

# The Examiner.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND NEWS.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

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### The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 7, 1867.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

#### THE CLOUD AND PILLAR OF FIRE IN THE WILDERNESS.

Under the cool refreshing shade  
Cast by the moving cloud,  
The wand'ring sons of Jacob strayed,  
One vast commingled crowd.

Fathers and children, joined with men,  
Their voices high to raise.  
From mountain, plain, or verdant glen,  
In tuneful songs of praise.

Thousands of cattle pastured near,  
And numerous fleecy flocks,  
Whilst savage beasts in abject fear  
Fled to the distant rocks.

For God's own Angel, always by,  
Had man and beast in charge,  
And safe, beneath his watchful eye  
The cattle roamed at large.

And when the sun his beams withdrew,  
The cloud ascended higher,  
And then to the admiring view,  
Burst forth in flaming fire.

Before the camp the column bright  
Moved onward, or stood still,  
And poured around its brilliant light  
O'er tented plain or hill.

And all along their journey through  
The cloud each day returned,  
And thus fresh herbage freely grew  
Where all was parched and wended.

Thus power and love did ever shine  
To cheer the wand'ring crew,  
And nightly shone the guardian fire  
O'er all that desert land.

And thus, poor weary soul, may you  
Who dread some coming ill,  
Your onward journey still pursue,  
For God is with you still.

When faint, and sinking by the way  
With Jonah you complain,  
The cloud shall intercept the ray  
And shroud the arid plain.

And when the evening shades prevail,  
And earth is lashed in night,  
Lest faith and courage too should fail  
The pillar lead its light.

L. C. J.

January, 1867.

#### THE OLD YEAR.

"Quærens ubi sit quædam velox orbit, ut que  
madidanda tempora vices, ita morum,  
revertatur."  
TACITUS.

So wrote the great Analyst of Rome, and to  
the same effect wrote greater and wiser  
than he, long ages ago. Rome was the  
nativity of all things human is so true a  
subject—as from the commencement of man's  
sojourn upon earth been so brought home to  
the consciences of all, not of those only who  
"Have walked the earth  
In poets, heroes, martyrs, sages,"

but of those who have gone down  
"To the vile dust from which they sprang  
Unwept, unremembered, and unnamed,"

that any allusion to it, in a secular journal,  
might be considered inappropriate, save in a  
review of some of the occurrences which have  
made their marks upon the not inconsiderable  
segment of the allotted three score years and  
seven, known to Chronology as the year 1866.

As Spring is succeeded by Summer—as summer  
gives place to the pleasing melancholy of  
Autumn—as mighty Winter closes the cycle,  
bidding expressive silence muse His praise who  
called them to their separate functions—so it  
is with the rise, progress and decay of men  
and nations. The alternations of morn, noon  
and night, and the mutations in the physical  
constitution of the human body, from the help-  
lessness of infancy to senile decrepitude, and  
"the last stage of all," point the same moral  
and illustrate the same fact.

Not only to nature and her works is the law  
of mutation confined; to the government of  
nations, to their laws and customs, even to  
morals and religions, it is allied. Attached too  
warmly to monarchy, mankind have been hap-  
py in the consideration of their position as  
three machines made but for obedience to the  
behests of their Sovereign, for direction by his  
will, for guidance by his authority. The wheel  
revolves, the cry of execration against regal  
right is raised, and the new doctrine that each  
may make laws for himself shatters the tenets  
of the believers in the "right divine of kings."  
Republican Greece becomes a theatre of petty  
sovereignties, and the Royalty of Ancient  
Rome is merged in a fierce democracy, which  
in its turn finds its grave in a despotic Empire.  
The political code of to-day is the subject of  
ridicule for to-morrow's philosophers; and  
ideas which are wafted this year, on the cur-  
rent of popular opinion, as embodying the best  
and highest system of policy, will soon be  
"Two and a half years,"

against the wind.  
The religion which sanctified, the science  
which elevated, the literature and arts which  
glorified the regions of the East, have long left  
their original habitation a prey to ignorance  
and superstition, and the "chosen people"  
have endured

"Long years it tries the thrilling frame to bear—  
Long years of outrage, calumny and wrong,  
Since

