MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE CONFEDERATE CONSPIRACY IN CANADA.

The Montreal *Advertiser*, a paper usually well informed on all matters connected with the affairs of the Southern States, gives the following particulars of the recent conspiracy, which, it now appears, *came very near* being a serious matter:—

"The expedition intended to effect the liberation of Confederate officers, prisoners on Johnston's Island, having failed, in order to remove the misapprehensions that may be created by Federal accounts of a Canadian plot to burn Western cities, *we give below* all the facts in which the public are interested, which may, we are assured, be implicitly relied on. The Washington government having refused to continue the exchange of prisoners of war under the cartel, sent the southern officers accustomed to a tropical climate to Johnston's Island, where 2,000 of them were confined in wretched quarters absolutely unfit to house cattle. There is no reason to doubt that the officers selected for this prison were those on whom the cold, damp climate and exposure would act most prejudicially. It was, in fact, an attempt to commit murder without publicly incurring the odium of slaughter. In these circumstances the Confederate government determined to make an attempt to rescue the doomed officers, for this purpose an expedition was fitted out, consisting of thirty-six officers under the command of one who had distinguished himself in similar dashing enterprises, and three hundred men. The officers embarked at Wilmington in the Confederate steamer R. E. Lee, and landed at Halifax. The cotton and tobacco brought by that steamer as freight were sold to furnish the funds required, amounting to about $110,000. The men came overland through the States, in small parties, to the general rendezvous. The intention was to surprise the Federal garrison on Johnston's Island, liberate the prisoners, convey them to Canada in vessels provided for the purpose, and forward them by Halifax to Nassau or Bermuda; the greater part of the funds being especially devoted to paying their passage to one of these points.

"Any further operations on the lakes were left to the direction of the officer in command, whose orders were stringent and peremptory to avoid a breach of British neutrality, and to take care that even the semblance of international wrong should be prevented. Had Johnston's Island been taken, it might have formed a base for other operations against Federal commerce on the lakes; but the real object of the expedition was to rescue two thousand valuable lives from the cruelty which had devoted them to slow but certain death in a climate and situation in the last degree inimical to them."

Had this conspiracy been successfully carcarried out, it would have been followed by the most serious consequences to these Provinces. The statement of the *Advertiser* that British neutrality was to be respected, and "even the semblance of international wrong prevented," is entirely inconsistent with the facts of the case. The fact of such an expedition being arranged on British soil, was itself an insult to British neutrality. Had it succeeded, had the 2,000 prisoners on Johnson's Island been liberated, they would be driven for shelter to the Canada side of the lakes. Here they would speedily be followed by the Federal forces. Confederate sympathisers among the Canadians would be involved in the trouble, hostile collisions would follow, the British troops in Canada would inevitably have a share in the play, and thus, almost before we could be aware of any impending danger, these Provinces would be plunged into all the horrors of a war between Britain and the United States. Indeed it is quite probable that in planning the expedition the Confederate authorities were actuated by a desire to bring about such a result quite as much as by the mere wish to rescue the prisoners on Johnston's Island. The people of British America have cause to congratulate themselves on the escape they have made from a danger so serious and alarming.

SCANDAL: LORD PALMERSTON.

For some days past rumours have prevailed in London of an extraordinary case, which is about to be tried in the Divorce Court. The petitioner is a person named O'Kane, "formerly of Brompton, and now of Commercial-road, London," while the co-respondent is said to be no less a personage than Lord Palmerston. It was asserted the other day, that the affair had been compromised, but the solicitor for the petitioner writes to the *Morning Star* that there is no foundation whatever for such a statement.

The following letter which appeared in the *Standard* of the 5th, will tend to throw some light upon the matter:—

"Sir—Having just read the 'sensation' leaders in your evening edition to-day, and in the 'Evening Star' of yesterday, under the above heading, I am compelled to break silence by declaring, as the solicitor for the respondent, that I believe the whole of the statements in the petition to be untrue, as my client solemnly declares them to be. As to the noble co-respondent, he is in highly-respectable hands, who are quite able to take care of their client's honour; and I should not have thought it necessary to say a word on behalf of the respondent but for the manner in which the case has been most unjustifiably canvassed on the faith of the mere filing of a petition, of which not one word has been or (as I believe) can be proved to be true. I have been always taught that common justice demanded an absence of comment on a case until after the trial. How has it been observed in this instance? Now, sir, in reference to your leader of to day, I would beg to ask you whether you can in any way justify your reference to the co-respondent as the 'hoary defendant?' The very words seem to assume guilt on his part. Then you say 'a respectable firm of solicitors vouch that the pending suit in the Divorce Court will, under no circumstances, be compromised.' Now, first, who are the respectable firm of solicitors? Are you aware, sir, that the 'firm,' otherwise the attorney to the petitioner, is the Mr. Wells who daily advertises relief 'To the Embarrassed' by means of the Court, in connection with a Mr. Weston, who I believe, is an accountant at the same address? Mr Wells advertises that he will obtain 'protection from £5, payable by instalments,' and 'without publicity!' Also, that 'divorce cases are confidentially conducted.' The present case seems 'confidentially' known to the whole world, as Mr. Wells at once rushed into print to inform the public that no compromise had been made in the case. Now, I should be glad to know what set the report of a compromise afloat at all? Most assuredly not the respondent nor her solicitor! She emphatically denies all the allegations in the petition; and Mr. Wells in his letter of denial, might and ought to have added that no compromise, or suggestion of a compromise, had come from him to the respondent or her advisers; she will quietly await the petitioner's exposure of himself when the case comes into Court. I have only to state in conclusion that the petitioner neither is a clergyman, as stated, nor (to use your words) does he wear the robes 'of the Christian ministry;' but, if I am not misinformed, he is now in the service of the Weston alluded to in Mr. Wells's daily advertising programme.

"I am, &c, CHARLES HORSLEY,
"Solicitor to the Respondent.
"2, Staple Inn, November 4."

