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OUR SCHOOL BOOKS.

The adaptation of suitable means is a primary consideration in the performance of an act. The skillful and experienced surgeon in performing a critical operation pays the strictest attention to the quality of the instruments which he uses. And the teacher, in order that the taught may receive the full benefit of his instructions, must be provided with suitable books. Although our Educational System is perhaps unsurpassed in general excellence in any country which possesses similar advantages, and whose happy fruits already redound to the credit of its originators; still it has some faults and imperfections which very materially obstruct its successful working. One of these faults, which calls loudly for rectification, lies in the use of the books which are ordered to be read in the district schools. The reading books, which are now principally used are what are denominated "The Series of National School Books." They are graded so as to comprehend five different classes. The highest of these classes—or what is called the Fifth Book—is chiefly taken up with reading matter treating of Geography, Ancient History, Physiology, Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry. These subjects are of paramount importance in themselves, and it is desirable that our youth should have a knowledge of them, but what is desirable is not always practicable, and we should be careful that they are not spending the time in vainly striving for that which is simply desirable, that should be employed in obtaining what is absolutely necessary. A candidate for the office of a teacher is not required to profess these subjects, which is quite reasonable, since he has no opportunity to learn them. For with very few exceptions, all our teachers get their education in the district schools, the teachers of which schools have ascended by the same ladder, and it cannot reasonably be supposed that their education as a general thing will be anything more than what the law requires. I probably some will ask, "Where is the Normal School, and why the five months spent in that Institution?" We have some doubts regarding the advantages of that Institution, but admitting its utility for the sake of argument, it does not remedy the defect. The original intention of a Normal School is not to give a scholastic education, but to train the scholar in the art of imparting the knowledge he already possesses to the minds of others in the most intelligible and advantageous manner. How then can it be expected that they can be taught to any advantage in our district schools. They also afford a text for the discriminating and inquisitive scholar to ask questions arising from them, which the teacher is unable to answer, thereby destroying that confidence in his intellectual superiority which is so necessary to his success. We do not by any means wish to disparage the qualifications of our teachers, but we contend that it is both unprofitable and injudicious to require them to instruct our children in subjects about which they are neither supposed nor required to have anything like a thorough knowledge. It is somewhat like sending a man who knows nothing more about a rifle than to fire a random shot, to drill a company of raw recruits in the manual exercise of that weapon.

The next lower class of this series, or the Fourth Book, is for the most part devoted to lessons on Natural History and Descriptive Geography,—both of which subjects are entirely in advance of a scholar's capacity, who may be able to read them mechanically. The Natural History is dry, uninteresting, and rendered extremely difficult by a very frequent use of technical terms, and the lessons in Descriptive Geography particularize to such an extent, that they are tedious and confusing to a child who cannot know much more than the mere outlines of geography.

In fact the whole series is unsuited to our advantages and necessities. The book for the highest class presupposes an education which the law does not demand of our teachers; and the books for the classes below it treat of subjects which are generally beyond the capacity of the scholars. The result is that the original aim of an elementary education, which our district schools are intended to furnish, is not attained. Our children leave school with a vague and unsettled idea of a few abstruse subjects, and know little or nothing of the simplest matters of every day life. Instead of which, they should have been carefully taught in the first or elementary principles of learning, which act as the only foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of the higher branches. The mind when young should be carefully stored with simple facts and drilled in reading lessons that are short and thoroughly understood, affording an opportunity to exercise and develop the faculty of reason, so that in riper years it will have a faculty in grappling with weightier matters. Whereas if it be kept reading long and imperfectly understood lessons, it will acquire a habit of thoughtlessness, whereby some of its noblest faculties will either lie dormant, or wither under the blasting influence of inaction.

