MISCELLANEOUS.

Loss of Two Vessels with All Hands.—On Saturday intelligence was received of two brigantines having been seen to founder in the English Channel with all hands during the recent fearful weather. The ship Magecienne, Captain Stanbury, bound to Vera Cruz, which put into Falmouth on the 6th, reports that on the afternoon of the previous day, when some 20 miles east of Ushant, an English brigantine was observed in distress, with ensign down (reversed). Soon afterwards a tremendous sea struck her, and she was not again seen. She foundered with all hands, for no aid could be rendered them. Nothing could be gleaned of the name of the ill-fated vessel. The other unfortunate ship went down some 30 or 40 miles to the eastward of the Spurn. Captain Hadgraft, of the Mary of Ipswich, which had arrived at that port, reported that the vessel had lost her jibboom, and had her mainsail blown into ribbons. Three men were at the pumps, and her ensign was in the rigging. She had a narrow white streak on her sides, with bright varnished mastheads. The weather was most fearful at the time, and amidst an overwhelming sea the vessel disappeared. Like the former unfortunate ship, nothing could be ascertained of her name except that she was British.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

Confederate Currency has so depreciated that the Richmond people say, "If you go to the market you have to take your money in the basket, and carry your beef in the pocket-book."

"Ring out wild Bells!"—In Liverpool the other Sunday night at a very late hour, the townsfolk were startled by hearing the church bell tolling violently. The mystery was soon explained to those who ventured in and found a young man who had fallen asleep during evening service, had been locked in unnoticed by the sexton, had come to himself in the dark, and run to the bell to ring himself out! Ringing to get in is common enough, but a sleeper so sound is not so common, even in our city churches.—*Halifax Citizen*.

An English merchant may manufacture cannon, and all other munitions of war for a belligerent, because there is no law to prevent it. An English shipbuilder may not equip a vessel of war or a transport for a belligerent, because there happens to be an English Act of Parliament which expressly prohibits his so doing. The English Government do not interfere with the first class of transactions, because they have no authority to do so; they stop the second, because it is their business to enforce the law.—"*Historicus*," in *the New York Herald*.

THE WAR IN THE STATES.

(From the New York Herald.)

THE SITUATION.

The news from the army of the Potomac shows that it has completely severed its connection with Washington and is now advancing, with a new basis of supplies to rest upon. No news of a serious battle has reached us. The cannonading heard in the front was probably nothing more than outpost skirmishing. It was reported in Washington that on Friday morning our cavalry pushed forward as far as Locust Grove, four miles south of German Ford, where they met the advance of the rebel cavalry, and the latter were driven across Russell creek, and afterwards across Mill run, two miles from the grove. A body of rebel infantry was posted between that point and Orange Court House, and the whole rebel force moved off in the direction of the latter place, which is nearly twelve miles to the southward.

The report of Quartermaster General Meigs of the late grand battle near Chattanooga shows that it was a surprise sprung upon the enemy, our troops moving upon Missionary Ridge in such perfect order that the rebels had no suspicion of an attack, but regarded the movements as a dress parade of our troops. The details of the fight are most satisfactorily given by General Meigs, who declares that so well directed and so well ordered a battle has not taken place during the war.

Our last reports from General Burnside are to the 25th. He then still held Knoxville, and was in a position to do so for ten days to come. The victory at Chattanooga has no doubt relieved him ere this from much solicitude as to the security of his position.

By the arrival of the mail steamship George Washington from New Orleans, with dates to the 21st, we have some interesting news relative to the movements of Gens Banks and Dana, who marched upon that place overland from Brownsville. Arkansas city was attacked, and taken after a very brief resistance. One hundred prisoners and three guns were taken. The British brig Dashing Wave was captured by the gunboat New London off the Rio Grande, with a cargo consisting of seventy thousand dollars in gold and a large quantity of clothing and medicines intended for the rebels.

The despatches from General Franklin, in the Teche district, Western Louisiana, report a gallant attack of General Lee, chief of cavalry in that department, upon the rebel Camp Pratt, on the 19th instant, in which Union troops captured one hundred of the enemy and killed forty, taking all their arms and equipage.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, with Banks's expedition, writes from Brownsville, on the 11th ultimo, as follows:—"On approaching this town, it was ascertained that the whole rebel force, some six hundred, commanded by General Bee, had skedaddled, after blowing up their magazine and burning a portion of their barracks. To prevent the thieving Mexicans from pillaging the place the citizens formed themselves into a citizen's guard, under the direction of the Mexican General Cobos. On the appearance of our forces, General Cobos, attended by a small guard, came out, and after a short interview with Colonels McNulta and Dye, turned the city over to them. He also expressed himself well pleased by the appearance of our troops, and congratulated us upon the success of the expedition; and on the following morning, the 6th, we took possession of Brownsville and Fort Brown. Brownsville is a neat little town of several thousand inhabitants, and presents quite a Mexican appearance. It contains a fine cathedral and market house, a number of brick houses and stores, and a couple of good hotels. The town is now almost entirely deserted, but the people are gradually returning: the prevailing sentiment is for the Union, and the people all seem well disposed. Greenbacks already circulate in Brownsville, and the citizens have confidence in them. Across the river is Matamoras, in which there is at present a considerable revolution; there exists four parties, the liberals, or those in favour of the old Mexican government, those who favor the French, the Secessionists, and the Unionists. These parties are constantly running foul of each other and creating disturbances. — The Mexican Gen. Cobos a day or two since attempted to run up the French flag, but was prevented. He was arrested, and shortly afterwards tried and shot for treason. General Cortinas has proclaimed himself Governor, and now exercises the functions of that office. Cortinas favors the United States, and is well known. He is the same one that surrounded and threatened to burn Brownsville some years ago. There is a great deal of excitement in Matamoras, and another revolution in a day or so would not surprise any one.—A detachment of our men captured a short distance from this place a day or two ago a rebel train of twelve wagons, loaded with goods for the rebel States. It consists of boots, shoes, hats, nails and cotton goods, worth probably two thousand dollars. This is a valuable prize, and the loss of it will be severely felt by the rebels."

Washington, Nov. 28.

