

The Conference of a proposal had been made for the surrender of Venetia. It may not be difficult to devise projects of territorial compensation, but some need for the purchase of a pecuniary indemnity has been suggested, and it was the best suggestion that could be made; but the very necessary question that arises is, where is the money to come from? Would anybody lend the King of Italy the needed cash to purchase Venetia? It may be the conviction that the question would be answered negatively, that has led to the sudden and unceremonious withdrawal of the Austrian statesmen's resolutely towards war. Their policy is a bold one, but it is hazardous. They have already exhausted their finances in looking for the acquisition of Venetia and Rome. Immense loans have been swallowed up, the main domains have been sold, and still there is a great deficit in the budget. The prospect of Italy being engaged in war has stimulated Bourbon conspirators, and in the two Sicilies and throughout the peninsula the police are engaged in looking for those enemies of Victor Emmanuel. Great discontent prevails on account of the high taxation, but the people have no desire to see the reign of their old masters and tyrants restored. They are with the King and his ministers on the one hand, but there are still enemies among them who should perceive the danger of the course they are entering upon. If Austria and Prussia were to make up their differences and shake hands the Italians would scarcely have a chance. But Austria evidently considers herself capable of overcoming Prussia and defending her possessions against Italian aggressors at the same time. She depends upon an immense army and able generals; but the issue of the war, which she is entering upon is a matter of extreme doubt, and it may not realize the expectations and desires of any of the belligerents.

THE WAR CRISIS.

The French Government has sent a note to Vienna in reference to the reply given by Austria to the invitation to the Conference. The French Government regrets that this reply must be considered a refusal to take part in the Conference, and therefore as frustrating the efforts for the preservation of peace. The *Constitutionnel* says:—"We know already the impression produced in London and St. Petersburg by the Austrian reply to the invitation to a Conference. It was immediately acted on without reason, what advantage could be expected from a Conference if Austria persisted in her present determination. According to the reservations made by that Power two questions would disappear from the programme. We deeply regret the attitude assumed by the Vienna Cabinet. Without doubt each Power regards its interests from its own point of view; but it appears to us that Europe had a right to expect other determinations from a great Conservative Power."

Austria refused to listen to any argument or entertain any proposal which would seek to give Venetia to Italy. This being said there was of course no further to be said. Nothing remained to confer about. Prussia as well as Italy only cared to enter a Congress in the hope of obtaining peacefully certain advantages which will otherwise have to be sought by war. The Congress was to be convened in order to see whether certain transfers of territory could not be arranged. If the question of a transfer of territory is not to be raised, there is nothing left for Congress to propose or discuss. Briefly stated, therefore, the condition of things is that Austria has rejected the peaceful overtures of England and France, and taken upon herself, to use the diplomatic form of words commonly applied to such a proceeding, the full responsibility of the consequences. But if we turn to the purely military side of the question we find that there to Austria has taken a decisive and even a defiant attitude. She has declared to the German Diet that she has tried in vain to come to any settlement with Prussia in regard to Schleswig-Holstein, and that therefore she would leave the arrangement in regard to Schleswig-Holstein, and would empower the Governor of Holstein to convey the Estates of that Duchy. This is in plain fact a defiance of Prussia. It is the repudiation of the Convention of Gastein, by which, after the Danish war two years back, Austria and Prussia bound themselves one with the other to hold and govern on certain express conditions the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. The latter Duchy was being held in the hands of Austria, and distinct provisions were made for its occupation and government. It was the special object of Prussia, announced in words over and over again, that herself and Austria, and not in any way the Federal Diet, should hold and rule the provinces taken from Denmark. The hands of Holstein to the Federal Diet, and perhaps still more the conveying of the Holstein Estates, thus acknowledging Holstein's right of self-government, are undoubtedly in Prussia's eyes a repudiation of the Convention of Gastein. That arrangement is broken in the letter; utterly annihilated in the spirit. Prussia has refused to accept Austria's repudiation of the Convention of Gastein. It is not at all likely that Austria would endeavor to hold the Holstein Duchy against Prussia. The way in and out there would be to be all Prussia's own. Her territories actually occupy most of the ground between Austria and the Duchies, and war once broken out the Austrian troops in Holstein would find themselves caught in a net. One of the strange peculiarities of the present state of affairs is, that one is compelled to give his sympathy to Austria as against Prussia and to Italy as against Austria. Austria is quite right in withdrawing from the Gastein alliance; quite right in conveying the Holstein Estates; but the very course which she herself initiates in regard to Holstein is the condemnation of her legitimate claims to a shameful bargain and her fierce repudiation of popular right in regard to Venetia. Looking at her conduct as a matter of mere policy, we cannot help thinking that she is acting with utter indifference in conveying the party of precipitate war. It may be that she is waiting for the ultimate help of Russia; and French papers have lately been remarking upon the odd coincidence that the state of Prince Gortschakoff's health should have continued to get worse, and thus delay his journey to Paris, according as Austria seemed less and less inclined for negotiation of the great game of war to be once again played. It may be that France may feel inclined to take a hand before it closes, and that in choosing partners she is not likely to favor the side which alone rejected her invitation to a peaceful arrangement.

