

BABES IN THE WOOD.

AN INCIDENT IN AUSTRALIA.

An English paper has this story from Australia:—

Three tiny boys, colony born, of Daylesford, in Victoria, started into the bush to look for some runaway goats. The eldest was only seven; but Australian lads and lasses have a content for a playground, and nothing was feared. When however, the little ones missed the dinner hour, and then tea, their parents grew anxious, and searched the neighborhood in vain. Night fell, and with the aid of the local police the search was extended, and though it lasted till the morning the children were still missing. At dawn a storekeeper came in who had seen the small wanderers on the road over-night; and then a boy, who had given them the right direction as he passed. This was all that could be gained throughout the second day; but now the little scattered community had heard of the loss, and was on the alert. The quartz miners put their tools by and went out into the bush; so did the sawyers at the steam mill; and so did the wood cutters in the scrub; and the third day was thus passed in a vigorous search. Still no trace or tidings, except a faint footmark going in the wrong direction towards the Warribee River, and therefore the good folks were growing very much concerned, and it was settled at a public meeting that all hands should strike work and go look for the babies.

Accordingly the next day—the fourth—every shop was shut, every tool and implement was left idle, six or seven hundred men, women and children turned out in all directions into the dense scrub, to hunt the strayed ones up. Seventy pounds were collected as a reward for the finder; though no one wanted that incentive, and the man at the steam mill kept the whistle going all day to guide the little feet home, if they were still able to stir. For days these kindly souls of the Victorian township kept up the hunt. It was in vain; at the end of the week the shops had to be re-opened, and work mournfully resumed, for the children could not be discovered. The heart broken parents publicly thanked their neighbors for doing all that human gentleness and good will could do, and so the melancholy narrative ends, for the children were lost and must have lain down to die in the wilds. It will hereafter be a colonial tale to match our British 'Babes in the Wood,' with the blue-bird and the bell-bird for 'cock robin,' and the generous Daylesford folk to make a pleasant verse instead of the 'wicked uncle.'

RELEASE OF OXFORD, THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN OF HER MAJESTY IN 1840.

The British Medical Journal says: "After twenty-seven years of confinement in a criminal lunatic asylum, during which his conduct has been exemplary, and no traces have appeared of mental aberration, Oxford, the pot boy who shot at her Majesty in St. James Park, has been liberated. During this time many appeals have been made in his behalf by influential persons who have had the opportunity of watching his demeanor and gauging his character.—His own story has always and was so consistently from the first, that the pistol which he fired was not loaded. It will be remembered that no bullet was ever found. He attributes the criminal act which he has expiated by long imprisonment, and which, under a less merciful government, must have cost his life, to inordinate vanity, fostered by a variety of trivial circumstances in his domestic life and training on which we need not dwell, and which led to a senseless desire to attain notoriety by some means; and this foolish and criminal impulse led to his lamentable crime. He has occupied his time in a certain amount of self-education, of which the means have been granted to him at Broadmoor and in the asylum in which he was formerly confined, and has become a tolerable linguist. He has also taught himself, and practised 'graining,' which he does sufficiently well to earn a living. He has been mercifully released, but has been very properly prohibited from remaining in or visiting England. Whether directly insane at the time of his offence, or led by a miserable love of notoriety, it is right that the person of the Sovereign should be protected from the ramity of a man who, at however distant a period, could commit the cowardly outrage of which he was the perpetrator."

THE CONDITION OF MEXICO.—Robberies still continue to be perpetrated all over the country, and in the capital, under the very nose of the authorities, are carried on in open day to a scale and with such a system that New York adepts ought to blush at their awkwardness. Scarcely a day passes but we hear of some leading and wealthy citizen, being forced under threats of immediate or subsequent assassination, to give his captors a sum of money varying from \$3000 to \$5000. A few days ago an incident of this kind occurred in the open plaza, within a hundred yards of the palace and the chief police station, and in the presence of the moving population that at no moment could have numbered less than from 4000 to 5000 persons. It is true that the citizen was released after several hours' duress, by the appearance of the Governor backed by the police, but the guilty parties have not yet been arrested, and we are told that the ransom money (\$6000) has since been paid, the kidnapped citizen feeling no confidence in the ability of the authorities to afford him protection from the after consequences of a refusal.