A somewhat similar letter has been addressed to the *Morning Star*. The *Daily Telegraph* has the following remarks on the case:—

"One would think that, however bitter is envy, however hungry for place, the men who catch up a charge against a name honoured by all broad England would take care that the charge should rest before hand on very grave and well reputed sanction. What, then, is 'the respectable firm which vouches about the pending suit in the Divorce Court?' as one of those excited journals has it. We must turn from the London organ of the Tories to that of the Radicals for information, and there we find a letter printed in type as bold as the calumny, signed 'Thos. Wells, solicitor for the petitioner.' Thomas Wells is not quite the name on whose legal reputation honest men would like to receive a damnatory charge against Henry John Temple, without 'further information.' But, even without further information, the weight of this precious signature is not likely, we think, to be increased. Let the public simply peruse the subjoined advertisement, which we beg to contribute from our own columns, for their edification, and as a caveat to our contemporaries. We will give it as it appears this day in another part of our impression:—

"'TO THE EMBARRASSED—There are Thousands of Persons who have long struggled against the force of misfortune, but few are aware that they can now legally effect compositions with their creditors, and obtain immediate protection for person and property, without publicity or being gazetted as bankrupts. Money advanced on good securities. Apply to Mr. Wells, solicitor, or Mr. Weston, 47, Moorgate Street, Bank. Protection in cases from £5, payable by instalments. Original advertisement, 1840. Divorce cases confidentially conducted.'

This is Mr. Wells, and this is the business address of 'the solicitor to the petitioner!' Let us remember that proceedings for divorce comprise a demand for 'damages,' and the present case is no exception to the rule, the pecuniary claim being set down at not less than £30,000. Need we say one word more upon the aspect of the case as it stands? We think not. The people of England are shrewd, as well as generous and grateful; and we will not add another syllable to our indignant plea that they should disown the eagerness of slanderers and partizans, and at least give their great countryman time to speak for himself.—*English paper, 7th inst.*

The London *Saturday Review* says that in the European Congress recommended by Louis Napoleon, England would become but a secondary power in influence, and France would gain at her expense. The *Spectator* says that 'the rumble of cannon *in movement* may be heard all through' the Emperor's speech. It adds that as the speaker can realize prophecy, it is well to study his oracles, and that no other impression can be left upon the mind by this utterance than that the Emperor is determined to set Poland free. 'If this freedom can be accomplished by a Congress well; if not, it must be by war; but by what war he has not quite decided.'

A correspondent of the Eastern Chronicle announces the loss of the brig *Transit*, of Whitehaven, Eengland, on the North Beach, on the east point of Magdalen Islands. The brig was from Quebec, and was wrecked on the evening of the 10th inst. Shortly after daylight the captain and six men attempted to leave the ship in a boat—which was swamped immediatly, and all of them lost. After the tide fell from the reef and the surf had settled down a little, four gallant fellows put out from shore in a boat, reached the wreck, and brought off the rest of the crew—three in number.

The Canadian Government have agreed to a new contract with the Atlantic Steamship Company. Besides making more stringent terms than those of the former contract, the Government have reduced the annual subsidy from £416,000 to £200,000.

UNITED STATES WAR NEWS.

FROM CHARLESTON.

A letter from Morris Island, dated Nov. 19, says the *third* attempt to shell Charleston occurred on Tuesday, the 17th instant. Our rifled Parrots in Fort Putnam threw twentysone shot at the Palmetto City, nineteen of which, it is ascertained, *fell within the most populous portions of the city.* The damage inflicted must have been very considerable.—The most severe, continuous and terrible fire to which our new works on Cumming's Point have been subjected to yet, occurred on Sunday night 15th. A new seven gun battery on Sullivan's Island opened contemporaneously with the Confederate works on James Island; and for several hours the shells fell among us like a tempest of destruction. The bellowing of the mortars on either side was terrific. The object of the night firing was probably to reinforce Sumter, or the rebs might have anticipated an assault on that dilapidated citadel.

The monitor Lehigh recently anchored for the night near Fort Sumter as a picket boat, when the tide fell and left her aground. At daylight the rebels opened a heavy fire upon her, which was kept up until the tide rose and she was towed out of range. During the engagement the officers and crew being on deck, labouring to get out lines to haul her off, several of the crew were wounded by pieces of exploding shells. Commander Bryson was slightly cut in the face by a fragment of shell, and Lieut. Hopkins, the executive officer of the ship, was badly hurt in the calf of the leg by the same cause. The vessel, though frequently hit, was damaged but little. It is said that the reason why Charleston is not continuously shelled is the too great strain put upon the heavy rifled guns. They either burst outright or give way in the rifling or vents.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—There is nothing decisive about issuing any one-year Treasury notes at present. Of the two-years notes only the fifty millions negociated with the banks will be prepared. No new financial measure of any character is now contemplated by Government.

The War Department to-day sent its estimates for the next fiscal year to the Treasury Department. This completes the estimates of all the Departments on which the report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be based. The utmost caution is used to prevent any possible premature publication of the figures.

It being represented that the increased prices of provisions and of necessaries render it proper that there should be an increased rate of wages for mechanics, labourers, and other employees whose compensations are not fixed by law, it has been ordered that the heads of the respective bureaus of the War Department to make enquiry and report a just and reasonable rate of advance wages to be paid by the Government at the present time. It is understood that the President, in compliance with the terms of the law of the last Congress, has decided that the Northern Pacific Railroad shall start from a point on the Missouri and Rack Island Railroad.

AFFAIRS AT CHICKAMAUGA.

The Richmond Whig, of Nov. 13, in an editorial on the army of Tennessee, says:

Since the battle of Chickamauga, the army of Tenessee has lost the services of Lieutenant-General Polk, Lieutenant-General Hill, Major-General Forrest, Major-General Chearham, and Major-General Buckner. With the exception of General Hill, these officers have served from the beginning with that army, commanding its confidence—some of them to a degree of enthusiasm—and were undoubtedly among the most skilled, intrepid and devoted of leaders. But great as was their value to that army, if their withdrawal had left nothing but concord and harmony there, they could well have been spared. Unfortunately the information that reaches us is far otherwise. Harmony does not prevail, confidence does not exist. To secure *these there* is no officer, no hundred officers, that it would not be well to remove, for without confidence of men in their *commanders*, and commanders in their men, there is no army can be relied on.

THE FOOD QUESTION.

