EUROPEAN MATTERS.

European matters become more and more complicated every day, and the likelihood of peace being ultimately maintained are always fainter, and less encouraging. It was hoped that Russia would not push matters to extremity, but would allow all the matters in dispute to be discussed deliberately, and settled amicably by a conference of the great powers. Latest intelligence makes this appear unlikely. The great northern bear has lodged fixed his eye and heart upon the city of the Golden Horn as a seat of government, and has not for more than a century turned from this object for a single moment. Circumstances may have forced Russia to keep for a while the matter in abeyance, but no opportunity has been allowed to pass unimproved for the furtherance of her settled and darling desire. She fancied that when the 'sick man' was last to be dealt with, neither Britain nor France, and especially Britain, would fight in defence of Turkey; and she, no doubt, buoys herself up now with the hope that, as France cannot interfere, Britain won't—let the Grand Turk be treated in ever so cavalier and tyrannical a manner. In order, apparently, to bring matters to an issue without delay, she made very arrogant claims, which substantially amounted to saying that she would not hold herself bound by solemn treaties any longer than might suit her convenience: and though the firm bearing of Lord Granville at first seemed to bring her to reason, and to give hope that the matter would be settled without any proceedings of a warlike description, later intelligence is of a warlike character, and Russia appears not only determined to push her previous claims, but to advance others in such a way as to make it appear that she is either bent upon precipitating a conflict, or entirely convinced that Britain, the only great power she has reason to dread, will not risk the danger involved in an appeal to arms.

The proceedings of Prussia at the same time, in reference to Luxemburg, make it more and more likely that there is a full understanding, if not an absolute treaty, between the two great aggressive empires of the north-east of Europe. When the first decisive successes of united Germany made the probable cession of Alsace and Lorraine a subject for general discussion, the rumor went that Russia had put in her absolute veto against any territorial aggrandisement as the result of the conflict. And though no official documents on the subject were ever published, such a feeling on the part of the Czar was in every way natural, and such a protest only what was to be expected. There is, however, now no apparent fear for any such interference. Prussia makes her arrangements and puts forward her claims with the greatest coolness, as if she could reckon on the most absolute non-interference on the part of her formidable neighbor, and feels herself quite able to take all others into her own keeping. Some trumpery excuse about the German wounded not being allowed to pass through Luxemberg is put forward as a reason for absorbing that Duchy, and perhaps paving the way for bringing in the whole of the kingdom to which it belongs to form part of the great German Fatherland. It is but a short time since the neutrality of Luxemberg was solemnly recognised by treaty, but Prussia, like Russia, appears, in the intoxication of her success, to care for treaties only so long as they suit her convenience, and help her in the working out of her favorite plans. It is this, far more than the importance of the territory in question, that imparts gravity to the present complication.

The duchy of Luxemburg is German, and was made part of the German Confederation in 1814, being then handed over to the King of Holland in lieu of Nassau, after it had belonged to France for twenty years. If the people chose to cast in their lot with Germany, no one could very greatly object, but if solemn treaties can be torn up and cast to the wind whenever Bismark or his master think it convenient, all international arrangements are useless and treaties are not worth the paper on which they are written.

The question is all important. What attitude will Britain assume under these circumstances? Will she choose the peace at any price position? Or, fully aware of Russia's plans in the East, will she throw herself actively into the provoked conflict, and by subsidies and direct naval and military efforts, do her best to make Russia and her ally respect treaties and observe ancient boundaries? Difficult as some may think it is to imagine England going to war on such a question as the neutralization of the Black Sea, for the defence of a decaying country like the Turks, we are fully convinced that, put in the way the alternative is likely to be put, the overwhelming force of public opinion in England will be for war. Though unfavorably situated in some respects compared with what she was in 1854, from being unable to reckon upon much assistance from France, yet in others she is better prepared for the conflict, and the very fact of her being untrammelled by ensnaring alliances may be found to be, not her weakness, but her strength. In such a war, France, Austria, and Turkey, with Italy perhaps, would be on the side of Britain, and Russia and Prussia would very naturally fancy themselves strong enough for all-comers. The shock of such nations in mortal conflict would be terrible, and the result in any case, an amount of slaughter and desolation absolutely frightful to contemplate. The likelihood however of the two great military powers having it all their own way is not so great as some might imagine. France, raised from the dust and braced up by adversity and trial, would, in her very bitterness, be a formidable opponent, and Austria and Turkey, with what help Britain could afford, would maintain a not unequal contest in the Principalities; while Britain's immense navy could hermetically seal up the sea coast of both her confederate opponents.

