European News.

From the News of the World, Feb. 7.

TERRIFIC STORM IN ENGLAND.

The storms which have passed over the country have unfortunately caused some loss of life, and been productive of great damage at sea and on land. At Plymouth, on Sunday morning, there was a fearful deluge of rain, accompanied by the most appalling lightening and thunder. The tide in Plymouth and other ports of Devon and Cornwall was the highest known for 30 years. A considerable portion of Plymouth—which especially through Union Street, the long street connecting the three towns of Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport, lies low—was completely inundated, and one of the Royal Marines was drowned. In other towns the streets were converted into deep rivers by the unparalleled rain. The inmates had to leave their houses in boats, and there were some most exciting scenes owing to the narrow escapes from drowning. The shipping in Plymouth Sound rode out the gale in safety, thanks to the Breakwater, although at the latter end of last week a portion of the wall of the Great Western Docks was washed away. At Falmouth several collisions took place among the large fleet of merchant vessels which crowded the harbor. At Penzance, noted for its tremendous seas, the scene was terrific, the great rollers from the channel charging up over the sands of Mount's Bay in a manner frightfully grand. The schooner Padaran, of Aberthirsk, went down off the Start and all hands were lost. The railways and telegraphs have suffered severely. On Saturday night and Sunday Cornwall was visited by a terrific gale, and the highest spring tides which have been seen in the country for nearly 40 years. The results are very serious. A large number of people had a hairbreadth escape on the West Cornwall Railway on Sunday morning. The up-passenger train had moved slowly out of the Penzance station, and was about to enter on the long wooden viaduct at Ponsandane, which was at times buried in sea, when a loud crash caused the driver to promptly pull up. Two hundred yards of massive uprights, driven a great depth into the beach, and the whole system of wooden supports began to shake, and in a few minutes went down with a fearful noise. Immense iron bars were twisted, gigantic bolts of the same metal snapped, and in a very short time the wreck was twirled seaward. The telegraph wires were also carried away. Sand and shingle covered the railway from Penzance to Marazion, the depth in many parts being from 2ft to 3ft. The Penzance promenades, quay, pier, and other places were under water for many hours, and scores of houses were flooded. At Truro the Houses and thoroughfares in lower parts of the town were flooded to a considerable height, and many poor people have suffered great loss by damage done to their furniture. In scores of instances, chairs, tables, &c., were afloat, and many articles were washed away. A boat, laden with coal went down in the Truro river, and a man named Davy was drowned. At Falmouth a youth named John Tregenza was washed overboard and drowned. A large portion of the town of Fowey was covered by from 2ft to 4ft of water nearly all Sunday, and at Helston, Padstow, and Saltash there was a similar state of things. Many people had to turn out of their houses in their night clothes and seek refuge elsewhere. Several hundreds of acres of land were under water on Monday, and the continuance of heavy rains caused serious alarm. House property has suffered considerably from the hurricane. An immense body of water has come down the Thames, which overflowed its banks for many miles, and laid a great quantity of land under water to a depth of several feet. The sea has washed away half a mile of the Cambrian Railway, near Borth. The mail had just passed over. There has been an unusually high tide all along to coast of Cardigan Bay, and great damage has been caused to houses and stock. On Friday evening an iron shed, in the malleable iron works at Blochairn, of Messrs. Hanny and Son, was blown down during a high wind, and several men engaged in the place severely injured one of them so much so that he has since died. On Saturday, as four men were at work in the upper storey of a new building in Hunslet road, Leeds, it suddenly collapsed, and buried the men under the debris. Only one laborer, an Irishman "Patsy," was seriously injured, and he is now lying at the Leeds infirmary. The other three were not much hurt. The tide rose to such an unusual height at Weymouth on Saturday, that the esplanade was two or three feet under water, and the houses on it were inundated. At the railway station the water was above the wheels of the carriages, and all traffic had to be suspended until the water receded at the fall of the tide. A very melancholy affair is reported from Bridport. It appears that a gentleman ventured out too far on the pier, to see a vessel that was in distress, when a huge wave dashed over the pier and swept him away. The lower part of the old town of Portsmouth, better known in the locality as "Spice Island," has been inundated, the sea having gained an entrance into several of the houses nearest the harbor.

On Sunday the tide was so high at Whitehaven that it overflowed the market-place Between Whitehaven and Parton the water swept in heavy showers over the railway: near to Harrington a portion of the wall which protects the railway from the sea was damaged. At Harrington harbor on Sunday the sea damaged the breakwater on the north side; while between Workington and Flimby the sea overflowed, and so seriously injured about 100 yards of the railway as to put a stop to the traffic along that portion of the London and North-Western Company's line

On Monday, whilst the storm was raging, a Dutch brig was in great distress near Portland; but by signals made by the fishermen and coastguard she was steered into Chesil Cove, where she ran aground on the soft shingle. Two of the crew endeavored to get ashore, but were swept off by a huge wave that came round the vessel's stern and were carried into deep water, when they were drowned.

STORM AND FLOODS IN IRELAND.

