to call for levies of men, 300,000 at a time, and to order the construction of monitors and ironclads as rapidly as all the available hands, energy, and science in the country could produce them. As yet, also, the dollar was a dollar, and gold was at par; no immense issues of paper-money having been made to inflate prices, and puff up the country with ideas of immense wealth consequent upon immense expenditure. "Greenbacks!"—so called from being printed on the back with a green colour which those who forged bank notes by means of photography could not reproduce—were not issued until 1862, and proved a great success. At the very first outbreak of the war, all the banks throughout the Union, with the exception of two small but highly esteemed and respectable concerns in New York, had suspended specie payments, and thereby forfeited their charters of incorporation. Before the war, the bank-note system of the States was a crying evil. There was no national currency except gold and silver, and gold disappeared at the first cannon-shot, while silver, and even copper, followed the example after a short interval. The notes of one State did not circulate in any other, except at a discount; and a man who travelled a couple of thousand miles, and traversed five or six States, had to lose a very considerable percentage on his notes in every one of them. But the greenback, based upon the credit of the United States, and equally good in all the States, recommended itself as a great convenience, and found universal acceptance. It did not displace the notes of the various State and City banks, but did service as a supplement and addendum, and, being sown broadcast over the land in payment of the army and navy, and of army and navy stores, and all the accoutrements and paraphernalia of war, had the temporary effect of real wealth in stimulating every kind of trade and enterprise. The Northern people, having no hostile armies tramping over their soil, no squadrons and armadas of the enemy blockading their ports, and throwing red-hot shot and fiery shell into their maritime cities, saw nothing but the bright side of war—the side of its profuse expenditure. Everything went merrily when the greenbacks made their appearance—everything except the price of gold, that soon began to lift its back against its unwelcome rival, and persisted in reaching a premium that the loyal people of the North took pleasure in stigmatising as in the highest degree disloyal and rebellious. When 900 millions of inconvertible paper-money had been thrust into circulation, gold, that up to May, 1862, had been at par, advanced by rapid steps to a premium of 2½, 5, 10, 20 and 30, and reached, at the commencement of 1863, as high as 35 per cent. In January of that year, the rapid increase of the public debt and the premium on gold had begun to very seriously alarm the professional statesmen and ablest financiers of the country. Mr. Robert J. Walker, a gentleman who had been Secretary of the Treasury in the halcyon days of President Polk, when there was no debt worth speaking of, and when the Federal treasury suffered under an overflow of cash, was one of the first to sound the warning voice against the dangers which he saw in the future.

"Our national finances," said he, "are involved in extreme peril. Our public debt exceeds 720,000,000 dollars, and is estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury, on the 1st of July next, at 1,122,291,403 dollars, and on the 1st of July 1, 864, at 1,744,685,586 dollars. When we reflect that this is nearly one-half the debt of England, and bearing almost double the rate of interest, it is clear that we are approaching a fatal catastrophe. Nor is this the most alarming symptom. Gold now commands a premium of 32 per cent. as compared with legal-tender Treasury notes, and with largely augmented issues must rise much higher, with a *corresponding increase of our debt and expenditure*. Indeed, should the war continue, and there be no other alternative than additional Treasury notes, they will, before the close of the next fiscal year, fail to command 40 cents on the dollar in gold, and our debt will exceed several billions of dollars. This would result from an immense redundancy and depreciation of currency, and from the alarm created here and in Euoope, as to the maintenance of the Union and the ultimate solvency of the Government. Indeed, our enemies at home and abroad, the rebels and their allies in the North and in Europe, already announce impending national bankruptcy and *repudiation*, and there are many devoted patriots who fear such a catastrophe. That the danger is imminent is a truth which must not be disguised. Here lies the great peril of the Government. It is not the rebel armies that can ever overthrow the Union. *It is the alarming increase of the public debt and expenditure*, and the still more appalling depreciation of the national currency, that most imperil the great Republic..... *We are upon the verge of ruin* We are hanging over the gulf of an irredeemable paper system, and its spectral shade, *repudiation*, is seen dimly in the dark abyss. The present Congress may save us, but what of the next? Would they if they could? Who can answer? Can they if they would? No, no; it will then be too late."