What of the United States? Would they not cast in their lot with Russia, and avail themselves of the opportunity of avenging the "Alabama" depredations and all the unfriendly doings of Britain for the last eighty years? Some people think that would be the case, but appearances point in a totally different direction. The Americans are tired of war, and are not inclined to risk its horrors even to gain Canada and humiliate Britain. They reckon on a surer game. Neutrality in such a conflict will pay better, and they will therefore be neutrals. This course will give a chance for the revival of their commerce; and their enterprizing citizens, they imagine, will make the sea swarm with "Alabamas" and sweep British commerce from the ocean. Well, if this comes, Britain must make up her mind to take it as a part of the burden of war. She is quite as likely as not to equal her rivals in naval warfare, let it take what form it may. Privateering is not a novelty, and fleets of merchantmen sailing under the convoy of ships of war have been arranged for before this. They could with steam keep better together, and yield each other better help, than in days of sailing vessels; and it would be strange indeed and a sad imputation upon her energy and the seamanship of her sons if she did not send American "Alabamas" to the bottom by the dozen long before they unitedly did a tithe of the damage which the one did of which so much complaint has been made, and which compromised the character of the naval leaders of the States quite as much as it injured her mercantile marine. The Americans make but a poor figure in the present competition with Britain for mercantile superiority and the ocean carrying trade, and with Britain possessed of large vessels by the score which a fortnight's work would turn into formidable vessels of war, and coaling stations in every part of the world, we venture to hazard the prophecy that American "Alabamas" would have a hot time of it, and might chance to receive more cuffs than coppers in their zealous endeavors to turn an honest penny, and to cripple, if not destroy, an only too successful rival.

Britian, and almost every portion of the British people, regards war with horror, and will go into such a conflict only when it is seen that no other course can be honorably pursued. But when that is seen, most certainly it will be found that she can enter upon a fight without being "kicked" into it, can stick to it with her old tenacity; can be lavish of her money as well as of her blood; and, if the last to come to blows, the last also to call a halt or give up the contest till the end proposed has been gained, the wrong rectified, the right secured, and peace, honorable and satisfactory, conquered and made permanent. We still hope that the whole difficulty will be arranged without having recourse to the *ultima ratio*; but if the worst come to the worst, we cannot think the position and prospects of Britain in any degree discouraging. And though they were very different from what they are, our duty and ultimate safety and honor would still be found in retaining our position by her side, ready to dare all dangers and endure all losses in connection with the dear old land and the dear old flag. People tell us we should be safer if we were free from that protection, with its many complications. How much more we should be so may be seen in the way President Grant thinks it right to talk of and to us, and the amount of consideration he thinks it becoming to show us even as a part of the British empire. If there were a dozen or two in Canada who up to this time believed in the greater safety that independence would give us, they must now see their folly and mistake; and even decent annexationists, few and concealed though they be, must now feel that in every way it is better to continue as we are, with all the chances of war from our connection with Britain, than to be scolded and kicked and cuffed into the Union in the way thought decent and becoming by President Grant.—*Toronto Globe.*

LATE WAR NEWS.

London, Dec. 23.—Despatches from Versailles state that a battle took place at Monnaie, a small market town of France, in the department of Indreet Loire, about eight miles N. N. E of Tours, on Tuesday. The French strength was about 6000, the regiments consisting chiefly of mobiles. They had also artillery and cavalry on the field. The Mobiles were attacked by a force of Prussians, which was spiritedly resisted by cavalry and artillery, which they brought to bear upon the enemy. After a brief engagement the French were compelled to abandon their position, and leave the field to the victorious Prussians. The Prussian forces then entered Monnaie and took possession of the town.

Advices from Paris of the 21st inst., bring an official report of the recent military operations which says: The operations were resumed to-day and only ceased at nightfall On the right, Generals Malro and Blaise occupied Neuilly sur-Maine, Nilla Eurad and Maison Blanche, all to the East of Paris. The fire of the enemy was silenced at all points. It is also stated that after a short combat, in which Gen. Fave was wounded, the troops from St. Denis, under Admiral La Rouciere, Bourget, to the north of Paris but were unable to hold the place and retreated, having captured 100 prisoners. The forces of Gen Ducrot were also engaged south of the city in a violent artillery action against Mont Ablon and Blancmesuil, and at the night Ducrot occupied Groslay and Draugy. General Noel made a feint on the side of Mont Valerien, west of Paris, against Montretout, and the chief of battalion fourth occupied the island of Chiard, in the Seine. The mobilized national guard fought with the troops in these engagements, and displayed great ardor. The garrison of St. Denis and marines lost considerably in attacking Bourget, but the losses of the other troops were not heavy. General Trochu remains outside the city with the army

A correspondent of the London Times sends an account of what he saw at the late sortie:—

"It was one of the hottest parts of the battle-field Heavens, what a sight! To see the men advancing under fire of the forts and falling at every step; to see the French and the Saxons amid that horrid din of artillery shooting one another down with Chessepot and needle-gun; to hear the "hurrahs," followed by a volley, and as the smoke cleared away to find the lines thined and living men advancing over the prostrate bodies of dead and dying was horrible, as the sight of this battle field, with hundreds of dead lying there in the cold air, the sun shining on their ghastly features and still forms, while the cannon on Avron and Nogent were thundering with sounds which shook the earth for miles around. One of the first groups I came upon was composed of sixty French soldiers A few Saxons and Wurtemburgers lay around them; but the Germans had already removed and laid in their last sleeping place most of their dead. The centre of the group was formed of a close line of forty-six,. You could not have placed a body between any two. They fell shoulder to shoulder just as they stood to fire. By far the greater number of them were on their backs, with their feet to Paris and their heads to Villiers. Alas, it was painfully evident that many of them, and of others whom I saw subsequently, had not died instantaneously, but had lived probably many hours without a hand to lend them succor, and in piercing snow and frost.