The Richmond Examiner, discussing the "Food question," says:

"The people must now rely for relief upon the action of Congress and the prowess of our armies. If Congress can adopt an effective plan for reducing the redundant currency and compelling the producers, by judicious legislation, to part with some of their hoarded supplies to pay a tax in money as well as in kind, the market will no doubt be better supplied in future. But, after all, our main reliance rests upon the armies who are now confronting the hosts of the enemy. If they attain that success which every one hopes for, the reclamation of territory and the restoration of general confidence will do more to replenish the markets and cause a reaction in prices than any financial measure which Congress may adopt. Flour is advancing slowly and sells for almost any price that the commission merchants demand. Quotations are unnecessary, but we may remark that no one has yet had the effrontery to ask $200 a barrel. There is as much reason, however, for asking this price as $100.

The auction houses have properly declined to offer flour at public sale under existing circumstances. We do not hear of any wheat arriving, notwithstanding the official announcement that supplies on their way to market will not be impressed. We presume that, at the present rate of flour, prime wheat would really command $20 a bushel, a price which should satisfy the most avaricious producer. Corn is quotable at $11 to $15 a bushel. Corn meal $15 to $16. Butter is firm at $3.75. Cheese $2 to $2.50 a pound. The market has been well supplied with slaughtered beef this week, receivers asking 70c. to 75c. for the fore quarter, and 80c. to 85c. for the hind quarters. Mutton 75c. a pound.

ARREST OF SECESH WOMEN IN BALTIMORE.—The mother of General Winder, provost marshal of Richmond, was arrested by the military authorities in Baltimore, on Saturday last, on a charge of corresponding with persons in the South, and for other offences of a grave character. Several letters of a disloyal character were found in her trunks. She is over eighty years of age, and will be sent South at once.

Mrs. Semmes and daughter, aunt and cousin of the infamous Capt. Semmes, of the pirate Alabama, were arrested in Baltimore on Sunday, charged with having attempted to poison Federal soldiers in the western hospital in that city. The circumstances of the case are stated to be that a few days since they sent several bottles of wine to the hospital, and a portion of it was given to a number of the patients, all of whom were shortly afterwards seized with violent and alarming symptoms of poison. A subsequent chemical analysis of what was left of the wine, established the fact that arsenic in large quantities had been placed in the bottles. They were held for examination by the military authorities. No deaths have as yet resulted from this wholesale attempt at destruction of life.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

TOBY'S REPLY TO HIS MASTER.

Your doggerel verses, good master mine,
Were read to me by a friend of thine;
And now I dictate a line or two
By way of reply, dog-like, to you.
How proud I feel that the folk should read
That your Toby comes of the purest breed;
For a dog of undainted Scotian blood,
Descended from those before the flood,
Sorts well with the Lairds and proud old Thanes,
Derived from the Runic Celts and Danes,
Who, dog-like, stole whatever they found,
And worried each other, like wolf and hound.
Great Dons were these, as history notes,
Who drank and swore, and thrived upon oats;
Though high be MY lineage, no pride I know,
But mix with the cur and the mongrel low.
Enough—I return again to my theme,
Or you will poor Toby a bouster deem;
O man! I feel that no howling of mine
In pathos can reach thine own sad whine.
No! not when oppressed with dread of doom,
I sit and bark at the full orbed moon,
Or gaze at the vacant chair and room;
For the deepest grief must have its day,
And Toby's sorrow will pass away.
Although from my master called to part,
I never will die of a broken heart;
For why should I die—there lies the rub,
Or, for sorrow, refuse to bolt my grub.
There are lots of dogs who will visit me,
And on stones leave proofs of sympathy;
And when on the step of your door he lies,
No tear for the absent dims his eyes;
But I watch to spring on the vagabond rats,
Or chase their foes, the merciless cats;
Sole method I have of courting the *mews*,
Nine lives at a bite!—no favour he sues;
From the nine of Parnassus to sing—
No wish on his part to lap at their spring.
Few classical "notions" I seek to display,
Though versed in Dog-Latin, I veuture to say;
And now from these lines you surely may learn
That, contented, I wait your early return.
Then cheer up, old fellow, away with your grief,
May your stay in —— be pleasant, but brief;
Your dog his best wishes would strive to express,
With the hope that 'your shadow' may never be less.

FOR THE PUBLIC.

(No. 1.)

"Justum ac tenacem propositi virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyranni
Mente quatit solida."—HORAT.

MR. EDITOR;

A lapse of some months has now intervened since I commenced addressing a series of letters *to my fellow colonists* through your widely circulated columns. From the subsequent prosecution of that design I was, however, prevented, owing to circumstances which it will not be necessary to relate. Were it not indeed that I find many who yet expect me to redeem my *promise in the* completion of what I then begun, I might not, perhaps, now deem it essential to solicit any further space in the *Examiner* for the evolutions of my pen; not that I consider the field of controversy any less inviting than at the period in question, but simply because my own disposition to enter upon it has been accidentally diminished; on the contrary, every man of common sense in this Island, who at the same time is possessed of a sufficient amount of common honesty to admit the truth, well knows that the very reverse of this hypothesis is, in every respect, the real state of matters—that our civil or political condition as a British Colony is every day becoming a more and more unenviable one—that whatever sensible degree of genuine reliance even numbers of its own supporters may have hitherto felt inclined to deposit in the clique which constitutes our present *nominal Government*, is every hour becoming "small and beautifully less";—and that, in fact, in so far as the consecutive history of this little Province is concerned, there never was, perhaps, any other time, taking every thing into account, when the field of controversy was either as wide, as "ripe unto the harvest," or as importunately open in its demands for the moral sickles of some uncompromising advocates of our rights to be fearlessly wielded, in order, if possible, to effect something like a radical separation between the few straggling ears of pure corn and the indiscriminate mazes of pernicious tares, which every where seem to infest the social soil of this country, throughout at least nearly every department of its public economy.

In the few slips which I sent you, introductory to the course of letters which I contemplated writing at the previous date just alluded to, I adopted a style of phraseology which, perhaps, to some few over delicately dispositioned minds, may have appeared at first sight not altogether strictly becoming. From these few slips, which were then published in your paper, some chance individuals, not always in the habit of looking far beyond the outer edges of their eye-winkers, may peradventure have complacently inferred that I am likely more addicted to the use of "sweeping assertions" than of solid arguments in the course of any *species of composition* which I may happen to undertake. If so, they will now permit me to inform them, that in drawing such a conclusion from such premises, they may have possibly been a little too fast.