The greater part of the city of Cork was flooded, the water being from 3ft to 4ft deep in the principal streets. The traffic on the lines of railway on both sides of the river was stopped, the rails being submerged; and several breaches were made in the Queenstown direct line. At Youghal the sea broke over the line of railway, destroying a portion of the station, overturning waggons, and making serious breaching in the permanent way. A row of new houses on the beach was gutted, a portion of the town submerged, and considerable damage done. Part of Queenstown is also under water

Some amusing incidents of the inundation are described by the *Cork Constitution*:—"On Saturday night small craft of every kind, from the tiny canoe to the heavy yawl, glided along the canals formed between the rows of houses and to those who were spectators of it the scene was one of continual animation. All the smaller boats were brought out by their owners for the novel pleasure of having a row through the streets of the city, but the larger ones were engaged in plying from one place to another, thus extemporizing numberless ferries, by which people who were imprisoned by the flood could reach their houses. An immense trade was done by such boats at fares that must have made a golden harvest for their proprietors, as the charge for being ferried across a street was 1s, and anywhere beyond that distance 5s. The gingle drivers too made a grand haul, though their vehicles did not appear to be as much patronized at the boats, the waters in many places reaching the seats of the cars, thus thoroughly drenching the lower extremities of their occupants.

Russia appears to be preparing in the event of war breaking out The commissariat officers are engaged in making contracts with the Danubian Principalities for three months' ammunition and stores for an army of 80,000 men. Telegraphic wires are being laid on the lines leading from Warsaw to the frontier towns of Turkey.

[From the N. Y Albion.]

THE ARMED PREPARATION IN EUROPE.

Europe is at present in a state of armed preparation without parallel in the world. The preparation is for the largest and quickest possible destruction of the human species, and never before was it so advanced, so complete, so scientific, and so ready for immediate use. Numbers have not now the value in military questions they once had, but they still count for something, and five Continental nations have five and a half millions of men either ready to march to-morrow or to follow at short intervals. These are the most warlike races, and all have their special qualities for the work. Of one race we are told that they are born soldiers, and never so much at home as on the battle field; of another, that they will endure everything, and go wherever they are commanded; of another, that a national appeal will unite them all as one man, differ as they may in their habits of warfare; of another, that they only want organization and leaders; of another, that they are only too vivacious, and difficult to restrain. These are the forces of the first class Powers—that is, of the first class Continental Powers, for England is not included, and, of course, not Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Greece, Belgium, Holland, or the Scandinavian nations. It is only the more active elements that are included in the survey. The outsiders are left outside. The loose extremities of the great European organization are left hanging or lying about. They would have their place and work in an actual fray, but for the present they need not be noticed. This is a question of vitality, design, and will. There are five million and a half men of action each resolved to sell his life dear, and to help to turn the balance considerably one way or the other—that is, if he is to be called into action at all, and each is fully aware that he may be. A large proportion of these men are under regular and constant training on one system of tactics or another—old-fashioned, new lights, experimental, or improved by very recent experience. The Prussians have learnt much, and even the Austrians something, in Denmark and Bohemia. Then even the latter had hardly anything to learn in their artillery and cavalry. There are stories, indeed, of the Russians being behindhand, and of trickeries being found necessary to deceive the eyes of the Emperor; but we remember similar stories, with merely circumstantial differences, in the publications of the last century, which certainly were belied by the results. We have very little doubt that there is not much to choose between the different sections of this enormous mass of armed life. Any hundred thousand of them would probably be found a fair match for any other hundred thousand: and there are nearly sixty bodies of that number of men. Including the outsiders—pretty certain to be insiders, should the war not be concluded within two or three years—there cannot be less than a hundred such bodies, that is, ten million armed men.

But the stupendous enumeration is the least part of the great fact. Everything—numbers, national characteristics, military genius, and what not—yields in importance and present significance to the rivalry of skill, now aided and fostered by the largest resources ever at the command of military Powers. The art of human destruction has for many years been allowed to take precedence over all other arts; it has been studied with greater skill, and made the subject of the most costly experiments. There are few persons so far from the haunts of men, or so slow in flowing objects of common interest, as not to enter with warm and intelligent curiosity into the numerous successive inventions and improvements in artillery, musketry, and all kinds of arms and defences. The weapons of the age are now as ingenious, as elaborate, and as exact in their construction as a chronometer or a philosophical apparatus. The object is to carry as far as possible, as truly as possible, and to repeat the deadly operation as rapidly as possible, so that it can be done cooly and correctly. The weapon now put into the hand of a common soldier for this purpose would have astonished the makers of the following pieces our fathers were proud to possess. The next war is to be a great shooting-match for the trial of half-a-dozen different rifles, upon the merits of which military men are still divided, but each is good in its way. As to the guns, we have been ringing the changes on brass, iron, steel, cast guns, built guns, coils, composite, converted, smooth-bores, breach-loaders, muzzle-loaders, guns of every imaginable kind, by as many great competing makers, till it costs an effort of memory to know exactly how we stand and what is positively the last gun. It is certain, however, that there is a prodigious number of very good guns all ready to be used, and also that in the event of any one carrying off the palm in the expected competition it will be easily multiplied to any extent, so many first-rate establishments are there for the purpose in good working order. There are also some novelties in ordnance of a rather terrible character, but they don't seem to be much reckoned on for hard killing under ordinary circumstances. The pace of improvement is equally brisk in the matter of ammunition, accoutrements, carriages, and other points comparatively unheeded in the wars of our forefathers. A soldier is now a man of science, if an officer, a skilled mechanic if in the ranks, and expected to be a man of genius and enterprise if in command. Establishments most cosmopolitan in their character readily supply all nations with the means of mutual destruction; and the science itself is pursued and professed with an impartial desire to witness the greatest possible results. The favourite study of the age will suffer an immense disappointment if it cannot reckon its success by millions of slain.