While they were exiles from their fathers' graves,  
The blood adorned bow on Sima's steep."  
Having no time nor inclination to notice  
in the order of their occurrence the prominent  
events of the past year—a course not essential  
to our object, as they have been chronicled  
and commented on in our pages from time to  
time, while they severally had the interest of  
novelty—we shall introduce them as memory  
recalls them, and dismiss them in the spirit of  
Lady Macbeth's conduct towards her guests,  
when she bids them

"Stand not upon the order of their going  
But go at once."  
and more so, as most of them are able to ourselves,  
and more so, as most of them are able to ourselves,

which, more than any other, is suggestive of  
peace on earth and good will to men, we will  
refer to the successful submerging of the At-  
lantic Cable of 1866, and the recovery and re-  
suscitation of its drowned brother of the pre-  
ceding year.

When old Horace, in the plenitude of his  
love for his poet-friend about to coast along  
the shores of the Adriatic in a Roman galley,  
denounced the impious hardihood of the wretch  
who first dared to violate the lawful majesty of  
the *Non tangenda nota*, his imagination, as well  
as his philosophy, would have been sorely  
tasked by the prophetic vision of the then il-  
limitable great sea, being made the means of  
uniting in instantaneous lightning communi-  
cation an unknown world to the land of the  
savages separated from the rest of mankind.

"Galley to whom we trust, on thy parole,  
Our Virgil, mark,  
Thou bear him on thy bosom,  
Safe to the land of Greece, for half my soul,  
Oh gallant bark,  
Were lost, if I should lose him."

When Gray wrote that  
"Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear,"  
it had not been given to the science, theoreti-  
cal and mechanical, of his day and generation,  
to afford to the muse themes so worthy of the  
highest poetry, and so calculated to elicit it as  
these cables and their scientific precursors.

Much, as all men know, has been said and  
sung, as to the marvels of the printing press,  
the steam engine, the electric telegraph, and  
as to the changes they had wrought and were  
still destined to effect in the various mutual  
relations of individuals and of nations; but  
according to each the full merit of the praises  
they have received, we see in the practical  
success of the great Atlantic Cables the cul-  
minating glory of them all—the key stone of  
the arch which they have raised—the Corin-  
thian capital of the column of which they form  
the constituent parts, at once the ornament  
and highest stone of the pillar—the statue of  
Pygmalion animated by fire from heaven.

That it had been reserved for Britain and  
her great offspring to have thus annihilated time  
and space, and made their inhabitants for all  
purposes of communication one country, should  
be, and, to reflecting minds will be, the  
proudest fact in the contemporary history of  
each—that the unconquerable energy and con-  
fidence in his views, manifested by an Ameri-  
can, has been justified by the results,—that those  
results have been obtained by the liberal co-  
operation of the science and wealth of Britons,  
is, in the highest degree, honorable to both  
countries; and no paltry spirit of international  
jealousy should ever, with its skeleton appari-  
tus, disturb the amicable feelings of the  
people of the countries whose children have  
wrought this last and greatest wonder of the  
world.

The actual truth, that, far down below  
the influence of the wildest elemental roar—  
far beneath the sound of the thunderstroke—  
of the huge Leviathans of human hostility,  
the electric wire pursues its peaceful mission  
of transmitting the varied communications of  
millions of human beings—far transcends in  
poetry of sentiment aught that the genius of  
the most gifted has yet given to the world; and  
one would hope and believe that the bad  
passions and worldly ambitions of the people  
of Britain and the United States would be  
stilled in contemplation of so glorious a prac-  
tical Union. It cannot be but that the con-  
tinual interchange of intelligence, public and  
private, will have its effect, if not in the im-  
mediate removal of acerbities between the two  
countries, at least in rapidly diminishing the  
probabilities of occasions of quarrel arising,  
of preventing any hasty action caused by im-  
perfect information, and of rendering more  
and more remote the occurrence of actual hostilities.