The phraseology in question was simply adapted at the time, not only from the most deliberate design, but also for a most specific purpose. That purpose was principally to hold up a mirror to certain individuals, just to give them a fair chance of viewing themselves well in their own glass. I believe I had even an idea in the outset of interspering a few little oaths among my other remarks, to render this glass still more complete. This, however, from not having been educated in that important modern accomplishment sufficiently when young, I was obliged to omit. I remembered the couplet of Burns:

"O that some power the gift would gie us
To see oursel's as others see us."

I reflected at the same time on the general character, as well as on the particular quality, of *many of those apparently chosen epithets*, which have been so often described as forming the staple embellishments of so very large a proportion of our own local newspaper press. Let some of our existing editors and other public writers magnify any virulence of style which they may have conceived discernable in anything which I have yet written by ten thousand fold and then, taking that for their mirror, strive, if possible, to ascertain whose image it more properly reflects. Were I, indeed, occasionally to hurl a volley of the lowest and most scurrilous abuse at the heads of certain literary and other gentlemen, who, perhaps, cannot, strictly speaking, be reckoned guilty of any inordinate superfluity of literature, but whom we, nevertheless, see not unfrequently elevated to public positions in this Island, I wonder what they would naturally think of me? Were I repeatedly, I say, to pursue towards any discription of persons in the land, and do so too without the slightest compunction or even discrimination, how would they be apt to relish it? It might not happen to gratify them very much, do you imagine? It might afford no one any remarkable degree of edification either. Indeed! Very likely not. Well, if not, all I have to say to such gentlemen, in every case, is, "*Physician heal thyself.*"

Clergymen may have tancied themselves unwarrantably assailed in some of those former epistles of mine, to which I now advert. But even they have not always possibly been just as careful about their own language to others as they may have supposed. They at all events have no right to misrepresent their fellow-christians. No clergyman can, by any possible combination of reasoning, prove that he, any more than the commonest of his fellow mortals, ever had any right whatever to do anything of the kind. Much less, then, could any Protestant clergyman, on his own principles, ever have inherited the least minimum particle of authority to misrepresent, either at home or abroad, any of his fellow-Protestant christian brethren. "Apostolic succession" is a term never found in his calendar. He has no business with it whatever; and, consequently, language which, before the cause of its natural design is explained, may seem to him, when abstractly considered, a little harsh, should not let him, bear in mind, in any respect appear any milder, if at any time applied to others by himself. For although the parties to whom he may apply it may not choose to lend their support to a certain political cause which he himself may in his own personal wisdom think proper to advocate, still even this cannot improve the matter the slightest in his favour.

Now I may candidly state that one of the first things which prompted me last spring to take up my pen at all as I then did, or even again to resume it as I now do, both was and is nothing short of very strong evidence having far too palpably manifested itself, that a reckless disposition was not wanting on the part of certain leading advocates of a *thoroughly one-sided*, and not only so, but even beyond that, *very exceptionable*, or at least under the most latitudinarian and best allowable phrase which can ever as yet be put upon it, *prodigiously questionable political cause*, to place many of their co-religionists in what can, neither by themselves nor yet by any other human being, ever be made out to be either a non-false or, on their part, a strictly honest position. Whether these advocates of this exceedingly controvertable political cause were lay or clerical, is not at *present* a point of essential consequence. They may, when duly traced out, be found to have been a mixture of the two. Indeed, like their cause itself which they so unscrupulously supported, they would seem to have been possessed of an incomprehensibly mysterious constitution. Their cause was, even by their own admission, strangely complex. It was partly civil and partly religious, an inexplicable coalescence, perhaps, of the sacred and profane. But as none of even its own most boastful apostles, and they would appear until at least very recently to have prided in nothing so much as in representing themselves to be *legion*, could even succeed in giving us anything like an intelligent exposition of it, it would be utterly futile in me to arrogate to myself the powers of discrimination equal to such a task.

It both was and without doubt still remains alike to them and to us in manifold respects a most unmitigatedly unique, and puzzling ambiguous, and provokingly perplexing cause—one which may safely be said to defy all human analysis. It has, so to speak, neither beginning, middle, nor end. Nor in even downright sincerity does it even seem to have claimed any plainly distinguishable conditions. Its two main features, however, in so far as its votaries have more recently deigned to reveal them to the intelligent consideration of the inhabitants of this province, would appear to have involved a motly jumble of anti-Popish polemic, theology, and anti-British Prince Edward Island politics. It was, in brief, none other than the old stale bed-ridden, pragmatical, and essentially predacious, or tyranny-loving cause of Toryism in this Colony. And what a cause; Try, if ye can, O Solomon, Socrates or Solon to define it! Is it not confessedly one of those peculiar affairs which may be very righteously termed a cause with a moiety attached to it; or, as the vulgar would laconically say, "a cause and a half," and that, too, with a vengeance? Would we not obviously require some kind of a mental microscope to pry with any prospect of success into any of its mysterious convolutions? But to lay aside hyperbole, and endeavour candidly to take some honest cognizante of it, what in strict reality is it? *A religious institution?* No; for it deals principally in every day matters-of-fact—pounds, shillings and pence, common drudge-drudge secretary affairs. What then? *A political association?* No; for it lays claim to the Bible in at least a nominal or professional sense as one of the many mystical ingredients of its organic *constitution*. It cannot neither, therefore, properly be recognized as belonging correctly to either one or other of these deparments of known experimental history. What, then, in all conscience can it be? It is evidently *a hydra*, and one, too, which there can be little doubt will yet call up some new Hercules to put a summary end to its unnatural career. This much, at any rate, cannot be disputed, that it's really in some shape or other, according to the vulgar pronunciation of the term, a very "muffleditish" concern. Mongrel, in every light we choose to view it, it most assuredly is. In theory, it is ecclesiastical or religious. In practice, it is sadly materiallistic, if not indeed immoral. Technically, it professes to be divine. Divested of all mere extraneous garbature, it, for the most part, exemplifies principles lamentably human, and voluntarily proclaims itself to be "of the earth"—effeminately "earthy." In this, then, its composite constitution, we fancy that we can see something really "new under the sun." We imagine we can clearly perceive a desperate attempt to make not simply "two" but a great many "extremes meet." We feel strongly disposed to entertain the impression that if the wise man had lived long enough to have enjoyed the rare privilege of becoming a sojourner on this Island for a very few days in the present era, he would never have penned those words: "Nothing new under the solar orb." He would, at any rate, have readily admitted that there may be things not only new but marvellously queer under the moon; for if it be simply for the credit of ordinary human reason, for the general sake of common creature instinct, we shall feel but too ready to grant that lunar influence *must* have had a great deal more to do with the development of the cause now in question than any other planatory agency to which philosophers at least may be willing to allow any sanitory control over the ordinary concerns of mortals. Why, looking at the subject even in the very face of all possible controversy, without any idea of argument at all, what other interpretation can any rational mind ever dream of arriving at?