Bismark intimates that should any other than the Eastern question be introduced at the conference of the great powers to be held in London during the first week in January, the representative of Prussia will immediately withdraw.

THE EFFECTS OF THE FRANCO PRUSSIAN WAR ON INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH GERMAN STATES.

On entering Germany in August last the most unobservant of travelers could hardly fail to be impressed with the fact that war, for the time being, had become the first and almost sole business of the nation, or more properly, of the Confederate Germanic States. In Rhenish and Northeastern Prussia production seemed to have been in a great degree arrested; few civilians were to be encountered, either upon the cars or at the hotels; while the transportation of merchandize by rail or boat, except for military purposes, was also apparently entirely suspended. Private letters written as late as the middle of October describe also this same condition of affairs, and make mention of the difficulty of even finding a blacksmith to shoe a horse in many of the German villages; with the further incident that even the sextons had left their churches and gone to the actual war districts in the capacity of *Krankentrager*, or hospital attendants, whose special duty is taking care of the dead.

The opinion of German authorities, more competent to judge than a transient observer, and since communicated to the writer, has been however, to the effect that production is not really interrupted by reason of the war in Germany, as a whole, to a greater extent than *thirty* per cent.; the interruption being greatest in Prussia proper, where the military conscription has been the most extensive, and least in the allied States, as Saxony and Bavaria, where a smaller proportion of the young, able-bodied men are drawn into the army; and in the German States and "free cities," which like Nassau and Frankfort, have been incorporated with Prussia since 1866, and where the Prussian military laws have only been made applicable to those who have become of age since the date of incorporation.

The general effect of the interruption of industry in German by reason of the war may be inferred from the earnest appeals that have recently been made to the charity of all Germans in behalf of the working population of Rhenish Prussia, Hanover, Baden and Hesse especially. One of these appeals, brought to our notice under date of September 28, uses the following language: "The towns in these districts are crowded with helpless women and children coming in to beg for bread; the fields are left untilled; the villages are swept clean of food; while the prices for the necessaries of life have gone up three fold." At a period as early as the last week in August the appearance in every German city, town or hamlet of considerable numbers of men in uniform hobbling upon crutches, or with their arms or heads bandaged, testified most eloquently to the terrible results of the recent battles; while at the railway stations, or in the vicinity of the rooms or buildings appropriated for use as hospitals, the spectacle of woman clad in mourning or weeping bitterly was not by any means unfrequent. There is also reason to believe, owing to the practice of grouping the local or district conscriptions into companies, battalions or regiments by themselves that the almost entire destruction in some instances of such military integrals has been equivalent to the destruction of almost all the young, able-bodied men of certain small towns and villages. And as regards the comparative losses of the two armies, the opinions expressed to the writer by numbers of Prussians officer who were wounded in the battles before Metz, were almost uniformly to the effect that the losses of the Prussians were greater than those of the French, inasmuch as the former were nearly always the attacking party, while their appone t, until routed, fought under cover or behind buildings hedges or entrenchments.—[David A Wells, in the January number of Lippincott's Magazine.

PARIS LETTER.

A Paris letter of the 27th ult., says: many of the large apartments in the most fashionable quarters of the town are inhabited by persons who have taken refuge in Paris from the country and working people from the faubourgs. They inhabit the enormous elegently painted and gilded rooms rent free. A few sticks of furniture, sabots and blouses contrast strangely with the decorations. Salons are turned into laundries, and ragged linen hung out to dry on the balconies. From the windows and balconies of the upper stories of one of those new houses in the Rue de Lafayette, looking over Baron Rothschild's garden stockings, shirts and female under linen of every description were dangling when I passed yesterday. It is something to have a roof over their heads, but the poor require food, and the cantines are a great boon. There are at present sixteen, but the number will be increased to twenty-four. Upwards of 15.000

PERSONS ARE NOW DAILY SUPPLIED WITH FOOD, but the supply is not equal to the demand. There are between 150 and 200 employed in the *cantines*. A room having been obtained from a house proprietor, a stove, a counter, for the distribution and two or three benches are installed therein for the persons waiting their turn to be supplied. Tables there are none, as the food is not to be eaten in the *cantine*. The distribution is made by a woman cook and two assistants in each room; the accounts and checks are kept at the Marie. Nothing is sold at the *cantine*, and persons desirous of obtaining food must first obtain, at the Marie, tickets, which are avaliable at any *cantine* in the district, They are of different colors, and entitle the bearer to receive either or the following portions: Half a litre of soap or fifty grammes of meal, 200 grammes of rice, 175 grammes dried vegetables, 500 grammes of bread.

HOW THE DISTRIBUTION IS ARRANGED.

Two distributions are made per day—from ten to twelve and from four to six o'clock the *cantines* are also opened from eight till half-past nine A. M., and from two to half-past three P M. for the issue of numbers indicating the order in which each will be served. When the distributon of food is made, a National Guard takes his position near the counter, calls out the number, tells the cook the quantity and the quality of the portions required and places the vouchers in the till, which is taken every evening to the Mairie for examination.

AN INCIDENT IN THE STREETS.