We are aware that the Board of Education has authorized a new series of books, to be read in our schools. If this were only seconded by the recommendation of the Visitor, it might produce the desired effect in the course of a considerable time, but our necessities are imperative. Every person is aware of the reluctance with which people consent to a voluntary change, especially if it travels any way near that tender point—the pocket. These exceptional books are now in nearly all our schools, and the only effectual way to change them for

They entered the study together, father and daughter. She was very pale indeed and faint. "Evelyn," said he, "will you not speak to Stanhope? Remember, his father saved my life." "The young girl felt she must say something; her lips moved, but no sound came forth. She looked hopelessly up, and beheld the ardent, loving gaze of George Merdon fixed on her. He opened his arms, and with a cry she rushed into them, and her head fell gently on his breast as they crossed round her. The Stanhopes' father came from behind uncertain, and old Mr. Agnew from behind another, and never were such greetings and explanations. As to the square, the plot was all his own contriving, and he was very proud of his success, and of his conquest over his willful daughter; and his ward was no less delighted to have back again his old tutor. "Evelyn, darling," said his father, "you very nearly obliged me to tell you all this morning. I could not bear to see your distress. Remember, my love, I keep my promise. You need not marry Stanhope against your wish." "And Evelyn, dear," said young Gordon, "I do not think I shall justify my character to me, as I am no longer a poor man's son."

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

The subdued calm and well considered article from the New York Times represents, we have reason to believe, from an attentive perusal of the recent utterances of the American press, the general feeling of the wealth and intelligence of the country with respect to the "Alabama" claims. It may be indicated by the Times, that the electioneering necessities of the two great parties who are now contending for power will yet force them to depart from their present quasi-neutral position on the question and make a desperate bid for the Irish vote. In that event, "our war" will certainly be in the ascendant. But even if these were to go very far, several months would have elapsed ere the victorious party would be able to carry its pledge into operation, and by that time its leaders would probably think over the matter and act on the old proverb, *la nuit porte conseil*. If the South would willingly acquiesce in and accept her present status, there might be reason for alarm at the future, but that confidence in the American Government, and so long as she doggedly refuses to join in the Union and stubbornly determines to continue to be the Poland of the ruling section, it would evidently be madness to attempt a war with a great power like Great Britain, and so give the Confederacy an opportunity, Phoenix-like, to arise from its ashes. Our contemporary statesmen:—It is somewhat mortifying to contrast the tone and temper in which our differences with England are discussed in the English newspapers and in the American Congress. Lord Robert and Mr. Vernon Harcourt, in communications which we copy from the London Times, treat the question of the Alabama claims in a manner befitting its dignity and importance, and bring to its discussion an amount of learning and of critical acumen which cannot fail to instruct the judgment of all dispassionate readers on the high ground. Great Britain cannot submit the claim, so far as it rests on the first ground, to arbitration, but refuses to allow the rightfulness of her recognition of the South to be thus drawn in question. And Mr. Harcourt, in the letter signed "Historicus" shows, what is undoubtedly the fact, that the latter aspect of the case is the only one which we deem of real importance. The repayment of the specific damages caused by the Alabama and vessels of her class during the war, is a matter of comparative small consequence. The whole sum would not pay the cost of a single week's operations in the war by which some of our hot-headed zealots glibly talk of enforcing justice. And when deductions are made for damage done to British commerce in consequence of our prosecution of the war, the balance would scarcely cover the expense of maintaining a single man-of-war for a single month. As a financial operation the prosecution of this claim would scarcely cover the cost of an arbitration, and it has really but little to do with the case as it has been presented to the British Government. Our real complaint against England is for her premature recognition of the South as a belligerent power. Our people regard it as having been hasty, unfriendly, and in effect if not intent, hostile to our Government. But for that, the South could have had no navy, no fleet, no power to inflict damage upon our commerce, and very little of the ability she showed to carry on war with vigor and effect upon the land. We hold England, therefore, largely responsible for the duration, magnitude and enormous cost of the war by which the rebellion was suppressed. But that was scarcely a wrong to be redressed by the payment of a special class of damages which the war inflicted on the United States. It was the premature recognition of the South as a belligerent, which made the war so great and so costly, then England owes to us payment for much more than the damage caused by the Alabama. It is an injury not to be measured, and certainly not to be redressed, by the payment of money. When France during our Revolution lent us her aid, England treated her interventions as a ground of war. And if we are to regard the action of England at the outset of our rebellion as a hostile act,—as an act of intervention in aid of the rebels,—war is the only form of resenting it, suitable to the character and adequate to the magnitude of the wrong inflicted. We do not believe that any great results will flow from our diplomacy on this subject. And we have not the slightest suspicion that our people intend to be betrayed into war with England and France. The declaration of war is a great and fearful thing, and our people have not the faintest shadow of desire. The Fenians among us, having little to lose and a great deal of resentment to gratify, would gladly plunge the country into war with England, with or without cause; and as we are on the eve of a Presidential election we shall have a great many people of all parties flattering their passions and courting their favor. We do not conceal ourselves, we believe that there is more or less of danger in this situation. Action of the Government may be coerced by party zeal, and for party ends, which will imperil peaceful relations. But the settled judgment and common sense of our people is utterly averse to war with England, for the redress of any wrongs we have sustained at her hands. The only ground on which a war would be fruitless of good and fruitful only of the most disastrous and fatal casualties. We have had war enough for at least one generation. Nothing but the most imperative necessity impelled us into that, and no urgency less imperative will be allowed to impel us into another. We certainly believe there is good sense and moral

