MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

FROM ST. DOMINGO.

HIGH-HANDED ACTION OF THE SPANISH GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

(From the Washington Chronicle.)

Important intelligence from the Dominican Republic has just been received in this city, and, as we learn, the official documents have been laid before the State Department. By the act of the Spanish Cortes of May 1, 1865, the military occupation of that island was formally abandoned. The attempt to convert an American State into a European colony had been made a terrible failure by the brave and unceasing resistance of the Dominicans, and Spain leaves St. Domingo as she left her other American colonies—because it was beyond her power to stay.

As a last shot in the magazine, Gen. Gandara, Queen Isabella's Governor of St. Domingo, demands of the Dominican Republic a false and self-accusing acknowledgment that Spain went to take possession of the Dominican soil and people at the spontaneous desire of the people; that her conduct while there was grandly generous, and that she leaves it entirely at her own free will, because she has such a profound respect for the rights of every people, without regard to their strength or weakness, that when she discovered that the Dominicans preferred their national independence, she would not remain.

All this magnificent flourish being rendered into common-sense English, means that the Dominicans must take upon their innocent shoulders the blame and disgrace of the infraction of the Monroe doctrine by Spain, and also put on record against their country a claim for the cost of the attempted subjugation of the Republic whenever it shall suit Spanish tactics to harrass them for its payment. The Dominican Government flatly refuses to sanction such an admission, and Gen. Gandara has declared a blockade of all the coasts and harbors of the Dominican Republic. His officers, according to private accounts, talk in the streets of Santo Domingo of laying the city in ashes, but there is a considerable amount of foreign property within the precincts, and the indignant Captain-General will probably take into consideration that France, England, and the United States might have a word to say if he perpetrates upon their citizens the wanton barbarities he practises on the helpless Dominicans.

THE SHENANDOAH AGAIN HEARD FROM—MORE WHALERS BURNED.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 21.—The latest accounts from the Shenandoah are to the afternoon of the 23rd of June, when she was near Cape Thaddeus, steering North-west, toward where a fleet of sixty whalers was known to be previously. Capt. Nye had left the barque Milo during a fog in a small boat for the purpose of warning the fleet of their danger. The Milo also spoke a French whaler, which immediately put away towards the fleet, having considerably the start of the Shenandoah.

While the Shenandoah was at Ascension Island in April, she burned the New London barque Pearl, the New Bedford ship Young Hector, besides a San Francisco and a Hawaiian whaler. She next burned the New Bedford ship Abigail in Ockotsk Sea, the Thomson in the Kamschatka Sea, and then several New Bedford whalers, as reported previously, in the Anadair Sea, where she arrived on the 20th of June.

It was feared that unless the French ship's open whale boat could succeed in warning the fleet, they would all be captured, as the Shenandoah knew exactly where to find them. They were hovering along the southern edge of the ice fields, drawing closer together as the ice drifted through Behring's Straits, through which they were seeking a passage to the Artic Zone as the ice permits.

There being no efficient war vessels nearer this port than Acapulco, the merchants are circulating a petition to the navy yard commandant, asking him to telegraph to Washington for permission to charter and arm the steamer Colorado and despatch her immediately in pursuit of the Shenandoah.

The approach of the Asiatic cholera to England, and its actual presence among the inmates of a workhouse, has excited some attention. It has been exceedingly destructive in India, and made havoc at Alexandra and Constantinople. It will probably, make its accustomed tour: and we may have a visit from it in Halifax. It is true that it seems to have lost much of its old virulence—as if to that extent it had exhausted itself—and medical men can deal better with it. But it is still destructive, and when it comes it sends many to their last account, who might live for many years usefully among us. It is better that the sanitary precautions, which for the rest decency and cleanliness require, should be taken in time. It may be that many of those who now carelessly disregard those words of warning will go to the grave for their folly.—*Halifax Colonist.*

UNITED STATES.

AN EXPLOSION IN RICHMOND.

INTENSE EXCITEMENT — THE LEDGAR ARSENAL BLOWN UP.

BALTIMORE, August 16.—The Richmond *Republic*, of yesterday, says:—"Most intense excitement was caused in this city yesterday afternoon by the explosion of a magazine, containing a large quantity of powder, situated on the flat, lying between the river and canal, about 200 yards below the pump house. The first report was heard at 4 o'clock, and was rapidly followed by the rapid explosion of shells, vividly recalling the fearful scenes of the ever memorable 3rd of April. The ammunition was the property of the late Confederate government, stored in small wooden houses known as the Ledgar Arsenal. It is supposed they contained 2000 rounds shell, shot and rifle cartridges, and a large quantity of percussion caps were also stored in one of the houses. Fragments of shells were thrown for miles around. Persons living near Oregon Hill had to flee for their lives. Several houses were struck, but the inmates escaped. Many narrow escapes are reported. There are various reports and theories as to the origin of the explosion, but it is believed to have been accidental. It is reported that a member of the 11th U. S. Infantry (named Healy) and a negro were killed by the explosion."

AN OIL WELL ON FIRE—THRILLING SCENES.

A correspondent of the Cleveland *Herald* gives the following particulars of the oil-well disaster at Pithole:—

"Yesterday morning (Aug. 2) about ten o'clock, a new well that had been tubed the day before on the Holnden Farm, and on lot nineteen, near the northern line of the farm, began to be pumped. It was situated on the west side of Pithole Creek, between it and the "second bottom." After fifty minutes pumping the well began to yield at the rate of three or four hundred barrels in twenty-four hours. The well would have flown that amount without further pumping one hour after they began. It is deemed advisable, however, to pump a well that begins to flow, on the doctrine that agitation does it good. As the owner of the well had no idea what they had when they began to pump, no tank was prepared for the reception of the oil. It was, consequently, pumped out upon the ground.