Another account of the condition of the country contains the following:—The Mexicans having insulted their last Austrian, are now busy at the old work of assailing one another. In Guerrero—a region with a very appropriate name—the two chiefs, Alvarez and Jimenez, are engaged in a controversy which employs nearly every musket and every fighting man in the State. Robber bands go about in other parts of the country, attacking towns and laying forced loans. In Jalisco they held the two towns, Jaotepac and Hamillo, to ransom. They called themselves Imperialists and avengers of Maximilian. Kidnapping is a favorite pursuit, wealthy travellers being carried off and held in duress till their friends pay large sums for their liberty. Yucatah at this moment is in a state of secession, calling on that old brigitor, Santa Anna, to the rescue.

The enormous armaments which are now being organized in various parts of Europe afford but little encouragement to the lovers of peace, and appear to contradict the assertions of some who believe that humanity is progressing in the arts of peace and turning away from the arts of war.

Under the terms of the new French army, the empire will be defended by an army of 1,248,000 men, including the National Guard. Austria is executing her army to bring up the effective of her army to more than a million. The war footing of the Prussian army is to be 1,010,000, of whom 1,000 will be on foot.

the National Guard, Prussia, with the Confederate States of North Germany, has an army of 900,000 men at her command, which, with the contingents from the Confederate States of the South, will amount to 1,250,000 men. The Russian army on a peace footing amounts to 734,000 men, but with the recruiting sources at command she can bring into the field 1,300,000 soldiers. With these enormous forces confronting each other, the permanent peace of Europe is regarded as next to impossible.

GLoucester Fishing Fleet.—We clip the following particulars of the loss of life and disasters to the Gloucester Fishing and Coasting Fleet during the year 1867, from the Cape Ann Advertiser:—

In our issue of Nov. 24th we gave a review of the fishing business of the season and also published a comparative statement of the losses of life and property that had attended its prosecution. Since that time other losses have occurred, and to-day we publish our annual recapitulation of losses for the year, in a convenient form for reference.

We find by referring to our files that during the year there have been thirteen vessels and sixty-five lives lost, against fifteen vessels and twenty-six lives last season. Of the disasters this year, three vessels and thirteen lives have been lost in the Newfoundland fishery; three vessels and twenty lives in the George's fishery; three vessels and fifteen lives in the bay mackerel fishery; two vessels and one life in the shore fishery; two vessels and nine lives in the freighting business; six lives in the Grand Bank, and one in the Western Bank fishery. Of the sixty-five men lost, twenty were known to be married, leaving twenty widows and thirty-six children. The value of vessel property and outfits lost is about \$104,000. Total amount of insurance, \$73,499.

Eight or ten years ago a couple, in Zanesville, Ohio, became tired of each other and were divorced. Both parties re-married, and both lost their new partners. Recently they forgot their grievances, revived their old affection, and became husband and wife.

The re-appearance of the Trichinae plague at the West, occurs simultaneously with an alarming discovery at the East. A Boston gentleman reports to the Post of that city that a multitude of little snakes—like worms have been observed in a sound codfish, and so tenacious were they of life that an hour's boiling was not sufficient to kill them.

The old custom of preaching by the sand-glass has been revived in an English church. It needs turning every twenty minutes. It is stated that many old churches still have the highly wrought iron stands on which the hour-glass used to stand, mostly of the age of the Commonwealth.