The Star says that yesterday morning our cavalry pushed forward as far as Locust Grove, where they met the advance of the rebel cavalry, and the latter were driven across Russell creek, or river, and afterwards across Mill Run. A body of rebel infantry was posted between that point and Orange Court House, and the whole rebel force moved off in the direction of the latter place.

Locust Grove is four miles south of Germania Ford in Orange County, and within a short distance of the wilderness where Hooker fought his battle.

Mill Run is two miles from Locust Grove, and from hence to Mountain river, where the rebel General Early, with Ewell's old corps, is said to be in force, is about six miles. Orange Court House is ten or twelve miles further on in a southwest direction.

Washington, Nov. 29.

The army of the Potomac advanced at 6 o'clock, a. m., of the 27th, from Culpepper and Jacob's fords, and formed a line of battle, the centre resting on Fredericksburg turnpike, near Robertson's tavern; the left advancing along the plank road, forming a curve towards Gordonsville, and the right terminating near the Rapidan, southwest of Jacob's ford. As the centre advanced it came on the enemy's pickets and a skirmish line. Subsequently the enemy's line was strengthened by arrival of reinforcements from Ewell's corps, on the Rapidan front.

About 1 o'clock a slow and irregular cannonading commenced on the roads leading toward Orange Court House, and considerable firing between the skirmishers. The enemy did not reply with artillery. At 4 o'clock it was announced that Hill's corps, which had previously rested on the Rapidan, west of the railroad, was approaching on the centre, and half an hour later heavy musketry was heard on the right, showing that the 3rd corps, forming that wing, was engaging the enemy.

Up to 7 o'clock on Friday evening our casualties were few on the centre. The only officer of rank at that time known to have been killed was the Lieut. Col. of the 72d Pennsylvania.

Gregg's cavalry and batteries had a severe fight with the enemy's right wing cavalry on Thursday afternoon. We drove them back on their infantry lines, when we were compelled to fall back. His loss is said to be about 250 in killed and wounded. The 5th corps coming up to the enemy in turn were compelled to retreat.

About 60 were wounded in the 2nd corps, 5 killed and 7 mortally wounded.

On the right, Gen. French, with the 3d corps, when advancing, encountered Ewell's corps before he connected with the centre, and after a severe fight he held his position, but lost heavily. He, however, captured 900 rebels. The 6th corps was then thrown forward and filled the gap between the centre and the right.

A train of the 5th corps, advancing on the plank road, was attacked on the flank by rebel cavalry, who destroyed 15 or 20 waggons, killed two men and several mules.

On Friday morning it was found that the rebels had fallen back from our centre to 2 miles near Orange Court.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 13, 1863.

John Morgan, on escaping, changed with his brother Dick from the top cell to the lower tier. The floor of the lower cell is two and a half inches thick, in which a hole was cut, under the bed, leading down into a two and a half foot sewer, running to the main wall around the Penitentiary. This wall was cut under, and the party escaped into the open country. The night was dark, with heavy rain. All efforts are being made by the authorities for his recapture.

A Fearful Picture.—The following observations made on a recent visit to the hospital at Annapolis, Md., where the famished prisoners who arrived from Richmond on the 29th ultimo, were brought, most of them, to die, are furnished to the New York *Times* by a party who has been a visitor of the hospitals in and around Baltimore for a year or more, and who has witnessed the most intense suffering among our sick and wounded soldiers, enabling him to estimate the amount both of mental and physical pain which men are capable of enduring. The writer's description is terrible:

"The men landed (at Annapolis,) at 5 A. M. in the chilly dawn, and it seemed a fitting time for so mournful a procession. They numbered 180 brought from Belle Island, near Richmond. Many were unable to walk, and were carried to the hospital. Those who could walk must have presented a sight never to be forgotten; for, before leaving, the rebels not only stripped them of socks, shoes and blankets, but took from them their shirts and pantaloons, except where the rags could scarce hold together. Men came without hats or caps, with thin cotton drawers, and *bodies bared to the waist*—their nakedness and bleeding feet covered only by what tatters their cruel captors had left them, not from mercy, but because they were too filthy to keep.—These men had been on Belle Island (which seems to be a barren waste) without any protection from the weather, except what they had themselves constructed. They had lain on the sand which was to them both bed and covering, exposed, both sick and well, to all extremes of heat and cold, without clothes, without food, (except small portions of the most repulsive kinds,) for weeks and months, many having been taken prisoners at or before the battle of Gettysburg. Many were suffering from what are called *sand sores*, and the surgeons in vain attempted to produce general circulation of blood, the cuticle in many instances *seemingly dried on the bone* from exposure, and nearly the color and consistency of parchment. If food was denied them, it would seem as if the veriest barbarian would have given them shelter to die beneath.

On entering the first room, some sick men, sitting in silence near the fire, lifted their hands to show us, that with us was entering the unseen, but not unexpected visitor—*death*. Before us lay a young man just breathing his last, a mere skeleton, whose dying throes seemed to place in stronger relief a frame which must once have belonged to a strong and vigorous life. We turned away in our horror, only to look upon another who would soon follow his martyred comrade. Near them stood two male nurses, who, after witnessing horrors of all kinds, both on the battle field and in the hospitals, stood perfectly subdued and heart wrung, in witnessing that most fearful of all deaths—*death from starvation*.

In another room was a poor young boy, equally squalid in appearance, a network of bones, perfectly crazed and tossing his arms about and talking wildly and indistinctly; he, too, could live but a few hours, and most probably never be sane again. The next patient was a respectable looking, middle-aged German, with the bed-clothes drawn tightly over his head, moaning and writhing in his agony. My friend begged me to listen, I could only distinguish these words: 'I am so tired, something to eat, what torment,' and then the ejaculation, '*Oh, Holy Christ!*'—Then we saw others, emaciated to the last degree, several of whom were trying to eat—their kind nurses tempting them with delicacies and such food as they could bear.—Some, after taking the longed-for article and putting it to their lips, would turn away with an agonized and loathing expression, as if eager to swallow, but incapable of the effort. Others, after eating with famished haste, would, after a few moments, eject it all, their stomachs being too much weakened to bear nourishment, either solid or liquid. Could anything be more fearful than this living death; this famishing with food before their eyes and within their reach? There were other patients who were better, they could digest light food and had some hope of life. It was then the sixth day since they came, and out of 180 men 53 had died of ill treatment and actual starvation. The surgeons said at least two thirds of the 180 would die, and if any recovered it would be with broken constitutions, utterly incapable of supporting themselves. Many had died on first arriving, unconscious from their suffering that they were among friends and in the land that they had died for. Others were too far gone to say much, but thankful to feel that they might die under the old flag and be taken home to be buried with their kindred."

