

The Daily Examiner

DECEMBER 31, 1884.

1884.

The limited space at our disposal will not permit us to do more than refer very briefly to what has taken place during the past year in the more distant parts of the world; but we will try and touch upon a few of the more important matters, as a chronicler rather than a critic.

Undoubtedly the Egyptian question has been the one which in England has attracted most attention during the year, and while England has been the chief actor in that scene, the other Powers have been more interested spectators.

The Gladstone Administration, fighting against fate, has tried to persuade itself that the work could be quickly done and that the British could soon leave the country, and consequently lost much time and wasted much money in half-measures which, proving ineffectual, they had to undertake at last what could have been much better done earlier.

The chief events in Egypt have been Gordon's mission to Khartoum to get the Egyptian garrisons and the English residents safely out of the disturbed districts, his arrival there, hearty reception by the inhabitants, and first successes. Then, the Mahdi with his troops closes around him, and for some weeks cuts off all his communication with Lower Egypt.

About midsummer it became apparent that an expedition must be sent to his relief, and soon Wolseley was despatched with a considerable force, in which are included the Canadian voyageurs. This force has been struggling up the cataracts until it has reached Korti, where, just above the fourth cataract, the Nile makes its great bend to the north.

From this point it seems that Wolseley will make or is making a dash across the desert to Khartoum, thus not only shortening the distance, but avoiding the most difficult part of the Nile navigation. If this expedition is successful, we may hope soon to hear of the relief of Khartoum.

The battles and hard-won victories of Graham at and near Suakin, find their place in the earlier part of the year, but the indecision and vacillation of the home authorities have gone far to neutralize the effects of the courage of the army, and the end of the year finds Osman Digma still threatening the Red Sea littoral.

A European Conference assembled in London about July, at the invitation of the English Government, to discuss the financial affairs of Egypt, but, to the great relief of the country, Lord Granville at last—warned, no doubt, by the increasing distrust and restlessness of the nation, displayed an unexpected firmness,—and, by a decisive veto of the French demands, freed the administration from the dangerous necessity of asking Parliament to confirm what they had pledged themselves to recommend in the case of an understanding on the finance question being reached.

Lord Northbrook's mission, with orders to report on the whole political and financial condition of the country, was the next move; and as the last news is that the courts have pronounced illegal the action of the officers who, in accordance with the suggestions of England, diverted payments from the Sinking Fund to the immediate needs of the Treasury, it may fairly be said that the financial and political middle equals the military one.

Northern Africa is not the only portion of the Dark Continent which attracts the attention of Europe; but there are some brighter spots in the South. The Berlin Conference, under the presidency of Bismarck, has done good work in bringing about an international agreement, by which the trade and navigation of the Lower Congo are opened to all countries upon equal terms, the district itself being declared to be under international protection.

England, true to her free trade principles, has willingly extended to the Niger, the same commercial freedom, though retaining the protection of the country in her own hands. The Boer difficulty does not seem yet to be over, and it looks as though the Gladstone capitulation has turned out as badly as most of his foreign policy.

If we turn from Africa to Asia, we still take with us European interests and interferences. In May, a treaty between France and China was signed, and the former country was congratulating itself upon having speedily and without much expense, secured great advantages.

A general collapse would not at any time be a surprise. Germany strong, self-contained, vigorous, and firm to repel dangers from without, or repress disorders within, unquestionably the strongest Power in Europe, yet using her strength with moderation and justice. France still disturbed and restless, tinkering at her constitution, frittering away strength and money on aggressive wars against the Chinese and Malays, by which the distress and poverty at home are increased, and now while work is slack, wages low, and the poor find the struggle for existence harder than ever, the wise men of the Republic hit upon a tax on corn and flour, as the best measure of making matters better. Verily the world is governed with but little wisdom.

Italy, in home politics, is progressing steadily in the way in which she has set herself to go. In the complications of foreign politics she has generally thrown in her influence with England.

Spain has not been wholly undisturbed, and there are disquieting rumors about the health of King Alfonso; but, compared with the past, Spain has had a quiet and prosperous year.

In English home affairs, the Franchise and Redistribution Bills were burning questions at the beginning of the year; but the end of the year finds them both quietly and amicably settled by that practical common sense which is so distinguishing a characteristic of English public men.