I saw an old gentleman yesterday who was formerly in a large way of business and lived in good style some few years since. A twist in the wheel of fortune ruined him. Until the war was declared he struggled on and supported himself respectably as a commission agent, but the siege had pressed heavily on him and all his friends had left. His clothes have been brushed threadbare, his hat still effects to shine feebly and his boots are polished. He looks scrupulously clean and respectable. In the course of conversation he told me that he had gone early to the market. A turnip had taken his fancy—it made the poor old gentlemen's mouth water. He asked the price—five sous. "I could not afford the luxury," he said, "There are two of us in the family. You may not be aware of it, but I have the bump of curiosity extraordinarily developed, and was unable to resist saying, "What did you have for breakfast?" The old gentleman replied, with hesitation, "Why, this morning we had only four potatoes between us." To-day he breakfasted with me, but it was with much difficulty I made him agree to do so.

THERE IS MUCH MISERY IN PARIS.

but the people bear up. I know a person who paid six francs and a half for forty-four potatoes. Another Jacree announces that in order to economize the gas for natural purposes the supply will be cut off from all private and public establishments on the 30th inst. On and after that date we go to bed and get up with the sun.

THE AMIZONS OF PARIS.

in martial costumes, Tyrolean hats and swords at their sides, who threatened to mount guard on the ramparts, and, if need be, to extirpate the Prussians, were cut short in their enthusiasm, firstly, by M. de Keratry, and secondly by his successor, as Prefect of Police, M. Edmond Adam, neither of whom seems to have been sufficiently impressed with the charms of the fair sex.

Their first decree, of some length, terminated with "Vive la Commune! Vive la Republique Universelle! and is signed by the President (Louis Michael), the Vice President and sixteen members of the amiable committee. They demand all vacant apartments for citizens without shelter, and the wine and fuel therein for the sick; the abolition of religious workshops and houses of prostitution; the church bells of Montmartre for cannon; impartial returns of the aged and infirm, so that the Republic shall not be deceived; professional schools gratis; communal workshops and democratic asylums; sorties of citizens, protected by National Guard, to gather vegetables, the produce to be distributed by the Mayors and Vigilence Committees; the National Guards to be fed like soldiers, at the expense of the state, and their pay given to their families, so that their wives, children and mothers shall not die of cold and hunger during their absence.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE POPE.

Mr. Gladstone has written the following letter to Mr. Dease, member for Queen's County:

DOWNING STREET, Nov. 30.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., transmitting a memorial from the inhabitants of Stradbadly, in which you state that they express their desire that Her Majesty's Government may see fit to use 'such diplomatic intervention as may secure to the Pope the continuance of such a temporal Sovereignty as will protect him in the discharge of his spiritual duties together with an adequate income.' The memorial itself is couched in larger or less definite language; but I do not doubt that I am to recognize you as the best expositor of the feelings it is intended to express.

In reply I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have not, during the various changes which have marked the reign of the present Pope, interfered, nor have they now proposed to interfere, with the civil government of the city of Rome or the surrounding country.

But Her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice.

Indeed, without waiting for the occurrence of an actual necessity, they have during the uncertainties of the last few months taken upon themselves to make provision which would have tended to afford any necessary protection to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff.

The subjects to which I have adverted will continue to have their careful attention; although they have had great satisfaction in observing that the Italian Government has declared in the most explicit manner its desire and intention to respect and defend the Pope's freedom and independence, and to take care that adequate provision shall be forthcoming for the due support of his dignity."

I have, &c,
W. E. GLADSTONE.

E. Dease, Esq., M. P."

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD's reasons for believing that the Imperial troops will be back in the Province of Ontario before five years are as follows: twice in his own remembrance, he said, the British Government, in a temporary fit of millitary economy, had withdrawn the troops and had returned them to garrison Canada, and they felt confident that they would be sent out again. He based this belief in part upon the professions of the old Whig party of England, of which Lord John Russell was the leader, and partly upon the feelings of the Conservatives and the universal pride felt in England at the growth and importance of the Colonial possessions.—*Hx.—Reporter.*

A London despatch says, the rumor that Prussia repudiates the treaty of 1867, neutralizing the territory of Luxemburg is to be accepted guardedly. It is regarded here as extremely improbable that Bismarck would at this time thus defy Belgium and the Netherlands.

DIRECTORY.

Bank of P. E. Island.—Cashier, Wm. Cundall. Discount Days, Mondays and Thursdays.

Union Bank.—Cashier, James Anderson. Discount Days, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Savings' Bank—Colonial Building. Banking days, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Farmer's Bank Rustico.—Cashier, Marin J. Blanchard. Discount day, Wednesday.

Summerside Bank.—Cashierr, R. McC. Stavert. Discount days, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Y. M. C. Association—Thursday evenings during winter.

C. Y. M. L. Institute.—Tuesday evenings.

Metropolitan Lodge, British Templars, meet in Falconer's Hall on Wednesday evenings.

City Lodge, British Templars, meet in the Athenæum on Tuesday evening.

Victoria Division—Sons of Temperance, meets Monday evenings.

St. John's Lodge, Masons, Second Tuesday in each month.