"During the day considerable over one hundred barrels had been pumped upon the ground, filling all the pools, creeping among the grass, gliding gradually down the creek bottom, and along the bluff fifteen to twenty rods. Such things had been done before, and no serious apprehensions of danger were felt. Crowds of people visited the well during the sensation of the day. It promised to be the largest of all the mammoths on Pithole. At various times there were from fifty to a hundred persons present.

"About half past seven o'clock, last night, a large number of people were present, half a dozen were on the derrick, and others were ranging about at various distances. Your correspondent did not happen to be of that number, but was at the moment about thirty rods away. My attention was suddenly arrested by an explosion as loud as a good sized cannon would make. The first impression was that some blasting operation had taken place, but on immediately turning about, the scene presented was before me in all its awful grandeur. Suddenly as powder ignites, suddenly as lightning from the skies, there swept up from the earth, from an area of three-fourths of an acre of ground which the oil had covered, a flaming, hissing, howling fire spout that rose nearly an hundred feet into the air, the whole fiery mass surmounted by a thick, black pall of smoke, as from a hundred throated furnace.

"Everybody had heard the explosion, and, in a moment, everybody saw the flames overspread the creek. Lot 19 is but 12 or 15 rods from the famous Holmstead Well, in which there were thousands of barrels of oil stored away. One hundred rods further down the creek were 15 or 20,000 more barrels of oil stored in huge tanks near the Frazier and Twin Wells. As the flames mounted upwards and ran into every nook and cranny where a pool of oil had been formed, every body expected in a moment to see the whole creek bottom a boiling lake of fire.

"Instantly upon the explosion the people ran in every direction, some towards the fire, others from it. Men looked excited and alarmed. The few women in the crowd cried, and already saw their own friends among the many that all felt must have been caught in the whirlpool of fire and dragged down with hungry fury to an awful death.

"Running in the direction of the fire I met three wretched men who had barely escaped from the flames. One of them howling in agony, 'Oh, my God, what shall I do? what can I do?' had his clothes almost wholly burned from his body. His back and breast and legs were brown, with enormous fire blisters hanging to the skin, while his hands were burned to the bones. At the time of the explosion he was sitting in the derrick, and in running through the flames fell down with both hands plunged into the burning oil. He was able, however, to leap into the creek, fortunately not covered with the oil, and thus barely got out of the hissing, crackling blaze. His name was Lucius Kingsley, of Syracuse, N. Y.

"On the heels of Kingsley was another man bleeding and burnt, and holding out his charred hands to the passing, frightened crowd. Still another man, bleeding, howling, and tearfully burnt, followed. The alarm was so great that neither of these could tell how many others shared the same fate, or suffered even more by burning on the ground. They reported as many as 50 persons having been in the immediate vicinity of the well when the explosion took place, and that at least half of these had been burned to death on the ground.

"The consternation for ten minutes was immense. Millions of property were in peril, and lives already lost. Immediately squads of workmen were organized, who, with shovels and spades, worked upon the outer edge of the fire to stay its progress. So soon as the fire had licked up the oil upon the ground, it began gradually to die out on the borders, and finally, in the space of two hours, was wholly confined to the well. Engine houses, derricks, tanks and evergreen trees have been burned. The fire was still roaring at the mouth of the tubing. The oil and gas in immense quantities, in consequence of the great vacuum produced at the bottom of the well, poured forth only to leap into furious flames, while the upright portion of the tubing dripped with liquid fire.

"During the night men labored to devise some plan for its extinguishment. At length three pieces of tubing screwed together were, by means of a tunnel, run into the mouth of the tubing whence the oil issued in flames, and finally fastened, so that the oil was conducted 40 or 50 feet further off. By the free use of wet blankets the fire was at length subdued at one o'clock this morning, when a shout rose from the men engaged as if a victory over the rebel hordes had been gained."