force in the people of the two countries, quite sufficient to override the passion and the rancor in either that may seek to embroil them in war. NEWS SUMMARY. The world appears in a depressed and apparently at least, in some respects almost agitated condition. Famine prevails in more than one land and place. Trade in some respects has had to wrap its sublime mantle around his world-wide honored shoulders, and retire into the shade of inactivity; while in other directions, in the Old World and in the New, the signs ominously point to the fact that war may break out when, where, and by means the least expected. Yet the nations of the earth are professing that they are desirous of maintaining peace. At no time though, we think, has the world furnished a greater number of truly enlightened men than are now to be found in all civilized countries, and who, in their respective places, are doing what in them lie to promote and cultivate peace and good will among men. In this fact may we not recognize the harbinger of those better days when wars shall cease, and peace with all its untold and unnumbered blessings shall pervade the whole world? In England some of the ablest minds are directing special attention to the subject of education, and the probability is that from the interest now awakened and evinced, a measure will be devised and adopted from which incalculable benefits will ensue. In Great Britain and the United States many influential men are laying aside the glasses of prejudice, and are looking at the Alabama claims from the common standpoint of truth and honor; and when such is the case we may reasonably conclude that these two great and liberty loving nations will arrive at a solution of the difficulty without an appeal to arms.—In the House of Commons on the 17th the Chief Secretary for Ireland informed the members that the Government was preparing an Irish Reform Bill.—The regular weekly returns of the Bank of England show a decrease in bullion in the vaults of £413,000 sterling.—Allen, the Fenian who was discharged after being examined on the charge of causing the Clerkenwell explosion, has been again arrested on the charge of murder. Arrests are still being made of persons supposed to be Fenians. A man named Murphy, who recently arrived at Cork from the United States was arrested on the charge of complicity with Fenian movements.—The audience of George Francis Train's lecture in Dublin on the 29th was very boisterous; some persons present who hissed the speaker were roughly used; a strong force of Police was on hand and prevented any serious personal violence or disloyal demonstrations.—The Coroner's Jury have concluded a protracted investigation of the explosion of the Clerkenwell House of detention, and to-day rendered their verdict. They bring a charge of murder against the prisoners Burrell, English, O'Keefe, Maloney and two Desmond's, the woman Ann Justice, and others whose names have not yet been made known. A doubt has been expressed as to the complicity of Allen who was recently discharged but has been re-arrested. The verdict concluded by severely censuring the Metropolitan Police in the Clerkenwell District for lack of activity and vigilance.—Mr. Sullivan, of the "Dublin Nation," recently convicted in that city of publishing seditious libels, has been sentenced to six months imprisonment.—Mr. Pigot, of the Dublin "Irishman," convicted on a like charge, was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.—Both prisoners will be required at the expiration of their terms of confinement to furnish security for future good behavior.—The British Government seem determined to wipe out every vestige of Fenianism, and they will soon succeed, the lectures of Geo. Francis Train and the grants of \$50,000 from the United States Congress to the contrary notwithstanding. The latest accounts from the Abyssinian Expedition are very favorable. The captives were alive and well up to the 1st of January. It is reported that alarming revolts have broken out among the prisoners in India. Sir Stafford Northcote, Secretary of State for India, said that the latest letters received from Gen. Napier gave reason to hope that the war in Abyssinia would be ended this season. A tremendous gale was experienced on the West coast of England and Wales on the 21st ult. The great Breakwater at Holyhead, a massive stone pier 900 feet long, has been carried away by the waves, and the lights have disappeared. No disasters to shipping have yet been reported.—The "Independent Belge" of Saturday has an article on the prospects of peace in Europe. It expresses the general feeling of apprehension which prevails in saying that the vast military preparations which are now going on in all parts of France are of a character and on a scale which leads to the conviction that they are designed to answer other purposes than those of national defence.—A British Man-of-War has gone to the Bay of Samana to watch the proceedings of the United States Government in that quarter. The relations between Rome and France are said not to be so friendly as formerly, the rise of a Bourbon party in Rome being, it is hinted, offensive to the Ruler of the Tuileries. In these directions doubt seems to beget its like, and as a consequence, mistrust is appearing upon the surface. An article quoted by the "European Times" says that a general cry of division among our people is utterly averse to war with England, for the redress of any wrongs we have sustained at her hands. The only ground on which a war would be fruitless of good and fruitful only of the most disastrous and fatal casualties. We have had war enough for at least one generation. Nothing but the most imperative necessity impelled us into that, and no urgency less imperative will be allowed to impel us into another. We certainly believe there is good sense and moral