There is something very singular in the incidents attending the death of Mr. Lyle, Chief Engineer of the Philadelphia Fire Department. On Saturday afternoon he was alone counting some money in his office, when he suddenly fell in his sitting posture, from an attack of apoplexy. All Saturday night, Sunday, and Sunday night, he sat there dead, holding some United States bonds and bills in his hand, and not till Monday morning was he found by the woman who came to sweep out the Office.

JOURNALISM IN JAPAN.—The people of the Sandwich Islands are just now extremely interested in Japan, as there is some prospect of a sugar trade springing up between the two countries. This interest seems to be reciprocated. The official journal at Honolulu says:—

"We saw, last week, among other articles from Japan, which arrived by the Comet, three numbers of a Japanese newspaper, published in Kanagawa. They were in book form—each number containing some forty pages of closely printed matter, no doubt interesting and instructive to the Japanese public.—There is a division of the matter, apparently into appropriate heads—the commercial and shipping being headed by a wood cut of a small steamer; the foreign news by an elaborate cut of the ocean steamers of the China line; and Agriculture by a horse or a pig, and so on. In one of the numbers appears an article on target shooting, which is illustrated by a set of mathematical lines showing the course of the bullet to the target. The editor is evidently describing to his readers the rules and practices of correct shooting, and the manner of holding the rifle, as another illustration shows the amateur with his piece in hand. The numbers also contain articles upon Hawaii. These are quite lengthy, and we are told treat upon our geographical position, productions, people, and other topics relating to our Islands."

Gen. Garibaldi had by letter expressed his thanks to the citizens of Glasgow for the sympathy they have shown with the cause of Italian nationality. The General strongly advocates peace upon the earth, but he consistently holds the opinion that the only lasting state of affairs in the Papal States, and especially in Rome, which he regards as the rightful capital of Italy.

An experiment has been made upon the steam fire engines in Detroit showing that by keeping hot water in the boiler steam can be generated and water thrown in four minutes. With cold water it requires about eight minutes.

ANOTHER EPOCH ARDEN CASE.—At the beginning of the war, as we learn from a Rochester, N. Y., paper, two young men residing in that city were very warm friends. One of them was married, but went to the war, previously exacting from his friend a promise that should he fall in battle the friend would marry his wife, and give her a permanent home and support. With this assurance the wife was provided for, the soldier went to the war. After a while report came that he was killed in battle, and his wife mourned for her lost husband. He did not return, at all events, even at the end of the war, and after a due space was given to mourning, the promise given to the absent and supposed to be deceased soldier was fulfilled; the widow became the wife of the husband's friend, and their joy was crowned by the birth of a handsome boy, on which the parents doted. A short time since the long absent soldier reappeared, explained the reason of his long absence, and claimed his wife. The second husband was loth to surrender his wife, who was the mother of his child also; and he declined to give her up. The question as to which had the best right to the woman was submitted to a legal tribunal, and on the last day of 1867, the court decided that the first marriage was binding, and the wife must pass to the former husband—a decision which all parties are understood to abide. What becomes of the child is not stated, but of course the father will have the best right to its custody.

The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

The following is a special despatch to the New York Herald:—

NAPLES, Jan. 4.—The eruption of Mount Vesuvius, described some months since as becoming still more intensely grand, is just now quite alarming. The whole of the volcano is in violent action, and the flames issue not only from the old crater and many new openings, but it continues to blaze after its ejection. A slight subsidence of the volcano motion had taken place, and on Monday, the 9th of December, the mountain resumed almost its former position, the sides being covered to great extent with lava. A heavy, colored smoke issued from what the savans term the "smoke holes" old and new. Tuesday night, Dec. 10th, the eruption was resumed with great force and a mass of lava resembling a

solid rock was shot from the crater to a great height, and rolled down the sides of the great cone. A loud roar as of artillery was heard during the entire night. The mountain was veiled in darkness long after the hour of day advanced a strong wind sprang up from the north, and dispelled the gloom, and Mount Vesuvius has since been witnessed daily in its fiery grandeur. To day a perfect river of fire is seen to flow from the mountain, running in a westerly direction. The fiery flood is nearing the town of Cereola. The upheavings of the volcano are attended with shocks resembling those of an earthquake, and loud detonations as if a battery of heavy guns were in full play are heard.

