

Very Latest Telegrams.

Great Britain. LONDON, Dec. 19.—Consols 92 1/2. Liverpool markets are without quotable change. The utter inability of the Great Powers of Europe to control the action of Greece in the pending troubles with Turkey, excites distrust in financial circles in London, and there is a general falling off in all money values. This distrust is only increased by the assurance of the French press, and even if Russia is not in earnest in her demonstration it is the general opinion that she will not be able to give Greece any material aid. The press of London generally unites in urging the Great Powers to a final renunciation with Greece to prevent the occurrence of war, and it is rejected to leave Greece to her fate.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The foreboding allusion to the Eastern question, made by Lord Stanley on the 13th of November, in his speech to his constituents, at Lyon Regis, is regarded as one of the secondary causes of the crisis in the East. The Times in commenting on President Johnson's message, refers to the President's stubbornness, denounces his repudiation proposition and approves the action of the Senate and the house, in their disposal of the document.

LONDON, Dec. 21. (even).—Messrs Gladstone, Bright and Lowe have been re-elected to Parliament. Mr. Gladstone in a speech at the hustings in Greenwich, said he was not yet wholly in favor of ballot, but if free voting was impossible without such a safeguard, then he was for the ballot. Mr. Bright also made a speech before his re-election in Birmingham, in which he explained as his refusal of Secretary for India because the labor of that office was too severe for him in the present state of his health, and also because he thought the views of the country in regard to the Indian policy were not sufficiently advanced. He argued that the late parliamentary elections, offered fresh evidence in favor of the adoption of the ballot, he denounced the profligate party, and closed with promising on the part of the Cabinet an economical reform in the administration of the Government.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Mr. Cardwell was today re-elected to Parliament from the City of Oxford. LONDON, Dec. 24.—The latest news from the East is more pacific. The Government at Athens, which has hitherto been swept along by the popular eagerness for war with the Turks is now disposed to listen to the protests of the European powers. This disposition, strengthened by a rapid growing sentiment in favor of peace, may avert her, if the sublime Porte will grant time for further negotiations.

Despatches from the east say that many Russians are volunteering for the Greek service. A letter from Athens Dec. 17th says the Ministerial Budget had been submitted to the Chambers and notwithstanding the expectation of war with Turkey the military estimates are not increasing. The Chamber of Commerce of Syria have petitioned the Athenian Government to pronounce against war.

France. LONDON, Dec. 19.—The despatch from Paris last evening announces that the rumored sinking of the Greek steamer Erosia at Syria by Hobeat Pasha, the Turkish Admiral, is not officially confirmed. LONDON, Dec. 20.—The rumor which prevailed in Paris yesterday, that Russia had sent an unfavorable note to France on the Eastern question, proves to have been invented to depress the Paris market.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—EX Queen Isabella of Spain has made a visit to the Emperor at the Tuilleries. The Monitor says the powers which signed the treaty of 1856, continue to urge conciliation on both the Greek and Turkish Government. The Patrie asserts that the Porte will submit to the great powers proof that the Greeks intend to incite insurrection in the Turkish Islands, and then take possession of them.

Turkey. LONDON, Dec. 19.—It is officially announced that the Sultan has resolved to enforce his demand on Greece. The latest despatch from Constantinople dated yesterday mentions that Hobeat Pasha at the request of the French Admiral in the Archipelago, would await orders from the Turkish Government before using coercion with the Erosia.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—It is understood that the Western Powers sustain the Sultan's ultimatum to Greece, while Russia in the interest of the Greeks, will seek to modify its terms. CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 20.—The Sublime Porte approves of the conduct of the Admiral Hobeat Pasha at the harbor of Syria.—The Ambassadors of the Western powers decline to exercise protection over the affairs of the Greek residents after their expulsion from the Turkish Dominion. The Greek subjects of the Sultan have sent memorials to Athens praying the Government to avoid war with Turkey.

Spain. MADRID, Dec. 20.—A riot broke out at Toro, in the Province Zamora, caused by the hostility of some of the people to the organization of a National Guard in that town. It is quietly suppressed by the authorities. The Correspondent asserts that the Carlists have formed a deep and wide-spread conspiracy for the possession of the Government, and they only await the breaking out of the strife between the liberal parties of the country to develop their designs.