draw the expeditionary force if the Holy Father rejected this proposition. The Pope replied "non possumus," but must not be judged by the first answer. In Paris, speaking under reserve, says that it has reason to believe that the Emperor of Russia is massing troops near the Danube. In France, the issue of the 26th ult., asserts that Chastellier De Nigra, the Italian Minister to Paris has pledged Italy to the faithful observance of the September convention as it now stands.—The bill for the regulation of the Newspaper Press is still under discussion in the Corps Legislatif. The amendments for allowing the free publication of summaries of the Corps debates was rejected by a vote of 155 to 68. The Upper House of the Prussian Diet have passed the convention made with the deposed Powers whose territories have been annexed to Prussia. The King engages to suspend all payments of money to the Princes and to confiscate their property in the case of disloyalty. In the East some imagine that Russia is preparing to move in upon India in her North-west boundary, and several "anglo-Indians" are anxious to make a safer and better use of Afghanistan than has yet been made, and thereby raise a sure barrier against the Northern bear, in the only road upon which he can menacingly approach the rich and fertile plains of India.

UNITE STATES.

The news from the States is rather of a startling nature, if the telegraphic news can be relied on. There are so many national telegrams flying about now—says that one hardly knows what to believe. Great excitement prevails in consequence of the President removing Stanton from the war office; but greater still is that caused by the impeachment of the President. The impeachment Bill passed the House of Representatives on the evening of the 24th ult., by a vote of 126 to 46. It was a strict party vote. The Congress have also, it is rumored, voted \$50,000 for the American Fenians in Ireland. This is no doubt done to secure the Fenian vote at the next presidential election. This very act on the part of the Americans is enough to disgust every British subject with that country. Who would think of annexation to the United States now? As one result of the impeachment gold has run up to 143. It would suit the Americans a great deal better if they were to appropriate \$50,000 to feed the poor negroes who are starving out South, than voting it to a set of outlaws and vagabonds.—A new party is talked of in the States, whose platform is hostility to Grant; the name of Gen. Dix is mentioned in connection with it.—It is said that scarcely within the memory has so hard a business so dull as they are now in Boston and New York. It has been found necessary in those cities to open soap shops. All over New England factories and other industrial centres are closed and silent. Business men look gloomy, as will the want of money make any one. The destitution is in part attributed to the heavy taxes and duties which have shut up the manufactories and workshops. Among other reasons for the destitution now existing, the "Zion's Herald," a Boston paper, says:—"The good old farms are abandoned by the highly educated children of the farmer. Girls and boys quit the old folks and fly to the city in the hopes of finding an Eldorado. The old folks die off, and the farm is sold to Pat Murphy or Hans Vandergaarderschild, or allowed to run fallow. The city, the city, only go to the city. Be a conductor on a horse car, sell ribbon, get a vagabond agency, defecate loaf, borrow, steal, do anything save hard honest toil!"

NEW DOMINION.