But what is all this for? Whom is it for? Who wishes it? Who has any purpose to be answered? Who holds this enormous avalanche, waiting for the fatal footfall or sound? There is the paradox. No nation wishes for war. Of the half dozen Sovereigns who would have to give the word of command, not one desires war or feels his interest to lie in that way. Not one is naturally disposed to war, or now inclined to it by circumstances. Of the armies themselves, perhaps there are five men in a hundred, if so many, who do not wish for peace, for their discharge, and for their return to some peaceful employment. The Statesmen all wish for peace All nations are heavily in debt, and disabled from prosecuting numerous works long desired by the dedication of the public money to the preparations for war. The cost of preparation, indeed is felt to be almost as ruinous as the cost of actual war, and to be worse in having no legitimate conclusion. A war may come to an end one way or another, but the preparation for war can only end in war. Of one Power it is said that now is its time for war, as it will never be better prepared; of another, that it would gain immensely by a respite for five years; of another, that it cannot be depended on for a single day for either keeping out of a war or keeping steadily at it; of another, that it contemplates war at its own time but may find its hand forced before its time; of another, that it cannot possibly precipitate war, because time is wanting for it; and, of another, that since it is perishing and falling to pieces in peace, much more will it in war. The gist of this is that no one man wishes for war, no class of men wish for war, and the public opinion of Europe would gladly see the way to pacification, disarmament, and a return to a peaceful policy. Why, then, is this not to be? Why is it even doubtful? The danger consists in the universal preparation. The Continent is one vast magazine which an incendiary may fire. One insignificant State, one man happening to be in power, may push the first cause that sets the mass in motion. They who would wait may find themselves not allowed to wait They who wish to frighten may have to fulfil their threats. They who are looking about for partners may have to enter the dance without them. When anything is more or less ready, the word of command is too easily given. It may be given even by mistake, but, once given, cannot be recalled. Europe is not safe for a day unless there be a common determination not to go to war, and a consequent determination to regard as the enemies of Europe those who would force a war upon her. Without this security she is at war already in effect, and the actual outbreak is only a question of time.

IMPROVED METHOD OF ASSASSINATION

For a long time past New York has enjoyed the bad pre eminence of being one of the worst governed cities in the civilized world. Its property is oppressed with an almost intolerable weight of taxation. Its revenues are squandered in prodigal profusion Its municipal government is corruption organized. Justice has been bought and sold at its tribunals. Jobbery and robbery have been practiced on system in its administration. Rowdyism, ruffianism, rum and lager beer have held almost unlimited sway within its precincts. Crime of every sort has revelled in a sort of splendid impunity within its limits.

Recently a new terror has been added to previously existing causes of quiet in that city. A new method of assassination has come into vogue among its dangerous classes. Night and day men are noiselessly shot down or wounded with silent air-guns. At night, in the glare of the street lamps at their firesides, or by day, in their offices, or walking the crowded streets, people are murdered or mutilated by mysterious bullets, coming they know not whence, without warning of flash or explosion. In some cases, it has been clearly ascertained that air guns have been the instruments made use of in the perpetration of these deeds of villainy. In others, it has been reasonably inferred, from the attendant circumstances, that such instruments have been used in attempted assassination.

Much consternation has been created among the peaceful citizens of New York by the advent of this new form of danger to life in their city. It is readily perceived what a terrible weapon against society a well constructed air gun would be in the hands of men bent upon mischief to life or property. An innocent looking walking stick might be a most deadly but unsuspected instrument of crime in the hands of a man of ordinary coolness and cunning. An incident is recorded in the New York journals to the effect that a policeman in that city some time ago, happened to have his attention directed to the movements of one man stealthily following another along a deserted street. After a time the policeman observed the man pursuing raise his walking stick and point it towards the other, although at the moment the two men were separated by some distance from each other. Instantly the man pointed at fell to the ground, and was rushed upon by the other, who began to rifle the fallen man's pockets. The policeman sprang forward and the murderer fled. He was pursued and captured. On the line of flight the walking stick was dropped and picked up. On examination, it proved to be an air gun somewhat clumsily constructed but sufficiently effective noiselessly to send its bullet through the head of the man murdered. How dangerous a thing it would be if such weapons become common can be easily imagined. The temptation to deeds of violence would be very great with many in such a case. The apparent impunity with which such weapons might, with slight precaution, be used, would be a dreadful incentive to crime.

New York folk are waking up to the necessity of adopting adequate measures for their protection. There is ominous talk of vigilance committees and such like institutions, invented to do justice where the law is weak and iniquity is strong. It is to be hoped that the services of Judge Lynch will not be called into requisition. To purify and invigorate the regular tribunals, that the operation of criminal justice may be speedy and sure, is the thing specially needed.

But this new development of the art of secret assassination would justify the use, if necessary, of very strong measures for its suppression. It is a frightful manifestation of human wickedness, calculated to bring the most awful calamities upon society at large, if not arrested.—*St. John News.*

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

London, Feb. 25, evening.

Mr. Bright made a speech at the banquet of the Associated Chamber of Commerce, in which he urged the importance and necessity of adopting a system of ocean penny postage.