Greece. LONDON, Dec. 19.—Late advices from Athens state that the Government has called out the military reserves of the country, and the mobilization of the national militia has been ordered. A battalion of students is forming at Athens, and ten battalions composed of Greek subjects of the Sultan are to be enrolled. It is said a command has been offered to Garibaldi. The instant invasion of Epirus is loudly urged. Great bitterness of feeling was shown against the admiral of the French fleet in the Pireus, who was extremely unpopular on account of the energetic demand he has made on the Greek Government to preserve peace. The Greek Government has despatched two men-of-war to Syria, to demand of Hobeat Pasha that he shall not obstruct the free entrance of the harbor. Three foreign war vessels are at Syria, belonging respectively to the French, the British, and the Russian navies.

Cuba. NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A letter from Havana dated December 12th, says, "It is a fact that a gigantic insurrection exists in this island, that it is supported or countenanced by the great mass of the native population, the exception being insignificant

part in point of numbers that it has had many encounters with the Spanish troops in which it inflicted quite as much, if not more, damage than it suffered, and that the best informed among the disinterested and unprejudiced, are already beginning to calculate on the ultimate success which shall leave the Cubans free and independent."

Advices from Hong Kong are to November 16th. The English fleet including Rodney Binaldo and Ionina reached Nankin November 8th. On the next day the British Consul Medhurst with a guard of marines, called on the Viceroy and demanded full reparation for the insults offered to the Mis Ionaries at Hang Chow. The Viceroy, proposing to delay the discussion, was informed that if he did not comply by 5 o'clock, P. M., that day, the Chinese gunboat anchored at Nankin would be seized, whereupon he immediately complied with all demands.

The Morning Telegraph to-day prints a telegram from Berlin announcing that Prussia has called a Conference of the Great Powers of Europe to settle peacefully the questions at issue between Turkey and Greece. The recent eruption of Mount Etna has rapidly subsided and the volcano has shown little sign of activity for the past two weeks.

MADRID, Dec. 22.—The elections for the Cortes in this city passed off with comparatively slight disturbance of the public order. All the Monarchical Candidates were elected. The Republicans have carried the cities of Seville and Barcelona. It is stated on official authority that up to the present moment six thousand troops have been sent to reinforce the army in Cuba and more will soon follow. Government announces that it will never abandon a colony of Spain.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The feature of Wall Street to day was the great stringency in money, which it almost equal to anything ever known. The minimum rate was 7 per cent. in gold. This stringency had a marked effect on values, and stocks generally show a decline.

WRELAN TO BE HANGED.

Yesterday evening we received the following telegram from Montreal:

"Judgment was given by the Judges in Whelan's case to-day (Monday) at noon. Chief Justice Richards and Judge Wilson sustained the previous Judgment of the Court. Judge Morrison was in favor of the Appeal. Whelan was then returned to the custody of the Sheriff of Ottawa, and will be executed on Tuesday, 29th inst. There is great excitement and a feeling of relief at the result."

The feeling of relief will be as great in St. John as in the Upper Provinces.—Whelan committed one of the foulest and most unjustifiable murders recorded in the annals of crime, and upon a statesman and a loyal man who has scarcely left his equal in the Dominion. The murderer, a man of extraordinary brutality, received a singularly patient and fair trial, and was defended by the ablest Counsel. Not single individual of any character has come forward to impeach the justice of the verdict. The appeal to the higher Court was on technical grounds only, and his life was still further spared to enable him to receive the fullest advantage of every facility known to the Law. The Court has decided against him, and on Tuesday next Whelan will surely be hanged at Ottawa. He will not be missed and we hope will soon be forgotten; but we should remember and for long years we shall regret the gifted man who carried his life in his hand that he might aid in preserving the Dominion against the attacks of Fenianism, and warn his misguided countrymen against a course which if justice was done, could only end as Whelan's career is about to end.—N. B. Telegraph, Dec. 22.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY CONTRACTS.

Our advices from Montreal of yesterday's date, by special Telegram are as follows: That Railway Commission has decided that the following sections of the Inter Colonial should be advertised as open for contract, on Eleventh of January. Tenders to be receivable up to Eighth of February.

"In Quebec Province, from River du Loup eastward, 26 miles. In New Brunswick, Petitcodiac River to Dalhousie 26 miles. In Nova Scotia, Amherst to River Phillip 24 miles.

"Hon. Mr. Chandler left on Saturday for New Brunswick. The other Commissioners will proceed to the Maritime Provinces in a few days."