The flashing of the tiny spark, pregnant  
with intelligence, most soon has its value recog-  
nized in the better knowledge each country will  
have of the real sentiments of the other, and  
with the longer that the communication is un-  
interrupted the less will be the risk of future ces-  
sation of its beneficent operation; and as

"Time  
Has moulded into beauty many a tower  
Which, when it frowned with all its battlements,  
Was only terrible."  
we doubt not that many a question otherwise  
fraught with danger, will, on the frank and  
speedy discussion, the means of which are  
afforded by this submarine messenger, put off  
its warlike guise, and, for the club, assume the  
distaff of Hercules; and instead of causing  
bloody noses and cracked crowns, the powers  
that will betake themselves in process of  
time to the more peaceful occupation of  
spinning yarns.

Not only would the suspension of the cable's  
functions, by the abrupt cessation of so active  
and ever ready go-between inflict injury not to  
be estimated by figures on the United States  
and the British Islands, the whole of Europe,  
and much of Africa and Asia would have a  
direct national and personal interest in the  
maintenance of this source of knowledge, which  
rumors to and fro, and would lend their aid to  
prevent its interruption; or, if that were im-  
possible, to render such interruption as brief as  
possible.

These reflections naturally suggest a passing  
reference to the questions affecting the rela-  
tions of the mother country with the States,  
which have formed the subject of diplomatic  
correspondence between their respective Gov-  
ernments, and been matter of public comment  
by their presses during the past year. Our  
readers require not here a repetition of the  
account we gave at the time of the invasion by  
lawless hordes of the western frontier of  
Canada and the threatened raid into New  
Brunswick. We refer to them at present as  
having had a significance which subsequent  
events induce us to think they foreshadowed;  
but this idea we could not entertain at the time  
of their occurrence, as we were unwilling to  
believe that any Government, professing to  
possess the rights and to observe the obliga-  
tions of constitutional freedom, could have,  
to insure a temporary triumph of a party, des-  
cended to the baseness of giving encouragement  
to any portion of its citizens in carrying murder  
and robbery to the quiet hearths of unoffending  
neighbors. The folly and wickedness of the  
affairs to which we allude, were so apparent,  
that, in our notices of them, we treated them  
as they are, and not as the reckless mob,

incited to their unhallowed work by the in-  
terested promptings of unprincipled knaves.  
We were aware of, and made allowances for,  
the necessity under which a Government such  
as that of the States sometimes lies, of seeming  
to be blind to acts which are patent to the  
world, and were willing to take their *dilatant*  
interference with their Fenian friends as a  
reasonable vindication of that neutrality which  
they professed, it was their duty and their  
desire to preserve inviolate. Such was the  
spirit in which their conduct was viewed by the  
Press and Parliament of Great Britain; and the  
immediate discharge from custody of those  
who, by flying to an American national vessel,  
had realized that discretion was the better part  
of valor, and that a masterly retreat is of-  
ten more advantageous than a successful  
advance, was not regarded in any strange light  
than a politic act of forbearance on the part  
of Executive Jonathan towards a large section  
of his political supporters. It was thought that  
the miserable termination of the attack upon  
Canada, coupled with the official discountenance  
of it by the American Government, with the  
liabilities under which the captured Fenians  
found themselves to the outraged justice of  
Canada, would allay the rampant nonsense  
which had at length brought forth such rampant  
crime. But the Government which hung, by  
virtue of the summary process of a Military  
Commission, the men who murdered the late  
Abraham Lincoln, and a woman whose com-  
plicity in the horrid crime was never proved,  
and was, and is still doubted—could have the  
assurance of interposing and deprecating on  
behalf of murderers as foul as ever polluted a  
gibbet, the consequences of guilt ascertained,  
and by an excited tribunal of Military partisans  
after a patient and thorough investigation in a  
civil court, where the accused had the benefit  
of the ablest of counsel, the careful decision by  
a learned Judge of all legal questions arising,  
and the calm and dispassionate opinion as to  
their guilt or innocence of twelve men sworn  
to do justice. The excuse for this modest  
application was that the offence of wanton  
murder was "eminently political." Well,  
Jefferson Davis has lingered on his weary days  
in prison without being brought to trial, and  
the air of the Northern States has long re-  
echoed frantic cries for his blood. His offence,  
it may be so considered, was "eminently  
political." Mrs. Surratt was hung without proof  
of having committed any wrong, political or  
otherwise. Yet other nations found it not con-  
sistent with their duties to interfere. But a  
menace was implied in the official appointment  
of a person to watch the courses of the trials  
on the part of the American Government. The  
impudence of such a request, and the polit-  
ical motive which prompted it, are visible at  
a glance. No such request was necessary, as  
any person conducting himself with decency  
can have access to a British court of justice  
without previous licence—subject to the usual  
restriction, that there should be room for the  
valuable person to stand or sit in. The motive  
wherein the appointment originated is trans-  
parent—the intention was to delude the foolish  
Fenians, still unwip of justice, into the idea  
that the Government would not allow the laws  
of Canada to be enforced on the persons of the  
imprisoned liberators. These suspicions, shrewdly  
entertained by some of the journalists of the  
States, have received confirmation strong by  
the revival in an offensive manner of the claims  
for losses inflicted upon Northern commerce  
by the *Alabama* and the other Confederate  
cruisers during the civil war, and this at a  
time when the Republic is one seething mass  
of internal strife—when Stephens, after re-  
peating public declarations of his intention of  
leading in Ireland ere the expiration of the  
year—when the British Government is in pos-  
session of information which justifies it in adopt-  
ing extra measures of defence—when an un-  
usually large squadron of American men-of-war,  
with the formidable *Miantonomah* among them,  
is, or was, a few days since, in Portuguese  
waters, their destination not made public—  
seems to render it probable that the party  
ruling at Washington, having been signally  
defeated at the recent elections, may have  
resolved to bid for the retention of the reins of  
power by diverting the popular feeling from  
the consideration of their domestic policy into  
the channel of a foreign war, in the excitement  
of which mere party questions would be lost  
sight of. This opinion, we give, oh reader!  
without prejudice to our remarks on the pacifist  
tendencies of the Cable, for we save ourselves  
from the charge of inconsistency by alleging  
that there has not been time for its good results  
to make themselves felt.