In the House of Commons this afternoon an enquiry was made as to whether the usual legal investigation before pardon had been made in the cases of the Fenian convicts recently released from prison.

Mr. Fortesque replied that what investigation the Government had made was quite sufficient, as their cases differed from ordinary commutations of sentence.

In reply to a question, Mr. Monsell said negotiations for the settlement between the Hudson's Bay Co., and the Dominion of Canada were still pending, and it was undesirable to make any statement as to the prospect of building telegraph lines through the territories of the Company, to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific coast until a complete adjustment was reached.

In reply to the request of Mr. Timens for information, Mr. Otway stated that the Government had received no authentic advices of the rejection of the Alabama Convention by the United States, nor had it any information whatever, in regard to the naturalization protocol.

The Bank of England decrease is £200,000, sterling.

London, Feb 26.

The War Office has received official despatches from New Zealand announcing further successes over the rebels. The Troops have carried by assault the Maori stronghold, Hayatapah. The natives made a desperate defence and lost 200 in killed and wounded, while the British loss was only 22.

Madrid, Feb 25.

The vote in the Cortes, thanking the retiring Provisional Government and authorizing Marshal Serrano to form a new ministry stood as follows: For 180; against 62.

In the Constituent Cortes, the proceedings on the occasion of the passage of a vote of thanks to the Provisional Ministry were very interesting.

The Ministers explained their action towards religious orders and the church.

It was stated that the Jesuit College of St. Vincent was suppressed because its members were engaged in a conspiracy against the Government, and three of them were accomplices in the assassination of Governor Burgos.

The orders directing the civil authorities to take charge of certain articles of church property were also explained and justified on the ground that the proceedings of the clerical party demanded the interference of the Government to preserve the objects of art in the churches.

When the result of the decision was announced Gen. Serrano rose to speak and was greeted with prolonged cheers. He made a temperate and tranquilizing speech, advising the minority to pursue a policy of conciliation, in view of firmly rooted and inexorable principles held by the majority of the Cortes. As for himself he promised them loyalty, patriotism and abnegation

Madrid, Feb. 23.

In the Spanish Constituent Cortes yesterday, Serrano, Prime Minister, officially announced the resignation of the Provisional Government. Gen. Prim, Minister of war, in an address, assured the House that the late Dynasty would never reascend the throne. Admiral Topete, Minister of Marine Affairs, asked the House to pass an act of indemnity for the Navy, for its acts during the recent rebellion.—Subsequently the House passed a vote of thanks to the retiring Provisional Government, although the republican members opposed it with unanimity, the House also by a large vote intrusted Marshal Serrano with full executive powers for the time being, and granted him with the authority necessary for the formation of a new Ministry.

Gen Caballero Deroda is to succeed General Dulce as Governor General of Cuba.

FROM CANADA.

Toronto, Feb 23.

Reports from various points between Windsor and Quebec indicate that the heaviest snow storm of the season was experienced last night The Western trains are very much delayed.

The trains between Toronto and Montreal are entirely blocked up.

M. R Brown & Co's Bank closed its doors this morning in consequence of heavy losses in New York.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.

Hon Mr. Rose left this city last night for Washington to attend a meeting, as British Commissioner on the boundary question between the U. S. and England.

Montreal, Feb. 24th.

Negotiations are in progress for getting the St. John crew and the Ward Brothers to compete at the Lachine Regatta next summer.

The Authorities are actively preparing for the trial of Buckley and Doyle in March In consequence of the late communication of Whelan, information of a new and important nature has been obtained against them. They are likely to swing.

The Stone cutters are on a strike in Montreal.

There was a lively time in the Quebec Assembly yesterday, on the second reading of the Bill for securing the independence of Parliament. Bellingham moved an amendment that no person shall be eligible as a representative after adjournment of the present Parliament, who receives an annual salary from the Imperial, Dominion or Local Government, save the members of the Ministry of the latter; and no Senator be eligible to sit in either Assembly or Council. The Government regarded the motion as a want of confidence, and opposed it. After a discussion which lasted till after midnight, the amendment was rejected.

Ten feet six inches of snow have fallen thus far.

Flour Market almost at a stand still, in consequence of snow storms. Sales of ordinary superfine at $4 50 and choice at $4.52 1 2 to $4. 60.

Montreal, Feb. 25.

No mails have reached Ottawa for five days.

Yesterday was the day appointed for the assembly of the Railway Commissioners for the purpose of having the contracts entered on with successful competitors. The snow, however, made it impossible for either Commissioners or Contractors, who are on board of trains, to reach Ottawa.

The report is credited in political circles that the contractors will refuse to sign their contracts as proposed by the Railway Commissioners

There is no doubt the Contractors are completely at the mercy of the Commissioners, as there are several things not mentioned in the plans that they may require to have done, and Contractors would be compelled to do them.

It is believed the Worthingtons of Quebec, will get the contract for No 1 section, in place of Messrs. Hersey, who have refused to undertake it.

The report in Ministerial quarters is that Sir John A. cannot settle on the meeting of Parliament until Cartier returns. Nobody seems really to know when he will leave England

Another roof fell in last night. Nobody was hurt.

Montreal, Feb 24.

Travel on the railroads East and West is still very much obstructed on account of snow on the track.

No trains have arrived or left to-day. The storm ceased last night, but another is imminent.