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—A frightful railroad accident occurred on the morning of the 15th on the Housatonic Railroad, near Bridgeport, Connecticut, by which six persons, of whom three were females, were killed, and upwards of twenty horribly mangled and scalded. An extra freight train was sent up the line in the morning, the engine of which became disabled, and a regular passenger train following, hitched on, and was backing towards Bridgeport, when a new engine, out for a trial, going at full speed round a curve, ran into the rear cars of the passenger train, passing through the train until the third car was reached, when the boiler burst making sad havoc.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Dear Sir,—When thought brings to mind the acts passed under the Liberal Government for the amelioration of the Tenantry of this pleasant little Isle, (that all who travel through must acknowledge with gratitude is by Nature highly favored),—the Purchase Bill, &c., and results therefrom. Indeed had that Government continued, the long agitated land question would have been settled satisfactory to the parties complaining, long ere this; for it never was in such progress for completion as when the deluded people placed the Tories in power, who have created more discord and discontent in the country than we ever before experienced. We, therefore, must confess that ingratitude prevails in the land, as the old saying is, worse than witchcraft. I have at times feared a judgment would come upon us, but did not expect it would be shown to you for the slight check you gave the Tenant League in your valuable journal, by informing them that the momentous question must be settled by the Legislature, that body being the voice of the people. If it can be privately settled between landlord and tenant, well. But the united bodies would certainly be the most powerful. As to the present Government, they have most singularly failed to fulfil any promise they ever made. As to enumerating their acts and deeds, it would be needless. They are all too well known already; consequently our only way is to await the next opportunity for electing men of probity in their place that will endeavor to improve our present degraded condition; but we may be assured that resisting the authority of the law would very soon deprive us of Responsible Government. Our present leaders have entailed another tax upon us for the purchase of a site for a new barracks, and the expense of erecting the same for the accommodation of the regular soldiers they have favoured us with, after having sold the old Barrack Grounds, and appropriating the interest of the proceeds for the support of Volunteers, whose loyalty is now suspected, and their fire-arms taken from them. Yes! the present serious unsettled state of the Colony will require sound judgment as to the future, for I am satisfied there are many strongly inclined for annexation to the States, which I was in hopes the purport of the letters from our faithful friend, the Hon. George Coles, would have removed. But no! I have frequently attempted to reason with them, when they would exclaim, "What would we have been was it not for the Yankees, who have raised the price of our produce a hundred per cent, and employed many of us in their fisheries: therefore, the sooner we are annexed the better." Still, they would say, we will continue British subjects if the Government will promote the general interest of the country by granting liberal bounties to fish ing establishments; and as the old treaty with the States ceases, if the British Government will protect our fisheries, and prevent the citizens of the States (who acknowledge our Gulf to be a mine of wealth) from having access to our fisheries and decoying the mackerel out of our very harbors. As an illustration thereof I must relate a little anecdote respecting some of our Georgetown friends, which I heard the other day. As they were strolling along the banks of the Albion one fine evening they observed shoals of mackerel swimming up the river; but before they could get ready to follow them, to their great annoyance two American schooners pursued and decoyed the expected treasure, and shipped the bright fish for themselves. I was pleased to learn that two men went out in a boat one evening lately, and caught a load of codfish, for which they the next morning received the handsome remuneration of fourteen pounds, which they say is by no means a solitary instance; so that we must acknowledge the chief cause of our poverty is owing to a want of energy and industry on our part, both as to fishing and farming. We allow the Americans to catch our fish while we are sleeping; and our farms, for want of proper culture, yield only half a crop. But let us hope for the best. When things get to their worst they generally mend. That such may be our lot is the ardent wish of

Your obliged and obedient servant,

OBSERVER.

August 25th, 1865.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, August 28, 1865.

TENANT LEAGUE DOINGS.

The following correspondence appeared in the *Royal Gazette* of Wednesday week:—

COUNCIL OFFICE, CHARLOTTETOWN,
2ND AUGUST, 1865.

SIR,—It having been represented to His Honor the Administrator of the Government in Council that you recently presided at a meeting of a portion of the inhabitants of your district, assembled for the purpose of forming or encouraging the formation of a branch of the Tenant Union or League: I am directed by His Honor, in Council, to request that you will state, for the information of His Honor, whether you did preside at or take part in any meeting convened for the purpose above mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES DESBRISAY, C. C.

The Hon. Joseph Wightman,
St. Andrew's Point, Three Rivers.

(Copy.)

ST. ANDREW'S POINT,
AUGUST 5, 1865.

Dear Sir,—Your favor of the 2nd instant I have to own. You will be pleased to lay before His Honor the Administrator of the Government in Council this reply:

I was at Montague Bridge the day the Tenant Union assembled there, and being unanimously called to preside as chairman, I accepted, for the purpose of hearing the Tenant Union Constitution explained; and on doing so, I objected to one of their rules that did not uphold the supremacy of the law, and have not attended any meetings since, nor do I intend to countenance any organization that does not respect the law that affords us protection.

I am, with respect, &c.

(Signed) J. WIGHTMAN.

Charles DesBrisay, Esq.
Clerk of the Council, Charlottetown.

The Council's letter is extremely vague, and if Mr. Wightman chose, he might have treated it as a very improper interference with his rights as a private citizen. Why should he be called to account, more than any other person, for presiding at a Tenant League Meeting? Scores of persons have done the same thing, and their names are known to the Government in connection with Tenant League Meetings. Why have they not been called to account? "But," it may be said, "Mr. Wightman is a Magistrate — the others are not." Well, the Council's letter does not remind Mr. Wightman of his Magisterial character; nor is he addressed as a J. P. He seems to have been conscious, however, that it was owing to his connection with the Magistracy he had been called to account; and in acknowledging his error, for that reason, by presiding at a League Meeting, he goes a step beyond the mere act of contrition, and pronounces a wholesale condemnation on the League, which is of some importance, when there is so much shuffling amongst the Leaguers about the principles of their Society. They make a foolish pretence, which can impose upon no sensible person, about their being loyal to the Queen, and obedient to Her Majesty's laws. They exhibit the insane folly of throwing up their hats, at their meetings, cheering for the Queen, and then they go away determined to carry out a rule or pledge, which, as Mr. Wightman says, proposes to rob society of that protection which the laws afford. It is notorious that serious disturbances have occurred in Queen's County, occasioned by men connected with the League. The League say they are not responsible for those disturbances, and that their Society ought not to be charged with them; but it is unquestionable that the disturbances arose out of a strict conformity with the repudiation and law-resistance pledge; and the League, as a body, must be held responsible for the acts of their individual members, when those individual members are found acting up to the principles of the organization. It is also notorious that in the disturbed sections of this County—(and happily the other Counties are free, for the most part, from the infection of the League's principles)—the law cannot be put in force where any claim between landlord and tenant is at issue. The tin trumpets are put in requisition to collect a crowd—a crowd respond to the hideous noises; and bailiffs charged with the execution of the law are rendered powerless. It is no use to discuss the question, whether the landlords attempt to enforce just or unjust claims. Their claims may, in equity, be grievous and oppressive ones; but so long as the law sanctions them, it is folly and madness to resist the law. Repudiation only postpones the gloomy hour of payment. It will not cancel the tenant's indebtedness. It only serves to widen the gulph—already wide enough—between landlord and tenant; and render impracticable an amicable settlement of the differences existing between the parties.