In the New Dominion, matters wear a peculiar aspect. In Ontario the Local Legislature is charged with moving so fast that it is thought the Government should dissolve the House immediately. In Quebec the Legislature is said to be moving too slow—that they are absolutely doing nothing. In Nova Scotia the country and the Legislature seem intent upon a repeal of the act of Union, in so far as it applies to that Province. The House of Assembly has had before them a series of resolutions, in which they emphatically declare that the act of Union was, and is, unconstitutional, and maintain that it is not, or cannot be regarded as, constitutionally binding upon that Province. The Montreal Gazette, in commenting upon these resolutions, says that if the Legislature had placed their hostility to Confederation on its expediency, inconvenience, or unpopularity; if, in a word, they had taken political instead of constitutional grounds against it, they might look for some sort of audience in England. But to tell the powers petitional that they do not understand their own jurisdiction over the Colonies," the Gazette says, "is hardly decent, not to say diplomatically skillful." What the end of this is to be, time alone can determine.—Of one thing," the Gazette says, "the New Provinces may be certain, and that is, that when Parliament again meets in Ottawa no details of a tariff or of any other administrative measure, of which they have reason to complain, will be allowed to stand uncorrected for a single session." Our readers will remember that the anti-Unionists have always maintained that any Province into which has been granted responsible government, and the constitution which it guarantees, cannot be divested of their rights in this respect until after the people are consulted at the polls. This is the view taken by the present House of Assembly in Nova Scotia. The Opposition deny this, and in their resolutions say:—"The right of the Imperial Parliament to provide, to change, or to alter the constitution of a British Province or Colony is undoubted, has been repeatedly exercised, and cannot, and ought not to be called in question." This is certainly plain, clear, and free from all ambiguity, and will probably lead to an interpretation, that may hereafter be cited as authority. And in their resolutions their view is thus expressed:—"The members of the Legislative Assembly of this Province had no authority to make or consent to any material change of such constitutions without first submitting the same to the people at the polls." At Montreal there is intense excitement over the departure of the Canadian Papal Zouaves for Rome. An immense audience was present at the special services held at Notre Dame Cathedral in connection with the event. Over 20,000 persons assembled at the station to see them off. Several persons were nearly crushed to death by the pressure of the crowd. The greatest excitement prevails among the Roman Catholics. A large meeting was held in St. John, N.B., to consider the Tariff. Several reports were brought in and received. It appears that the New Dominion Government has made no provision for drawbacks, and in consequence many factories have been closed. We hope this will not interfere with the trade between this Island and St. John. There has always been a large

business transacted between that place and Summerside, and it would be unwise to our loss if anything interfered to interrupt that trade.—The Robinson route has been accepted for the railroad. We hope the bridge between us and our neighbors will soon be drifted away.

Latest from Europe.

An English Mail was received here on Monday last, the 2nd inst. European dates are to the 15th ult. Below we give an epitome of the most interesting news:—An important meeting was held in Edinburgh on the 3rd, the Lord Provost presiding. Resolutions were passed to the effect that Scotland was very much under-represented,—that looking to her population and contributions to the public revenue she is fairly entitled to at least fifteen additional members. A petition to Parliament and a memorial to the Government, founded on these resolutions, were adopted by the meeting. Liverpool has lost one of her oldest and most philanthropic citizens in the person of Mr. William Rathbone, who died at his residence, Greenbank, last Saturday morning, in the presence of all the members of his family. The funeral took place at Smithdown-lane Cemetery, on Wednesday, and, although in accordance with the expressed wishes of the deceased that the ceremony should be of the most private character, nevertheless a large number attended to pay their last tribute of respect to one who was so universally esteemed by men of all classes, creeds, and parties. The funeral sermon was impressively performed by the Rev. Charles Beard, minister of Renshaw-street Chapel, of which congregation the deceased was one of the oldest members, and amidst a profound feeling of regret on all sides, the grave closed over one of Liverpool's most honored citizens, the venerable William Rathbone.

The Protestant Defence Association held a great demonstration in Dublin on the 3rd. The meeting is described as a crowded and influential one. The Earl of Bandon presided, and addresses were delivered by the Marquis of Downshire, Lords Emiskillen, Huntingdon, Erne and Brevice, Sir B. Guinness, and others. Resolutions were passed in support of the Irish Church establishment and expressing attachment to the Queen.

Parliament re-assembled on the 13th after the Christmas recess. There was a large attendance of peers in the Upper House, but the sitting only lasted a quarter of an hour, the only business being a notice given by the Marquis of Clanricarde of his intention to reintroduce his bill on the tenure of land in Ireland. In the House of Commons writs were issued for Cambridge University, Stoke-upon-Trent, and Helston. After a number of notices of motion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Scotch Reform Bill for the 17th, and that the introduction of that for Ireland would depend on the general progress of business. Mr. Disraeli then moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to election petitions, and to provide for the more effectual prevention of corrupt practices at elections.