"polished perturbation, golden care,  
That kept the pores of slumber open wide  
To musing a wateful night."

The former factions, which, for years, had rent  
Mexico until its political life had become a very  
byword among nations, for once united in  
common opposition to the stranger monarch  
and receiving the moral, and, we have no doubt,  
immortal support of the great and grasping  
Republic, which, from the immediate north  
casts its portentous shadow over the future  
destiny of their country, assumed a position  
of active hostility to the new regime, or in sullen  
inactivity left the foreign soldiers to defend  
that throne for which no native sympathy was  
felt. Confronted by the open and avowed re-  
solution of the United States not to recognize  
the new order of things—helpless without the  
active co-operation of France, the withdrawal  
of which, within a certain period had been stipu-  
lated, the unhappy sovereign sent his willing  
wife to impetrate from the Emperor of the  
French that assistance which alone could  
maintain him, even for a time, in the position  
in which the latter potentate had placed him.  
Unsuccessful in obtaining the object of her  
mission, she had to experience the bitter feel-  
ings consequent upon the humiliation of her  
husband's house by the result of the brief but  
bloody war which drove Austria out of Ger-  
many and gave up historic Venetia to the ar-  
dent longings of Italy. Overwhelmed by this  
combination of misfortunes, and wisely not  
allowed to sink her private fortune in the vortex  
of her husband's wreck, the reason of the un-  
happy lady reeled from its throne; and, fallen  
from her high estate, she became personally  
the object of those feelings, which, from the  
sovereign to his meanest subject, makes the  
whole world kin.

The war to which we have alluded will be  
memorable in the history of Europe on several  
accounts. In a campaign of less than a fort-  
night's duration, it changed the political map  
of Europe, laid a mighty empire prostrate at  
the feet of one of the combatants, and com-  
pelled the other to purchase such peace as the  
victor might accord, at such price as that victor  
might demand. Austria had hardly taken the  
field when she saw her last hold upon Germany  
wrested from her grasp—those German powers  
which had given in their adherence to her  
cause, in her enemy's power as helplessly as  
insects in the mailed hand of an armed man, and  
Italian Venetia—the Queen of the Adriatic—  
rendered up to augment the dominions of the  
King of Italy—of him whose soldiers and whose  
soldiers her own land and sea forces had over-  
whelmingly defeated whenever they were en-  
gaged during the short but decisive struggle.  
Although Victor Emmanuel was so great a  
gainer by the war—although so large and  
valuable a portion of the spoils fell to his share  
—we have it on record that on land his fan-  
tary was worsted in every encounter with that  
of Austria—that his cavalry "fell or fled across  
the plain" before the charge of their foes; and  
the fiery naval battle of Lissa, though main-  
tained by the Italians with a courage truly  
heroic, was won from them by a force  
numerically far inferior in men, ships and guns.