The *a priori argument*, we apprehend, is quite sufficient in the case. For within the whole compass of all the known boundaries of human invention, what else, save some rampantly fanatical and ridiculous combination of influences could ever have become so lost to every cognizable condition of the commonest description of common sense, as to have attempted under any circumstances to reduce to any thing like a harmonious practical association or system, such in themselves utterly incompatible elements of social life as those of Proprietoryism, Religious Sectarianism, Political Dogmatism, and Poverty-stricken Tenantryism, as they now exist in Prince Edward Island? And yet, this is substantially the silly freak which some of our wise statesmen of the last few years have been vainly endeavouring to accomplish. As well might they attempt to reconcile Light and Darkness, or Gabriel and Satan. Their cause, as thus composed of such an innate concatination of the most arrant paradoxes, they, nevertheless, have the effrontery to dub the cause of Conservatism. Well, that it is unprecedentedly conservative in one respect we shall not for a moment begin to deny. That it has proved itself monstrously conservative of nonsense and of nearly every effete relict of semi-barbarous polity, we shall not for a single instant dispute. "Mystery of mysteries, all is mystery," we spontaneously grant, should henceforth and for all time to come be consistently and most appropriately adopted by all its reputed advocates for their only manifest and in any wise befitting motto. And who are these advocates? As might be naturally taken for granted, are they not just such as their cause itself—such a cause as we have now portrayed—ought to count for its apologists? May they not be readily reduced to an amazing conglomerate of Proprietors and their Agents, Mammon-seeking Lawyers, Secularizing Ecclesiastics, Time-serving Politicians, Mercenary Newspaper Fabricators, intimidated Tenantry, dogged partisan-loving adherents, submissively dependent, and any quantity of such ordinary mortals of which so large a class exists in every community, who, under any circumstances always prefer tamely following the leaders of the multitude to honest, independent thinking and acting for themselves? Is there not, my candid fellow-colonist, but too much, far, far too much patent stubborn truth in this whole representation! or is it all a picture without any reality? If thou hast any knowledge of thy country, all I ask of thee is to let thy conscience speak. Does not the result of this *ludicrous* compact, *in so* far as its existing legislative tendencies—its past course of procedure, and its present disgustingly ridiculous position before the universal face of the Colony, abundantly confirm the irrefragability of the truth of what I assert? All I ask, and what I do ask I ask in all sincerity, is, *does it or does it not?* But perhaps, for prudential reasons, thou wouldst rather answer this question to thine own conscience than give an open avowal of thy thoughts to the general public. Well, for the present, I shall leave thee so to do. For myself, however, I have never yet felt afraid to utter what I conscientiously esteem the truth, to the uncovered faces of any number of my fellow beings, be they few or many, whether they inhabit a populous continent or occupy simply a small island like our own, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. And what is more, such fear I never expect to covet as a constituent ingredient of my individual nature. Perhaps before I shall again have lain aside the small weapon which I now manipulate between the thumb and two forefingers of my right hand, some others may feel disposed to yield me credence for making some eliminations which shall not prove altogether unconsonant with some real conditions of the present most certainly extant and most emphatically unequivocal truth.

W. KEIR.

Malpeque, Nov. 30th, 1863.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, December 7th, 1863.

THE DELEGATION AGAIN.

OUR now sedate and venerable friend of the *Islander* is intent upon discussing the question of Colonial Union: but it does not seem that the people of this Island can be worked up to any enthusiasm on that subject. Can our venerable friend give us no positive information regarding the results of the famous Delegation? The Government Press laboured hard to excite the hopes and expectations of the tenantry, to an extravagant extent, when the Delegates were about setting out upon their Mission. Has that notable adventure only afforded another illustration of the old fable about the mountain in labour? and are the wet and dry nurses that attended the accouchment ashamed to shew us the "ridiculous mouse"? It is all moonshine to tell us that the Mission is not brought to a close, because Mr. Pope remains in England. Mr. Secretary Pope will stay anywhere but in his office, for attending to which the people of this Island have been entrapped into paying him three hundred pounds a year; and we may rest assured that he will never leave England so long as there is a chance of getting an odd job, or embarking in a Land speculation that will turn him in more than £300 a year, all for doing nothing. It is more than preposterous to suppose that Mr. Palmer, the highest salaried officer in the Government, and in station next to the hyponchondraical Leader, should have gone to England, and remained there a considerable time, at the public expense, and then come back, like a fool with his finger in his mouth, *not having a word to say* in public to those who sent him, and to the whole community who have paid his travelling charges His silence is a proof that he is thoroughly ashamed of the fool's errand upon which he went. If it were the intention to keep the public in the dark regarding the result of the Mission, there should have been no announcement of its object and scope of action at its setting out. The money might have been filched from the Treasury under the general and convenient head of "contingencies;" and Messrs. Palmer and Pope be thereby enabled to air themselves on the Atlantic, and see the sights of the British Isles, without our knowing anything about it, just as Mr. Pope has invariably done, for two or three years past, when travelling through New Brunswick and the United States. But the Delegates said to the people of Prince Edward Island: "We are going to do a wonderful service for the Tenantry by appointing ourselves Delegates to England. We must take several hundreds of pounds of your money to pay our travelling expenses." This taking of our money certainly implied an obligation on their part to tell us how they have earned it; and it is the duty of the *Islander*, as the organ of the Government—if Mr. Palmer cannot be awakened to a sense of his duty—to give us this information; after which we may be disposed to enter on the discussion of the Union question; but we shall take care that our fellow Colonists shall not be betrayed into a forgetfulness of the Delegation, simply because its authors and promoters are ashamed to avow their lamentable failure in that transaction.