We are sometimes asked, why do we interfere between the League and the Proprietors, or the League and the Government? We have certainly no sympathy for the proprietors—not much sympathy for the Government in this hour of difficulty. The proprietary system we have always regarded as a great evil to the country; and the Government are deserving of all the trouble they may get from it, on account of their double-dealing policy in regard to that system. But our duty as an independent journalist requires us to deal with the very obvious fact, that a portion of the country is in a disturbed state—that the disturbance is based on a conflict with lawful authority, and will, if persisted in, lead to much individual suffering. It is our duty to allay, if possible, by timely warning, the disturbance which prevails, and thereby prevent individual suffering.

If the Proprietors and the Government have no claim to our sympathy, the Leaguers certainly have none. They amuse themselves by abusing us at their different meetings—imputing to us the worst motives, because we will not shut our eyes to their follies; and they have the ineffable meanness to attempt to get some of our subscribers to stop their papers. The Leaguers, who are guilty of this piece of small rascality, were themselves never subscribers to the *Examiner*, (and we are glad of it); and we know that their evil advice, even when backed by threats and coercion, has not prevailed. Besides, they are very unsparing in their abuse of the Liberal party, whose humble advocate, for many years, we have been. They falsely declare that that party has never done anything to improve the condition of the tenantry. It would be easy to prove how false this charge is by pointing to a dozen measures on the Statute book, incorporated into our institutions, which were the good works of the Liberal party, not merely on behalf of the tenantry, but in the interest of all classes in the community. The existence of the Purchase Bill alone ought to be sufficient to set aside such a silly calumny. Under its operation many thousands of tenants have been converted into happy and contented freeholders; and if the Liberal Party had been left in power, and permitted to work out their policy under that Bill, and under the Loan Bill, which was a supplementary measure, the leasehold system throughout the whole Island might have been very nearly abolished by this time. A great deal was done for the tenantry while the Liberals held the Government; and if it had not been for the opposition of such men as those who control, and, for the most part, compose the Tenant League, the tenantry would have very little to complain of now. The Leaguers are chiefly members of the Conservative party,—and what is less to their credit—they are "loyal Orangemen!"—(men who never violate the law!) They are, for the most part, in comfortable circumstances, and well able to meet their obligations towards their landlords. There are thousands of tenants in the Island far worse off—unable to bear the burdens imposed upon them—but they are tranquil and patient under their misfortunes; they are faithful in the observance of the laws, and are, as far as their lot enables them to be, good members of society. For these tenantry we have a sincere and profound sympathy. They are entitled to the best consideration of the Government and Legislature; and we think no sacrifice would be too great to enable them to become freeholders. Let the Government purchase out the claims of proprietors who hold over such tenantry as these, and the country will sustain the Government, no matter what their party complexion may be; but if the proprietors will not sell on such terms as will enable the tenants to repurchase from the Government, well, they should be made to understand that there shall be no protection for them in any conflicts that may arise between themselves and their tenantry—that is, the country should not be put to any expense for the benefit of a class of people who will obstinately retard its improvement. The leasehold system can only be abolished by legislation. Let the people, then, direct their attention towards securing a Parliament that will accomplish that end; but let no man run away with the delusion that threats, and violence, and terrorism, outside of the pale of the constitution, will hasten the deliverance of the tenantry from their bondage, until all constitutional remedies have been exhausted. The Society which proposes any other remedy, and does not, to use Mr. Wightman's language, "uphold the supremacy of the law," is a dangerous enemy to society, and ought to be discountenanced by every honest man.

LETTER FROM THE HON. MR. WARBURTON.

WOODBROOK, August 21, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR;—

I am again asked a question in the *Islander* of the 11th inst., which I answered before, if not to the editor's, certainly to my own satisfaction. I shall, however, answer it again in my own country's fashion, by asking another. Have the proprietors of land on this Island, whose defective titles have been made good by the present Government, the same right to the protection of the law as any other class of persons? The *Islander* above referred to contains the following:—"In reference to the 'precious document' which Sir Alexander found, we have only to remark, that no member of the present Government, nor any supporter of the Government in the *Assembly*, is one whit more answerable for it than is Mr. Warburton." If I recollect rightly, the following gentlemen were members of the Government on the arrival of Sir Donald Campbell: Hons. T. H. Haviland, C. Hensley, J. M. Holl, G. R. Goodman, George Coles, J. Warburton, and three others whose names I forget. Mr. Coles and I were expelled from the Assembly by a tyrannical majority for having accepted seats in the Council, contrary to law and precedent. I was also dismissed from the Executive, and Mr. Coles resigned shortly afterwards; and the present Attorney General, who ought to be a member of the Government now, (if we had not the funniest constitution in the universe, he would be there)—was appointed in my place. Perhaps the latter gentleman, who is a supporter of the Government in the Legislative Council, can throw some light on the paternity of the "precious document."

Alongside of the remarks on my last letter to you there appears in the *Islander* an article, headed, "Arrival of Troops;" and this reminds me, that as I have already expressed my opinion on the constitution of the Tenant League, I ought to say a little with reference to the "arrival of troops."