Latest by Telegraph!

Florence, Jan. 15.

A large class of the Catholic population of Italy, which, since the consolidation of the kingdom under Victor Emmanuel, has steadily refused to recognize his Government by voting, has resolved to abandon its policy of inaction, and will take an active part in the next Parliamentary election.

London, Jan. 15.

It is reported that Lord Bloomfield, British Minister to Austria, and Lord Clarendon, have gone to Rome to request the Pope to use his influence with the inhabitants of Ireland for the suppression of Fenian agitation.

The aggressive policy of the Russian Government causes much alarm in Turkey. The Northern Post of St. Petersburg has a noticeable letter on the subject. The writer declares that Russia does not desire an extension of territory, and her only aim to secure the safety of the Christian subjects of the Porte.

The St. Petersburg Gazette asserts that both England and France have urged the Sultan to make extensive military and naval preparations in the Mediterranean.

The intelligence of the death of Maximilian was for the first time communicated to Carlotta four days ago. The effect of the announcement upon the mind and health of the Archduchess is not known.

London, Jan. 16th.

Considerable excitement was occasioned in this city to-day by the announcement that Fenian Deasey, who, with Kelly, was taken from the custody of the police at Manchester some weeks ago had been captured. The police late yesterday afternoon overhauled a man near Waterford, Ireland, who answers completely the description of Deasey. There are other strong circumstances with these which warrant the belief that the authorities have not been mistaken. The prisoner, under a strong guard, started for Manchester this morning, where he will be confined with the fellow-prisoners of Deasey for recognition. The Government officials are very vigilant. Yesterday p. m. two Americans named Barrett and O'Neill, were arrested at Glasgow and imprisoned. Papers found on their person indicate beyond doubt that they belong to Fenian organization. The motion recently made in the Court of Queen's Bench for a change in the place of the trials of the Fenians Burke, Casey, Shaw, and Mulloney from Warwick to London is likely to be granted.

London, Jan. 17.

Information has been received here that a very violent hurricane recently prevailed at Tenerife and vicinity. Ships were driven to sea, houses unroofed and blown down, and damage very great, though no mention of loss of life.

Cork, Jan. 17th.

A viol of explosive fluid known as Greek fire was thrown instantly at one of the witnesses for the Government in the Fenian trials here, but the material failed to ignite, and no injury was done. No clue has been obtained to the perpetrator.

Dublin, Jan. 17.

At the examination of Lennon yesterday, Sergt. Kelly, the survivor of the two Policemen, who were shot at Sheepshead, and a woman both swore that they fully recognized the prisoner as the man who fired the pistol shots which wounded one policeman and killed another.

London, Jan. 18th.

When the Cunard steamship Scotia from New York for Liverpool entered the port of Queenstown last evening for the usual transfer of the London and Irish passengers and mails, a strong Police force quietly went aboard and arrested Mrs. George Francis Train, Grinnel and Gow, three of the passengers who sailed from New York. It is understood that these gentlemen were taken into custody on a charge of being active members of the American wing of the Fenian organization. These proceedings naturally enough cause considerable excitement both here and elsewhere throughout the Kingdom and especially among the American residents.

The Prussian Diet has passed a bill for a Railway loan of fifty millions of thalers. The party of the left has been defeated in the Italian Parliament on a motion to adjourn the debate on the Budget for this year.

Count Sartigas, the French Ambassador to Rome, attended the New Year fete of Francis, the ex-King of the two Sicilies.—Pleasant speeches were made and there was much feeling.