Prince Metternich went to the Tuilleries and communicated the policy of Austria to the Emperor. The Emperor did not deny that Austria, as a question of right, was justified in refusing to cede Venetia to Italy, but he did not disguise that he doubted the prudence of a flat refusal under existing circumstances.

M. Rouher, Minister of State, is said to have declared that Austria would not be allowed the moral advantage of having secured the Congress, seeing that she in effect rendered it impossible by her requirements and reservations.

ALLEGED DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY BY FRANCE.—THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S DEFERENCE TO VIENNA—EXTRAORDINARY EXCITEMENT AT VIENNA.

The Paris correspondent of the *Independent* says:—"France will not immediately assemble an army on the East, or on the Rhine, but she will take measures which, in case of necessity, would enable her to have 100,000 men at any point in three days' time. For this purpose the railway companies have been directed to concentrate the largest quantity possible of the rolling stock at the terminus of the Seine. This device, which was simply a notification, is likely to make an Austrian invasion of the Emperor. The Emperor did not deny that Austria, as a question of right, was justified in refusing to cede Venetia to Italy, but he did not disguise that he doubted the prudence of a flat refusal under existing circumstances."

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ADDRESSED A DESPATCH TO VIENNA DECLARING THAT THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY AUSTRIA IN THE FEDERAL DIET VIOLATE THE TREATY OF GASTEIN, AND CAUSE THE SUSPENSION OF THE CO-POSSESSION AS WELL AS THE DUCHIES. THE TWO POWERS ARE, THEREFORE, RESTORED TO THE POSITION AND RIGHTS ACCORDED THEM BY THE TREATY OF VIENNA, WHICH REMAINS ITS EUROPEAN VALIDITY.

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It is stated that when the Austrian determination was communicated to the Emperor Napoleon he said, "Well, Austria takes upon herself a grave responsibility." What part he intends to play in the coming sanguinary drama remains yet to be seen; but there are very few people in France or elsewhere who expect that he will keep out of the contest.

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Mr. WHELAN: Since the new Market House has been begun, I have often thought whether it was to be a two or a three storied building, and recently, quite unexpectedly, had a peep at the plan, which solved the doubt by fixing it at two stories. This I think is quite an oversight on the part of the Corporation, because the building will cost quite a sum, and should be so constructed as not only to be of service to the public, but also to be as much a source of profit to the City as possible.