Sir David Brewster, died on the 10th inst., at his residence, Allerley-house, near Melrose, at the advanced age of 85. From early life he devoted himself to investigations in the regions of experimental science, and contributed largely to the record of physical discoveries during a period of sixty years. He had earned the respect of his country, from which he obtained well-merited honor, as well as the recognition of scientific bodies all over Europe and beyond the Atlantic. Sir David had been Principal of Edinburgh University since 1859.

The Irish address of loyalty to the Queen, which was got up mainly through the influence of Mr. Digby Seymour, was presented to Mr. Hardy, the Home Secretary, on the 11th inst. The address had obtained 22,603 signatures, and was presented by a deputation of about 50 persons, who were introduced by Mr. Digby Seymour. It will be laid before her Majesty. An addition of some importance has been made to the ironclads of the British navy. The Hercules was floated out of dock at Chatham on the 10th inst. She will be the most heavily armed ship yet constructed, and is designed to carry 14 guns—eight 18-ton, two 12-ton, and four 6-ton guns. The ship is protected by nine-inch plates, and is described as "a smart, sea-going frigate, strong as a tower, and fine in her lines as a mail boat, and yet prepared to meet all the winds that blow." The Hercules was designed by Mr. E. J. Reed, chief constructor of the navy, and her burthen is 6226 tons.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

Boston, Feb. 24, 1868. DEAR JOURNAL;—Once more I send you a few scattered ideas and scraps of news. The poor student who is all day crammed in a lecture room, and the greater part of the night cramming his mind—poring over his books, preparing himself for daily examination, is a poor subject to sit down and write an article for a newspaper. I have never known a professional gentleman who did not speak of his college days, as being among the happiest of his life, and always looked back to them with pleasing reflections. I must truly say the same; I have enjoyed myself exceedingly well since entering Harvard College. I have not been so happy or enjoyed such pleasing company or agreeable work, since I have experienced the double loss of a happy home, and "God's best gift to man." I have read of many plans resorted to, to drive sorrow away, and among others the wine cup, but none have I found equal to my studies, and trust in Providence. Every man has his peculiarity and idiosyncrasy,—teachers among the rest. Most of our schoolmasters—who by the way get the name and often justly of being lazy—grow thin, pale, and languid, and if they apply themselves closely to study, without physical exercise, as the subject of the writer and become useless; but give me books and study and I fatten. It is exceedingly pleasant to live in a city like Boston, if you have enough sense and cents. Everything's here to invite, attract, amuse and instruct. Good and bad persons and places are here as in all large cities, alike numerous. There are about a half dozen or more theatres here which are crowded almost every night by those who are foolish enough to spend money for that which pleases the eye and ear for a moment, and makes the mind long for like scenes. It is wonderful the amount of money, and time, which is better than money, that is spent in such places, which readily shows the vanity of a fashionable world. The pair who spend a night and a dollar in a theatre hall and look back, have generally very little that is valuable to count upon, and very often "a moral corruption."

We live in a fashionable world and in fast times, and those who live alone for the world must keep up with the times. But those who are better minded and better disposed are kindly invited and welcomed to attend better places. It is not unusual to see ladies of worth and piety call at our boarding houses leaving all to churches, prayer meetings, Sabbath schools, and religious concerts. The city is certainly well supplied with excellent pastors of all denominations. Men not only of ability and powerful speaking, but of apparently genuine piety. Lately there has been a revival of religion here, in many of the most orthodox of Protestant churches. Those of various denominations meet together in large assemblies and join in united social prayer meetings. I have never before seen so many tears shed in churches, nor so many persons, especially young men and women, anxiously inquiring the way of Salvation. Young men generally take a leading part in those exercises, and young women are often found leading in prayer in these meetings. I have heard many speak of the horrors of the late war, but quite as many speak of the happy revival which was felt in this and other cities a few years ago. It is generally supposed that medical students are, or must necessarily be, cruel and wicked, but here I have found American fellow students who are pious young men, whose walk and conversation is in strict accordance with their christian profession. Doctors of medicine should be good and pious men, as well as others as their position calls them to stand between the living and the dead.