The very fact of troops being sent for is a declaration on the part of the Government, that the Island, or part of it, is in such a state that the civil power is unable to put down "rebellion." I am sure the gallant officers and men of Her Majesty's Army must have felt no little astonishment, on arriving in Charlottetown, when they found everything so quiet and peaceable. Had the unfortunate men who resisted the law been rescued from the civil power, some excuse might be offered for sending for troops. It appears, however, if we can believe the *Islander*, that 1600 persons were assembled to rescue the prisoners, and that about 30 armed citizens were able to prevent the rescue, and thereby uphold the majesty of the law. Such being the case, I cannot see the necessity for proclaiming the Island in a state of rebellion, when a few special constables were able to keep order against such odds. It is very evident that no rescue was intended. It is only a few short weeks since an address was presented to the Lieut. Governor, setting forth in glowing terms the great prosperity the Island had attained during His Excellency's administration; and now, if the editor of the *Islander* is to be believed, the troops were sent for "because Queen's County is in a state of anarchy." Many believe that they were sent for, under the authority of the "Bloody Despatch," to assist in the collection of rents. Such may be the case; but if I know anything of the character of a British Officer and Gentleman, it will be a long time before one is seen helping to drive a few half starved cows from the premises of any unfortunate tenant who is unable, or perhaps unwilling, to pay his rent. A deeper "game" is being played: persuade the Home Government that the Island cannot be governed without the intervention of troops, and then their darling project of a Union of the Colonies will be effected, on the ground that in no other way can rebellion be put down; for although the Government, except two, voted against Union last winter, some of them, and their supporters, too, expressed their willingness for the change, provided better terms were received.

I do not blame His Excellency for the action taken by the Government on the Land Question. He, no doubt, compares this Island with Great Britain, where 15 years purchase would be considered a good bargain for the tenant. Thirty years purchase, (and I have known fifty years purchase to be given), is about the common price of land in Ireland. I believe His Excellency acts on the advice of his Council. He can know very little about the actual state of affairs. He has only driven through parts of the Island. He has never visited this section of it. The Government, then, are to blame for all that has been done against the tenantry. A General Election will take place next summer; perhaps sooner. The electors can then endeavour, by electing the tenants' friends to represent them, to remedy some of the evils that have been inflicted upon them by the Government of their choice: but it will be very difficult for any House of Assembly to rectify the evils engendered by the passing of the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill. It is so favourable to the Proprietors that the Home Government will never permit of its being repealed; and unless that is done, I see no way of benefitting the tenantry by obtaining for them free land on just and equitable terms, so long as the Island is under subjection to the Propristors through the favor of the Colonial Minister of the day.

For my own part, I should rejoice to see a majority of Tenant Leaguers returned to the Assembly; and for two reasons: In the first place, they would see how powerless they are to have any law perfected which would be opposed to the direct interests of the Proprietors and their friends, the present party in power. In the next place, I do not believe that a Tenant League House would pass measures so injurious to the tenantry as the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill, or any similar measure. And were a member of the Tenant League to offer as a candidate for this District, I would vote for him, provided he were not one of those converted Tories who are now agitating the country for their own special advancement.

I hope, my dear Sir, you will excuse the many imperfections in this hastily written letter. I am just leaving home to visit my friends at Egmont Bay and other places in the District. Should the Colonial Secretary feel desirous of asking me any more questions, I shall endeavour to answer them to his satisfaction on the stump; and I think I can promise him, on behalf of my friends in this section of the Island, a fair hearing, should he feel desirous of explaining his views to large assemblies of the electors.

I, and many of your friends, (and you have a great many of them), were highly pleased at the expression of opinion given by you in your last editorial. Go on in the same style and prosper.

I remain, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
J. WARBURTON.

HON. E. WHELAN.

THE CANADIAN MISSION AND ITS RESULTS.

The delegates from the Canadian government to England having laid before the Canadian Legislature a full report of their Mission, the same has been published. We make a few extracts from it relative especially to those questions in which the people of the Maritime Provinces feel the deepest interest.

It may be proper to state here that the Delegates assign, as the cause of their undertaking the English Mission, the following facts:—"The conference at Fortress Munroe for the cessation of hostilities, the disturbances on the Canadian frontier, the imposition of the Passport system, the notice given by the American Government for a termination of the convention restricting the Naval Armament on the Lakes, and other events, tended to revive and deepen the feeling of insecurity; and Her Majesty's Government urged the immediate erection of permanent works of defence at Quebec and Montreal—the cost of the former to be borne by the Imperial Treasury, and of the latter by the people of Canada. Your Excellency's advisers were most anxious to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government; but they could not feel it their duty to propose to Parliament a vote for defensive works at Montreal while the defence of Upper Canada, on land and on the lakes, was unprovided for. The position of affairs was further complicated by the result of the New Brunswick elections, which postponed, at least for a time, the union of the Provinces and by the formal notice given by the American Government for the termination, in March next, of the Reciprocity Treaty. It became evident that the time had arrived, and could no longer be postponed, for a full and frank explanation with Her Majesty's Government on the whole state of affairs; and with that view an immediate mission to England, with your Excellency's assent, was resolved upon."

CONFEDERATION AND INTER COLONIAL RAILWAY.