The reluctant cession of Venetia to France,  
instead of one of the hostile powers, deprived  
that act of Austria of the dignity which should  
accompany national misfortune. Had it been  
given up to Italy direct, such concession would  
have been the open and honest course, but by  
handing it over to a third party, Austria mark-  
ed to the world, or to that portion of it which  
is a *secretis* to the councils of Kings and Kaisers,  
a disposition akin to that of him who cannot  
bring his pride down to the level of his discom-  
fited condition, and seeks solace for his wound-  
ed feelings by paying, through the intervening  
agency of a friend, the penalty of his ill success.  
If Napoleon III. should have entertained for a  
moment the idea that his action in receiving  
and transferring the territory in question would  
have given him even a pretext for obtaining  
the Rhine a boundary for France, his illusion  
must have been rudely dispelled when the  
arch spirit of diplomacy, Bismarck, informed  
him that his suggestion for "a rectification  
of the boundaries of France" was simply inad-  
missible. Such a reply from Prussia to such  
a demand from Imperial France must have  
shown to the ruler and people of that country  
that she had fallen from that position relatively  
to other European powers which she held in  
the days when another Imperial Napoleon  
could utter the haughty threat that he would  
make the noble of Prussia beg their bread.  
That the present occupant of the throne of so  
high spirited a nation as France should receive  
so palpable a rebuff, on a question naturally  
important to the country, cannot but have  
great influence in the future policy of Europe.  
Irritating it must be to the French people,  
galling to their ruler, who, after having quiet-  
ly and *sub rosa*, abetted Prussia in her spoliation  
of Denmark, instead of a grateful friend,  
found that he had been but nourishing a ser-  
pent who stung him, as his reward.

France will doubtless take the first oppor-  
tunity affording reasonable grounds of success  
to efface the recollection of this scant courtesy,  
and Sadowa may ere long be counterbalanced  
by fields whereon her victorious eagles may  
soar in union with those of now stricken  
Austria.

The success of the Prussian arms is no doubt  
mainly attributable to the use of the needle-  
gun, and as by common consent, intensified by  
the recent practical proofs of their superiority,  
breach loading fire arms are the only ones  
available for modern warfare, European com-  
batants will, in future, meet on terms of greater  
equality than they did in the recent struggle.

The whole of the appliances and means for  
defeating God's images, when rulers rage, has  
of late years engaged so much of the practical  
and scientific knowledge of Europe and Am-  
erica, that we cannot shut our eyes to the possi-  
bility that so many and so powerful intellects  
have not been pursuing a

object in vain, and that the day is far distant  
when the sword will undergo its transformation  
into the ploughshare.

It is not improbable that the so-called Greek  
Question, the incubus of the diplomacy of  
Western Europe, may set the spark to the now  
slumbering elements of discord. The gradual  
but persistent decadence of European Turkey  
is patent to every observer of the signs of the  
times, and Russia regards her falling strength  
much as a greedy leech at law watches the de-  
creasing energies of a superannuated invalid,  
whose wretched lingering has kept him waiting  
too long for his inheritance.

The phrenzied outbreak of the Greek Chris-  
tians in Candia against their Mahomedan  
rulers, quenched though it has been in the blood  
of the insurgents, has had its origin attributed  
with much probability to Russian intrigue. Rus-  
sia wants, and some day will have, Constanti-  
nople and the Dardanelles; and if, by contrast-  
ing their present debasement with the former glories  
of the Grecian people, and appealing to the bond  
of a common Christianity, and still more, of a  
common denomination of Christians, she can  
involve the Infidel Sultan in conflicts with his  
Christian subjects, the effete Turk must retire  
from the site of the European conquests of  
Mahomet II. The avowed doctrine of non-in-  
tervention by Britain in European complications  
will have the bad effect of causing her remon-  
strances to fall unheeded on the ears of those  
to whom they may be addressed, as has been  
the case already with Russia, with Austria and  
Prussia; and this disregard of the opinion of a  
power which so long exercised a paramount  
moral force in the cabinets of Europe may in-  
duce a readiness to engage in hostilities, which,  
if her active interposition were expected to  
emerge upon the rejection of her advice, might  
not be entered upon.