Mr. Walker was not at fault in his predictions; for within three months after he had warned his countrymen of what was coming, gold had gone up to 85 per cent. premium, and for a long time afterwards oscillated between that high figure and 65. But the war went on as joyously as ever for the contractors; the debt increased daily; and fresh issues of greenbacks afforded scope for the wildest speculation and the most reckless extravagance. Towards the end of the year, Governor Seymour, the then newly-elected Democratic Governor of New York, harped vigorously on the string on which Mr. Walker had sounded the first note; but the Governor, like many others who had less courage than himself, was opposed to the war—thought it both a mistake and a crime, and augured no good of it, whether it should reward the North with victory or punish it with defeat. Consequently his words, if they did not fall unheeded, were received with angry denunciation by the war zealots as the treason of a "Copperhead."

"The weight of annual taxation," he said, "will severely test the loyalty of the people. Repudiation of our financial obligations would cause disorder and endless moral evils; but pecuniary rights will never be held more secured than personal rights. *Repudiation of the Constitution involves the repudiation of national debts*, and of the guarantees of rights of property, of person, and of conscience .... If we begin a war upon the compromises of the Constitution, we must go through with it. It contains many restraints upon our natural rights. It may be asked by what right do the six small New England States, with a population less that that of New York, enjoy six times its power in the Senate, which has become the controlling branch of the Government? By what natural right do these six States, with their small population and limited territories, balance the power of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. *The vast debt growing out of this war will give rise to new and angry discussions.* It will be held almost exclusively in a few Atlantic States. Look upon the map of the Union, and see how small is the territory in which it will be owned. We are to be divided into debtor and creditor States, and the last will have a vast preponderance of power and strength. Unfortunately there is no taxation upon this national debt, and its share is thrown off upon other property. It is held where many of the Government contracts have been executed, and where, in some instances, gross frauds have been practised. It is held largely where the *constitution gives a disproportionate share of political power*. With all these elements of discord, is it wise to assail Constitutional laws, or bring authority into contempt?"