The subject to which we first invited the attention of the Conference was the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies. We reminded the Imperial Ministers how largely all the questions, with the discussion of which we were charged—and especially those of defence, Foreign Commercial relations, and internal communication—would be affected by the Union, and how greatly their satisfactory settlement would be facilitated by it. We explained the reasons that existed for obtaining the assent of all the Colonies to the Union at an early date, and the promise to which the Government of Canada stood pledged to proceed without delay with Constitutional reforms for Canada alone in the event of the larger measure failing to be obtained. We received at once from the members of the Imperial Cabinet assurances of their hearty approval of the Confederation scheme, and of their anxious desire to promote its early accomplishment by all the legitimate influence of the Imperial Government. In the discussion of the means to be adopted for effecting Confederation, we trust it is unnecessary to assure Your Excellency that the idea of coercing the Maritime Provinces into the measure was not for a moment entertained. The end sought was to ascertain in what manner the question of Union in all its bearings could be best brought under the full and fair consideration of our fellow Colonists, and the grave responsibility urged upon them, which they would assume by thwarting a measure so pregnant with future prosperity to British America, so anxiously desired by the great mass of the people to be affected by it, and which had been received with such marked satisfaction by our fellow-subjects throughout the British Empire. We received assurances that Her Majesty's Government would adopt every legitimate means for securing the early assent of the Maritime Provinces to the Union. In the course of these discussions, the question of the Intercolonial Railway came up as a necessary accompaniment of Confederation, when we sought and obtained a renewal of the promised Imperial guarantee of a loan for the construction of that work.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

On the subject of the American Reciprocity Treaty we entered into full explanations with the Imperial Ministers. We explained how advantageously the Treaty had worked for Canada, and the desire of our people for its renewal; but we showed at the same time how much more advantageously it had operated for American interests—and we expressed our inability to believe that the United States Government seriously contemplated the abolition of an arrangement by which they had so greatly increased their foreign commerce, secured a vast and lucrative carrying trade, and obtained free access to the St. Lawrence and to the invaluable fishing-grounds of British America—and that on the sole ground that the Provinces had also profited by the Treaty. We explained the immediate injury that would result to Canadian interests from the abrogation of the treaty; but we pointed out at the same time the new and ultimately more profitable channels into which our foreign trade must in that event, be turned, and the necessity of preparing for the change, if indeed it was to come. We asked that the British Minister at Washington might be instructed to state frankly to the American Government the desire of the Canadian people for a renewal of the treaty, and our readiness to discuss and favourably entertain any just propositions that might be made for an extension or modification of its conditions; we requested that the views of the American Government should be obtained at the earliest convenient date—and that His Excellency Sir Frederick Bruce should act in concert with the Canadian Government in the matter. The Imperial Government cordially assented to our suggestions.

The Delegates state that before entering on the discussion of the question of

THE DEFENCE OF CANADA,

They asked "that a report on the whole subject of the defence of Canada, with plans and estimates, might be obtained from the highest military and naval authorities of Great Britain. Such a report was obtained and communicated to us confidentially—and we rejoice to say that it was calculated to remove all doubt as to the security of our country, so long as the hearts of our people remain firmly attached to the British flag, and the power of England is wielded in our defence." After much discussion, the result arrived at was, "that if the people of Canada undertook the works of defence at and west of Montreal, and agreed to expend in training their militia, until the union of all the Provinces was determined, a sum not less than is now expended annually for that service, Her Majesty's Government would complete the fortifications at Quebec, provide the whole armament for all the works, guarantee a loan for the sum necessary to construct the works undertaken by Canada, and in the event of war undertake the defence of every portion of Canada with all the resources of the Empire." It was found, after consultation, that the propositions for defence could not be considered by the Canadian Legislature this year, and "the further consideration of the defensive works was accordingly deferred for the action of the Government and Legislature of the proposed British North American Confederation—but the assurance of Her Majesty's Government was at the same time given, that if circumstances arose to render an application expedient by Canada alone for the immediate prosecution of the works of defence, such application would be received in the most friendly spirit."

OPENING UP THE NORTH WEST TERRITORY.

* * * Calling to mind, therefore, the vital importance to Canada of having that great and fertile country opened up to Canadian channels—remembering also the danger of large grants of land passing into the hands of mere moneyed corporations and embarrassing the rapid settlement of the country—and the risk that the recent discoveries of gold on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains might throw into the country large masses of settlers unaccustomed to British Institutions—we arrived at the conclusion that the quickest solution of the question would be the best for Canada. We accordingly proposed to the Imperial Ministers that the whole British Territory east of the Rocky Mountains and north of the American or Canadian lines should be made over to Canada, subject to such rights as the Hudson's Bay Company might be able to establish; and that the compensation to that Company (if any were found to be due) should be met by a loan guaranteed by Great Britain. The Imperial Government consented to this, and a careful investigation of the case satisfies us that the compensation to the Hudson's Bay Company cannot, under any circumstances, be onerous. It is but two years since the present Hudson's Bay Company purchased the entire property of the old Company; they paid £1,500,000 for the entire property and assets—in which were included a large sum in cash on hand, large landed properties in British Columbia and elsewhere not included in our arrangement, a very large claim against the United States Government under the Oregon Treaty—and ships, goods, pelts and business premises in England and Canada, valued at £1,083,569. The value of the territorial rights of the Company therefore, in the estimation of the Company itself, will be easily arrived at.

CONCLUSION.

It will be gratifying to many devoted subjects of Her Majesty throughout British America, whose fears have been excited by the language too often heard of late years on the subject of Colonial connection, that we received from her Majesty's Ministers the assurance that the British Government acknowledge the obligation of defending every portion of Canada with all the resources at its command.

Such in brief is the outline of our communications with Her Majesty's Government, and we cannot conclude this Report without gratefully acknowledging the distinguished consideration extended to us as the Representatives of Canada, not only by the Ministers with whom we were brought more directly in contact, but by many eminent personages with whom we had the honor of conferring on the subjects of our mission. To Mr. Cardwell we are especially indebted for unremitting kindness and attention. We are happy to believe that the result of our visit to England has been to inspire more just views as to the position and feelings of the Canadian people, and to draw closer the ties that have so long and so happily attached our Province to the Mother Country.