Odd Fellows—Monday evenings.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Iron, Steel, and Mud Digger Chain... G. & S. Davies.
House to Let ....Peake Brothers, & Co.,
From London and Liverpool......... do.
Crackers, Molasses, Oil, &c.,....Wm. Dodd.
Public Lands ....Francis Kelly.
Ch'town Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Henry Palmer.
Divorces.........Moore and Richardson.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 9, 1871.

THE UNSETTLED QUESTIONS OF THE COMING YEAR.

THE year 1871 promises to be a year of action. In 1870 much was begun, but very little completed. All the great questions raised and discussed during the past twelve eventful months still await decision. The Franco-Prussian war will most probably be ended in the year immediately before us; the result notwithstanding the almost uninterrupted success of the Germans, is still doubtful; the French gallantly maintain a struggle which, for them, commenced so inauspiciously. If, three months ago, the question were asked, how long will France hold out? How much longer will its brave but volatile inhabitants endure disaster and disappointment with fortitude? The answer of nine spectators out of ten would have been, "Not a month; the French must soon give way, Prussia cannot be resisted with any hope of success They will in a short time lose heart and hope, and lay down their arms in despair Their country is torn by internal dissensions; they are weakened by faction and treachery, and the fate of a house divided against itself, must, ere many days elapse, be theirs. Besides this, the French cannot bear misfortune; they are brave but not resolute; they lack that fortitude, and that dogged obstinacy which enables men of the Teutonic race to bear reverses with equanimity, and to continue a struggle which is to all appearance hopeless. The Celtic and the Latin races need the stimulus of success.' This mode of reasoning is exceedingly plausible, but events have proved it to be fallacious. The politicians the military men, and the philosophers have all been at fault The French have borne their many misfortunes with a cheerful endurance which is more than stoical; they have exhibited a strength of character for which very few indeed gave them credit; they have stood the double test of reverses in the field, and division, and even treachery in the cabinet, and in a way that has extorted the unwilling admiration of prejudiced and unfriendly spetators. The raw levies of the army of the Loire and the citizen soldiers of Paris in December fought as gallantly as did the Grand Army in July. Paladines Chausey and Ducrot are more successful than MacMahon, Bourbaki, and Bazine. The two millions of pleasure loving Parisians endure privations and hardships, and encounter dangers with a courage that is almost gay, and they are positively jolly and facetious over their meal of stewed puss and roasted monkeys. It is not to be expected that a people who have endured so many misfortunes with so high a spirit, will now suddenly break down and grovel at the feet of a proud and an exacting enemy. It is hard to tell how long they will maintain a bold front to their foes. Who can conjecture what capabilities may yet be developed in the French nation; it is hardly safe even now to predict their utter defeat, and ultimate humiliation. It must be remembered that the Germans have paid dearly for their successes; they have won no easy victories; the soil of France has been profusely watered with German blood. Almost every family in Germany wears mourning for one or more of its members slain in French battle fields. German hospitals, German cities, and German villages throng with wounded and shattered men who have lost their limbs, and ruined their constitution in sunny France. Prussian treasure, as well as Prussian blood, has been lavishly expended in this war. A great strain has been put upon the resources of the whole of Germany. Many are weary of the war, with its burdens and its costly sacrifices, and long for peace. If the war continue many months longer, these feelings will increase in intensity, and the statesman who will oppose an honorable peace, will find arrayed against him a very formidable party, which, even in despotic Prussia, will find some means of making its wishes known, and its power felt.

The Eastern question is another legacy of the past year. Will it receive its solution in 1871? This is a question to which it is impossible to give an answer. The designs of Russia have for a long time been apparent. She is determined to absorb Turkey, to drive the infidel out of Europe. She only awaits a favorable opportunity of carryfng her designs into effect. Has that opportunity arrived? With France prostrate, and the peace-at-any-price party paramount in England, it is plain that Gortschakoff, a few weeks ago, considered that the time was favorable, and that he might proceed to destroy the Turkish Empire with comparative impunity. The sick man he saw was friendless and unaided he was in no position to resist the power of Russia. He, however, slightly miscalculated. France still required the whole attention of his friend Bismarck, and the English foreign minister seemed in no humor to be trifled with. It was quite evident that an open violation of the Treaty of Paris would be attended with serious consequences. The attempt to make Turkey a Russian province, and the Mediterranean a Russian lake must be deferred some little time longer. Russia is patient, but she is persistent; she is foiled just now, but she will take measures to put her favorite project in execution at the first favorable moment. We read of vast preparations for war being made in Russia, we may depend upon it that whenever the opportunity presents itself, she will be in a position to deliver her blows with telling effect.