COMMERCIAL BANK.—The despatch announcing the arrest of Geo. P. Bancroft, the absconding Cashier of the Commercial Bank, will surprise many who believed that no efforts were being taken to bring him to account. We saw the statement in the New York papers that Canadian detectives were tracking him, but gave no heed to it as no intimation of the fact was given here. The question is, having caught and consigned him to jail, what can the Directors do to bring him back to St. John. We understand that it is the opinion of some of our leading lawyers that the offence charged against him does not come under the Extradition Treaty, but must be viewed merely as a "breach of trust"—N. B. News.

THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.—It is now being known that the highest position in the English Church, under the Queen, is to be filled by Bishop Tait, of London. In common with the whole of Anglican Bishops, the new Archbishop is an opponent of Mr. Gladstone's disestablishment Bill. In religious matters he is regarded as a moderate broad churchman, and in favor of the fullest religious liberty to every creed. Hence he has opposed the action of the Church against Dr. Colenso, as well as condemned the strong feeling exhibited in some places against the Ritualists. He is a clear lover of the Church and State, and unlike his great predecessor, he has no sympathy with the movement toward self-government of the churches in matters ecclesiastical, now being discussed in many quarters. Dr. Tait received a part of his education in Germany and is distinguished for his profound theological learning.

The Halifax Reporter of the 8th inst., is our authority for the following:—

"It is currently rumored in the city today, that propositions have been received by Hon. Mr. Howe, from Sir J. A. Macdonald, with a statement prepared by Hon. Mr. Ross of such financial modifications as the Ministry are prepared to recommend to Parliament in favor of Nova Scotia. McClellan, H. McDonald, and Savary, Dominion members, are in town, and solemnly consults it is said, are being held. Neither the Local Government nor any of the Union party are admitted to any confidence, so far as we know in this matter, up to the present."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"All that the devil would do if run stark mad."

Mr. Editor.—A correspondent of the Halifax Acadian Recorder has lately favored the world with a letter. The above line, which we tremulously flinch from his tremendous effusion, will, in our presumptuous opinion, give your readers an idea of what all Nova Scotia would do in the way of Annexation, if he were all Nova Scotia—which he isn't. He has evidently just waked up. He has been out of town for some twenty years, and has just got back.

"Yankee Doodle came to town Riding on a pony. He stuck a feather in his crown, And named it Maceraroni."

Some of his "very cogent, and to our mind unanswerable arguments in favor of Annexation." (As your contemporary over the way has it) may be judged of by the following sentence: "While we remain a dependency of England, we are liable to be involved in war with any power with whom she may quarrel." Astonishing discovery! It is a marvel that we were not swallowed up at one gulp by the Russian Bear, during the years '54 and '55. With what dangers our commerce and our seaboard towns were threatened, and in what continual state of alarm we were, in, we are not able, through some strange weakness of memory, to remember. But a richer joke, which the Recorder's factious correspondent perpetrates, will be found in the question and answer—

"What would we gain by Annexation?"

1st. We would gain absolute security from attack by any enemy however powerful."

Hold there, Mr. Annexationist, or your Cot-cisimism will cause a ejection among all the cats of P. E. Island. You must excuse us, it is really too good. No doubt but in case of war with England or France, our then Yankee-fied seaboard would be perfectly safe under the protection of the gridiron. No Alabama fitted out under the auspices of mere "rebels," could ever threaten us, much less any of the great European fleets. Washington and Baltimore, and New York never had any panics from rebel cruisers. Oh! yes, we shall be perfectly safe from attack by any enemy, however powerful.—"Content and to our mind unanswerable reasoning."

But, "we would form a part of the most powerful nation in the world—our ships might traverse any seas, our commerce might seek any clime, secure from outrage and insult, none would dare molest us." This comes with refreshing coolness after the "Treat" outrage, when the "most powerful (or, in true American phraseology, the "universal everlasting Yankee") nation" was made to lick the dust and eat humble pie by dread of English vengeance on such an outrage as a people truly cowardly and democratic would alone perpetrate. If our ships and commerce need protection, we will surely apply to a Government more hot-headed than wise, which, after fettering will be because he insulted the British, gladly hauled down their colors at the first growl of the Lion. After this we read the following with the most exquisite amusement: "For the surplus revenue we might send to Washington, we should receive a substantial return in the protection of a powerful Government, proverbially jealous of the rights of its humblest citizen." Now the jealousy of the Yankees is somewhat better understood by some individuals than it is by our green Nova Scotian. It is "proverbially" synonymous with bally-ragging rowdiness, and instead of partaking of the just solicitude shown by dignified nations for their subjects' welfare, it is mostly composed of a nervous, suspicious fear, lest the whole creation should forget "what a bully I did grow." American national jealousy always amounts to a boy who has just assumed coat and pants, and who prides the play-ground to the plique and amusement of his superiors, crying out, "Take care, do you see my new clothes?"