(From the Halifax Evening Express, Aug. 23.)

THE LAND QUESTION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

This has for many years been a vexed and most vexatious question in the Island. There seems to be a large party among the Islanders who are of opinion that property, if it consist of land, may have duties but has no rights. Hence the active and bitter agitation which has been the means of overthrowing more than one Government, and which had for its object the carrying out of a sweeping principle of escheat; in other words, to put an end to landlordism throughout the Island by making the tenant the legal proprietor *de facto* of the lands he cultivated. This, no doubt, would be an agreeable enough process to the tenantry, but as it strikes at the very root of that social policy which keeps a community together, no Government has yet been found, or is likely to be found, that will lend an ear to it. At the same time it must be confessed that the system of holding and renting large tracts of land has worked as unsatisfactorily as possible in that Colony, both as regards proprietor and tenant. The latter have got an idea instilled into them that the mere possession of a farm, provided they have tilled the ground for a few years and paid a modicum of rent, gives them a right of ownership. They argue in this way. These people have not purchased the land themselves. The British Government gave it away in vast tracts to parties who had neither interest in, nor knowledge of the Island. This was a monstrous act of injustice; and its natural results have been that large portions of the country continue unsettled, and those who do lease the land are unable to make any headway, by being obliged to hand over the greater portion of the result of their labors to an absentee proprietor. The whole of this argument is unsound, but some of the facts it contains are nevertheless true. These great proprietorships have doubtless retarded somewhat the native prosperity. In the great majority of instances it has been an incessant struggle between landlord and tenant—the one insisting on his legal rights, and the other offering a passive resistance by withholding payment. At home the owner of a great estate has no difficulty whatever about rent. The tenant would as soon think of questioning the right of enforcing payment for his butter or potatoes if necessary, as the right of the landlord to exact rent for his land. Now, the right to land is the same all the world over. Should the British Government discover an uninhabited island and take possession by planting a flag upon it, nobody could question their right of granting it or parts of it to whomsoever they thought fit. The grantees in this case would be the only lawful owners, and they might sell it, or lease it, or keep it in their own hands it given to them unconditionally. But we must not overlook the fact that the whole genius of Colonial life is opposed to this holding of large tracts of land by single individuals. Every tiller of the ground wishes to own that which he cultivates, and looks upon vast estates as a remnant of feudal times altogether out of place in the New World. This feeling is too deeply implanted in the Colonial mind to be easily erased, and the consequence will likely be that from the Island, in course of time, the great proprietor will disappear. But he must not be robbed. It has, for some time, been the policy of the Island Government to buy out these proprietors, and sell the land to the tenant holding it, at a very low rate.

This is the only way, consistent with justice, that we can see of overcoming the difficulty. To give any countenance to the foolish and criminal practice of forming a league to resist the law, is in itself a crime. Those who do so are the worst enemies of the poor misguided tenantry. They have rented the land as tenants, they have come under the compact voluntarily, and their best course to follow, if they feel the bargain a burdensome one, is to leave the property altogether and seek some other locality. Their plea of possession, or of having paid rent equal in value to the land, is quite untenable. We may rent a house for 15 or 20 years, but at the end of that time it is as little ours as at the beginning. Outrages upon Sheriffs and Sheriff's officers cannot be tolerated in any civilized community, and while we trust that the local government will do everything in their power to ameliorate the condition of the tenant as far as possible, they will put down these unlawful combinations with a firm hand. Most of the proprietors, if not all of them, would be only too glad to get quit of a property which yields them little and gives much annoyance, upon very reasonable terms. This might be done by the Government without incurring a very extravagant debt, and we have little doubt that the speculation would pay, as well as put an end to a species of irritation which is seriously interferring with the contentment and prosperity of a large and important class of people in the Island.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE *BELGIAN* OFF CAPE RACE.

FATHER POINT, Aug 20.—The steamship *Belgian*, from Liverpool afternoon of the 10th and Londonderry 11th inst., arrived off this point this forenoon.

GREAT BRITAIN.

An extraordinary meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company was held in London on the 9th, at which it was resolved to convert the preference shares into a consolidation 8 per cent. preferential stock, and to obtain additional stock to the extent of 80,000 pounds sterling to complete the present cable and construct and lay down a second one. The chairman, J. S. Wortley, said he had no information to give the meeting, but he hoped for reliable information in a day or two. He said the shareholders should have courage and persevere. The meeting was large and unanimous.

FRANCE.

The political news is unimportant.

The Paris Bourse continued heavy at 67f. 90c. for rentes.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

The Presse of Vienna says Count Blonce, who had proceeded to Gastern to resume negotiations with Prussia relative to the Duchies, is to consider Austria's concession of July 10 as definitive and unchangeable. Should Prussia insist on the strict fulfilment of the conditions she proposed last February, Count Blonce will declare negotiations broken off. A *casus belli* would only be considered to exist in the event of Prussia flagrantly violating article 3d of the treaty of peace concluded at Vienna.

A special despatch from Vienna to the *Times* says Count Blonce is the bearer of most pacific despatches. Austria is resolved not to break with Prussia for the sake of the Duke of Augustenburg.

SPAIN.

In consequence of the conference between Marshal O'Donnel, Gen. Prim and Senor Madoz, the progressive party will abandon the policy of abstention from public affairs.

The ministers have under consideration the state of affairs in San Domingo.

THE CITY OF BALTIMORE'S NEWS.