Now, it is evident that the first story is designed for the marketable wares, and cannot be used for any other purpose, while the second may be used for large public meetings, lectures, balls, theatrical or other exhibitions, which produce no permanent revenue; whereas if there were a third story, one-half of it could be rented by the year to the Masonic body, whose present local station is getting too small for them, and the other half to the local Orange Association; but even if neither of these bodies thought proper to rent that part of the building, it could be used for an armory, and if Mr. Pope derives £45 or £50 per annum from the Treasury for the use of the armory in his building, why should not the City have that sum to keep down the interest on the money borrowed to build the Market House? But I am inclined to the belief that the Masons and the Orangemen would be too good to rent the third story, while the second story could be used for an armory and drill room and for public meetings, &c. also. Since the Temperance Hall was built, how many lectures, exhibitions, ball-rings, concerts, &c., have we been blessed with, which would not have fallen to our lot, had there been no building of its dimensions in our good city, and how much money have the shareholders of that Hall not derived from its being so continually let? Now, as we are to have a much more roomy building, why may we not expect more companies, and why not prepare for them? It is true that if a Circus Company should condescend to visit us again, or if a menagerie made its appearance in our city, the second story of the Market House could not be used by the riders and horses of the one, or the elephants, tigers, lions, &c., of the other; but let it be known that we can accommodate any number of Singers, or Bell Ringers, and we shall not want companies of exhibitors, each paying something for their use of the building. Then, why not let the building be three stories? It will cost but a few hundred pounds more; carpenters can do anything with wood, and the contractors could, by splicing the posts at the top, make such rooms in it as would be a source of income that in a few years would materially help to pay off the cost of the building. Give the contractors, therefore, a liberal sum to procure the materials, and obtain hands to get the addition made to the House, and finish it by the time agreed upon, which may readily be done, if "the powers that be" are not too parsimonious and short-sighted to study the public convenience and the city's revenue.

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The Prussian Government has addressed a despatch to Vienna declaring that the measures announced by Austria in the Federal Diet violate the Treaty of Gastein, and cause the suspension of the co-possession as well as the Duchies. The two Powers are, therefore, restored to the position and rights accorded them by the Treaty of Vienna, which remains its European validity.

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We have been informed, upon what we believe to be good authority, that the Government have agreed to purchase the estates of Sir Edward Cunard and the other heirs of the late Sir Samuel, for seven shillings and sixpence per acre. This seems to be a high price for so large a property; and it appears to us that it will be impossible to recover it to the tenantry at a less price than fifteen shillings an acre so as to cover the loss from land assessment and land tax. On such an extensive estate there must be a large quantity of the latter; and there are, we understand, about 100,000 acres of wilderness land for which the agent now pays the assessment. When the Worrell estate was bought for six shillings an acre—which, in fact, amounted to only five, considering the deductions for fishery reserves—there was a great outcry amongst the Conservatives against the speculation, alleging that the price was entirely too high. We fear they have themselves now entered into a very much worse speculation; but until better informed about the whole transaction, we will abstain from further remarks.

Arrangements have now been completed by which the Southern part of Lot 34, comprising 6000 acres, has been purchased by Charles Palmer, Esq., on behalf of the Tenants. The cost price of the Estate was £4000000, the purchasers bearing all expenses of transfer. The vendor also stipulated for the payment of the current year's rent as a preliminary condition, and all arrears. The price per acre thus amounts to 13s 9d, or £65 12s, per 100 acres. Payments are to be made in 6 equal annual instalments, with 7 1/2 per cent interest, unless sooner paid. Or the Tenants have the option of availing themselves of the "Act to assist Leaseholders in the purchase of the fee simple of their farms," by which, on paying half the purchase money in cash, they receive a Government title, and have liberty to pay the remainder in ten annual instalments with interest at 6 per cent. When it is remembered that in times past a sovereign acre has been regarded for certain farms on this estate, it is regarded as matter of congratulation that such eligible farms have now been secured.

In connection with the above, the following address to C. Palmer, Esq., and his reply have been handed to us for publication.

To CHARLES PALMER, Esq., &c., &c.

Sir: At a meeting of the Tenants resident on that portion of Lot 34, lately the property of the Rev. James F. Montgomery, a vote of thanks to you was unanimously passed for your valuable and opportune pecuniary assistance whereby they were enabled to avail themselves of their late Landlord's offer to accept £4000000, in cash for his property—an offer which most desirably must have been declined, and most可惜 opportunity of settling the land question on this Estate would consequently have been lost. The Tenants present at the meeting desired also to express their sense of your liberality in so reducing your Professional charges as to admit of the price being kept within the limit, (12s 6d per acre) contemplated twelve months ago, and in understanding the large delay and many obstacles encountered—since the land is now set before them as an attainable object, they will bear in mind the new responsibilities they have undertaken, and make timely preparations to meet the coming instalments and interest.