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR THE PUBLIC.

(No. 2.)

"Justum ac tenacem proponti virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyrannii
Mente quatit solida."—Horat.

Mr. Editor:

I stated at the outset that one reason which induced me thus ever to have taken up my pen at all was an intolerable amount of evidence having placed beyond conjecture the fact, that, even to serve the crude and unprepossessing cause we have just had under casual review, some of its unwary and high-pressure style advocates did not scruple to adopt some of the most contemptible and anti-christian means—did not blush even at the bare idea of misrepresenting, or placing in a false position, some, and not simply *some* but actually *many of their* own co-religionists, both at home and abroad. This may justly be considered a *grave charge*; but so much the graver so much the worse, *manifestly so* much the worse, so long as it can be clearly and eternally substantiated. It may, perhaps, be pled that misrepresentation was not designed by the parties now implicated; but if they did not intend to *misrepresent*, why in so many of their public speeches and public writings in favour of to all others but themselves, their absolutely and historically inappreciable, and in itself, fortune knows already without their aid, characteristically over-insolent cause, did they so often use such splenetically uncharitable terms towards their dissenting Liberal Protestant brethren as an indiscriminate body of men throughout the entire Colony? Why were such articles penned as those which were signalized by the very significant headings of "*Our second great Protestant triumph*," &c., from some of which I can at any moment readily quote as ample confirmation of what I now assert? To talk and write of the "so-called" "misnamed" "Liberal party here," may in itself be admissable enough to any one who really regard them as such; but to talk and write of the "so-called misnamed Liberal party here attempting to thrust popish dogmas on the whole community," or of Liberal Protestants here being composed in no inconsiderable degree of "semi-infidels," and the like, are point blank statements, which, if they can neither be established nor yet were designed for the express purpose of misrepresentation by those who gave them birth, must have been designed in the only remaining import which they can consistently possess, for what is yet infinitely more reprehensible—the still vile purpose of black defamation—which we all know well amounts to one of those things which in all good society is justly held to be absolutely unpardonable. No doubt such flagitiously libellous fulminations as these to certain kinds of pious ears may have sounded all very nice: but had "Liberal Protestants here" not been possessed of sufficient good temper and good common sense to enable them to make themselves very easy as to whether "a great Protestant" or any other sort of "triumph," when achieved by such absolutely reckless and dastardly means, can ever prove anything more than very temporary and short-lived affairs indeed, they might perhaps have, long ere this, taken much more summary and concerted measures to have brought their heartless and wholesale defamers to something like a comparatively seasonable exercise of their more normal and christian senses. Of course, had Protestant Liberals been so irritable and childish as to have "turned the tables," and for one moment have forgotten that respect which they seem to know at least they should ever possess for themselves by having allowed themselves to misrepresent Protestant Conservatives, or as perhaps we should more correctly style them, "Prince Edward Island Tories," in the same disgraceful manner, it would never suit at all. How marvellously inclined, however, are that particular class of people the world over "who live in glass houses" to be the first to "throw stones." I, for one, feel grateful to find that Liberal Protestants, whatever they may be in other respects, have usually proved themselves "a sort of Christians" who have far too much real sense and respect for their own character ever to demean themselves so much as even to stoop so low as to fling back again such vile missiles as unworthy of the origin from where they so habitually spring. Such modes of political warfare as these, and such missiles as these, may still, perhaps, be retained as the favorite resorts and tactics of certain parties and individuals who have been wont to employ them hitherto; but if so, they may at the same time rest well assured of this one thing, well understood by every Liberal Protestant in the Island, that such a course of procedure on the part of any consociation of men in the world, no matter if their cause itself were good, must very shortly and justly be found to recoil on their own heads, and, without inflicting the slightest injury on their opponents, only tend, sooner or later, to bring both themselves and their system into the most unqualified disrepute. This is a premise, I repeat, which every Liberal Protestant in Prince Edward Island is not quite so dull as not to be both thoroughly and efficiently aware of. Spartan-like, they may keep almost moodishly silent in the meantime. But their silence is only that natural and commendable sort of taciturnity which is usually produced on all sensible men, who know that the ultimate ground on which they stand is not only in itself good, but that also their own cause, aided thus in reality as much by the imprudence of their adversaries as anything else, will eventually, however gradually, yet most assuredly in due season again assume the ascendant. I, for one, can candidly say, that I entertain in many respects very distinctive political sentiments from those which seem to be indicated by our present Conservative Government of this Province, and think that under the protection of the British flag I have a perfect right to do so, without either my religious or secular circumstances being misrepresented by any honorable-minded fellow-provincialist, whatever his own private opinions may be notwithstanding. I expect all true-hearted men, the world over, no matter what their own personal creed or principles may be, to extend the same christian charity and deferential courtesy to me which I am most heartily ready to accord to them. This is nothing more than we may fairly demand from every human being assuming any other name than that of heathen, even in the heat of the most keen public discussion. If any Protestant Church Court, for example, deem proper to issue a Political Pastoral to their denominational adherents, I do not feel at all disposed to quarrel with them for it; but yet, most undoubtedly, I do expect to be left at liberty to form my own estimate of its at least apparently "injudicious" intention and, not very probable, beneficial results. If any Protestant clergyman gets into an unseemly rage at a brother minister for dissenting from that pastoral publication on account of this its apparent and necessarily obvious impropriety, and threaten him with both an *ecclesiastical and civil prosecution*, I do surmise that I have a very good right to take a note of such an unmitigatedly semi-barbarous course of procedure on the part of any live man in a free British territory, in the midst of the nineteenth century. Such a note of such an impertinaciously and transcendently impertinent circumstance may yet serve a rare purpose in the history of the times. When a government like ours, in what should be an enlightened British Island, make special formal provision to cast any person into a common gaol, who may chance to let drop anything like a temporarily discourteous allusion, either to themselves or to their responsible proceedings, and probably all the while nothing like half so bad as they richly merit, I do imagine that I have a natural, and nothing on earth more than a very natural right to intimate to my fellow-countrymen that possibly an age of "thumb screws" and other inquisitorial instruments is not far ahead. This is another such ultra-magnanimous circumstance, too, as may well in due time form a notable incident for the pen of some forthcoming McAulay. Some future slip of a poet, perchance, may, at some yet remote period, adopt it as the inspiring theme of his rising genius, and awaken the long slumbering ashes of the dead with some such glorious strain as this—

Once upon a time there was
An island called Prince Ned,
For which its sages made such laws
As Solon never med.