The following is a summary of the news forwarded in the City of Baltimore, which sailed from Liverpool on the 9th for New York:—

The London *Daily News* says there is no prospect whatever of any further payments of dividends or the principal of the confederate loan.

The *Times* highly eulogises Gen. Sherman for his modest speech at St. Louis.

The new Parliament has been further adjourned nominally until the 1st of November.

Abd-el-Kader has left England for Paris, it is reported for lack of attention in high quarters.

It is rumored in Paris that reinforcements to the extent of 6000 troops are on the point of being sent to Mexico—3000 from France and 3000 from Algeria.

New propositions from Prussia to Austria relative to Schleswi Holstein were under discussion. It is reported that if they fail, Austria will immediately urge the Federal Diet to recognize the Duke of Augustenburg as sovereign of the Duchies.

The cholera was still spreading at Constantinople.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23, P. M.—The steamship *Persia*, from Liverpool 12th via Queenstown 13th, arrived this morning.....Nothing had been heard of the *Great Eastern* and her consorts, and nothing new regarding the cable.....Lord Lyons is to succeed Sir Henry Bulwer as Ambassador to Constantinople.....The Vienna *Trenblot* says the differences between Austria and Prussia may be regarded as adjusted. A complete understanding has been arrived at on the principal points in dispute.....Breadstuffs firm. Weather still very wet. Flour advanced 6d. on the week, and wheat 3d. to 4d. Provisions firm. Consols for money 89⅞ to 89¼.....American news without interest.

NEW YORK, 19th, p. m.—The Herald's Washington despatch says, that the opinion is confidently expressed that the Government will not undertake the trial of Wertz, but cause him to give States' evidence in the approaching trial of Jeff Davis, whereby it will be proved that Davis was the direct and prime instigator of the cruelties to Union prisoners.....Major Castleman and Lieut. Munford, rebel spies arrested last night, have been paroled to leave the country and never return.....The property of Hager & Ludring, of Richmond has been labelled for confiscation. They are immensely rich, and did the entire bank note engraving for the rebels.....There are no new developements in the Ketchum forgery. The forger has not been traced. There is a strong belief that he is yet in the city. The Importers and Traders' National Bank offers a reward of $5,000 for his arrest. Gold 144.

NEW YORK, Aug. 21st—*Belgian* passed Father Point yesterday with dates to the 11th.....Queen Victoria and the junior members of the Royal Family had arrived at Antwerp, whence they proceeded to visit the King of the Belgians.....A terrible tragedy had occurred in London; a man took three children to lodge temporarily at a coffee house, and murdered them in their beds by suffocation. The murderer escaped.....In England nothing had been heard of the Great Eastern.....A meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company had been held, at which it was resolved to complete the present Cable and construct and lay another.....The new Parliament has been further adjourned nominally until the first of November.....Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has memorialized Postmaster General to have the Cunard steamers sail on Fridays instead of on Saturdays.....Bullion in Bank of England had decreased £234,000.....Consuls for money 89⅞ a 89¼.....Weather unfavourable and breadstuffs advancing, wheat 3d. a 4d higher, flour 6d a 1s. higher.....Reports prevail of potatoe disease in Ireland.....Provisions firm, pork 2s. 6d. higher, bacon 1s. higher.....American news this morning unimportant.....Gold 144¼.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22, P. M.—News unimportant.....The *Herald's* Fortress Monroe correspondence says preparations indicate the forthcoming speedy trial of Jeff. Davis there. Additional restrictions have been put upon admissions to the fort. Joe Johnston, while at Fortress Monroe, was asked if he would like to see Jeff Davis. He replied—"I do not wish to see him or hear his name mentioned even." Gold 143.

NEW YORK, August 22.—Henry Wirtz, the keeper of the Andersonville prison, was yesterday arraigned before the military commission in Washington, on charges of having combined and confederated with Robt. E. Lee, Jas. A. Seddon, Northrup and others, to injure the health and destroy the lives of Union soldiers in Southern prisons, and also with murder in violation of the laws and customs of war. The specifications allege most cruel practices, such as starvation, vaccination with impure matter, furnishing rotten food, and employing bloodhounds.....Southern papers give shocking accounts of the murder of negroes by their former masters in the interior of the late rebel States. The number murdered is estimated at several hundred.....Several warehouses in South and Water streets, stored with teas, coffee and other goods, were destroyed by fire yesterday. Loss estimated at half a million. Gold 144.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23.—Jeff. Davis has written a letter to one of his counsel, Mr. Gallett, of Albany, in which he says he is still ignorant of the charges against him, the source of them, and the tribunal before which he is to be tried. He expresses a desire for a speedy trial.....The court for the trial of Wirtz, after the arraigning of the prisoner, and the reading of the indictment yesterday, adjourned without debate. The act caused much surprise, but it is intimated that the adjournment was for the purpose of amending the indictment.....Gold 143⅞.

CANADA.

The Quebec *Mercury* publishes the following as the programme of the Canadian Government. The two members of the Government of this Province now in Canada, are on a pleasure tour, and are not there to attend the meeting in reference to the Reciprocity Treaty:—

That on the subject of Confederation the Government do not propose to take further action this session:

That the Government do not intend to introduce any measure concerning fortifications, nor to expend the $1,000,000 voted last session before again meeting Parliament:

That the Militia Law is now undergoing revision by the new Adjutant General, and that only some minor amendments may probably be made to the law this session.

That a meeting of the Delegates from the British North American Provinces, under the Presidency of the Governor General, entitled "A Confederate Council to advise on Treaties of Commerce" will take place in Quebec next month, with the view of arranging for united action in regard to the Reciprocity Treaty.