In fact, all along, it seemed difficult to see that there was any very serious agitation at all. When population is so close, and interest in public affairs so active as in England, it is never hard for clever managers, with the aid of one or two good speakers, to get up enthusiastic meetings, or even monster demonstrations; but in the absence of any real grievance pressing upon any portion of the people, such displays do not mean much.

The exclusion from the polls of a large number of the rural population was a real grievance, but as both parties had fully committed themselves to the principle that this grievance should be removed, there was no opportunity to bring about a political crisis in this question. The dispute between the Lords and Commons, really amounted to nothing more than a struggle between the two parties as to who should have the gerrymandering of the new constituencies, and it has been quietly settled at last by a private conference of the leaders of both sides, and a compromise in which the Conservatives have managed to have more to say than usually falls to the lot of the minority.

So the Franchise Bill has passed and the Redistribution Bill been introduced, and Lords and Commons have separated with bows and smiles. The agitators must surely feel "sold" after all the fierce things they have said, while the people laugh and are quite ready to demonstrate good humoredly again, when ever they are called upon—as they enjoy it and nobody is hurt.

The Irish dynamite faction has shown the same combination of cowardice, wickedness and stupidity, which has been their characteristic all along. They are cowardly and wicked enough to hide dynamite in railway stations and at bridges, where, if their designs succeeded it would bring tortures and lingering death to scores of helpless innocent sufferers. Happily their stupidity has caused their attempts generally to fail.

The Skye Crofters have raised an agrarian agitation also; and they have made out so good a case for themselves that, no doubt, their just demands will be granted. It is to be regretted that they have not abstained from violence, particularly as the sympathy of the country was fully with them. But, notwithstanding some threats and acts of violence, their conduct is in marked contrast with what has taken place in Ireland, and it must be satisfactory to Scotchmen to see that cattle maiming and cold blooded murdering of helpless families are not thought legitimate modes of agitation by their distressed countrymen.

The United States have seen a Democratic President elected,—the first for twenty-five years. The events of that election are too recent to need to be recalled; suffice it to say, that while the conduct of the election was not such as to recommend to other countries that mode of obtaining a chief ruler, the conduct of the defeated party in quietly accepting the situation after a few days of strained excitement was above praise, and goes far to show how secondary a question the form of government is to a people who understand and possess the essential of liberty, and have sufficient self command to bear defeat quietly or to exercise power moderately. The commercial situation in the United States is very far from good. The outgoing President has been trying to extend in many directions the trade relations of the country, and the triumph of the Democratic party in November gives hopes of the adoption generally of a more liberal and enlightened trade policy.

Coming to our own Dominion we see not many events of striking importance, and the history of the year is credited rather with the continuance of what had begun before, than with the origination of anything new. The last session of Parliament will be known in the future as the session of Railway Grants. The persistent opposition of the Grand Trunk Railway had succeeded in "bearing" Canada Pacific stock to such an extent in the stock markets of the world, that the latter Company found themselves unable to raise money except at ruinous rates. Yet, in the portions of the road already built, or even without these, in their lands along the line of railway, they

have a security which, to those who had laid in the future of the country, was ample for all the money they needed. Under these circumstances, the Government wisely stepped in and advanced the money necessary for the completion of the road, and in so doing they were able not only to obtain full security, but also to arrange for the earlier completion of the road, and, more important still, to announce that they would not continue the policy of preventing the construction of competing roads in Manitoba, a policy adopted by themselves and their predecessors alike. Parliament, finding itself in a railway mood, did not stop here, but became all at once conscious of the general importance of various roads up to that time supposed to be merely of Provincial utility, and so some of the more favored provinces found their measure bountifully replenished from the Dominion chest. This sent most of the members back happy to their constituencies; and when Mr. Blake introduced a resolution protesting against such doing, he had the satisfaction of seeing a number of his own followers slip away from him and dance to the whistling of the Premier. It is said by those who witnessed the scene, that the Leader of the Opposition looked at that time even less genial than usual.

There have been further discoveries of coal in the Northwest, and the past year has added to the growth of that rapidly developing country.