The absorption by Prussia of Hanover,  
Saxony and the other German friends of Aus-  
tria, will give her, in any future continental  
struggle, an equality on land with her mighty  
neighbor, France; and it is better for the  
general peace of Europe that it should be so,  
for the forces of the two powers could sweep  
Europe from the shores of the Mediterranean  
to the heart of Russia. That such Union will  
take place is of course possible, but in our  
opinion it will only be occasioned by the pres-  
sure of some gigantic interest. Prussia has a  
long list of bitter memories of France, the  
legacy of the first Napoleon; and he it remem-  
bered that the Prussian might, during the long  
Napoleonic wars, showed itself very tenacious  
of the memories of disasters, and ardent to  
avenge them. Besides, there are no two peo-  
ples on the civilized globe who have less in  
common than the French and the Germans.  
The one fiery and voluble, able and ready to  
do and dare aught, so that it is done and dared  
quickly, laughing at death and glorying to  
seek

"the bubble reputation 'e'en in the cannon's mouth,"  
—Nævia virtus  
Stare loco, solusque pudor non vincere bello.  
Acce et indomitas, quo spes quoque ira vocasset,  
Ferre manum et nunquam terrorem parere  
fero."

The Teuton is the very reverse of this—contem-  
plative and much given to dream-land, patient  
and possessed of a dogged capacity of endurance,  
he seems almost intended by nature to  
suffer the vigorous attacks of the impetuous  
Frenchman, and to endure preliminary disaster,  
that his own peculiarities of temperament may  
be brought into exercise in the gradual but ef-  
fectual working of his active assailant.

Meanwhile the quiet which the news of  
the extinction of the Royalties of Germany was  
received by the rest of Europe was a charac-  
teristic of this most practical age. In a most  
sensible, but most undignified and eminently  
unregal spirit, he of Hanover quietly skee-  
daddled with all the contents of the public  
treasury; and, we presume, carried off his now  
useless diadem in his travelling bag. We trust  
that the symbol of royalty may be saved from  
the degradation predicted as the fate which  
awaited the regalia of Scotland at the time of  
the Union, when, of the Crown of that ancient  
kingdom, some ribald scribe, (may we suppose  
that in our days he would have been an anti-  
Confederate?) wrote that it would, horresco  
referens, be converted

"Into a can  
For Brandy Pan  
(Queen Anne of blessed memory!)  
To puke in when she's tipsy."

Spain, long a prey to civil strife, with finan-  
cial credit shaken in the money markets of  
Europe, her throne occupied by a sovereign  
who neither deserves nor receives the respect  
due to personal character, has contributed her  
quota to the history of the past year by a most  
cowardly and cruel bombardment of the de-  
fenceless city of Valparaiso, where the trophies  
of her prowess were exhibited in the shattered  
wrecks of private property. She essayed the  
same same game at Lima, from whose time-  
worn towers her ships were ignominiously re-  
pulsed. The original cause of quarrel was of  
that absurdly insignificant nature which could  
barely afford a pretence for the stronger power  
to oppress the weaker, with the object of  
diverting attention from internal misgov-  
ernment; and Spanish policy in the matter recalls  
the memory of the insublime Paterfamilias, who,  
finding his domestic arrangements by no means  
pleasant, hurried forth from his domicile, and  
seeing an unoffending dame stopping, with  
her back towards him, engaged in tying one  
of her shoes, saluted the poor girl with a brick,  
followed by the petulant exclamation, "D—n  
you, take that, you are always tying that  
shoe."

Britain has exhibited, during the year 1866,  
the advantages resulting to a nation from the  
adoption of liberal principles of commerce. In  
the face of an unprecedentedly high price for  
money, notwithstanding the failures of nume-  
rous banking and commercial houses for enor-  
mous amounts, such is the elasticity of that  
when it can pursue its natural course without  
undue restraints, that an augmented revenue  
under a diminished tariff confronts the prophets  
who could see nothing short of a complete de-  
range of the commerce of the country.