A strict search of the person and baggage of George Francis Train disclosed no proofs of complicity with the Fenian movement, or justifying his arrest by the British Police on suspicion of being concerned in Fenian plottings. Train asserts he came over to England as the special correspondent in Ireland of the New York World. He has formally protested through the U. S. Consul against his detention, and declares that he was arrested upon no other ground of suspicion than the finding of an Irish paper in his trunk.

Montreal, 18th.

Great distress is reported among the working classes of Quebec. The Montreal Board of Trade met to-day to devise means of relief.

London, Jan. 19th.

The Police of Limerick have made a seizure of guns and ammunition found in the shops of that city, to put them out of the reach of the Fenians.

Dr. Waters, another Editor of the Dublin Irishman, has been arrested, but the particular charge is not stated. It is supposed, however, to be complicity with the Fenian movements.

Mike Manat, who it is now chimed is positively known to be the party who fired the fuse at the Clerkenwell explosion, has been arrested at Glasgow and brought to London in irons.

A man named Clancy has been arrested in this city charged with firing upon the Police.

A Fenian manifesto was found this morning posted on the wall of the "Mansion House," where it had been affixed despite the vigilance of the police, who have no clue to the perpetrator of this daring act.

Kulin has been appointed Austrian Minister of War.

The remains of the late Emperor Maxi-

milian arrived at Vienna on the 18th by special train from Trieste, in charge of a military escort.

The train was met upon its arrival by the Austrian officials, a large body of troops and a vast crowd of people who had assembled to give expression to their respect for the dead and their sympathy with the living. The remains were formally received by the Imperial Family at the Palace. The manifestation of popular feeling is general and intense.

Montreal, Jan. 20th.

Further developments in regard to Henry, the liquor dealer, who absconded to the States show that the loss to the Customs through his operations amount to \$120,000. A portion of his cellar was set apart as a bonded warehouse, and it is supposed that he drew liquor by means of a suction pump, disposing of it in the ground floor, subsequently substituting water for liquor. There are nearly two hundred similar bonded warehouses in this city, and some reform in this system is loudly called for.

Washington, Jan. 14.

The Senate yesterday, by a vote of 55 to 6, adopted the following: "Resolved, That the Senate do not consent to sustain the President in his suspension of Edwin M. Stanton as Secretary of War."

Globe 1204.

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1868.

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

SWINDLING.

CIVILIZATION has brought in its train particular and concomitant evils. It found man in a savage state, living in caves and dens, unacquainted with the higher delights of society, and writhing under the cruellest tyrannies; it has put him in possession of arts and sciences; has built him towering palaces and cities, and has evolved from him humane and enlightened forms of Government. But it has in its very midst social and moral sores for which it affords no remedy—for such a panacea we must look to the benign influence of Christianity. Despite all its pomp and polish it nurtures in its bosom hideous crimes and horrid vices. True, they may be to civilization as warts or wens to the body, still they draw their nourishment from it, and could not exist without it.

Man in a state of civilization does not indulge in the physical cruelties peculiar to barbarism, but has recourse to subtle and more refined modes of inflicting pain, yet none the less aggravated,—being "the iron hand in the silken glove." Civilization has interdicted bodily torture, but indirectly supplies weapons with which to pierce and wound the spirit.

Nor yet has man when under its influence recourse to open and lawless spoliation as in days of yore, still we have the most systematic fleeing and swindling practiced upon the honest and industrious. The man who has labored patiently in the paths of honest industry to acquire enough of this world's goods to support his family and keep him from want in his declining years, is often beggared by having all he possessed suddenly wrested from his hands by the intrigues of some graceless knave. Every large town in the civilized world not only swarms with individual speculators in fraud, but has its clubs and societies that study and follow cheating as a fine art, and whose members fatten on the acquisitions of their vicious and criminal calling. They prosecute their trade in the most indefatigable and persevering manner. Every day we have revelations of new and more artistic modes of operation. With the eye of a connoisseur they single out their victims, and their modes of attack are planned and carried into execution, with a foresight and generalship worthy of a better cause. In order to elude suspicion they manoeuvre long and plausibly with the wary man of money; prettily attending to all the details of politeness, and manifesting the strictest punctuality in the minutest business transactions, until a suitable moment arrives to make a *dép*. Again they make bold and merciless raids upon the purses of the credulous and unsophisticated. There is not a nook nor cranny of the world where there is anything to be obtained by fraud, but what is smarting under the machinations of these pests of society. They brave all dangers, act every conceivable character, and assume all the contortions of the sibil, in order to effect their purposes.