COMPLIMENTARY SUPPER TO THE HON. GEORGE BAGNALL.

ON Thursday evening last a few of the Personal and Political Friends of the above named Gentleman honoured him by a Complimentary Supper at the North American Hotel, on the eve of his departure for New Zealand. The Supper was got up in excellent style by Mrs. John Murphy, and afforded a happy opportunity to many leading gentlemen of the Liberal Party to interchange their views on local political questions. The Hon. Mr. Coles presided on the occasion, and he was ably assisted by the Hon. Mr. Lord.

It is scarcely necessary to say a word in reference to our friend who is about to leave us for a New Zealand home. He is well known all over this Island, as one of its most honest, earnest and enterprising sons. He served for many years in the Legislative Council at a great personal sacrifice; and although he never aspired to a high position as a debater, he was one of the most faithful adherents of the Liberal Party from the beginning to the end of his political career in this Island. We regret to lose so good and so true a man; but we shall be glad to learn that he has not adopted an unwise course in proceeding to a larger sphere of action and usefulness, and that he may not be sorry for parting with the happiness, the comforts, the independence, and the troops of friends that surrounded him in Prince Edward Island, rendering his career in his native land an eminently useful, prosperous and honorable one.

Before the party sat down to Supper the following Address was read to the Hon. Mr. Bagnall, and the Answer appended then given by him:—

TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BAGNALL, LATE A MEMBER OF THE HONORABLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Dear and Respected Sir;

We, a few of your personal and political friends in this Colony, have learned with regret that you are about to take your leave of your native land, to seek a new home and a new field of enterprise in a far distant clime. While we cannot but lament the loss of your companionship in all the social, political and industrial relations of the Colony, we shall nevertheless rejoice to learn that the change will prove advantageous to yourself and to your estimable family.

We shall long remember with pleasure the many years you spent with the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island, in zealous, unflagging and finally successful efforts to secure the adoption of British constitutional principles in the management of our public affairs. These principles are the inalienable birth-right of free-born Britons; and they are the invincible bulwark of Britain's unrivalled freedom and prosperity. Class Legislation, Family Compactism, and undue aristocratical pretension vanish before the spread of these principles, and leave room for the cultivation of a healthy and vigorous public opinion, under which every man feels at perfect liberty to exercise his legitimate influence, talents and energies for his individual advancement, and for the welfare of society generally. You are going to a land in which you will find the principles thus briefly described more thoroughly and faithfully carried out than they are now under the Government which the people of Prince Edward Island have the misfortune to endure. But the time is not far distant when those principles must, in all their integrity, be permanently established every where: and when you — rejoicing under their protecting and benign influence in the Eastern — will be able to congratulate your brethren in the Western Hemisphere on the enjoyment of similar privileges.

It only remains for us to bid you farewell, with the sincere hope that you will have a pleasant and speedy voyage to the land of your adoption; and that in every walk of life thereafter you may enjoy all the rewards and advantages which an active, energetic and well-balanced mind, with an open and generous disposition, can secure for their possessor.

Signed at Complimentary Supper on behalf of Personal and Political Friends.

GEORGE COLES, Chairman.

December 3, 1863.

REPLY.

Gentlemen;

I receive with feelings of gratitude, which I cannot fully express, the kind Address you have just presented to me.

I assure you I leave this Island—my own, my native land—where my happiest and best days have been spent, and with which my fondest recollections will be forever associated—with very sincere regret, and which is made more painful on an occasion like this, when I am reminded that I may meet for the last time in my life many warmly attached personal and political friends.

I claim no merit for the humble services I have rendered to the Liberal Party of this Island. I have done no more than discharge my duty, to the best of my ability, as a member of the great human family, in a very limited *sphere of action*—advocating, as far as I could, rights and privileges which are the common property of us all: and I fervently pray that a kind Providence will enable me to act in a similar manner wherever my lot in future may be cast.

I shall carry with me the most grateful remembrance of your kindness on this as well as on all *former occasions*; and whether Fortune smiles or frowns upon me in the time to come, I shall be always glad to learn that my fellow countrymen and fellow-Colonists in Prince Edward Island live in the happy enjoyment of all the advantages, civil, social, political and commercial, to which they are eminently entitled by their intelligence, their free spirit, their natural resources, and their connection with the Parent State.

GEORGE BAGNALL.

The following is a list of the Toasts which were honoured at the Supper, and their number was considerably increased by Volunteer toasts. Our readers can readily imagine that speechifying was not out of vogue on this interesting occasion, and that the political toasts especially gave rise to the flow of much eloquence:—

1. Her Majesty the Queen.
2. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.
3. The Army and Navy of Great Britain.
4. The Governor General of British America and the Queen's Representative in this Colony.
5. The Honorable George Bagnall, our esteemed Guest, and former co-labourer in the cause of Liberal Principles. May his future life in his new field of enterprise be happy and prosperous, protected and encouraged by Free Institutions such as he helped to establish in his native land.
6. British Connection, Reciprocity with the United States, and Free Commercial Intercourse with all the world.
7. Responsible Government in its integrity in all parts of the British Dominions, and a speedy downfall to all Political Shams.
8. The Liberal Governors Sir Alexander Bannerman and Sir Dominick Daly, who honestly carried out the principles of Responsible Government in this Island.
9. A free and independent Tenantry in P. E. Island, and the policy of the late Liberal Government with respect to the Land Tenures, the only effectual means of making them so.
10. A Free Press—One of the best safeguards of Tenant Rights and Free Institutions.