It has long since been said that history re-  
peats itself, and the agitation in England, for  
an extension of the electoral franchise, recalls  
to mind the state of public feeling on the subject  
years ago, when the first Reform Bill was strug-

gling into life. Like its predecessor, the Bill  
introduced by the late Government brought its  
parents to grief, and involved a change of  
Ministry; and public opinion welled up so  
strongly in its favor that opposition was over-  
whelmed, and the measure became the law of  
the land. The effect of that recognition of in-  
fluence exerted outside the polling booth is  
strikingly exemplified in the action of Parlia-  
ment on the present question. In the case of  
the first Bill, Ministers were defeated on the  
ground that no Reform Bill was required. The  
flames of Bristol and disturbances more or less  
serious, showed that the question of reform had  
permeated the masses far beneath the social  
strata which were to be immediately affected  
by it, and the Barons of England yielded to  
popular feeling. The other day, when Earl  
Russell's Ministry was defeated, and conse-  
quently resigned, there was not to be found  
among the six hundred and fifty-eight members  
of the House of Commons, a single *laudator  
temporis acti* hardy enough to propose a resolu-  
tion that no alteration was required. The  
force of public opinion, as yet unrepresented in  
the Legislature, was acknowledged, and the  
successors of the late Government are pledged  
as much as their opponents to a comprehensive  
addition to the electoral lists. That talented  
Quaker tribune, Mr. Bright, has been "wield-  
ing the fierce democracy" with a power which  
has stirred the mind of the nation to its ut-  
most depths. We admire his talents and his  
unflinching energy, but we must regret the im-  
pression which his public course has created in  
our mind, that his love of popularity should  
have induced him, intentionally or unconscio-  
usly, to array class against class. He would be  
far more serviceable to the cause of popular  
emancipation if he were less indiscriminate in  
his depreciation of the institutions of his coun-  
try; and it strikes us that his public statement  
on the floor of the House of Commons of his  
objection to attend the official dinners of the  
Speaker in the dress customary on such oc-  
casions, should have led his Quakerish to his  
logical conclusion—an open avowal of the *sans  
culotteism* of the orator.

At the time of the outbreak in Jamaica we  
gave our opinion as to the cause whence it  
arose, and the measures adopted for its suppres-  
sion, and we do not intend to repeat it here. That  
willful murder and unjustifiable barbarity were  
committed by some of the subordinate officers  
of Government, is undeniable,—that inex-  
perienced youths were entrusted with the awful  
power of taking the lives of their fellow-beings,  
with nothing but their excited feelings for tri-  
bunals—that in some cases even the rude tri-  
bunal of the court-martial did not interpose  
between the capture and execution of some of  
the blacks—are facts which are not denied,  
but have been admitted on the trials of some of  
those who have been tried for their acts dur-  
ing the brief and bloody trouble. We cannot,  
however, but think that ex-Governor Eyre has  
been harshly dealt with by the Government,  
and is being cruelly treated by a large and in-  
fluential portion of the people of England. For  
whatever acts he may have committed, which  
the

"Gentlemen of England  
Who live at home at ease,"  
may have considered unnecessary and unpopu-  
lar, the avowed contumace of the Government  
should have been ample satisfaction. That he  
should be dragged from the retirement of private  
life, at the instigation of a set of financial  
humanitarians, to be tried as a criminal for  
conduct which they cannot appreciate, in cir-  
cumstances unparalleled in their experience—is  
indicative of a spirit but that of fair play. If  
ever handed justice be the plea for this perse-  
cution of a fallen man, they who advocate it  
should reflect that the Government—the recog-  
nized guardian of the lives and liberties of all  
its subjects—had disposed of his case in all its  
bearings, and had imposed what, in his opinion,  
was adequate punishment for any indiscretion he  
had committed. But when did fanaticism ever  
reflect? We sincerely hope that a ready  
verdict of acquittal may cover, with shame and  
confusion of face, the persecutors of a brave and  
faithful public servant.

Last year will be long remembered for its  
numerous disasters by land and sea. Port au  
Prince, Quebec, Portland, Charlottetown and  
many other places have been fearfully scourged  
by fire. A tornado has wrought at Turks  
Island works of devastation the account of which  
reads more like the morbid conceptions of a  
disturbed dream than the actual effects of nat-  
ural causes; while the lives of those whom  
ocean has engulfed add an unusual number to  
the list of those who shall appear when the  
sea giveth up her dead.