We hope that P. E. Island, as well as Nova Scotia, is preparing to send its "surplus revenue" to Washington, and then perhaps it might receive the immortal honor of becoming the fig end and tail of Yankeeeland. A few coats of whitewash, made out of the Acadians' "unhappy gypsin," and judiciously applied—a few more Yankee songs, such as "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," fostered upon the country—a few more spy delegations, and we will no doubt become completely Americanized; nay, more, a bit of Herod Herod, and speak with the most refined of nasal twangs.

Yours truly, BRITON.

December 23, '68.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL.

According to promise I now resume my reply to "A Teacher's" communication from New London, respecting Female Teacher's Salaries. I shall be as brief as possible.

The subject, more especially under consideration, is his sneer at our present and antiquated system of Education. His words are:—

"In the Provinces female teachers, if not on a par with the males have, and are far superior to their sisters in this Island, for which in his honesty and simplicity, he gives us the reason—'that they are better educated.' Now, Mr. Teacher, how far have you advanced in your argument in support of your position—that females are entitled to the same pay as their male colleagues—by treating us to the above cited paragraph? Not a step. You rather keep our female teachers in their present position. You tell them that their Provincial Sisters possess greater privileges than they, because they are better educated, from which, consequently, must be inferred that before our female teachers can expect to partake of similar privileges, they must be better educated. On this point we will not dispute.

In common with many of our fellow colonists, "A Teacher" is doubtless laboring under the delusion that because some of our teachers prove recalcitrant to their trusts, our present System of Education, is a "rotten one." I do not presume to say that our present System is perfect, yet with all its defects, it must be admitted that it approaches nearer to that state, than any system which may be founded on Denominational principles. Our present Free and Secular System, in the education of all, and its wonderful success in accomplishing that end, is in proof of which I adduce the fact, that it is almost impossible to find a youth in the colony who cannot read, write, &c.—whilst it cannot be denied that a denominational system is adapted to embrace only the few, and that too at an additional expense to the colony.

While I am thus writing, I have my eye on a locality in which are a denominational School and a Government district School. The greater portion of the people, being of that persuasion, prefer sending their children to the denominational School, while the minority, not willing to send their children to a sectarian Institution, are also deprived of the privileges afforded them by our present Educational Laws, by being unable to keep up the district school. Verily, DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS ARE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE FEW, BUT SECULAR SCHOOLS ARE FOR THE EDUCATION OF ALL.

But to return to my subject. Would "A Teacher" denounce any organization, based on equitable principles, because some of its officers, through inattention, had failed to carry out the intention of that organization? Surely not. Then let us not denounce our present equitable System of education, be-

cause some of its teachers are not what they ought to be, but rather let us endeavor to impart strength to it by securing an efficient staff of Teachers. If our youths are unable to spell the plural of "monarch," and give the why and wherefore of it, the obliquity, undoubtedly, attaches itself to the Teachers and not to the System.

It is in vain for would it epillanthrophists to hold up with derision our present System of Education, for the people are wide enough awake to read their own inclinations.

Again thanking you for so much space in your valuable columns.

I am, Yours truly, A TUTOR. Casumpee, Dec. 17, 1868.

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1868.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

THE YEAR 1868.