A NEW BRUNSWICK EDITOR'S NOTES OF TRAVEL.—Our esteemed friend, John Ellis, Esq., one of the editors of the St. John *Evening Globe*, has, we observe, been discoursing for five consecutive days, on Prince Edward Island affairs—political, industrial, physical and moral. We thought at first of copying portions of his articles; but he has seen so much to admire in the Island, and has painted what he has seen in such charming colours, that we fear our proverbial Island modesty would never stand the test of reproducing his sketches. Of course our friend Ellis will be here again next year, "when Summer first unfolds her robes," with an immense crowd of the St. John people, to get a further insight into, and to participate for a few days in the blessings of our superior civilization and refinement. When they come we shall try to make things as pleasant as possible for them — we shan't dazzle them too much, if we can avoid it, nor throw out any unpleasant hints about barbarism in a sister Province.—Mr. Ellis, we believe, purposes to be very enthusiastic, for the future, in his advocacy of a question which is becoming quite a favorite theme for discussion with a few of the few enlightened people of his Province — we mean the annexation of New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island; for although they use the words "union of the Provinces," to repress the sense of humiliation which the proper wording of the question would awaken, we all know here exactly what they mean. They want to fill this terrestrial paradise with their barbarous hordes, so that their rough edges may be polished off by a closer intercourse with us, and thus fit them to mix with civilized society all over the continent. There is no doubt but they will attempt to bribe us into a favourable view of this measure by offering to make this unparalleled Nonpariel of a City of ours the Seat of Government for the United Provinces, and by offering, also, to lay down their rusty iron rails from one end of the Island to the other, so that their noisy snorting iron horse may run through our peaceful valleys, belching fire and smoke over the gentle landscape, bathed in the dews and the sunshine of heaven, and nourished by the manna which vulgar mortals denominate "milk and honey." But we assure our friend of the *Globe* that the P. E. Island people must know a great deal more about New Brunswick than they do at present before they can entertain the startling project referred to. In order to arrive at this knowledge, we beg to propose to the *Globe*, to inform us, after carefully consulting the Almanack and the Clerk of the Weather, on what particular day between the first of June and the first of October the sun will be most likely to shine on St. John, so that all its dark sides may not be hidden by the fogs of the Bay of Fundy. We shall then run over in time to witness the phenomenon, to see St. John as we have never seen it, and thereafter to report to the enlightened people of this great country whether it would be possible for them to see their way clearly enough so as to enter into a union with a race of beings who are so fond of hiding their deformities under a Bay of Fundy fog.

HUTCHINSON'S DIRECTORY of P. E. Island has been laid upon our table. It is the first work of the kind with which our Colony has been favoured, and it is certainly a much better thing than we expected. It is handsomely printed, and contains an immense amount of information that will be useful to thousands of people in the Colony, and to many others coming here. There are, indeed, a good many errors, especially as respects the names of farmers and persons in business; but these errors are fewer than might be expected in a work compiled for the first time with considerable haste, and by, we understand, a comparative stranger. If the Directory be continued in future years, with the energy which attended its publication this year, we have reason to hope that it will be more correct and better in every respect; and let us suggest that the price ($1.50) should be lower.

"STONEWALL" JACKSON.—We have received a copy of the Halifax edition of a Pamphlet which gives a sketch of the life and career of the greatest of the Southern Generals who have turned up in the present American war. We have not had time for a full and careful perusal of it; but from turning over several of its pages, we can see that it is cleverly and spiritedly written, and animated by genuine admiration for the hero. It is difficult to form a correct and unbiassed opinion of Jackson's genius as a General, while our minds are still swayed by passion, prejudice, and in many instances, erroneous statements of facts. Northern writers speak coldly, reservedly, or not at all of the Southern General, while those in the land of "Secesh" bestow honours on his memory greater than those awarded to any hero of modern times. Jackson did not live long enough to have his great qualities as a soldier fully and fairly developed. If General McClellan had been cut short in his career when he first took command of the Army of the Potomac, there is no doubt that Northern writers would go crazy about him in their memoirs, as some Southern writers do about Jackson; but McClellan had not the good fortune to die when his "blushing honours" were "thick upon him," and he is now regarded by the world, if thought of at all, as a very common place individual. There is a moral in this fact.

THE WESTMINSTER AND EDINBURGH REVIEWS, for the October Quarter, have been received, and are replete with the most interesting reading matter. The "Westminster" is especially rich in its literary bill of fare. It is quite unnecessary to make a remark respecting these standard works, further than to say that now, in their green old age, they manifest all the vigour and elasticity of youth.

OATS.—The demand for this article in our markets has been very great during the past week, shippers being exceedingly anxious to complete their cargoes. 2s. 9d per bushel were readily given up to Saturday, and we should not be surprised to hear of an advance on that price if the weather continues favourable, which it is particularly so at the hour we write—(Monday noon.) We observe by St. John papers of the 3d instant that Oats were then selling there at 50 cents—3s. our currency. The farmers of this Island, who had much land under grain, and few of them failed to have heavy crops of Oats, have had a fine opportunity of making money since the harvest was gathered. We congratulate them on their good fortune, and hope it will stimulate them to future greater exertions.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Several communications, now on hand, will be noticed or disposed of, in some way, in our next No.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH FROM THE SEAT OF WAR IN THE STATES.

BANGOR, Nov. 27.

Herald's despatch, dated Headquarters of Army of Potomac, *last evening, says the entire* Army moving and fight certain, unless enemy retreat. Roads much improved. Battle is expected at Germania Ford or at Jacob's Mill.

A. P. Hill's corps has left and Ewell's right of Confederate line. President Davis reviewed both.

Gregg moved his division of cavalry across the Rapidan, at Ely's Ford, on Monday, but recrossed under colors.

Chatanooga despatches further confirm the recent important victory of Grant. Bragg's defeat represented as a perfect rout, closely pursued by Hooker and burning bridges after them, and their depots and stores. Number of cannon captured reported over 50.

Sherman's loss estimated at 5000.

ST. JOHN, Nov. 28.

Advices received at the War Department from Grant report Hooker and Thomas are continuing the pursuit of Bragg, who attempted to make a stand at Chickamauga Station but was forced to back. His loss so far is sixty cannon, and 7,000 prisoners; his retreat is a rout, the road being lined with caissons, waggons, commissary stores, &c.

There is nothing later from Burnside. It is conjectured that Longstreet will attempt to rejoin Bragg, and measures have been taken to prevent him.