The visit of Sir John Macdonald to England, gave rise to many surmises; but he is back, and life is going on as usual. The honor conferred upon him by his Sovereign has been well earned, and few even of his political opponents will be otherwise than gratified by the Premier of Canada having received this distinction. While in England, Sir John was able to take part in the discussions on Imperial Federation, a question which is rapidly becoming a practical one. While in no way committing himself on the question, Sir John was able to bear witness to the constant desire for British connection which prevails in Canada, and will prevail so long as there is no interference with the freedom of our Home Rule. But the course of events sets more and more towards our assuming an independent position, and unless some means are devised by which we can take our place in an Imperial Federation as an equal among equals we shall probably drop away from any but the merest nominal connection with the Old Country. The proposed union with Jamaica may probably come in some form before Parliament at its next session. A political union may be difficult, perhaps impossible, to bring about; but it is much to be hoped that this discussion will lead at once to some closer commercial union with our sister colonies to the South. There cannot be any objection to free trade with the sugar islands.

After eleven years of Confederation, we are somewhat in a position to take stock of our Provincial advantages and disadvantages,—there are both. But we may hope that the disadvantages are of such a nature that time may bring its remedies, though slow ones,—while the advantages may increase. It is much to be regretted that when in its generous mood, Parliament could not discover that the railroad from Sackville to Cape Tormentine was of a Federal importance. But it did not see this; and a weak Company with a Provincial subsidy is pottering over the work. The Cape Traverse branch is finished; but until the other road, with its wharf and breakwater, is built, to expect much improvements in our winter service is as hopeless as to expect a man to walk well with one still.

The fire last February swept away the South Side of Queen Square, and took the Post Office also. Private enterprises have already covered the burnt district with handsome buildings of brick and stone; but except a wood fence nothing has been erected on the Square. Perhaps, as there was a good deal of indifference shown about saving the old building, and a good deal of satisfaction expressed at the amount of money that we should get when the new one was being built, the Government wish to teach us, by three or four years' inconvenience, that we should do well in the future to exert ourselves a little to save even a Government building—and it would not be easy to deny that the lesson was wholly undeserved.

The Exhibition held in Charlottetown last fall, showed that there is an improvement still going on in our stock-raising and farming. But it must be remembered that such an exhibition shows the best—not the average; and a drive through the country proves that there is much, very much, still to be done before we make use, as a Province, of our great natural capabilities as a farming and stock-raising country. The formation of the Dairyman's Association was a good move, and we are very glad to see Farmers' Clubs springing up in different parts of our country.

On the whole, we have had a fairly successful year, but there are causes enough for carefulness. Real estate continues low; bank stock is greatly depreciated; what little capital there is in the country with difficulty finds remunerative employment—and, as a consequence, business is inelastic, though by no means in the bad state it was six or seven years ago. We should be glad to think that the coming year will show an improvement in this respect.

We have had a fair share of elections during the past twelve months. The lapse of time brought about Mr. Haviland's retirement from the Lieutenant Governorship, a position in which his long political experience has enabled him to be eminently useful to his advisers, while his knowledge of constitutional law prevented him from in the least transgressing constitutional limits. The appointment of Mr. Macdonald as his successor was a decidedly popular one; and that gentleman is not disappointing the high expectations that were formed of the way in which he would fulfil the duties of his new position. These changes gave an opportunity to the Government to recognize Mr. Brecken's well-founded claims to consideration for his party, and although Mr. Macdonald's able management of the Post Office gave his successor a high standard to reach, Mr. Brecken comes well up to the mark. Mr. Brecken's appointment opened Queen's County, which returned Dr. Jenkins, and so proved itself well pleased with present O-tawa administration, notwithstanding its occasional neglects. Prince County re-affirmed its adoption of the Scott Act by an immense majority, and Charlottetown by a close vote, after a sharp contest, did the same. In city affairs, we had no election in January, the Mayor and five Councillors being elected by acclamation, and when, by the lamented death of Mr. Murphy, Ward Two was opened, there was no opposition to Mr. Kelly. Probably there is no city in the world which is so easily able to get civic rulers who are so fully and completely in accord with its citizens.

Among those, whom death has removed in the year, are Theophilus DesBrisay, of Spring Park, William Murphy, Manager of the Gas Works, John Dorsey, the head of the Charlottetown Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company, Ernest Welsh, a young and active clergyman of the Church of England, John Jury, an old and respected resident of Tryon, and the Rev. L. C. Jenkins, D. C. L., a venerable and much esteemed Priest and citizen.