The year 1868 is on the point of taking its departure. In a few hours it will have joined the innumerable company of buried years. It has brought to men everywhere joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain. In after years some will delight to recall its scenes to memory—by others they will be remembered with blushes of shame and with shudderings of horror. It is somewhat singular to reflect that among the many hundreds of millions of the earth's inhabitants, no two of them are likely to form the same estimate of the year that is just passing away, so many and so varied have been its influences. But we did not sit down with the intention of philosophizing or of moralizing; our purpose was, or is, to give our readers a hasty account of some of the principal events which have taken place during the year. We now address ourselves to the task. The year '68, like the year '32, will be principally remembered by the people of the fatherland for the passage of the great Reform Bill. That Bill has given the privilege of the franchise (or accorded the right—which you please) to hundreds of thousands who never before enjoyed it. So liberal a measure has it been, and so sweeping, that some contend that it extends the privilege of voting to females as well as males. In Manchester a strong minded lady insisted upon having her name registered as a voter, and in Dublin another of the "suppressed sex" actually went to the poll and voted. So delighted were the Dublin ladies with her courage and independence in thus asserting the rights of woman, that they cheered, if they did not cheer her, to her place of residence. Men talk and think differently of this strong infusion of the democratic element into the British Constitution, according as they are Radical, Liberal, or Conservative in their political tendencies. The Radicals are of course jubilant. They see in it another step towards the destruction of monarchical institutions, and the triumph of Republicanism in Great Britain. To this we are tending, say they—this is the manifest destiny, not only of the British nation, but of every other civilized state under the sun. To this complexion must they come at last. The Liberals, though they never cordially approved of the measure, and would not certainly have initiated it—would use a phrase now becoming common—"accept the situation," and are besides doing their best to profit by it. They smile while they witness the delight and hear the predictions of their Radical allies. They or their fathers have known people to be quite as confident and quite as enthusiastic in former years, and have seen their wild theories and wilder prophecies dissolve and dissipate like the baseless fabric of a vision, and leave not a wreck behind. The Tories are amazed, bewildered and perplexed at their own handiwork. To retain power they have done violence to their principles—have bid higher than the Radicals themselves for popular favors, and now, when it is too late, repent them bitterly of their precipitancy, and tremble for the consequences. It is hard to predict the consequences of the passage of the late Reform Bill in England. The enemies of the extension of the franchise in 1832 feared that all sorts of evil consequences to the British Constitution would result from that extension, but we find the people of England, after the lapse of nearly forty years, just as strongly, if not much more strongly attached to their institutions than they were when the first Reform Bill was passed. The hopes of the Republicans have not been realized, nor have the fears of the Tories been confirmed. We have much reason to hope that even though the ladies are permitted to vote, true and rational liberty is safe in the "Old Country" for at least a hundred years to come. Fenianism, which presented a rather formidable appearance at the beginning of this year, is now, at the end of it, in a very languishing condition. In Ireland the crawling, venomous thing shows no symptoms of life, and in America a few feeble, convulsive kicks prove it to be on the very point of expiring. Never before did political visionaries attempt to achieve a great end with means so ridiculously inadequate. Who but mad men or swindlers would set about destroying one of the strongest nations on the earth, without revenues, without a fleet or an army, or a single foot of territory which they could call their own? A week's campaign would exhaust their funds, and a single reverse would scatter their undisciplined and turbulent legions to the four winds. There are besides good grounds for concluding that these fanatics consider all means lawful which in their perverted view appears to have a tendency to further their cause. The Bermondsey explosion, the Manchester murder, the attempted assassination of Prince Alfred, and the accomplished assassination of D'Arcy McGee, all go to show Fenians would scruple at no crime, no outrage, however dreadful, to further their nefarious purposes. It is to be hoped that the world has heard the last of this folly of the nineteenth century. There is every prospect of the Irish, in a very short time, having no other than sentimental griev-

ances to complain of. The Irish Church—that standing reproach to Britain—is a doomed institution. It is somewhat singular that the English Tories, after having given way on the subject of the franchise—after, in fact, making greater concessions than were demanded of them on that point—should have made a determined and even an obstinate stand on the Irish Church question. Very few, comparatively, were anxious to give every household in England a vote, while all the world considered it a crying injustice that the millions of Irish Roman Catholics should be forced to support the Church of a few thousands of Episcopalians. Had they abolished the Irish Church, and withheld the franchise from the working men, they would have been much more respected by enlightened men, both at home and abroad.

The ABYSSINIAN DISPUTE was settled during this year in the most conclusive manner possible. King Theodore found to his cost that he could not imprison and ill-use British subjects with impunity. The Abyssinian Expedition was perhaps as bloodless an invasion of a foreign country as there is upon record. All the arrangements seem to have been admirably adapted to the state of the country, and General Napier has proved that for once the right man has been found for the right place, without any previous disastrous misfirings. The Abyssinian invasion has resulted in no accession of territory to Great Britain. General Napier entered the country, beat the Abyssinian army, released the captives, and left the country as free as he found it. This is something new in the history of successful invasions of a barbarous country by the troops of a civilized nation. In the great majority of instances such invasion has proved, sooner or later, the death blow of native independence. The cause of this unwonted forbearance may be found in the fact that the outlying dependencies of Great Britain are considered by a large proportion of her public men to be already quite as many as she can afford to keep. Indeed, it is much more than hinted by some of them, that for a possessions and distant colonies are very expensive luxuries to the country which owns them, and that, like other luxuries, they are intended for show rather than for use; and to tell the truth we more than half believe that they take the right view of the subject. This party—or the party in which the greatest number of such politicians are to be found—is again in the ascendency.