The storm was very severe at Pembroke and in the lumbering regions on the Ottawa river and its tributaries. It is thought that the lumber operations for the winter will be completely checked.

Montreal, Feb 27.

It has been snowing for the last forty-eight hours, and the streets are all blocked up.

Dreadful storm this afternoon has prevented the arrival of trains.

The New York train ran off the track near Rutland, Vermont, this morning. The sleeping car rolled down an embankment eighteen feet to to the river. General Averill and Lieutenants Fiz George and McLaren were among the injured.

A destructive fire occurred in Ottawa this morning. About $100,000 worth of property destroyed.

Jos. Hickson, Secretary of the Grand Trunk Trunk Railway, left for England last night.

At a meeting last night for the purpose of making arrangements for a suitable public entertainment to the Senators and the members of the Commons on the meeting of the Parliament, a Committee of twelve leading citizens, including the Mayor, was appointed.

FROM THE STATES

New York, Feb 24.

The failure of reconstruction for Georgia, Mississippi and Texas and of the Tax Bill and the postponement of the House Tenure Office Act Bill will compel the next Congress to remain in session longer than was expected—probably sixty days from the fourth of March.

The Female Labor question was discussed in Congress yesterday, and it was decided to increase the salaries of the female clerks to $1,200 per annum

Gold 132 1-2. Money easy

New York, Feb 24.

Despatches of yesterday from Cuba state that a decree is to be issued imposing an export duty from the first of March next of 50 cents per box and $1,20 per hogshead on sugar, $1 per bale on tobacco and 50 cents per thousand of cigars and an addition of five per cent on all internal taxes, the proceeds of which are to be paid weekly to the Spanish Banks to secure an advance of eight million dollars to the Government.

New York, Feb. 27.

Cuban advices represent that the trouble between the volunteers and General Dulce still continues, and that in consequence of the mutinous spirit of the troops the government has determined to inaugurate a harsher policy.

A reported battle in the Cienfuegos district was won by the Spanish troops.

D.S Reynolds, Superintendent of the Buffalo, N Y Police, Capt Henry Dickson, and two detectives of the Nigara frontier police are on trial before the Police Commissioners of Buffalo, charged with criminally and unlawfully kidnapping two men on the night of January 1st, and of carrying them to Canada for a reward.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—

Ere this comes to hand, the collective wisdom of our tight little Island will have met in the metropolis, and their work for the Session pointed out to them in the Speech from the Throne. The Solons of our day will find their hands full: for the further and more rapidly we advance in the opening up and developing the resources of the country, the more rapidly must the wheels of the state engine be kept in motion by those who "run the machine." We have this consolation, however, that, judging from the metal of which the *machine* is composed, there is not the slightest danger that, Phaeton like, they will run the risk of setting the world in a blaze.

No doubt, the attention of our legislators will be called to the neglected state of our Roads and Bridges, our Harbors, Wharves, Telegraphs, and regular Steam communication in our end of the Island, &c., &c., &c., while the subject of Education will, as a matter of course, receive special attention. It is also to be hoped that, in their wisdom, they will not lose sight of the Railroad from Georgetown to Summerside, and the *winter boat* to ply between our capital and Port Mulgrave, or some other point on the opposite coast. These are matters that demand the serious consideration of our Legislature There are some of them that should not be put off from year to year. We hear and read a great deal about the improvements that might be made, and are about to be made, in our road system; and while these splendid systems are being paraded before the public, our roads are, in reality, allowed to go from bad to worse. It is only those who are obliged to haul their produce to the nearest shipping place in the fall, with the mud axle deep, that can form an adequate idea of the wretched state of our roads Believe me, Sir, that something more substantial than long-winded theories laid down on paper must be adopted before we have any decided improvements in our roads. It is also high time that something worth speaking of should be done towards the improvement of St. Peter's, Souris and Murray Harbors, and making them more safe and convenient for steamers to enter.

No doubt all these subjects will receive due consideration, but there is one subject among others, which, for the credit of all classes, should be met and treated in a more manly and enlightened spirit than heretofore—I mean the subject of Bishop McIntyre's memorial to the Lieutenant Governor in Council last year. In this petition Dr. McIntyre very modestly asked for Government assistance, (without naming any sum) for St. Dunstan's College and two or three other schools, then in actual and successful operation. The Government, after telling His Lordship what a good fellow he was, and thanking him for all the good he was doing, politely told him that they were not in a position to entertain the prayer of his petition. When the subject was incidentally spoken of on the floor of the house, we have been told that one of our King's County members flew off at a tangent into open space, and I do not know whether he has been since heard of

This same question was again brought before the public in the early part of this winter, and a certain class of the community were immediately up in arms. The Covehead Presbytery said that to encourage a Catholic College was to encourage error and superstition and should, therefore be kept down. The *Patriot* enlightened the public by telling them that Catholic children were taught, as an essential part of their education, to curse Protestants and that Protestants should not be allowed to live. Others maintained that to encourage denominational schools would be destructive of the peace and harmony of the country Others, again, said that it was only the Bishop and some of his clergy that were agitating this question; and, therefore, without any further argument, they should be frowned down by an enlightened public. They further add that the people—even the Catholic laity—if left to themselves, are perfectly satisfied with the working of the educational department. I am acquainted with some of the Catholic laity of this section, and I have yet to learn that they are so perfectly satisfied with the present state of things But with all the difficulties with which the question is beset, could not something be done without any inconsistency or sacrifice of principle on the part of any party? I shall take what may be called a very low stand, and offer the following suggestion:

St. Dunstan's College has been in operation now for some fifteen years or so, and, as far as I am aware, it has never cost the Colony one cent. The number of Students is yearly on the increase, and there must be some reason, to say the least of it, that induces many highly respectable Protestant gentlemen to send their sons there to receive a literary and moral training. St Dunstan's College has, at least, done the work of a very efficient Grammar School for the last fifteen years. Let it be remembered that I am only taking, for the moment, a view of things to suit my illustration. I leave out of the question, for the present, the fact that, besides the Head Professor, there have been always employed a most efficient staff of three or four assistant teachers in the College. Let us leave out of the question, for a moment, whether St. Dunstan's College be Catholic or non-Catholic. Let us look upon it as an educational establishment that has well and faithfully done its duty towards the Protestant and Catholic youth of the Colony for many years, and viewing it in this light, let us admit, in the spirit of fairplay and even-handed justice, that it has a just claim on the country. It is certainly high time that something should be done in this matter. Surely the most contemptible bigot on the floor of the House could not deny it the encouragement and support which we give a common district school With the allowance of a mere district school, and reckoning the arrears for the last fifteen years, the matter would stand thus: £65 × 15. = £975, which would be something to begin with. Or if they allowed at the rate of an ordinary Grammar School it would be £100 × 15. = £1500.

I merely throw out these hints to let the public see that whatever view we take of the College-grant question, St. Dunstan's College is entitled to a share of Government support, as long as such a large proportion of our revenue is expended on public education. If the Government wish to give the bigots of the colony an idea of the position in which they place Catholics, let them withdraw all Government support from the Prince of Wales College for the next fifteen years, and long before the expiration of that term, they will realize a better and more correct idea of the species of justice too long dealt out to their Catholic neighbours.

Yours, &c.,
SIMPLEX.

King's County, March 2d, 1869.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, March 8, 1869.

LEGISLATIVE, &c.

The Legislature has been called together by His Honor the Administrator of the Government for the despatch of the public business of the Colony. The Speech with which it was opened is rather a long one, and is in no way ambiguous as such speeches very frequently are. Some of the measures which it indicates are important enough, and if legislated upon honestly, and brought to a successful issue cannot fail to be beneficial in their effects upon the future prosperity of the Colony. There is Reciprocity, than which no question is of more vital importance to the people of this Island, and we trust no efforts will be spared by the people's representatives to bring it to a successful issue. The country will not be sorry to learn that the useless practice, which has obtained for the last few years, of calling out the able-bodied portion of the population from their various employments, under the name of Militia, for a few days drill, is about to be abolished. In this at least, the Government is displaying some wisdom. Then there is spoken of in the speech the establishment of a Board of Works; the extension of Steam Navigation; the passing of a Bill for a third Judge; and finally the erection of a building for a Court House and Post Office. The Speech, however, is remarkable for the absence of a single word in reference to the Education question. This, we take to be a question in which the people are as deeply interested in, as any to which His Honor the Administrator of the Government has referred. While the increasing business and crime of the Colony require a third judge and a larger building for a Court House, that which would tend to repress crime: the moral and religious education of the rising generation, is strangely enough overlooked. Can it be a fact that Elder Laird and his brother rule the Executive? If so, it speaks badly for the reputation of the Hon. Mr. Hensley. We gave that gentleman credit for greater capacity. We thought that when he became leader of the Government, that ample justice, in the matter of Education, would be done to the men to whom he owes his present position. It is amusing to hear Elder Laird talk of the efficiency of the schools now in operation under the present system, and his attempts to compare them with the institutions of learning established by his Lordship the Bishop. No one but a knave would attempt to make the comparison. Why, in the rising town of Summerside, where something like efficiency would be expected in the schools in operation there, we have been informed that the Grammar School in that place is a perfect disgrace to the community. The students attending it are in a blissful state of ignorance of everything which should be taught in a Grammar School; and even in the common rudiments of an English Education they are miserably deficient. According to Elder Laird's logic, all the free schools in the Colony are models of perfection. Will he go and examine the Grammar School at Summerside and report impartially of the state in which he finds it? If so, we promise him that his report will have the effect of opening the eyes of a goodly number of his readers; and that he will, in the future, write fewer blatant articles on the perfection of our model free school system.

The "Progress Boy," who is opposed to the Bishop's Schools, gave the Summerside Seminary a puff lately. He was promptly met by a correspondent, who exposed the falseness of his notice of the School in question, and the ignorance of the teacher; and the "Boy" has never attempted to disprove the disclosures then made public. But the "Boy" had an axe to grind. For publishing columns of filth exhumed from the defunct *Protestant*—filth which helped, in a great measure to defeat the Hon. J. C. Pope at the recent partial election—and for puffing the rotten school system, he has obtained his reward in the shape of some miserable pickings thrown him by the Government, and to secure which he trudged to town at the opening of Parliament. An honorable man would scorn to put himself in opposition to the Bishop on his school policy, but there are some men who appear not to have the faintest idea of what honor is, and among such we must class the "Progress Boy" and the tribe who edit the *Patriot*. Such characters are the Judas's of the human family, and there is no dishonorable action at which they would stop The editor of the *Patriot*, not content with attempting to set the different religious denominations by the ears, must also, in his issue on Thursday last, try his hand at exciting discord and suspicions between the Irish and Scotch, but this "contemptible trick," like many others which he has attempted, will only recoil on his own head. Honest people of all denominations will soon learn to detest a man whose stock in trade appears to be envy, malice, and deceit, and who delights in sowing dissensions amongst neighbors. This week we have not space at our disposal to review the dishonest article in the *Patriot*. If we have nothing else to employ our time at, we may, next week, expose some of the fallacies and "tricks" of our contemporary's style of argument.