Fisheries of P. E. Island. The closing year has been a poor one for the fisheries. The value taken from the sea is estimated at \$186,463 less than last year. This deficiency ranges over all the fisheries, excepting lobsters, which, contrary to expectation, have turned out nearly 500,000 cans more than last year. We are indebted to Mr. Lydiard, Customs broker, for the following statement of the export of canned lobsters:—

Table with 2 columns: To Great Britain, United States, Havre, Hamburg, Amsterdam. Total: 3,498,000

being about 7,000 cases more than in the same period of 1883. We believe the records of the Fishery officers show nearly 800,000 more, part of which has probably been exported since the above account was made up. The ten days' extension of fishing time was not of much general benefit. Ninety-five factories were in operation.

The most serious falling off is in mackerel, no more than 16,866 barrels having been taken this year, as against 28,170 last year, being 11,304 barrels short. The fish were late in coming in, until the middle of August there being no great body of fish in the Bay. Most of those taken by our people were by seine, the hook-and-line having made but a poor show. Indeed the time seems to have fully come to lay aside dependence on the hook, and do the great bulk of the fishing by seine. Thirteen seines were owned and used in the Province last year,—this year thirty-eight, which is a marked improvement in the right direction. There is no accurate account of how many American vessels in all were in the Gulf, but 180 passed 'the Straits of Canso on their way in, besides those that came north about. They complain loudly that their fishery was a failure, but they took away 26,800 barrels of mackerel, being 10,000 barrels more than the total catch made by our own people. Some sixty sail of the foreign fleet left, about the middle of August, for home with little or nothing. Bad weather prevailed almost the whole season.

The better to show the falling off in dried and other fish, we give the figures for last year and this year respectively: In 1883, cod 26,700 hundred weight; this year, 19,843 hundred weight, a deficiency of 6,857 cwt. A large number of New Brunswick boats fished all the season, mostly of North Cape, and are reported to have done better than our own men, because their boats are larger and better equipped. Hake, which is mostly a product of the waters of King's County, kept up to the average of years, say about 9,000 quintals. Herring were less abundant, the figures showing 36,000 barrels against 46,000 last year. Of the large quantity taken, only 7,700 barrels were used as food, the remainder being for bait. Scarcity of herring always hurts the cod and mackerel fishery more or less, it being expensive to fish with imported bait. On the whole the year must be described as unsatisfactory, although prices ruled high. Seiners have not so much to complain of, and a few lucky crews did well with the hook, but the great bulk of line fishers came out very poorly indeed. Cod fishing was deficient more from bad weather preventing fishing than scarcity of fish. The same reason explains the shortcoming in the other sea fisheries.

Special Notices. JUST RECEIVED—1 barrel new Confectionery Mixture (pure) and 100 pounds Barley Sugar Toys, for New Years, at Beer & Goff's. THE great sale still continues at Bremner Brothers' Book store, Queen street. TABLE PRICES, 5 cents per pound, at Beer & Goff's. SNOWSHOES, Toboggans, Moccasins, at the London House. ROYAL BAKING POWDER at Beer & Goff's. CRIB BLANKETS at J. B. Macdonald's. PREPARE for the cold, and buy a good warm Fur Cap at L. E. Prowse's. SKATES sharpened at Brown's for ten cents. Who'll have another. At the Athenaeum, Charlottetown. PATRONS L. E. PROWSE. SLEIGH DASHES rails at Brown's, the latest American style, and silver plated, at the Athenaeum, Charlottetown. "ANGEL FOOD," the whitest and most palatable of cakes, at the City Steam Bakery, J. Quirk, Prince Street. BLANKETS and QUILTS.—Always stock selling cheap at J. B. Macdonald's. LOTS of Boys' Fur Caps, cheap, at L. E. Prowse's. Buy Overcoats and Clothing from Weeks & Co. Five pounds choice Tea given away with each coat sold. Lowest prices in the city for Clothing.—W. Weeks & Co. A LARGE STOCK of Men's and Boys' Fur Caps selling low at J. B. Macdonald's. MUST CLEAR THEM OUT.—A great reduction in Ladies Kid Slippers during Xmas and New Year's times at Dorsey Goff & Co. CHEAPEST PLACE to buy Violins, Accordions, Concertinas, Flutes, Banjos, Violin Strings, and all kinds of Musical Goods, is at Miller Brothers, Queen Street. DODD & ROGERS have received a very large assortment of Acme Club Skates. Intending purchasers would do well to call on them before purchasing. GREAT BARGAINS in Boots and Shoes during the Holidays at Macdonald's Boot Store. ALL WOOL scarlet underclothing, \$1.50 per suit, at D. A. Bruce's. CALL and see the cheapest, the best, the largest lot of crockeryware, ever offered in Charlottetown, in French china, glass ware, and all other ware that is wanted in a house, and will be sold cheap at W. P. Colwill's. SEE the Ladies' and Gents' Slippers, very nice, at Macdonald's Boot Store. MILLER BROTHERS are ready to make a present of a Sewing Machine to any one that will buy their class of goods elsewhere for less money. FAIRBANKS' SCALES repaired at Brown's, at the Athenaeum, Charlottetown. LET all who are in want of crockery, glass and chinaware, call at W. P. Colwill's, and get the cheapest that has ever been offered in Charlottetown. GREAT BARGAINS in Violins, Concertinas, Accordions, Flutes, Violin Strings, and general musical goods, at Fletcher's Music Store, sign of the "Big Fiddle," Queen Street, Charlottetown. ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY-FIVE tea sets, one hundred chamber sets, fifty dinner sets, one thousand teaspoons, two hundred cover dishes, one hundred and fifty meat dishes, will be sold cheaper than ever offered in Charlottetown at W. P. Colwill's. JUST RECEIVED—A large assortment of Acme Club Skates, for sale very cheap—Dodd & Rogers. DOES it pay to buy imported Ready-made Clothing, when you can get Clothing made at D. A. Bruce's cheaper, does it? dect10-wk'y in im dy law.