If such, then, be some, really some, of the redoubtable facts of our recent civil history, as a civil community — and who will now have foolhardiness enough to insinuate that they are not facts—who shall blame me if, by an honest effort, I seek to place both myself and many others of my equally innocent fellow-colonists in something like their true position before the unprejudiced eyes of all disinterested men, both at home and abroad? Can any "injudicious" partisan of the notorious Tory clique, who just now so inefficiently and pusilanimously and unsuccessfully govern the country, take, by any possibility of even-handed justice, the smallest conceivable umbrage at any such attempt on the part of any independent occupant of his native soil? If any individual of the common race of man, no matter in what zone he may reside, should happen to find that his native country, both as to its social, civil, and also religious condition is one, which from what he considers very unworthy causes, has been very unnecessarily rendered anything but happy, while at the same time most of its would-be reputed reformers are only tending still further to increase and complicate instead of simplify and diminish this its fast culminating ruin, who shall undertake to charge him with either guilt or crime, if, by a sincere effort to do good, he strives to avert the coming storm, and pioneer some brighter prospect for that country's welfare?

I have now done with apostrophe. Let me then proceed to the task which at a previous date I had voluntarily undertaken, and which, from temporary reasons, I have as yet allowed to lay uncompleted—the task of giving my fellow-colonists a brief synopsis of my own personal impressions of "things as they are and things as they ought to be." I shall, therefore, at once revert back to the time when the constituent social affairs of this Province began to assume that peculiar aspect of hobgoblin-like complacity which they now so enigmatically and so needlessly wear — the time when the renowned Bible Question, with all its multiplicity of superlatively ridiculous horrors and heart-burnings, so shamefully first became reduced to such a startling political engine of discordancy to the heretofore comparatively quiet and inoffensive inhabitants of Prince Edward Island. This question shall, therefore, form the substance of my next and first systematic letter. I say *systematic*, for as yet I have not attempted any inductive analysis of any prominent topic of the day, nor have I yet seen anything of the kind, in so far as I am aware, from the pen of any former controversialist. This question I propose investigating or viewing in the only rational aspect which, to my mind, it can ever or will ever be found to assume; and such an honest investigation of it will lead me most naturally into the main subjects which lie concealed under its chameleon features, as those which are really possessed of any true practical and decidedly vital legislative interest to every promiscuous inhabitant of this colony at the present moment. Having thus, then, come fairly down at last to my proper project, I shall only further say, that in now proceeding to enter seriously upon it, I shall simply write what I actually belive to be *the truth* — as *the truth*, nor give myself the slightest concern as to who reads or who reads not. I have selected my motto from Horace; and although I may not prove a practical illustration of it in my own person or achievements, still I adopt it as one which every right-thinking mind should strive, at least in some commensurate degree, to exemplify.

"The man that resolute and just,
Firm to his principles and trust,
Nor hopes nor fears can bind:
Nor parties for revenge engaged,
Nor threatenings of a court enraged,
Can shake his steady mind."

W. KEIR.

Melpeque, Dec. 7th, 1863.

NEW BRUNSWICK AFFAIRS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Winter — without any snow — has just set in, and is likely to remain in until it goes out. Yes, winter is here; everything proclaims the fact. Yesterday was as mild as you could desire; but last night and this morning indicate in the most *feeling* manner the beginning of a cold and frosty season. The departure of a long lingering and beautiful autumn, I sincerely lament, and am in no degree whatever in love with its grim and grizzly successor, though — as becomes all right minded persons, of whom your correspondent claims to be one—I have resolved to submit to its presence with as much fortitude as the "nature of the case" will admit.

To you, my icebound readers, it is unnecessary to offer any suggestions with a view of persuading you to be once more reconciled to your lot, which, I do not deny, is a hard one; on the contrary I avow it. But you should ever bear in mind that submission—voluntary submission—to the occurrence of events beyond our control, is a virtue that will most assuredly receive its reward. Keep that truth, then, constantly before your minds, I need no admonition on that point, but I have your happiness deeply at heart. You may depend upon it, I am laying down a safe doctrine, and I should like to see it practised by Christians *as well as Orangemen*.

Recollect, we are all placed here in this wilderness of a world—upon this ever changing theatre of life, with important duties to perform, with reverses to sustain, with many promises to make, some to forget and others to violate. Therefore, my good readers, although your sublunary fate is such as enlists my warmest sympathies and deserves my condolence, yet, taking all the circumstances of our respective conditions into consideration, I have deliberately come to the conclusion that through good fortune and ill fortune we are each entitled to "share and share alike." This fact cannot be too stedfastly urged upon your serious attention. Ever remember it, but in doing so let me be uppermost in your thoughts. To you, then, who are a community of yourselves—whose situation estranges you from the rest of mankind from the present time until next spring, the best advice which I can bestow is to entreat you to take good care of yourselves, your homes, and your families—to lead virtuous and pious lives, and oh! my dear readers and fellow creatures, ———.

During the last week there has been on exhibition here, a fine Panorama representing some of the most renowned places, works of art and curiosities of Europe. This "Cosmopholoscope"—as it is designated, has attracted immense gatherings of persons to the Hall of the Institute, to enjoy an imaginary continental tour. So vividly were some of the scenes pourtrayed, and so correctly did they represent the originals, that they were at once recognized by many persons present, who, through the lapse of years, had almost forgotten that such places still existed. His Excellency the Lt. Governor attended the opening lecture of the Mechanics Institute, and indulged in some pertinent remarks— principally enumerating the advantages that such societies offer to those who avail themselves of them. The lecture itself was delivered by our Mayor, and consisted in an epitome of the leading events connected with the Institute since its organization some twenty-five years ago. His Worship is not the most felicitous in his capacity of a lecturer, though he managed to get along on this occasion pretty well. His lecture evinced considerable research, as he informed his audience who was the first President of the Institute, who was the second and so on, delighting his hearers for nearly an hour with this most captivating subject. It was not bad for Mr Woodward.