The late elections have proved disastrous in the extreme to the party which originated the Reform Bill. The people, it seems, have little faith in the sincerity of the Tories. But they have been equally disastrous to the working-men's candidates, not one of whom, we believe, has found his way into Parliament. From all accounts the composition of the present Parliament, elected by the Democratic constituencies, is pretty much the same as that of all former British Parliaments. The aristocratic element is very strong, and though Mr. Bright occupies a seat on the Treasury benches, the Ultra Liberals are "nowhere."

Except in Spain, matters in Europe have, during the year, been in a more than ordinarily quiescent state. France and Prussia, both fully armed, regard each other with anything but friendly feelings. An open rupture appeared more than ever to be imminent—at least so the newspapers represent it—but for some reason or other the evil day was put off. The school-boy's phrase, "one's afraid and the other darsent," very well describes the relative situation of the two powers. Russia is quietly but effectually extending her dominions Indiaward. Independent Tartary is in the process of becoming a Russian Province. Persia will be the next to be gobbled up, and then the Russian Empire in Asia will be so nearly continuous with the British Empire in Asia that the neighborhood may lead to unpleasant disputes, and who can tell how these disputes may end? Turkey has been little heard of in the past year, except in connection with the rebellion in Candia. The flame of rebellion in that unfortunate island seems now to be completely trampled out. Italy has been quiet. The Pope has had an alarm or two, but taken altogether he has been more secure in his possessions this year than he has been for many years. Austria is pursuing a policy of internal improvement and reform. Spain has surprised the world by effecting a complete, and in its first stages, an almost bloodless revolution. Everything seemed prepared for the dethronement of Queen Isabella. None were so poor as to do her reverence, and no one thought it worth while to strike a blow in defence of her rights. The country was not suffering. Spain, according to the best accounts, has of late years been prosperous in an unwonted degree. Politicians of all parties were sick and tired of the Queen, and were determined to get rid of her and the whole of the Bourbon race without delay. There seems hardly to be two opinions about the character of Queen Isabella. Many of the most respectable periodicals of Europe present her as a shamelessly abandoned woman, and the reticence of others is hardly less significant. Whether the future Government of Spain is to be a monarchy or a republic is not yet decided, and we fear that it will not be decided without agitation and bloodshed. In Cadiz, as will be seen by recent telegrams, there has already been a collision between the monarchists and the republicans, and blood has been shed. In a country where nearly every politician is a general, a peaceful revolution we look upon as the next thing to an impossibility. Soldiers are very good and very useful servants, but they are very bad masters.

Our American neighbors have had a very lively time of it during the past year. The impeachment of President Johnson occupied the attention of the people of the Republic for a considerable portion of the year. That the impeachment was not sustained, was a matter of surprise to many, both inside and outside of the United States. The Presidential Election was another matter of

absorbing interest to the Americans. The Democratic party appeared at one time to have some chance of success, but whether they chose the wrong man, whether their organization was not good, or whether their principles were disapproved of by a majority of the people, they are a very badly beaten party. Grant seems to be popular rather as a soldier than as a politician. His reputation as a statesman he has yet to make. He is one of the silent men, and, we learn effects to despise the gift of eloquence. He has a difficult work to perform, and it is his administration for the next four years be successful, he will, whether lucky or able, be considered one of the first men which the Republic has produced. The Alabama difficulty, which looked so threatening in the beginning of the year, seemed a few days ago on a fair way to be amicably adjusted. The negotiations have again been impeded, but we have no doubt but that the hitch will be successfully got over, and that the matter will be settled without a war.