The Alabama Claims seem just now, in a fair way of being adjusted. The agitation which they have caused has been the source of much uneasiness, and much ill feeling on both sides of the Atlantic. Our American cousins seemed to cherish them as a sort of pet grievance. They seemed very reluctant to part with them. They were useful in some way to politicians of all parties on occasion, and were they honorably and amicably settled, the stump orators of the Union would be deprived of a very popular and a very exciting topic. A little fire-eating and tall talk against the Britishers went a great way in certain quarters to bolster up the reputation of a shakey politician. The question was, however, getting somewhat stale, and the cautious and astute President evidently considers that he will gain more in every way by settling the Question than by keeping it open to be a source of perpetual irritation and even danger. General Schenck is sent to England with instructions to settle this Alabama difficulty. That is his mission. We have little doubt but that he will succeed. The British Government have, throughout, evinced a desire to settle the Alabama Claims in a just and even in a liberal manner. They have offered to compensate those who are really entitled to compensation. In short to repair any injury which American citizens may have suffered through their mistake or their neglect. The American Minister will find the settlement of those claims an easy business, if justice is all that he requires. Both Mr. Johnston and Mr. Motley, his immediate predecessors have, from all that we can learn become converts to the British view of the Question, much to the indignation of the fire-eaters and tall-talkers before alluded to. General Schenck must not expect that either the British Government or the British nation will submit to any indignities. They will make no humiliating admissions. They will make reasonable, and perhaps some unreasonable, concessions; but they will not incur disgrace. Our impression is that the American ambassador to the Court of St. James will drive a hard bargain, but that he will not leave England until it is concluded to the satisfaction of all reasonable men, both in England and America.

The Fisheries Question, too, we hope will be settled before the year of grace 1871 has run its course. We wish to live in peace and friendliness with all our neighbors, but it is impossible to do so if the course of policy initiated by the Dominion last summer be persisted in The Fishery Question needs re adjustment. The rights and privileges of American citizens in British waters require to be more clearly difined. There should be no room left for doubt as to what an American fisherman may or may not do in a British port. We are glad to know that the settlement of this difficult and delicate question is in the hands of the Imperial Government. We have the most implicit confidence in the justice and liberality of British statesmen in all matters relating to trade, commerce, and international intercourse of all kinds. We only hope that in these fishery negotiations they will be guided solely by their own convictions of what is just and liberal. We hope that they will permit no Dominion interference in the matter. If they do so we are satisfied that a very different arrangement will be entered into between Great Britain and the United States on the subject of the fisheries, than would be procured by half a century of the Retaliatory policy.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

No. 2.

SHEDIAC, N. B., Dec. 12, 1870.

With the irregularity of the mails at the present season, anything I write will be so long reaching you, that I fear it will be like the Island debates, which *used* to be published four or five months after having been spoken. By the way the manner of publishing the Island debates, and the cold weather remind me of the celebrated horn of the Baron Munchausen's coachman. The breath he blew into it in the winter froze up, and did not thaw till the spring, when its music re-echoed through the vallies. Perhaps, the Legislative Councillors and "honorable members of the Lower House" are satisfied with the manner of publishing the debates, as it gives the "linked sweetness" of their eloquence a chance of being "long drawn out," like the coachman's horn.

That "uncommon want" of which Byron speaks,—the want of a hero, was nearly filled by Captain Friend in striving to rescue his schooner. He was with us from Charlottetown, and spoke his mind very freely in reference to his affairs on the Island, the fishery question and Reciprocity Treaty, generally. He finds that the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty comes home to his "business and bosom," and hence he takes a sensible and enlightened view of the subject. The Treaty was abrogated through the spite of a few leading New England politician at the Provincialists, because of their imaginary sympathy with the South in its struggle against the Government and free institutions of the United States. Imaginary, I say, because the large mass of the people, who, by degrees, understood the questions at issue between the North and South, gave their heartiest God Speed to the North and liberty. Yet, to punish us, Henry Wilson, Senator Sumner, and General Banks, must have the Treaty abolished. Heaven preserve us from such statesmanship. In trying to inflict injury upon us, they have dealt heavier blows upon themselves. Boston has since lost annually about two millions of trade, and Gloucester about one hundred thousand dollars. So thinks Captain Friend. He is sure, however, that he loses the savings of a lifetime, and he knows that the families of the men in his employ will have to depend upon the cold charities of the world to give them their winter's bread. If men worthy of respect suffer, why should we express any blame against our Government for protecting our rights. Should we not rather entertain and give utterance to our indignation against the blatant demagogues of the United States, who imagine they can punish or force the Provinces into Annexation.

Captain Friend feels that he has not the slightest cause of complaint against the Island or Home Government, and has no other feelings but of contempt for those who have the management of affairs at Washington. Aided by the power and prestige of Great Britain if the Island and Dominion Government enforce our laws, and help the elements to break up the fishing seasons of the American fishermen, depend upon it we will soon be offered a Reciprocity Treaty upon our own terms. The high tariff upon fish sent by our people to the United States is no protection nor advantage to the American fishermen. Moreover the fact that the duty upon certain articles imported from us is to be lowered on 1st of Jan. 71, is an indication that the poor manufacturers of the New England States are finding out that they suffer most from the high duties on articles of daily consumption, and that their interests would be better served if our agricultural products were admitted duty free.

A few men like Captain Friend will render good service in representing the real state of affairs. If not a hero, he can glory in being a martyr. Others will reap the fruits of his suffering; but it is a satisfaction to know that though a "sadder, he is a wiser man" and bears his troubles with Christian philosophy.

Shediac, though not having grown so large within the past seven years as Summerside, has yet improved very considerably. Several interesting items observed and noted, I must defer, but of them more anon.

No. 3.

SHEDIAC, N. B., Dec. 14 1870.