But the most pleasing of those meetings to me has been the Sabbath schools. It is delightful to see the hundreds of sweet pretty children of all ages who are found in the vestries every Sunday afternoon. The schools are so well conducted and interesting to the youthful mind in a variety of ways, by singing, reciting, competing, awarding prizes, &c. They are ably taught by teachers who understand their business, which is certainly no mean one. The arrangements, methods of teaching, &c., are much the same as that of the Wesleyan Sabbath School in Charlotteville, which is certainly the best I have seen in P. E. Island.

There are also many City Missionaries here who spend and are spent in teaching and preaching among the poor, on the wharfs, in the alleys, and in the lowest places in the city. We have here an excellent pastor from Nova Scotia, a thorough Scotchman and Presbyterian, who takes charge of the Nova Scotians of the city—of whom there are several thousands—who often club together and form societies of their own. I have been to meetings of the True Britons and Scottish Club here, where the Lion is the motto, and colors the Union Jack, and where we sing, "God Save the Queen," no one to make us "Provisionalists" are generally speaking, a respectable class here; many of whom do a large business, while others occupy positions of trust and honor; among whom are found numbers of highly respectable, intelligent, and graceful young ladies, who often occupy places high and honorable, such as superintendants of wards in hospitals and other positions of importance and responsibility. They are generally better liked in the city than their American cousins, who generally possess less beauty and have a less robust physical constitution.

Series of Lectures are regularly delivered in various places and on various subjects, science and temperance taking the lead. I have listened to some great ones here, such as J. B. Gough, Newell Hall, Neal Dow, Beecher, Fowler, Scott, Stowe, Fulton, Chickering, and not least, Miss Howard, who lectured last Sunday evening in Tremont Hall on temperance. With the exception of Gough and Hall, she took best. In nearly two hours she held an audience of about 2,600 in breathless suspense without the aid of book or paper. She is a young lady of superior education, refinement, and christian deportment, and certainly possess the natural gift of public speaking. Many hardened cases were melted into tears while listening to her graphic descriptions, excellent advice, and pathetic appeals.

I must not forget to say that the readings and appearance of the great Charles Dickens has kept up quite a sensation here for some weeks. Winter is now set in and we have a little snow, but no ice in the harbor. The members of the White House are now sitting, and politics is the order of the day; but people don't get so crazy here on politics as in our little Isle. Numbers of mechanics and others are leaving here to seek their fortunes in other parts, while others crowd in and take their places. This week I have lost my three best friends, who are all excellent ship-carpenters; but being out of employment have left for California, the land of gold. May Heaven guide their path and bless their store.

Farwell dear Editor and young friends till I see you. College closes in a few days, all being well I shall enjoy the cold sea breeze and pleasures of the iceboat, going home to my missed ones. Yours with love and respect, M.A.C.

PRO BONO PUBLICO. Prince County, March 2, 1868.

THE MILITIA.

We believe that the calling out of the Militia of this Island for the purpose of drilling, as has been done during the past two years, has been characterized by the President of the present Executive as a "rom-froolery." We believe that the President was not far astray. Last year, hundreds of our population were taken from their pursuits and compelled to undergo drilling during parts of eight or ten days, and this year the "rom-froolery" is, we understand, to be repeated. Surely the members of the Assembly will do all they can to relieve the people from this most unnecessary duty, by not voting the public money for any such purpose as drilling the Militia. What end is sought to be attained by this drilling men for a few hours or days during the year? No sane person supposes that any such drilling as our Militia have been subjected to will make soldiers of our farmers and laborers. Several members of the legislature are personally aware of the very great annoyance to which the people were subjected last year, and we trust they will plainly tell the Government that they will no longer allow the inhabitants of this Island to be dragged from their farms or workshops, at all seasons of the year, to play Soldier. We do not object to a moderate grant for drilling Volunteers, but we most earnestly protest against calling out annually 12,000 or 15,000 able bodied men—taking them from the pursuits by which they earn their daily bread—seeing that no good purpose is ensured by such "rom-froolery." If a company of soldiers is required to be raised, and let the men who may compose be paid by the Government, but let us have no more soldiering on the "hayfoot and strawfroot" principle. We have good reason for believing that very many of our population are now in destitute circumstances, and would suggest that, instead of spending thousands of pounds upon the Militia, the money be appropriated to the purchase of food and seed grain for the more destitute of the inhabitants.—Ed.

The Steamers Commerce and Albatross, of the Boston and Colonial Steamship Line, will be placed on the route between this port, Boston, Charlestown and Plaister Cove, sometime in March.—Hs. Chron., Feb. 21.