Gen. Butler's visit to the Island last summer has as yet been followed with no beneficial results, and the prospect of a general Reciprocity Treaty appears, at the present writing, to be as distant as ever. The Dominion of Canada has pursued the even tenor of its way. The Confederation of the Provinces has not as yet, been attended with all the benefits predicted by its friends and advocates; neither has it been followed by the dreadful evils predicted by its opponents. Nova Scotia's talked at one time in a rather independent and even a threatening tone, but that tone has considerably lowered of late, and Mr. Howe, the great apostle of Repeal, appears to have abandoned the cause as desperate. Petitions, delegations and hifalutun protests, have failed to procure repeal for the people, and now nothing remains for them but quietly to accept the situation. This is the common sense course. Further agitation would most likely be fruitless, and where people are evidently powerless, nothing makes them look more ridiculous than to threaten to do desperate deeds. Annexation is, under existing circumstances, simply an impossibility. The fate of one of these British North American Provinces, must be the fate of the whole.

The year 1868 will be remembered among scientific men chiefly for its dreadful earthquakes. The volcanic disturbances in South America have been fearful to contemplate. There has indeed been a war in South America, but it has excited but little interest in these latitudes.

At home we have had a bountiful harvest. Peace and plenty have found their abode with us, and for these gifts we cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Giver of all Good. The political atmosphere has been with the exception of one lively gust, clear and undisturbed. There are at present indications of a storm at the horizon, but it is to be hoped that they will blow over.

We now conclude our discourse and very hastily written article by wishing each of our readers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We have had an English and two or three Colonial Mails during the past week. The English papers contain little news, that has not already been received through the Cable. In another column will be found the latest telegrams. If the despatches from Canada are to be relied on, Whelan, the murderer of Thomas D'Arcy Magee, has by this time expired his fearful crime upon a scaffold.

The Barn of Mr. J. Welton, of Shediac, N. B., was destroyed by fire on the 9th. Loss \$1,000.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOO for January, 1869, has been received. The contents for the beginning of the New Year are worth the price of a year's subscription to the book. The steel plate is a touching picture of an event of the French Revolution. The presentation title plate is all that art can make it. The tinted fashion plate, large extension sheet, patterns, and excellent reading matter, make this number all that the Ladies could desire in a fashion book and magazine. Now is the time to subscribe.

We regret to learn that the drying house in connection with Mr. Jamieson's Cloth Mill, New Annapolis, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night last. A quantity of cloth was also destroyed. Gangs of thieves infest Montreal. They are mostly composed of boys under 21 years, and it is said that their audacity and skill are equal to New York burglars. A Slave in Brazil has carved a statue of Cupid, to return for which he received his liberty. This is said to be the first instance ever known of the god of love getting a man out of trouble. It's generally the other way. The assets of the Commercial Bank of New Brunswick, as set forth by the Directors are \$765,671.00, and the liabilities \$630,958.85, leaving a surplus of \$134,712.15. It is said that there is no possibility of the Bank resuming business. The notes of the Bank are current in St. John for 80 cents. The Glenfinnan, Lot 35, Scho 1 House was destroyed by fire, together with the contents, on the morning of the 24th inst.

HANDSOME DONATION.—We are pleased to learn that the Congregation of the Summerside and Saint Eleanor's Episcopal Churches presented their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Forsythe, with the handsome sum of £35, in gold, on Christmas Day. Where there is a will there is always a way. Let other congregations throughout the Island make glad the heart of their ministers by going and doing likewise. Those who wish to enjoy New Year's Day, especially the afternoon of it, will find Strong's Hall the very place to go to. A rich intellectual treat is promised, and a refreshment table covered with everything nice. The St. Stephen Bank notes are circulating again on the Island at the face—6s. 3d. We have received a bound copy of the P. E. Island Calendar for 1869, from the office of D. Laird, Esq. It is, as usual, well filled. We have also received the Calendar for 1869, published by H. Harvie, Esq. It contains much information, and many valuable tables. Both of them are on sale at our Bookstore. We are sorry to learn that Thomas Owen, Esq., Postmaster General, is very ill with fever. Many other persons in Charlottetown are also down with fever. We have had a great deal of snow during the past week. The traveling in many places is heavy. There has been very little traveling on the ice yet, owing to the depth of snow thereon. The Annual Watchnight Service of the Wesleyan Church will be held this (Thursday) evening, commencing at 10 o'clock. Fined, before Joseph Tres and Wm. Hibbet, Esqrs., two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Prince County, Michael Melanis, of Miscouche, in the sum of ten pounds, with costs, for retailing spirituous liquors without license. "The Western Mail Boy" will appear next week.