A very important case has occupied the time and attention of the Circuit Court in this city, for several days. This was an action brought against the Commissioners of the E. & N. A. Railway, to recover damages for personal injuries sustained by reason of the fatal collision which occurred some eighteen or twenty months ago, near the Rothsay Station. N. S. DeMill was the Plaintiff, and his case was conducted by the able and astute Mr. Thomson, as senior Counsel. The Court Room was full of spectators during the six or seven days which were devoted to this unfortunate and ill-fated case. The Government was defended by three Q C's—by Attorney General Johnston, Solicitor General Watters, and ex Attorney General Smith Mr. Johnston delivered one of the most argumentative and clear sighted addresses to the jury that was ever listened to in the Court house; while Mr. Thomson —though he frequently acquitted himself much better—made an able and ingenious effort in behalf of his client. Neither of the learned gentlemen's labors, however, had the desired effect, for after several hours consideration the jury only agreed to disagree—four of them being disposed to find for the Plaintiff, and the remaining three against him.

A similar case is now being tried, wherein A. R. Wetmore, a clever St. John lawyer, is Plaintiff, and his counsel is the Honble. John H. Gray; opposed to Mr. Gray are Messrs. Johnston, Watters and Smith.

One of the Boston boats has been taken off the route for the winter; but the other continues her usual trips. A splendid new organ has been recently erected in the Carleton Catholic Church. It was imported from Boston, and was paid for by the proceeds of a Pic-Nic holden near the city last summer. Yesterday its magnificent music was first heard at Divine service, and the talented Miss McCormack, late of your city, is the person to whom this costly and superior instrument is to be entrusted.

P. E. I.

St John, N. B., Nov. 30, 1863.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, December 14th, 1863.

A LAME APOLOGY FOR THE DELEGATION.

We take from the *Islander* of Friday last the following lame apology for the "ominous" silence of the Government regarding the Delegation:—

"It is rather, we should say, a proof of weakness, than otherwise, in the *Examiner* to attempt prophesying about matters of which he is altogether ignorant, or drawing conclusions, without being certain of the premises; and the more especially since his prophecies have hitherto been failures and his conclusions erroneous. The silence of the Delegates has become extremely annoying to him, and given him what the ladies term "the fidgets." The truth is, if he would but confess it, that he sees something ominous in this reticence, and would rather hear the worst than be kept in suspense. Were it not so, he would quietly wait a week or so, confident that the truth must come out at last. It may possibly turn out that the Delegation has not been able to effect anything of moment; the only question is, have they done their best?"

We desire to assure the *Islander* that we propound no prophecy *now* with regard to the Delegation. We did, indeed, "prophecy" some months ago that it would come to nothing, so far as the public are concerned, and nothing is the result. The very last sentence in the above extract confirms this statement. When Messrs. Palmer and Pope waited upon the Duke of Newcastle, his Grace asked them to put in writing a statement of the case they wished to bring under his notice. The Government papers took care to tell us what the nature of this case was, before the Delegates set out upon their travels. It was, in brief, to ask that the tenantry should be at liberty to purchase the freehold of their farms at 15 and 16 years rent—those who were in arrears to pay the higher sum. We shall offer no comment now upon this most absurd proposal. The Delegates complied with the Duke's request—they put their statement in writing—they left it at the Colonial Office; but when they did so, the Duke's back was turned upon them and upon Downing Street, for his Grace had betaken himself to his country seat in Notts; and Mr. Palmer returned to Prince Edward Island without having another interview with the Colonial Minister. All this is well known to Mr. Lawson, the present editor of the *Islander*.

We have no doubt that the venerable editor will, as far as he can, make himself useful to his employers, and worthy of his hire; but he should not do this at the expense of truth and fair play. He is unwarranted in saying that we are "altogether ignorant" of the results of the Delegation; neither is there anything "extremely annoying" to us in the reticence of the Government party on the subject. On the contrary, we have reason to rejoice that the Government are as dumb as mutes about the Delegation, because their dumbness proves the truth of our "prophecy," and shows that *they* have suffered a lamentable failure in their Delegation scheme. If they had met with a shadow of success, in any way in which the tenantry might be cajoled for a longer space of time, there would be a "flourish of trumpets, indeed, tin ones we suspect, and cracked at that," as the editor of the *Islander* says in another editorial.

We can afford to smile at the sneer about our "prophecies" being "failures," if our common sense observations on public questions can be dignified with the name of prophecy. Nearly all the measures of the present Government against which we have written and spoken are "failures." Who will venture to say that the "Land Commission" was anything but a huge failure, entailing great expense on this country? What is the Delegation but another failure, and a piece of deception? What is the Volunteer Movement, which we were told would be such an ornament to the country and such an efficient means of defence—what is it but a contemptible burlesque and failure in every point of view? Will the editor of the *Islander* inform us in what particular instance the Government have been successful, beyond getting the reins of Government under false pretences, when the "No Popery" howl was raised by Bigots, Hypocrites, and Cheats!

TENANT OUTBREAK.

We are informed that an attempt to enforce the payment of old arrears of rent on the Melville Estate, Lot 29 (near Crapaud), has been met with armed resistance, and that something in the form of a Tenant League has been organized there, to keep aloof the Bailiffs of the Agent. It used to be slanderously said that no class of people in the Island resisted the payment of rent but Irish Catholics. In this case, the "rebels" are not Catholics or Irish, but good Protestants and strong supporters of the Government. We are not at all surprised at their acting in the manner described to us, for *they*, at least—having served the Government at the elections—had reason to expect that they would be relieved from the payment of the back rents, which had been so often promised to them. But there never was a time when the payment of back rents was more rigorously enforced than during the few years the present Government have been in power, so that in most cases the arrears have been recovered or effectually secured. It is not unpleasant to hear of a rebellion arising amongst the slaves of the Tory party—they deserve to have the screws tightened upon them by their ungrateful task-masters. If they pay their rents—well and good—no thanks to them,—if they don't pay, well!—let the screws go on, and let them get out of their troubles as best they can.