We purposed to have brought to the notice  
of our readers many of the topics which de-  
serve a passing remark in this article; but we  
are restricted by certain limits of space and  
fears of certain limits of the patience of our  
readers, to whom, if they shall have followed  
us thus far, we wish every earthly happiness  
during the year 1867.

#### COUNTRY LIFE IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN THE PAST GENERATION.

"Here, too, dwell simple truth; plain innocence;  
Unstuffed beauty—sound, unbroken youth.  
Health ever blessing; unambitious toil;  
Calm contemplation, and poetic ease."  
THOMSON.

Those who live in an old country see in their  
life time but very few changes, either in the  
face of the country or in the manners and con-  
dition of the people. The country of their  
childhood is the country of their old age. Its  
hills and valleys, its streams and groves, pre-  
sent to them very nearly the same appearance  
as they did to their fathers and their grand-  
fathers. The villages and hamlets are very  
little altered in fifty or even in a hundred years.  
The very houses that sheltered their ancestors  
are now the dwellings of children's children.  
The wanderer returns gray-haired to the village  
which he left in the flush of youth, to find it in  
everything, except its inhabitants, very nearly  
in the condition which he left it half a century  
before. How different is all this from the new  
countries on this side of the Atlantic! Here a  
man cannot have lived to middle age without  
having witnessed many and great changes, not  
only in the general features of the country;  
but in the condition of the people, their habits

and manners, and even in their modes of ex-  
pression. He, who has attained old age has  
beheld even greater changes. In his boyhood  
he has seen the greater part of the country  
covered with the primeval forest. From every  
hill-top landwards nothing meets his eye but a  
vast unbroken sea of foliage, so dense as  
as almost to appear solid. Who that  
has travelled through this country thirty, or  
even twenty years ago, has not been struck by  
the sight of the immense expanses, rounded tree  
tops, so uniform in height, and so substantial  
in appearance as to look as if one might walk  
with safety over the dense masses of foliage.  
The settlements then consisted of a number of  
small cleared spaces cut out of the forest with  
great labour. The view from the settlers' log  
cabin was bounded on every side by an appar-  
ently impenetrable wall of forest. One or  
two fields, plentifully dotted with blackened  
and unsightly stumps, and surrounded by ir-  
regular fences, equally unsightly, formed the  
whole landscape. A small patch of sky, cor-  
responding to the size of the clearing, was all  
of the "spacious firmament" that the new  
settler could obtain a glimpse of. His nearest  
neighbor, though it may be only a few rods  
distant, might, as far as appearances were con-  
cerned, be fifty miles away. All those cheerful  
sights and sounds, so dear and familiar to the  
dweller of the thickly inhabited country, were  
shut out by the dense woods that separated  
him from his brother pioneer. These first  
settlers were lodged, fed and clothed in the  
rudest fashion. The hut had but one door,  
one window, and one room. Their food was  
course and often scanty, and not rendered  
palatable by any of the refinements of cookery;  
and their garments were either part of unsuit-  
able wardrobes which they were proud to  
enough to take with them from the Old Country;  
or the rougher fabrics of his new home,  
fashioned by the loving but unskilful hands  
of their wives and daughters.

Many are the stories told us by persons still  
living of the privations and shifts of these  
early settlers. The roads were mere bridle  
paths, whose direction was marked by blazed  
trees; carts, wagons and harness, were almost  
unknown; even ploughs were scarce, and those  
such as a modern farmer would not deign to  
use. Rough times were those for all—both  
for men and women, but particularly for the  
women, for in those times no small part of  
the field work fell to their share. To their or-  
dinary household work, and spinning and  
weaving, making and mending, there were  
added piling, hoing and reaping. This was  
owing to no want of tenderness, industry or  
manliness on the part of the men, but the  
planting and harvest seasons being very short,  
and the hoe and the reaping hook being the  
only farming implements in use, every hand,  
however tender, was wanted in raising  
food enough to last through the long months  
that were to elapse before the next harvest.  
As may be imagined, luxuries were almost  
unknown to those hard