GODLESS SCHOOLS.

Ever and anon arises from the *Patriot* a cry of distress, a wail, a shriek as it were, of despair over the impending doom of State-schoolism; for it seems that Episcopalians and other Protestants, as well as Roman Catholics, are anxious to secure for their children something better than the godless rubbish styled infidel education provided by dame State. It must be admitted that the fears of Mr. Laird are well grounded, and that the movement in favor of Freedom of Education is fast spreading: Episcopalians, Wesleyans and many Presbyterians, think with Catholics that religion should form the basis of the education of a Christian community, and that all denominations should be placed on a perfect equality. No valid reason can be urged why their demands should be refused; what we claim for one portion of the community, we are prepared to accord to the other portion. We are not in favor of two setts of weights and measures. Let justice be done to all. Not only do we admit the right of Protestants to denominational schools, but we assert the right of every individual parent, no matter what may be his church or creed, to immunity from all taxation, direct or indirect, for the support of schools to which he, in the exercise of his absolute parental authority, does not see fit to send his children.

It is not as a Protestant or a Catholic that we demand freedom of education; our journal is not the organ of bishop, priest or minister; and while we respect virtue, zeal, and sincerity in clergymen, we beg to inform Mr. Elder Laird that we do not consult them as to what we shall, or shall not write. We are not devoid of religious principle; but we are not religious slaves to be ruled, governed, and tyrannized over by the arbitrary *dicta* of a Covehead Presbytery. The people of this Island demand freedom of education, not as religionists, but as parents responsible to God, and to Him alone, for the education of their children. It is not Mr. Hensley, Mr. Coles, Mr. Callbeck, and their associates in the Government, that will be called to account by the great Judge for the education of our youth; no, it will be the parents of our youth. We cannot tell whether our opponents are too stupid to perceive the difference, or whether they are too dishonest to allude to it; but certain it is that the *Patriot* and its follows studiously keep out of sight the real question at issue, and carefully conceal from their readers the grounds upon which the advocates of freedom of Education base their claims.

The School Question is not a question between the Church and the State, but between the Family and the State. The agitation against State-schoolism or infidel education is but the form in which "*Individualism*" and "*Communism*" manifest themselves; and the point at issue is this: To whom does the education of the child belong? To the individual, or to the community? To the State or to the Family? In discussing this question, it is not necessary that there should be any illusion made to any church or denomination. We maintain that the child belongs to the Family before it belongs to the State; that the claims of the former are anterior, and infinitely superior to any which the latter can pretend to show; that to the parent, and to him alone, belongs the right to determine how, by whom, and with whom, his child shall be educated; and that until, in due process of law, and by the proved abandonment or dereliction of his duties as a parent, he shall have forfeited all a parent's rights, no earthly power can claim directly or indirectly to interfere with him in the discharge of his parental obligations. Every man should be father to his own children; he should clothe, feed, educate and house them, and see that their bowels are kept in order; and no man should be compelled to do these things for another man's children.

If, however, the Catholic parent sees fit to entrust the education of his child to the Catholic Church, or if the Anglican parent desires that his child should be educated by the Episcopal Church, these are matters with which no one has the right to interfere. In opposing State-schoolism, our object is simply to rescue the child from the grasp of the State; and as against "Jack-in-office," we content ourselves with asserting the absolute authority of the parent which admits of no control, or interference on the part of any human authority. To the individual parent and not to the parents of the community in their collective capacity, does it appertain of right to determine everything connected with the education, with the moral, intellectual and physical training of the child. No man with a spark of dignity in his bosom, or the slightest consciousness of the awful responsibilities of a father, would condescend to allow himself to be dictated to in such matters by majorities. Their decision should, no doubt, be submitted to as a convenient, though purely arbitrary, arrangement in matters affecting merely the political status of the citizen. But the rights of the parent over his child do not accrue from that status, and are not dependent upon it; they are not the consequences of any political or municipal arrangement, but are held direct from God himself. They are sacred and inviolable, even as are the rights of the Creator over His creatures, and must not, therefore, be treated as the subjects of political or municipal enactments. No law of man conferred them; no law of men should be permitted, in any manner, to interfere with them, to modify or abrogate them.