THE "SPOLIATION" DOCTRINE.

Some years ago, when the Liberals passed the Rent Roll and Tenant Compensation Bills, for the purpose of *inducing* the Proprietors to sell their lands under the Purchase Act, these measures were denounced by the *Islander* as "undisguised attempts at spoliation;" and it was vehemently argued by our contemporary that coercion should, on no account, be used against the proprietors in the disposal of their lands—that they should not be forced to sell, or sell on any other terms but such as were perfectly agreeable to themselves. Now, it appears that a most material change has come over the spirit of our contemporary, and that he is prepared to advocate views somewhat in advance of the spirit which prompted the passing of the Rent Roll and Tenant Compensation Bills. We extract from the *Islander's* editorial, already noticed in the preceding article, the following significant passage:—

"Our great hope is, that the agitation will serve to open the eyes of the absentee Proprietors to their own interest. The wilderness state of the greater part of their lands is as prejudicial to themselves as it is injurious to the community, and they may eventually find, unless they take some pains to induce settlers to cultivate their forests, that at no very distant period the Legislature—whether of the Island, or of the United Colonies—may insist upon taxing them, and to an extent that will compel them either to part with, or settle them, either by means of tenantry or freeholders. We are the last to interfere with the known legal rights of individuals. We hold Escheat at this time, after so long an interval of quiet possession, to be not only ridiculous, but impossible. The right to property is, however, merely conventional. By the law of nature, no man has a claim to more land than is necessary for his own subsistence; and his right to hold more, and transmit it to his descendants, is derived from the law; and the same power—the will of the people — which conferred the right may also abridge, restrain, or abolish it. And that this has been done, we have many modern instances. The emancipation of the slaves in the West Indies; the selling of the Irish encumbered estates; land taken for railroads and other public purposes, against the will of the Proprietors, are cases in point. If the Government of Great Britain could compel the West Indian planters to give up their slaves, at a fixed price, there is no reason why it should not compel the Proprietors of Prince Edward Island to surrender their lands, on being a paid a fair compensation—not what they might consider such, but what disinterested, impartial people might, from reliable sources of information, determine to be, under the circumstances, the true value. And we cannot help thinking that this will be the end of the contention."

The plain meaning of this extract is: The Proprietors must be required to sell their lands on such terms as the Legislature chooses to propose; if they are obstinate, and hold out, they must be taxed until their lands become a serious incumbrance to them, and be thereby forced to sell. Neither the *Examiner*, nor any one of the Liberals, ever advocated the "Spoliation Doctrine" to the extent that it is done in the foregoing extract.

A HINT TO THE CURRIES AND THE POPES.

We find the following despatch in some of our late papers; and although it purports to have been addressed to the Governors of the West India Colonies, there is every reason to believe that copies have been sent to the Governors of the North American Colonies as well. It is notorious that the defence of the Government of this Island, so far as newspaper writing is concerned, has been chiefly confided to Mr. Donald Currie and Mr. W. H. Pope, public servants, subsisting on the public funds. It is equally well known that their writings are feeble enough, and generally more injurious to their own party than to their adversaries. We have no desire to see them discontinue their scribblings; but let it be known who the writers are; and that in continuing to scribble their nonsense for the Government, they are undoubtedly prompted by the most selfish motives—the desire to keep their places—and that, also, they are acting in opposition to the Imperial authorities. These remarks will not apply to Mr. Pope, at present, while on his farcical Delegation tramp; but they will apply to him while he was in the Colony, after his appointment to the office of Provincial Secretary; and there is no doubt that when he comes back—if that event ever occurs—he will merit their application again.

Public Servants and the Press. — The West India papers publish the following circular, which has been sent by the Duke of Newcastle to the Governors of the West India Colonies:—

"Downing-street, Aug. 20.

"Sir,—My attention has been called to the course taken by public servants in certain Colonies in connecting themselves with newspapers, either by editing or contributing articles to them, and I have to convey to you the following instructions for your guidance, which are founded upon rules and principles laid down by some of my predecessors in particular cases occurring in former years: It is plainly inconsistent with the retention of his place by any paid officer under the Government of a colony to be the editor of a newspaper, or to take any active part in the management of it. While I am glad that the colonies should possess such means of diffusing information, I cannot but feel at the same time that it is impossible for a public servant to take any part in conducting a newspaper in which political subjects and the measures of the local Government are discussed, without being placed in a position towards those under whom he serves quite incompatible with the proper discharge of his duties. I do not object to public servants publishing articles signed with their names upon subjects of general interest, provided they abstain from any further connection with the newspaper than what is implied by contributing such articles, and especially from writing on questions which can properly be called political, or discussing the measures of the Government, or the official proceedings of its officers. I should also consider it improper for a public servant to continue to furnish any articles whatever to a newspaper which, in commenting on the measures of the Government should habitually exceed the bounds of fair and temperate discussion. In such a case I should expect all public servants to abstain from contributing any articles whatever to its columns. I consider the rule that all articles whatever written by public servants should be signed by them, the best security against abuse of the privilege. It must, therefore, be distinctly understood that if the authorship of anonymous articles should be brought home to one of them, or if, in articles bearing their signature, they should discuss any political subject, or the measures of the Government, or the official proceedings of its officers, I should consider it my duty to direct the removal of the person so offending; since, if the writing of such articles were permitted, it would very clearly destroy that harmony and mutual confidence among those who are employed by the local Government, which are absolutely required for the due administration of affairs."

In noticing the late Complimentary Supper to George Bagnall, Esq., the *Islander* makes the following ill-natured remark:—

"Some of the toasts are highly amusing—we allude particularly to that in laudation of Sir Alexander Bannerman. Why did they not connect with it the name of Lady Bannerman, for by all accounts she was more of the Governor than the other?"