Notwithstanding our much vaunted honesty and simplicity, we have to deplore that we have of late somewhat too frequently produced from among ourselves no mean amateurs in the art of swindling. Men who engage in mercantile and commercial transactions, finding that the just profits of trade neither realized their brilliant dreams of wealth nor keep pace with their irrepressible strivings for gain, pocket all the money they can get a hold of either by foul or fair means, flee their country, and leave their creditors and dupes to comfort themselves over empty coffers. Nor do our isolation and pecuniary unimportance protect us from foreigners of this stamp. No sooner are the barriers of ice removed from our harbors, and the first steamer arrives, than we are infested with these bronzed money-catchers. They sometimes operate in particular localities; at other times they travel over the whole country, each playing his own favorite way of extorting money from the unsuspecting; and all of them speculating immensely on our credulity and love of the marvellous. Some will insinuate themselves into the good graces of the public under the pretence of developing some latent resources of trade in our country. As a catch-penny, one will be armed with some lately published book, the merits of which he will elaborately detail to us, with a volubility perfectly astounding; invariably representing it as a proved remedy for the most chronic ignorance. One will assail us to purchase

tickets for lotteries, which, if we believe his story, by paying a mere trifle we may be instantly translated from poverty to affluence. Another will sound in our ears the praises of a universal medicine, which was obtained by the incantations of some magic art, and in the many thousand cases in which it was tried, having failed only often enough to prove its unrivalled virtue. But it is beyond our ability to point out the innumerable means and agencies they make use of to become possessed of the almighty dollar. Through their importunity we too often subscribe for these things; and when we get them, we generally find the book to be a trumped up affair, with gaudy covers to entrap the curious; the lottery a sham and an imposition, and the medicine a piece of unmitigated quackery.

All such men merit the outspoken denunciation of every honest member of society; for when we encourage them we are lending the support to vagabondism which is justly due to our men of business; encouraging scoundrels who are too lazy to work as other men, and have to little principle to be honest. Let us in future not be gulled by their siren speech nor spurious and dazzling promises.

THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE meeting of the Legislature ought not to be looked forward to as the time for sending in petitions praying for appropriations of money for Roads, Bridges, Wharfs, or any other public use. The initiation of money votes is now very properly vested in the Executive, and all such petitions should be forwarded to the office of the Colonial Secretary this month. We know that such has not always been the case, and as a result, sometimes petitions are sent to the members of the House when the Legislature is in session. It may be that in some instances people are not aware of the position in which they may thus place their representatives. The Government may have arranged their appropriations in accordance with the Revenue at their disposal;—a claim, and it may be an important one may come in, to attend to it may disarrange the whole scale of appropriations as agreed to, and cause much more trouble than many suppose; and not to attend to it, especially if the Representative is a supporter of the Government, may be to place him in an unfavorable view before his friends,—indeed we have known such to be the case.

We are pleased to see that the people of Crapaud are up and doing, and are glad to notice that a public meeting has been held "for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessary improvement of Crapaud harbor." Nothing gives us more pleasure than to see proper and timely attention given to any local improvement which aims at a general good, as we are sure will prove to be the case if our friends in Crapaud succeed in their laudable efforts. We are so constituted that no man can say that he is wholly independent of his fellow man, on the contrary, every man from his cradle to his tomb is dependant upon the aids derived from his fellow men; and the same is true of all branches of trade and industry. The one is more or less dependant upon the other. None can do alone. Our Island is not large, but it is capable of improvement. Let every one then, we say, cheerfully aid in every legitimate way he can, any movement or enterprise calculated to promote the interests of trade and commerce, no matter in what nook or corner of our land the movement is made.