The Army of the Potomac broke camps on Thursday morning, and in three columns crossed the Rapidan. Little opposition was made except at the upper fords, when the enemy contracted their lines and fell back from the river.

Heavy cannonading was heard yesterday morning in that direction.

To the Examiner and Reading Room

SACKVILLE, December 2.

Cincinnatti Cumberland despatch says, that all avaliable force has been sent to intercept Longstreet's retreat into Virginia. It is also reported that the enemy attempted to cross river on Sunday, bringing on a general engagement, resulting in defeat of enemy with the capture of Wheeler's division of 5000.

Reports from Bealton Station confirm the statement of heavy firing on Monday—engagement of the third corps on Friday much exaggerated. Reports that Lee retreated not credited. He is reported strongly posted on the Mine river.

Richmond papers have reports of continued bombardment of Fort Sumter, and the falling of several shells in the city, also reported that the Yankees succeeded at Chickamauga by force of numbers. Gold 147¾.

DECEMBER 3rd, a. m.

Advices from Army of Potomac up to Tuesday morning received. No general engagement yet. Considerable skirmishing on Monday.

Lee seems to remain entirely on the defensive. Meade delaying attack, evidently awaiting developments elsewhere. The field is 40 miles from the Rappahannock station. Report says that the armies are confronting each other; Lee being protected by entrenchments.

Herald's despatch gives rumor that Meade has fallen back to Fredericksburg, probably closing the campaign. Chattanooga despatches report campaign against Bragg closed.

Hooker evacuated Ringold, destroying railroad to Chickamauga mills, depots, etc., total prisoners will foot 7000. Mountains filled with Kentucky and Tennessee deserters. Bragg with skeleton of army was retreating southward.

DECEMBER 3, p. m.

No general engagement reported in Virginia to Tuesday.

Reported Longstreet retreating to Knoxville towards Virginia. Scouts report large Cavalry force, supposed to be flanking of Longstreet's main body, advancing on Maynordsville.

Gen. Banks reports (Nov. 9th) occupation of Brashar's Island, Fort Isabella, and Brownsville, his sanguine expectations more than realized.

Three revolutions occurred in Matamoras, respecting Government of Tamaulipas; everything now favorable.

General Stone took Avanzos City, 100 prisoners and three guns.

Guerillas again troublesome on Mississippi, erecting batteries below Vicksburg and firing into Steamers.

Wheeler repulsed at Kingston on 25th, and retired towards Knoxville; this probably originated reported capture of Wheeler's division.

SACKVILLE, N. B., Dec. 4th.

Campaign in Virginia closed. The Army of Potomac in consequence of strong position of Lee on Mine River, the difficulty of supplying army over bad roads, intense cold, and other prudential reasons, retrograded to old base along Orange and Alexandria Railroad, Brandy Station, and Rappahannock bridge. Movement made in safety with interference by enemy, whole loss in the advance only 600 killed, wounded, &c.

Gen. Meade will probably be superseded.

Burnside routed Longstreet in his attack last Sunday. Gen. Foster left Cumberland gap to intercept Longstreet's retreat which must require over 100 miles to connect with Railroad to Richmond. Joe Johnston is reported reinforced Bragg at Dalton. Grant's movements cannot be reported.

SATURDAY EVENING, Dec. 5.

Gen. Meade abandoned Campaign in Virginia, consequence enemy's anticipating his advance, and so strongly posting himself on Mine River as to render approach to Gordonsville and Orange Court house an impossibility.

It was intended to commence attack on Monday and cannonading opened, and skirmishers advanced, but by succession of dams enemy had rendered Mine River unfavorable.

Longstreet's loss in Sunday's assault on Burnside's works about 700 killed, wounded, and prisoners. Union loss small. Johnson reinforced Longstreet. Gen. Foster's force at Cumberland Gap is expected to inflict some damage on Longstreet's rear retreating into Virginia. Deserters and citizens report Gen. John C. Breckenridge died of wounds received at Ringold—his son and cousin are prisoners. Gold 152¼.

Herald's despatch says, loss in Army of Potomac in recent campaign will reach thirteen hundred.

Letters from Gen. Bank's officers report large quantities of cotton being discovered daily—reconnoitering parties preponderating sentiment where army has traversed represented Union.

Correspondent from Grant's army writes although Bragg was badly defeated, still it possesses sufficient organization and force to withstand another severe attack. Caution and military science are requisite for following up what has already been accomplished.

Hooker's battle at Ringold was a hardly contested one.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

THE Steamer *Westmorland* made only one trip to and from Shediac during the past week, owing to the very stormy state of the weather. She arrived on Saturday with the Canadian, New Brunswick and U. States mails, in papers by which we find the details, given by Northern writers, of two great battles fought at Chattanooga, dimly shadowed by the telegrams given elsewhere. We are not surprised to see that the Federals claim the victory in both battles—they rarely, if ever, admit a defeat; and we are informed that the Confederates were totally routed; but, nevertheless, it is not denied, that the Federals sustained a heavy loss in killed and wounded. We presume we shall be under the necessity of reading revised and more elaborate details of this recent carnage, before we shall be able to ascertain the full extent of the gain and loss on both sides. In the meantime we can only give to our readers the following extracts, descriptive of the battles, taken from our latest papers.

THE GREAT VICTORY—DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 25.—We are completely victorious. The enemy is totally routed and driven from every position. The enemy's loss is heavy in prisoners. Finding Gen. Hooker so successful in his movement against Lookout Mountain, the enemy evacuated that point during the night. Gen. Hooker took possession early in the morning. He endeavoured to intercept the flying rebels, and is said to have suffered not less than 2000 prisoners in his magnificent assault on Lookout Mountain. Gen. Sherman being all prepared began an assault at 8 a. m. to-day on the strong position of the enemy at the north end of Missionary Ridge. He had the day before taken a hill near the position of the rebels and commanded by their artillery. He had to descend into a valley, and then make another ascent to the post held by the enemy. Two unsuccessful assaults were made by Gen. Sherman; but with the co-operation of the centre he ultimately gained the position, and completed the victory. The brigade of Gen. Carse, with a part of Gen Logan's