We cannot, for the life of us, understand why Lady Bannerman's name should be dragged into this affair. We never heard that her Ladyship interested herself in the politics of the Island. We knew, indeed, that she was always extremely kind and affable to ladies and gentlemen of the Tory party, and laboured assiduously to make Government House as agreeable as possible to them while she dispensed its hospitalities. We had hoped that she had left no other feeling behind her than an enduring remembrance of her remarkable good nature, and lady-like demeanour on all occasions. We are surprised at the ingratitude, to say the least, of the *Islander*—being as it is the organ of the party so highly favoured by Lady Bannerman. We cannot suppose that Mr. Lawson dictated the rude and ungallant remark.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Steamer *Heather Belle* arrived from Pictou yesterday forenoon with the European, American, and Colonial Mails. We observe no material change in the aspect of European affairs, except that the Congress sought to be convoked by the French Emperor meets with no favour from the other principal European Powers. The struggle of the gallant Poles for freedom is maintained with unabated vigour, and Russia enlarges the measure of her atrocities with the progress of the insurrection.

Our latest English papers are to the 29th ult. We make room for the following extracts from them, to the exclusion of other matter intended for this day's No.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

A proclamation of the National Government has just been issued at Warsaw, which announces a continuance of the war as the only means of saving the country. It also states that the forces of the insurrection are on the increase, and that the Russians have proved themselves unable to govern otherwise than by fire and sword.

It is impossible to give a precise statement of the numbers of the Russian army in Poland. The Government of Warsaw is occupied by 62,200 men; the government of Lublin by 18,800 men; the government of Radom by 8,300; the government of Plockby 22,500—in all 111,800 men. To these, however, must be added 38,200 men not stationed at any particular spot, but sent about as flying columns wherever requisite. The entire strength of the Russian army, therefore, at the commencement of this month, in the Kingdom of Poland (with the exception of the government of Augustow, held by 6,200 troops) amounted to 150,000 men.

Mrs. Wiedska, a widow with six children, greatly respected in the town of Sawalki, who has been confined for the last four months in the casemates, has now been put in irons and sent to Siberia. She is charged with no offence, and had no trial. One of her children is dying, and the unfortunate mother was not allowed to see any of them before she left. The cries of the dying child were most heart-rending, and the inhabitants of the town went in deputation to the Russian commandant, begging him to allow the child to see its mother, but they met with a curt refusal. Grabowski, the son of a Protestant priest, has also been put in the casemates, and when his wife came to pay him a visit she was not allowed to leave the prison. As she was nursing a child, she begged that it might be brought to her. This was refused, and the child died in frightful agonies for want of its natural food. Another widow, the mother of four children, has been arrested and banished to Kowno.

The official *Dziennik* announces the following political executions:—"On the 6th, Zabielski was hanged at Radzyn. On the 7th, Trzcinski and Dominic were hanged at Lomza. On the 9th, Francis Owezark was hanged at Leneczyca. On the 21st, Joseph Piotrowski will be hanged on the glacis of the citadel, having been found guilty (1) of residing at Warsaw and other parts of the Kingdom of Poland under feigned names and with false passports; (2) of having belonged to a rebel organization called the National Government."

According to advices received at Breslau, Chmielski gained a victory over the Russians near Czarnocala on the 20th inst., in consequence of which the insurgents occupied the town of Gora, on the Vistula. Frequent encounters take place in the Government of Lublin between the Russians and insurgents.

THE CONGRESS AT AN END.

As we anticipated, the British Cabinet has refused to accept the invitation to a Congressional palaver. The demand for information as to the points to be presented for discussion resulted in M. Drouyn de Lhuys forwarding a short programme, the first item of which—Poland—discloses the feeling of the Emperor of the French. The other items—Italy, Denmark and the Duchies, and the Danubian Principalities—are merely set down in order to provide for the necessary compensations which would be needed in order to satisfy Russia for the re-constitution of Poland. It is not likely that Russia would yield to united Europe what she has refused to the Three Great Powers; nor is it probable that England would consent to a settlement of the Danubian Principalities in order to compensate Russia at the expense of Turkey. Italy would enter a Congress with hope; but before Austria could be called upon to give up Venetia, it would be necessary to provide an equivalent; and Italy also would be called upon to pay France in another form. Of course it is easy to find compensation for Austria in a mediation of the German Duchies, and Prussia might have a considerable share of them if she would consent to surrender to France the Rhenish Provinces. In any shape which the action of Congress might frame, France would be sure to gain. Her title to Savoy and Nice would be recognized as an "accomplished fact;" the Rhine might be once more made her boundry at the expense of other people; but to effect this all Europe must be disturbed, and Europe does not choose to be so disturbed because France cannot submit quietly to a defeat in diplomacy.

It is certain that the example of England will be followed by other Powers, and it will be curious to watch the effects of their refusal upon the Imperial system. The Empire must be a success, or the Empire will meet the fate which attends all who fail in France. It is a very critical time in the history of the Imperial dynasty, for Europe refuses to attend the call of the Master of France, and the Master and his system are faced with the opposition of the most active political intellects in France. M. Thiers laughed the Congress into scorn when he said he "understood what a consultation of physicans meant, but he could not understand the utility of a congress of patients." Neither do the patients understand the use of attendance, and so they decline to attend for amputation.

THE EXPECTED CONFLICT BETWEEN DENMARK AND GERMANY.

It is stated that diplomatic efforts are being made to prevent a conflict between Denmark and Germany, and that "The Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, by an amicable intervention, seeks to prevent a struggle which might involve all Europe."

SWEDEN.

The Government applied to the Diet for an extraordinary credit of 3,000,000 thalers for military armaments. Great distrust of King Christian IX, and excitement against Prince Frederick, prevail.

THE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.