Shediac, and Westmorland County bear evident signs of improvement. Some years ago the credit system was the rule, now it is becoming the exception. A few traders here have become immensely rich by taking advantage of the necessities and ignorance which prevailed. They asked exorbitant prices, gave credit, and if the amounts were not paid, notes were demanded and interest charged. If the notes were not honored when due, a mortgage on the farms had to be given. The whole farms and buildings were made liable under what is known as the Screw Auger Mortgages. Their not being able to pay, the mortgages were foreclosed and the poor people were "turned out of house and home."

It is known that some of these dealers have had from ninety to a hundred farms in their hands at a time.

When the bitter results of the credit system became so obvious the country people learned economy, and did not buy except for what they could pay. Young, enterprising men came to Shediac, and by selling reasonably for cash, induced the people to deal with them,—thus breaking up, in a large degree, the villainous credit system.

In Shediac there are about three hundred families, one fourth of whom are French Acadians, and their descendants. The latter have recently built a very handsome church.

Through the zeal of Rev. Mr. Donally, a gentleman of great ability, and most persuasive eloquence, marked improvements may be observed in the habits and material comforts of the people. Some persons imagine that the French in British America are a degenerate race. It is a mistaken notion, and time will prove it so. I am assured that in Memramcook College, in this County, the French boys take the highest honors and in intellectual power, are, as a general rule, far in advance of the students of any of the New Brunswick Colleges. The editor of the *Moniteur Acadian*, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, is a striking instance of talent, energy and industry combined. He does more work than half the editors in Charlottetown and his skill as a compositor "would take the starch" out of other than Charlottetown printers. He and his partner, assisted by a small boy edit print, and do the press work of the *Acadian*. They strike off about fifteen hundred copies weekly, two hundred of which circulate in Prince Edward Island. To the honor of the French Acadians, I am told they pay for their papers. Would that those who sneer at their degeneracy would imitate them in this respect. Besides getting off the paper, in the *Acadian* establishment, two men and a boy do a large amount of job work. Last year they translated and published five thousand copies of the debates of the New Brunswick Legislature. M. Leussier and his able partner are great lovers of their fellow Acadians, and are faithfully doing a great work for them.

There are several Islanders in and about Shediac. They are amongst the very best of the honest, industrious class of the people. Dr. Morton formerly of Pownal, is located here, and bids fair to do remarkably well. It is surprising how many Islanders you meet in this Province. I believe there are more P. E. Islanders abroad than at home. May it not be that Providence has destined our Island to play the same noble part towards this continent, that the Grecian Isles performed for the ancient civilization, or that Britain and Ireland render modern civilization. It seems so; but I fear too many Islanders do not realize the importance of their position. I cannot understand how ever one P. E. Islander can wish the Island to forfeit its independence, which is near at hand, by taking refuge under the wing of the American Eagle. Time, you say, points with inevitable finger towards the absorption of all America by the Great United States. No, time rather fortells, that the United States, already too large will give place to a number of independent Republics, and it may be true wisdom for us and the Maritime Provinces to look forward to the speedy day when we shall have to choose to become one.

(COMMUNICATED.)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

Much has been said and written respecting the great want of Hotel Accommodation in our city during the summer season; but, up to the present time, only a feeble effort has been made to supply this want, and that by private individual enterprise. We are assured it is not for the want of funds or a willingness on the part of our capitalists, but simply a want of energy. We would suggest that a public meeting be called and this matter be thoroughly discussed so as to arrive at a conclusion as to whether a joint stock company could not be formed, composed of men of enterprise, willing to devote a portion of their time and capital to benefit the public and themselves. The Steam Navigation Company have supplied the means of speedy conveyance between our ports and the Dominion, by placing on the route steamers suitable in every way for the service which they perform and commanded by men of tried worth and experience, their gentlemanly deportment having been suitably acknowledged on more than one occasion by the travelling public. With one commodious hotel in Charlottetown, and Summerside provided for in a similar way we are inclined to think an inducement would be offered to pleasure-seekers and invalids, from the Dominion and the United States to pay us a visit. And what, we ask, would be the result of these summer visitants to our shores? Why, a better feeling would spring out of the social intercourse between our neighbors and ourselves a fresh impetus would be given to trade and commerce; foreign capital would be available in our market; our vacant lands would be occupied; cottages for summer residences would dot the beautiful landscapes on the sides of our magnificent rivers. And should we be so fortunate as to get a railroad from Summerside to Georgetown, (the very building of which would infuse new life and vigor into our people) we would not merely require one large Hotel, but, in self-defence, we would have to provide spacious accommodation for the surplus population which would flood our city.

The question is, shall we have a large hotel built by a company, or not? We have professional men, enterprising merchants, energetic and skillful mechanics intelligent farmers, and a host of others who would indirectly reap the benefit of a floating population during the summer months.

If no company can be formed, then let private individuals take the matter in hand, and supply the want so much needed, and reap the benefit of their enterprise. We fear many a private individual hesitates to embark his capital in this way, fearing the formation of a company with which he could not successfully compete. Hence the necessity of testing public opinion on this matter.

THE New Wesleyan College was opened this morning. A large number of pupils were enrolled in the different classes, Miss Robertson's department is nearly full, Miss Longworth has a goodly number, and Mr. Dickieson had 36 boys in his class-room.