In conclusion, they desire to repeat their thanks and to offer their best wishes for your continued health and happiness.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
HOWARD ROBERTSON,  
Chairman of the Meeting held 14th inst. St. Peter's Road, Lot 34.  
June 19th, 1866.

To CHARLES PALMER, Esq., President of the Union Bank, &c., &c.

Sir: In answer to your letter to me this day, expressed through Mr. E. Robertson, Chairman of your Meeting, allow me to say that it affords me much gratification to have been in any way instrumental in enabling you to purchase the fee simple of your property, for a number of years, on terms which appear to be equitable and quite satisfactory to both parties. It is a good thing, also, to perceive a growing disposition on the part of other proprietors, in this Island, to sell to their tenants the fee simple of their farms on reasonable and proper terms; and I sincerely trust that the day will enable you to fulfil the new engagements into which you have entered, in a manner equally satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
CHAS. PALMER.  
Charlottetown, 22nd June, 1866.

Other papers please copy.

PUBLIC MEETING AT FORT AUGUSTUS. According to notice, Hon. Mr. Coles met his constituents at the above place on Thursday the twenty-first, where there was not less than two hundred persons to welcome him.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of Mr. Robert Webster, Esq., in the chair, and a Secretary.

Mr. Coles first addressed the meeting on Confederation at a considerable length, when he (the Hon. member for this District), satisfied the ready-made up minds of the people as to the injurious results of any Confederation in connection with this Island, it being a secluded from the other Provinces; and that he did believe would not be fit the tenantry in any respect whatever; but that taxation which would directly follow Confederation, would far exceed rent and retard the progress of the Island generally; also that on account of only five members to represent this Island, local matters, although of great interest, would or could not get that attention which is required.

He said he was strongly of the opinion that it would not be forced against the wishes of Her Majesty's loyal subjects; but if they succeed in snatching from us our revenue of over £750,000 and only appropriating £235,000 for the benefit of this Island, free Education, which is of so much benefit to the rising generation of P. E. Island would be greatly retarded.

Hon. F. KELLY, member for this District, did not think we could be forced into Confederation, while we hold the constitution that was guaranteed to us on the faith of the British Crown; and we are in duty bound to test the minds of the people on this subject; and when we can procure the voice of the representatives, it will never be forced upon us.

JAMES McWADE, Esq. Mount Stewart, made several remarks on the subject. He said we would be actually forced into Confederation, and he would rather raise the stars and stripes than go into a Confederation, that would be so ruinous to this Island.

Hon. Mr. COLES, in reply, said we have more freedom as we are than under the American Government, and that if little P. E. Island was left to itself, and by putting the right men in the place, that the present troubles could be overcome.

MALCOLM FORBES, Esq. Vernon River, next addressed the meeting by saying he could place no confidence in the present Government for trying such a scheme as Confederation, which would certainly prove injurious to the best interests of our little Island; and wish to see the people stand firm upon a subject of so much moment, and procure a House that would do justice to the people, as he did not believe the present one had done so.

Proposed by John McDonald, Esq. seconded by Mr. P. Hughes, and carried unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted:—Resolution No. 1. Whereas the supporters of the Confederation of the Provinces have maintained that when New Brunswick and Nova Scotia agreed to Confederation Her Majesty's Government would give up the Island to the United States; and that the Quebec Convention was left towards this colony. And whereas, from the result of the late election in New Brunswick, and from the action of the Legislature of Nova Scotia

We understand that in deference to the wishes of the Imperial Government, the Provincial Governments have been obliged to consent for the present to the licensing of American fishing vessels to the privileges on our coasts which they have hitherto enjoyed under the Reciprocity Treaty, and that the Hon. Provincial Secretary left for Canada yesterday afternoon to assist in arranging the terms and conditions of the licenses. —Halifax British Colonist, June 23.