We repudiate, as thoroughly as does the *Patriot*, that a State constituted as is ours, and professing that betwixt it and the Church there is and should be no semblance, even of connection, is bound, or has the right to support Schools or Colleges with the object of therein inculcating the peculiar tenets of any religious denomination. If we ask for justice for Roman Catholics, it is not because they are Catholics, but because they have inalienable rights as parents, which the State is bound to respect, and they should not be compelled to pay for the support of schools to which they do not see fit to send their children. The issue thus presented to them our opponents shrink from meeting; they cannot answer our arguments, and they content themselves with misrepresenting us,

Yet the friends of religious education should not lose courage. They form the vanguard here as everywhere of the noble army of soldiers enlisted in the cause of civil and religious freedom, and fighting the battle of personal liberty against a tyrant democracy; and they should ever make it their ambition to approve themselves worthy of their high calling. Many are the foes whom they are called on to combat; but at the present day democracy, with its degrading and soul destroying disregard of individual rights, when opposed to the will of brute majorities, is the enemy against whom, above all others, the soldier of freedom should be most on his guard, and should ever show himself most vigilant, valiant and uncompromising.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

Two weeks ago we gave a sketch of the system of Education prevailing in England; we will now say something about the system in Ireland. There remains not a wreck of the educational institutions which existed in the Emerald Isle previous to the Reformation. It would be easy to shew that they were similar to those of England; but they were wholly uprooted, and exercised no influence on those which arose afterwards. Neither were there, previous to the present century, any institutions for the Catholics; so that the early history of modern education in Ireland relates solely to the institutions founded for the Established Church. Now there is this peculiarity in the history of the Established Church in Ireland, that it never was, in any sense, the Church of the people; it has been at all times, essentially and purely, a State institution. The Established Church of England, however much under the control of the State, became the Church of the people, and had a life of its own, and an action, however limited, independent of the State. The Established Church in Ireland never had this; it was always purely a creation of the State, a branch of the executive: its members were not the nation; they were rather the government, or the governing class. Hence all institutions connected with the Established Church in Ireland have a peculiarly governmental character: government is their creator, their endower, and their ruler. Trinity College, Dublin, and the Dublin University, were founded by the State in Queen Elizabeth's reign for the promotion of the State religion under the direct control of the State. The endowed schools throughout Ireland were also founded by the government for the promotion of its views of education and religion: the few foundations made by individuals of the governing class, such as Erasmus Smith and Wilson, were by them distinctly handed over to the State religion and to State control. And when, later, the Kildare Street Schools were instituted, they were recognized as State schools under State regulations. All these circumstances tended to produce in Ireland, especially among the governing classes, an idea of education totally different from that existing in England. Education was looked upon as a duty and a right of the State; and the government was tacitly acknowledged to have a right to control and direct it. For two centuries it was held to be at once the duty and the right of government to enforce on the people an education adverse to their own wishes, and their own belief; and when at length it was admitted that they were entitled to retain their own religion, it was still maintained that the State had a right to control the education which they were to receive, and the dispute was, as to the extent of this control, and not as to its existence.

These circumstances have produced an effect on the whole tone of feeling of all classes in Ireland with regard to education, more widespread than a superficial observer would imagine; and this feeling influences unconsciously many persons in that country when discussing the subject. These ideas have also been fostered by the fact that, from the destruction of all ancient institutions and the poverty of the people, the State has been called on to contribute, more largely than in England, funds for educational purposes, and has come to be considered to have more right to dictate the system of education A small but powerful section of leading men have fully embraced the principles of some *doctrinaires*, that education is a department of the State, and have zealously propogated the doctrine; and the idea has naturally been adoped by statesmen, always ready to enlarge the bounds of their own authority, until we constantly hear discussed the question, "What system of education is the fitting one to be provided for the people of Ireland?" Not "what education do the people of Ireland choose to have?" This was strikingly illustrated by Lord Palmerston's answer to the deputation which waited on him some years ago to ask for a Charter for the Catholic University, that is, not for any assistance, but merely for the recognition by the State of the education provided by Catholics for themselves. His Lordship answered: "Her Majesty's Ministers have made up their minds as to the nature of the education suitable for Ireland: *they* are firmly convinced that the best system of education for that country is a mixed system."

Now this idea of the State ordaining the education of the nation is peculiarly inapplicable to Ireland. It can be rational only on the supposition that the State is the very nation itself; and that consequently its decrees are the expression of the aggregate free will of the people themselves; but whilst this can never be fully the case in a nation of mixed opinions and religions, it is peculiarly untrue of Ireland. There the people are Catholic, the government which represents the State is Protestant: hence for the government to settle their education for the people of Ireland is an absolute tyranny, and the very destruction of self-government and individual freedom.

But though the boding idea of education in Ireland was State control, as that in England was free individual action, freedom always struggled in Ireland against this tyranny of the State. The Catholics were for centuries the advocates and martyrs of free education; for State Education was to them proselytism and persecution; and as the Government became more intimately amalgamated with that of England, the theories of personal freedom adopted there have made their influence felt in Ireland. And whilst even those who claimed freedom of education cannot quite shake off the idea of a right in the state to control it, even the most zealous advocates of government education proclaim their desire to allow of freedom. Gradually the antagonism between the two principles is making itself felt; the two systems are now at issue; in every branch of education the struggle is going on, and it is more than probable that the last remnant of the tyranny of state schoolism in Ireland will tumble to the ground with that huge incumbus—the Irish Church Establishment—which has already been shaken to the very foundations.

We have already shown the nature of each division of education in England, how far it is voluntary, and how far the government interferes. We will now examine, in a similar manner, each branch of education in Ireland. First, of primary education. The cessation of the penal laws found the Catholics—and they constitute five-sixths of the people of Ireland—almost without poor schools, and unable to provide them. A wise government could not hesitate to aid a people to provide that in-

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