Hon George Beer was called to the chair. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Milligan, Charles Palmer, Esq, Rev. Mr Fitzgerald, Judge Young, and others—the latter gentleman volunteered, in aid of the funds of the Institution, the very handsome sum of £50 a year for the next five years.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. The proceedings closed by singing the national anthem, Professor Earle presiding at the piano.

MAILS.—Mails were received at the General Post Office hear, via the Capeon Tuesday evening last and on Thusday, the English and Colonial including Newfoundland mails arrived. Further mails were received on Saturday evening last.

TELEGRAPH CHARGES.—We are requested to announce that, on and after January 1st, the tariff from Sackville, N. B. to all offices on the Montreal Telegraph Company's Lines in N. B. and Quebec Provinces is fixed at twenty five cents for the first ten words and one cent for each additional word.

HARVIE'S ALMANACK for 1871 has been laid on our table. It is got up in good style, and contains a vast amount of useful information.

OUR Island Bard John LePage, Esq. is again before the public. His last production "The closing Year's last look at the Franco-Prussian War", being the winding up of the poetical effusions of the Bard for the year 1870.

THE Normal School was re opened on the 3rd, and the Prince of Wales College on the 4th inst.

THE Supreme Court for Queen's County will commence to-morrow.

The Legislature of Newfoundland is announced to be open on the 26th inst.

THE Levee on Monday last was well attended.

A cable telegram states that the Queen is likely to pardon some more Fenians shortly.

WE have received the American Agriculturist for January, 1871. It contains 44 pages, which are filled with the most valuable information for farmers; and includes 21 engravings. The small sum of $1.50 pays the year's subscription. Publishers, Messrs. Orange Judd & Co., 245 Broadway, New York.

Sir John A Macdonald, when applied to last week by a deputation of the corporation of Kingston, Ont., for permission to open a street through the Artillery Park, formerly occupied by the British Troops, said he believed the forces would be in Canada again in five years time, and therefore could not entertain the proposition.

In the United States House of Representatives on the 12th ult., one of the members arose to the floor so drunk that he could not address the chair. After repeatedly trying to rap him down and failing, the speaker refused to recognize him and proceeded to business with him standing in the aisle a humiliation to the nation. A repetition of the offence will probably necessitate a new election in the York District.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR JANUARY—1871—New Volume—contains—"The Beechers of to-day," with five excellent portraits; Importance of Chemistry, by Prof. Charles A. Joy; H. B. Claflin, the eminent Merchant; Dream land, the Nature of Dreams; Physical Education—Eating and Mental Action—Dyspepsia, etc.; Moderation, a Poem; Woman's Sphere and Influence; R. B. Woodward, of California; Decision, its relation to a successful life; The Mormon People, who and what they are, their Religion, Social Life, Accomplishments and Prospects; The Editor's Message; The Study of Man; Leigh Hunt as an Essayist; "What Shall I do," Adventures of a Non-Combatant; The Condor, illustrated, and a dozen other articles, brief, pertinent and interesting. The whole, making up a number of peculiar excellence among the issues of a Monthly whose general superiority is universally acknowledged. Single Numbers, 30 cents; for the year $3 including a handsome chromo premium. S. R. WELLS, Publisher, 389 Broadway N. Y.

THE Local Legislature of Nova Scotia will meet for the dispatch of business on Thursday, 2d February. This will be the commencement of the last session of the present House. It will have to choose a Speaker in the room of the late Mr. Marshall.

WESTMORLAND ELECTIONS.—Mr. Hannington has been elected to the vacant seat in the Local Legislature for this County, by 1358 votes. Mr. Gilbert had 330, Mr. Holstead 392, and Mr. Herbert 252 votes.

THE Rev. Mr. Dyer, the Episcopal minister at Cascumpec, received a set of harness from a section of his congregation; and the Rev. Mr. Forsyth has been the recipient of valuable gifts from his parishioners in St. Eleanor's and Summerside.

WELL DONE, ST. JOHN.—We are gratified to be told that our energetic townsman, Mr. S. R. Foster, has now on hand an order for 11½ tons of Tacks, for London, England, to be shipped early in the spring. Croakers where are you?—*Telegraph.*

By cable message from Captain Fraser, dated Queenstown, January 3 1871, to Welsh & Owen, we learn the arrival of the following vessels from P. E. Island: Theresa, Marion, Moselle, Selina, Argos, Lelia Alice, Delta, Kate, Midas and Isabella.

A NEW BUSINESS FOR HALIFAX.—We learn that the Acadia Coal Company brought over the Nova Scotia Railway a cargo of coal and shipped it at Richmond to-day, and that it is their intention to prosecute their business during the winter months while Pictou Harbor is closed.

Sir Edward Thornton, the British Minister at Washington, has received $5,000 for the widows and orphans of the crew of the "Oneida," which was quietly contributed by fifty British subscribers, headed by Earl Shaftesbury, Earl Clarendon, Rothschilds, and given to Sir Edward for distribution. The money will be apportioned at his discretion on application by the parties interested.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.—The French prisoners in a Prussian fortress give a concert to raise funds for a monument to their fallen comrades. The German citizens attended in sufficient numbers to make the affair a success.