To the Editor of the *Toronto Freeman*: My DEAR SIR,—At the moment I write, information, more or less accurate, is received here, that the Sweeney faction among the Fenians are resolved to make a desperate dash on this peaceful Province.

Without prosecution—without pretext of lawful power—crippled by the anathema of the Church, and outlawed by the Federal Government, these deluded men dare to menace Canada. Offended by such brazen defiance, the jay-talker, for Kansas notoriety, and the English booby, Percy Widdiham, they dare to assail our frontier, in the abused name of Ireland and the Irish people. The turbulent and dissolute floating population of the large lake and seaport towns, the rank and file—all of them totally ignorant of the true state of Canada, crammed full of falsehoods as to the discontent of our population and the French Canadians, and all, when once in the field, absolutely at the mercy of the English general, and the Kansas jay-talker.

I need not tell you who has so stoutly and so long done battle with this huge imposture, that all classes and orders in Canada will unite to do their duty, and their whole duty, by their country. Native Canadians, whether of French or British origin, will rally to a man for their homes and their altars. The emigrant population—British, German, Norwegian—have all given proofs of their love for their adopted country. The remnants of the brave aborigines have placed their services at the command of the Government. The youth of our schools and colleges have left their quiet halls and playgrounds, to offer the first fruits of their valor on the altar of the Patria.

As you are a member of the Canadian press, I appeal to several classes of the Canadian people. I do not intend to part from that usage. But this I have to say, to quit my conscience about the people who make private war, who assail Canada in the name of Ireland, and who, if a menagerie made its appearance in our city, the second story of the Market House could not be used by the riders and horses of the one, or the elephants, tigers, lions, &c., of the other; but let it be known that we can accommodate any number of Singers, or Bell Ringers, and we shall not want companies of exhibitors, each paying something for their use of the building. Then, why not let the building be three stories? It will cost but a few hundred pounds more; carpenters can do anything with wood, and the contractors could, by splicing the posts at the top, make such rooms in it as would be a source of income that in a few years would materially help to pay off the cost of the building. Give the contractors, therefore, a liberal sum to procure the materials, and obtain hands to get the addition made to the House, and finish it by the time agreed upon, which may readily be done, if "the powers that be" are not too parsimonious and short-sighted to study the public convenience and the city's revenue.

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It is stated that several regiments have started to garrison the frontiers of the Alps. Some regiments from Algeria, and which were sent to France, in particular two regiments of Chassards d'Alrique, have been despatched by rapid marches to the northern frontier. One of these regiments has departed from Carcassonne for Manbeuge.

The *Moniteur du Nord* says:—"Intelligence received from Berlin announces that Prussia is preparing to demand the right of co-possession of the Duchies as existing previous to the conclusion of the Gastein Convention. Gen. Von Manteuffel is stated to have received orders to allow the Austrians to receive Schleswig should they desire. Gen. Von Manteuffel himself would only take possession of those cantonnements in Holstein occupied by the Austrians."

It is stated that when the Austrian determination was communicated to the Emperor Napoleon he said, "Well, Austria takes upon herself a grave responsibility." What part he intends to play in the coming sanguinary drama remains yet to be seen; but there are very few people in France or elsewhere who expect that he will keep out of the contest.

An Imperial ordinance has been published at Vienna relative to the course to be pursued towards foreign war ships on the Austrian coast. It is thereby ordered that ships belonging to nations in unity with Austria be permitted to cast anchor on the coast. The ports of Venice, Pola, Cattaro, and the Adriatic are to be open to all nations.

The Prussian Government has addressed a despatch to Vienna declaring that the measures announced by Austria in the Federal Diet violate the Treaty of Gastein, and cause the suspension of the co-possession as well as the Duchies. The two Powers are, therefore, restored to the position and rights accorded them by the Treaty of Vienna, which remains its European validity.