To keep down the debt, and provide at least a portion of the ways and means necessary for carrying on the war out of the annual produce of the people's trade and industry, the Government introduced a system of taxation—new to America—exceedingly oppressive in its incidence, and labouring under the flagrant demerit of a productiveness utterly incommensurate with the extent and cost of the machinery employed to collect it. In order that the masses of the people—the adult males in possession of votes—might not complain, an income and property tax of five per cent. was imposed upon all incomes above six hundred dollars per annum; of seven per cent. upon all incomes between five and ten thousand dollars, and of ten per cent. on those above ten thousand. Every person liable to the tax was allowed to deduct six hundred dollars, and the price he actually paid for his house-rent, out of his total income, and was only chargeable on the remainder; so that if the average amount of house-rent paid by the working classes and the great bulk of the people was one hundred dollars per annum, nobody with an income of less than seven hundred dollars, £140 per annum, was liable to the impost. The duty of 33 per cent. *ad valorem* upon foreign manufactured goods—a duty levied not so much for revenue as for supposed "protection to native industry," was increased to 49½ per cent., payable in gold; a tax upon alcholic liquors of 60 cents per gallon, which it was anticipated would prove highly productive, was also imposed for the first time; while everybody engaged in any trade, occupation, or pursuit, except that of the day-labourer, was compelled, under a heavy penalty for neglect or disobedience, to take out an annual licence at a cost of ten dollars, and in some businesses, such as that of the hotel-keeper, of a hundred dollars. The tailor, the shoemaker, the hatter, the milliner, the hosier, the baker, the butcher, the fishmonger, the grocer, the greengrocer, and the butterman; the merchant, the trader, and the manufacturer; even the merchants', the manufacurers' and bankers' clerks, all had to take out licenses to pursue their several callings, so that the Americans enjoyed a luxury of taxation which even our old and experienced England had never tasted. There was a talk of taxing servant girls*—"helps," as they are called—and negro waiters; but the idea was abandoned. A very elaborate system of stamp-duties upon bills of exchange, bankers' cheques, receipts, trade circulars, and even upon potographic or album portraits (stupidly called *cartes-de-visite* in England, but not in America), was devised; and all sorts of imposts, which Great Britain had for thirty years been busily engaged in getting rid of, were revived in America. The people however, were new to taxation; the tax-gatherers, of whom about fifty thousand were appointed, did not understand their business; and after an experiment of eighteen months, it was found necessary to devise other and better means for raising a revenue. Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, had estimated that he would receive, during the financial year, 150,000,000 dollars from the Internal Revenue alone, exclusive of the Income and Property tax and the Customs duties. But from the 1st July, 1862, to the close of 1863, the actual receipts amounted to no more than 47,641,000 dollars, or at the annual rate of 31,740,000 dollars—little more than one fifth of the sum expected. The Income and Property tax was largely evaded; and the Customs Duties brought less into the coffers of the State than they put indirectly into the pockets of the native manufacturers, by affording them a pretext to put up the price of their untaxed commodities to that of the foreign article which had paid duty. A revision of the whole scheme of taxation was ordered, the chief results of which were that the duty upon whiskey and other alcholic liquors was raised to two dollars per gallon, and that the Income and Property Tax was ordered to be more stringently collected. The estimate for the year 1864 from the three great sources of revenue, the Income and Property Tax, the Customs Duties, and the Internal Revenue, was no more than 285,000,000 dollars—a sum which, as the war expenses of the Government were upwards of three millions of dollars per diem, was barely sufficient to carry on affairs for three months even if the money could have been at once collected. Under the circumstances, there was nothing for it but loans in the shape of "five twenties," "ten thirties," "seven forties," and "greenbacks"—continuous, never-ceasing greenbacks—some bearing interest and some not, but none of them convertible into gold on demand, or into gold at all, except at such a premium on the real article as made the paper dollar worth, upon the average, about 2s. 3d. sterling instead of 4s. 2d. As the working classes, taxed heavily upon their favourite whiskey, though untaxed upon their incomes, found that their six or seven hundred dollars per annum of wages represented a purchasing power of little more than half its amount in the blessed days of peace, they too, for the first time in American history, began to strike for higher wages.

Their demands were very generally complied with—for there was not only a plethora of paper money but a scarcity of labourers in every department of industry in consequence of the drain made upon the youth of the country by the inexorable demands of war. Thus the working classes were kept in good humour on all questions except that of the whiskey bottle. To pay twenty cents for a drink, that had formerly cost but five, was not satisfactory; but even on this sore point there was relief in store for them. The illicit distiller came to the rescue, and smuggling over the long Canadian frontier of fifteen hundred miles developed itself so rapidly into a regular, a safe and a highly profitable business, that the intemperates who could not refrain from their usual alcohol, were enabled to indulge themselves almost as freely, and at little more cost than in the bygone days, when the hand of brother was not raised against brother in mortal strife, and Government, throughout the length and breadth of more than thirty prosperous States, rested upon the consent of the governed. Though victory did not reward the efforts of the Northern people at this time, and seemed as if it never would, there was very little real discontent with the state of public affairs among the Northern people. The profuse expenditure of the Government kept trade busy in every department. Never were there such luxury and extravagance in any country in the world as in the Northern States during the years 1863 and 1864. The "shoddy" aristocracy, the knavish contractors, the

* When William Pitt, in England, imposed a tax on maid-servants, a bookseller in Fleet Street shut up his premises in disgust, and emigrated to the United States, after affixing the following distich to his shutters. He must have been an Irishman!

"These are those dreadful taxing times of yore,
Which our forefathers never saw before!"