The people of Crapaud in their resolution, which will be found in this day's issue, says that "the dredging of Crapaud harbor has failed to afford the facilities for shipping that were anticipated." We confess this takes us by surprise. We approved of the action of the people and Legislature, with respect to the dredging of Crapaud harbor, and are sorry to hear that the hopes then formed have not been realized. Perhaps these were too high. We would be glad to know how far the dredging of that harbor has been a success. We know that many are of the opinion that it was quite a success, and would like if such efforts to improve small and shoal harbors could be extended; but if the operations in that direction at Crapaud have been unsatisfactory, other means for improving them will have to be adopted. We hope to hear from some of our friends on the subject.

TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

WITH Telegraphic Communication once established in any community, it very soon comes to be, not merely a public convenience, but a public necessity,—one which commercial men, the press and some others can no more think of dispensing with than with the services of a regular mail carrier. The all but periodical inconvenience to which the public are being subjected by the frequently recurring accidents which are so often happening to the sub-marine cable which connects this Island with the main land, seems to imply the necessity of laying down a second one.

The place from whence another should extend is of no consequence to the public, but as the nearest point to the neighboring Province was chosen for the first, it is probable that the next nearest will be selected for the laying of the second. From the West Point to Richibucto is but a few miles further than from Cape Traverse to Cape Tormentine; and as the West Point has a soft sandy bottom, and similar ground can be found on the opposite shore at a convenient point, it is probable this place will yet be selected from which to extend a second.

We are not aware whether the telegraphic operations of the Company on this Island is paying or not; but as the "New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company" alone have the right to lay down any Cable for such a purpose, we do think, all things considered, that the Company in honor owe to this Colony a second cable, and we do hope that it will be laid next summer.

We have been requested to publish a letter that appeared in the last Patriot, written by Mr. Simon Fraser, which is a reply to one recently published in the same paper, alleged to have been written by a "Son of Temperance," who complained of not being able to find a Temperance Hotel in Charlottetown. The letter is too lengthy for us to insert it, but we very cheerfully endorse its sentiments, and give our humble testimony to the manner in which the "ROCKLIN HOUSE" is conducted. We have frequently had occasion to put up at Mr. Fraser's, and we have always received the greatest attention and kindness from both him and his partner. We have found his table well spread, his rooms clean and beds comfortable, and his house a temperate one in the strictest sense of the term. For our horse we have always found a good stable, and a boy to care for him. More than this we believe no reasonable man would ask. It is a pity that such a house as Mr. Fraser's, and similar ones kept by others in Charlottetown, do not receive more encouragement. But people will grow wiser by and bye, and so will a "Son of Temperance" too, perhaps, before he again rushes into print.

THE cry of "hard times" seems to come from all parts of the United States. A friend of ours writing us from Deer Isle, Me. inc. says:—"The times here are very dull,—not much doing in the way of business, and money scarce. The Railroad business appears to be the chief topic in the State just now. In political matters things remain about the same. General Grant is talked of as a candidate for the next Presidency. The weather was very rough here through December, but this month, January, has been very pleasant, and good sleighing."

THE "Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal" comes to us in an entirely new form and dress. It is now printed in a pamphlet form, giving 16 pages of very choice religious and secular reading. It is an excellent family paper, and we would advise those who may be desirous of obtaining such a religious Journal, to at once subscribe for it. The price is \$2.50 per year in advance. Persons wishing to subscribe can leave their address and money with us and we will forward it.

THE case of John Haszard, Esq., vs. the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, was tried on Thursday last. A verdict was given for the plaintiff to the full amount claimed, with interest.