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The Austrian General Von Benedek is preparing for fighting by ordering all his troops and prohibiting any officer from either writing to the journals or giving any information to any person who might wish to write.

To the Editor of the *Toronto Freeman*: My DEAR SIR,—At the moment I write, information, more or less accurate, is received here, that the Sweeney faction among the Fenians are resolved to make a desperate dash on this peaceful Province.

Without prosecution—without pretext of lawful power—crippled by the anathema of the Church, and outlawed by the Federal Government, these deluded men dare to menace Canada. Offended by such brazen defiance, the jay-talker, for Kansas notoriety, and the English booby, Percy Widdiham, they dare to assail our frontier, in the abused name of Ireland and the Irish people. The turbulent and dissolute floating population of the large lake and seaport towns, the rank and file—all of them totally ignorant of the true state of Canada, crammed full of falsehoods as to the discontent of our population and the French Canadians, and all, when once in the field, absolutely at the mercy of the English general, and the Kansas jay-talker.

I need not tell you who has so stoutly and so long done battle with this huge imposture, that all classes and orders in Canada will unite to do their duty, and their whole duty, by their country. Native Canadians, whether of French or British origin, will rally to a man for their homes and their altars. The emigrant population—British, German, Norwegian—have all given proofs of their love for their adopted country. The remnants of the brave aborigines have placed their services at the command of the Government. The youth of our schools and colleges have left their quiet halls and playgrounds, to offer the first fruits of their valor on the altar of the Patria.

As you are a member of the Canadian press, I appeal to several classes of the Canadian people. I do not intend to part from that usage. But this I have to say, to quit my conscience about the people who make private war, who assail Canada in the name of Ireland, and who, if a menagerie made its appearance in our city, the second story of the Market House could not be used by the riders and horses of the one, or the elephants, tigers, lions, &c., of the other; but let it be known that we can accommodate any number of Singers, or Bell Ringers, and we shall not want companies of exhibitors, each paying something for their use of the building. Then, why not let the building be three stories? It will cost but a few hundred pounds more; carpenters can do anything with wood, and the contractors could, by splicing the posts at the top, make such rooms in it as would be a source of income that in a few years would materially help to pay off the cost of the building. Give the contractors, therefore, a liberal sum to procure the materials, and obtain hands to get the addition made to the House, and finish it by the time agreed upon, which may readily be done, if "the powers that be" are not too parsimonious and short-sighted to study the public convenience and the city's revenue.

Yours,  
ONE OF THE PUBLIC.  
Charlottetown, 25th June, 1866.

THE FENIAN INVASION. The Irishman that drove his pig to market in "the beautiful City of Cork," by inducing the too credulous porker to believe he was en route to Fermoy, must have bequeathed his mantle and his inspiration to the spirits which preside over Fenian counsels. The ostensible object of which spider-bushings, damscals and hood-bearing swains were required to contribute the gold won from the "accursed Saxon," having lost the hue of originality, by repeated failures and disastrous results, it was deemed necessary that some special novelty should characterise the efforts of the heroes of 1866. The forcible dissolution of the Union between England and Ireland was to have been effected from the United States, and the cis-Atlantic headquarters were with happy propriety located in that portion of the good City of New York which emphatically rejoices in the name of Union Square. The legendary lore of the "sweetest Isle of the ocean" suggested the policy of affording to the future historians of their achievements the opportunity of illustrating the unanimity and cordial co-operation of the leaders of successful revolution, by comparisons and illustrations drawn from the feline martyrs of Kilkenny.

Some slightly unpleasant questions of financial relevance having failed to elicit satisfactory replies, the American "friends of Ireland" showed the disinterested nature of their motives and their anxiety to fight Great Britain, in going into training by quarrelling among themselves; and when this agreeable state of affairs had been duly arrived at, the usual result ensued—each of the disputants deciding to go on his own road. Unfortunately an inadequate acquaintance with Geography has led one party to endeavour to reach Ireland through Canada, where they have found out their mistake, and have been warned off the premises.

It was to have been hoped that the silly expedition of the hero of ill