There is no escape from the appeal to arms in New Zealand; for the Maories seem to be as ready as our settlers to fight for supremacy. It is not now a question of mere dominion in particular settlements, but a conflict between two nations. We were undoubtedly the aggressors in the first instance, but the rejection of all our concessions has disclosed the exact state of feeling towards the British colonists. The issue has been long postponed, partially by a belief on the part of the settlers that it was the duty of the mother country to do all that was necessary in the way of costly hostilities, and partly by a disguised avoidance of a duty which we dared not to deny as proper to our colonial policy. At last natives and settlers stand face to face with a clear understanding that they have to adjust the question of supremacy by force. There is no flinching on the part of the settlers, no hesitation, but a thoroughly English determination to conquer is uppermost. It is only when Englishmen feel that there is no loop hole by which humanity may assert its claims, that we ever indulge the dream of extermination which the native intellect so easily invents. It is not to be concealed that there is a strong determination on the part of the courageous race to drive us from their country, and that we shall be driven to cruel extremities for their subjugation. We have ourselves to blame for the state of things, because we have so petted the natives and done so much "to elevate the native character," so as to prevent any surprise that our civilization has only produced the reverse of our intentions. A quick and intelligent people are quite as ready to learn the principles of fortification and construction of rifle pits as the elements of arithmetic and the rudiments of the Christian religion. It is only too likely that the arts which we have communicated to the native mind will now be forgotten in favour of the active operations of the field.

The Waikato Maories are the prime movers in the war, for we can scarcely call it rebellion, and they live not more than forty miles from Auckland. On the banks of the Waikato they have constructed "a perfect network of rifle pits," which, probably, will be easily taken by us; but it may happen that we may be repulsed, and suffer a considerable loss of men. The capture of the rifle pits will not bring us victory, becaue the natives are sure to escape, and to repeat the same experiment elsewhere. It seems to be a part of the policy of the natives to build such "phas;" they seem to expect that they are to be attacked, and their capture does not seem to operate on the native mind as a loss. The work is not to be done by soldiers alone, for the history of New Zealand has proved that we may look for a series of hostile efforts as each generation experiences some real or fancied grievance. The only plan remaining is to people the disaffected districts with settlers, who will undertake to occupy the land we shall certainly be obliged to confiscate by the laws of war. We are inclined to hope less from the services of the regular troops than from the new zeal of the volunteers who are flocking from the colonies of Australia and Tasmania. The Maories do not know what it is to meet men who have a motive for fighting, exactly similar to their own in aggression. The whole war will change its character on the arrival of volunteers, whose character will be that of military settlers, and who hope to hold as their own that which now gives rise to hostilities. The old military policy of the Romans is about to be revived at the antipodes. Chains of forts, around which military settlers, trained to the use of arms and not disinclined to an occasional brush with an enemy, will be constructed in the disaffected native country. Roads will be made, which may perhaps not rival the roads which the Romans made so famous, but which will at least enable us to penetrate the fastnesses behind which the natives now retire. The war in New Zealand is in itself a great calamity, for it challenges the first principles of our civilization, and makes new and not very agreeable demands in colonization. We may, however, rest assured that as the contest is forced upon us, it may be the means which Providence intends to employ to widen the basis of progress in another hemisphere. — *News of the World, Nov. 22.*

REWARDS OF FEMALE LABOUR IN NEW YORK.

We find, in one of our latest papers, the following startling facts showing the price that is set upon female labour in the wealthiest City of America—the great Commercial Emporium of the United States. It is painful to contemplate the condition of the poor slaves who are compelled to work hard in close factories for 12 hours per day, at wages ranging from 25 to 30 cents; and they are fortunate if they can pay for their miserable board and lodging out of that scanty income. Numbers of our Island healthy girls go away every Spring and Summer to the States, in the hope of bettering their condition there. We hope we are doing a good service to those who remain, and may be contemplating a rash step of the kind, by pointing out to them what doleful prospects are in store for those who, with fevered imaginations, rush to the labour market of the wealthiest City in the United States, under the belief that their industry and skill will meet with an ample reward.

The working girls of New York had a large meeting on Thursday night last. Only four gentlemen were present, one of whom stated the object of the meeting, and called on the girls for statements of the amounts received for their labor in the various trades in which they were engaged. The prices reported ranged from one dollar to three dollars per week. The average price paid, making all trades represented together, was about two dollars per week. There were many instances in which only about twenty cents a day were received. The price paid for board was stated to be from $2 25 to $3, not including washing, in most cases taking every cent that a girl could earn, and hardly ever leaving her more than twenty-five or fifty cents a week for all extra expenses. The hours of work range from eleven to sixteen each day. The general hours at the shops being from seven in the morning to six or seven at night, with half an hour or three quarters of an hour for dinner. It appeared to be the case generally that prices were much lower than a year ago.

The following statements were made respecting past and present prices:—

"Hoopskirts, when they first came out, brought a dollar a hundred springs for making, now the prices in various shops range from fifteen to twenty-five cents a hundred. From two to three hundred springs can be made per day. A girl who made hoopskirt slides stated that she got three cents a gross for them a year ago, but that now only a half a cent a gross was paid, and that smart girls earned about a shilling a day at the business.

The silver burnishers get a cent a piece for table spoons, of which they can do thirty or thirty-five a day, making about a dollar and eighty cents a week.

Shirts bring about 60 cents a dozen, taking a day and a half to finish a dozen at very hard work. Fine shirts, all finished, $1 a dozen. Flannel shirts, 4 cents to 6 cents each, and from nine to a dozen can be made in a day; $1 a dozen was paid in 1860 for the same that now brings about 80 cents. Overalls, 50 cents a dozen. Large cloaks, taking a day, 40 cents; small cloaks, taking about eight hours, 25 cents. Capes, 35 cents a dozen, taking a long day. Corsets, $2 50 to $3 a week. At book-sewing, about $3 a week is made. For button holes on coats, about $4 a week can be made. At dress-making, $3 a week is made, working from 7 A. M. to 7 P. M. Linen coats, 18 cents to 20 cents each; two of them is a good ten hours' work. The girls iron and finish them, and have to buy their own thread, which costs ten cents a spool, and of which one spool is used on two coats.

Press-feeders get four dollars a week sometimes.

Shelter tents, with forty-six button holes and sixteen eyelets, brought last season twenty-five cents; they now are made for eight cents. Cavalry tents are eight cents a piece for basting and four can be basted in a day.

Vest makers get twenty-five or thirty cents a day.

Parasols and umbrellas are fifty cents a dozen—eight can be made in a day.

Some of the employers, if a girl is five minutes late, charge her five cents for it.

In some of the establishments, if a button is left off a shirt it is a rule to deduct twenty-five cents from the pay.

Photographers get three dollars a week."

The object of the meeting was stated by a gentleman from the Working men's Union to be not a strike, but a combination of the working girls