George Nicoll, who skedaddled from this Island last summer, has opened up a large hotel in San Francisco. That's the way the money goes.

WE are informed that Oats are selling in Charlottetown for 3s. 13d. per bushel. We pity those who will have to buy their seed next spring.

Trotting matches are advertised to take place on the ice in Charlottetown harbor, every second Friday, commencing next Friday.

Mr. James R. McEwen, of Morrell, is in the field as a Candidate for Legislative honors, against Edward Rieley, Esq., for the second district of King's County.

We have had all kinds of weather during the past week. Snow, rain, a thaw and now hard frost. A strange country this.

The "Canadian" for January has just come to hand. It is well filled with very interesting matter.

The lines sent us by "M. S." will appear next week.

The Legislature of New Brunswick will assemble on the 13th of February.

Public Meeting at Crapaud.

Pursuant to public notice, a large and influential meeting took place in the new Hall at Crapaud on New Year's Day, for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessary improvements in Crapaud Harbor, and more especially for deciding upon a suitable site from which to extend a public wharf. The meeting was largely represented from Lots 28, 29, 30 and 67. The undersigned having been called to the chair, the meeting entered into the discussion of the matter, in which Messrs. E. Locke, D. McQuarrie, Wm. and Richard Len, Wm. Dawson and others took a prominent part. D. Cameron, Esq., one of the Representatives of the District, being also present, spoke in favor of the contemplated project; after which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz:—

1st. Moved by Mr. E. Locke, seconded by Mr. Alex. McKay— Whereas the dredging of Crapaud Harbor having failed to give the facilities to shipping that were anticipated, and the present condition of the Harbor being such as to admit of only a small class of schooners loading at the wharves, thereby subjecting the country to serious loss and inconvenience, and retarding the general trade and progress of the community, Resolved, That in order to meet the growing requirements of our trade, and place Crapaud in a position to compete with its sister ports, it is necessary to construct a Bridge connecting Victoria with Sandy Point, and thence extend a wharf into an arm of the Bay, a distance of one mile, where a sufficient depth of water can be obtained for the accommodation of a steamer and general shipping.

2nd. Moved by Mr. Donald McQuarrie, seconded by Mr. Francis Malone— Resolved, That, taking into consideration the embarrassments to our trade, resulting from the inefficient state of our Harbor, and the very great and serious losses sustained by this vast community in the absence of the necessary accommodation for a large class of ships; and being also compelled to pay a heavy export tax to which no other port in this Island is subject, we earnestly solicit the grave attention of the Executive Government in our behalf, and also that an application be made to the General Legislature of this Island for a special grant in favor of the improvements mentioned in the first Resolution.

3d. Moved by Mr. Charles Harrington, seconded by Mr. James Gorman.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the Executive Government in our behalf, with a request that the others will please copy.

WILLIAM INMAN.

Jan. 13, 1868.

Summerside Debating Society.

The subject for last Monday Evening's debate—"Should a Decimal System of Currency be adopted in P. E. Island in preference to that now in use?"—was opened by Lemuel Vickerson, Esq., who spoke in favor of adopting a Decimal system, not only on account of the facility with which calculations can be performed in it, but also of the convenience of having our currency assimilated to that which now prevails in the whole of British North America. After the question was discussed, it was decided in the affirmative.

The subject for next Monday evening will be—"Would Woman's Suffrage be a desirable Reform?"

ALEX. McRAE, Sec'y.

Summerside, Jan. 29, 1868.

The Hon. Peter Mitchell, who recently returned from Ottawa to his home in New Brunswick, met with a most enthusiastic reception on his return. On his arrival at Chatham, escorted by a number of sleighs, he was most enthusiastically received, and passing on to Newcastle, where he resides, an arch of over-ripe straw, surmounted with flags bearing appropriate mottoes, were displayed, and in the evening Mr. Mitchell was entertained at dinner at Witherell's Hotel.