Y. M. C. A. Sale of Papers. THE Annual Sale of Papers, Magazines, &c., will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Reading Room, on Wednesday evening, the 31st inst., at 8.30 o'clock. HENRY SMITH, Secretary. Ch'town, Dec. 29, 1884—31

TENDERS! TENDERS! SEALED TENDERS will be received by the undersigned, at the office of Messrs. Davies, Sutherland & Weeks, barristers, Charlottetown, up to 19 o'clock, noon, of Saturday, the Tenth day of January next, A. D. 1885, for the purchase of all the Machinery, Printing Presses, Type and Plant in the Printing Department of Messrs. Bremner Bros.' Establishment, on Queen Street, including among others a first-class Gally's Universal Half-Medium Printing Press (almost new), 255 cases of type, including a large and first class assortment of Job, Fancy, Plain and Ornamental Type, Cuts, Borders, Ornamental Corners, etc., etc., wrought and cast-iron Chases, Composing Sticks, Gallies and Furniture generally used in a well-ordered printing establishment. And also for all the Machinery and Plant in the Bindery Department of said Bremner Bros.' establishment, including Ruling, Cutting, Perforating, Stabbing, Wire Stitching and Paging Machines, Standing and Finishing Presses, a large number of Ruling Points, lot of Tools, etc., etc. Tenders will be received for the plant, type, etc., in the Printing and Bindery Departments separately and also jointly. Said tenders must be on forms which will be supplied on application at the store of Messrs. Bremner Bros., where a full and complete inventory of the above machinery, plant, etc., may be seen, and where said machinery, etc., may also be inspected. Terms.—One half of purchase money to be paid on acceptance of tender and delivery of machinery, etc., and the balance to be secured by approved joint notes at 3 months. The undersigned does not bind himself to accept the highest or any tender, and sale, if any, to be made in accordance with conditions of sale in Inventory Book. J. A. RENNICK, Agent. Ch'town, Dec. 29, 1884—41

Public Meeting at Peake's Station. A PUBLIC MEETING of the inhabitants of Peake's Station and vicinity will be held at the above place on Monday, 5th Jan., at 6 o'clock p. m., to take into consideration the providing of a Booking Station at said place, and other local improvements. The Location representatives and Local members for the district are respectfully invited to attend. By order of Committee. December 30, 1884

NOTICE. THE Subscriber, being about to leave the Province for the winter, requests all persons indebted to him to pay their several accounts to Jas. DesBrisay, of the office of DesBrisay & Argus, in my premises, Queen Street, whose receipts will be a sufficient discharge, and who will also attend to the disposal of any Bank Stock or Real Estate for me during my absence. WILLIAM DODD, Ch'town, Dec. 8, 1884.—2no 2aw wkly2ma

OUR NEW STORE. Will not be ready till FEBRUARY, 1885, we will therefore show the Large and Newly Selected Stock. We imported for the new place at our present stand—next to Watson's Drug Store. The design and finish of our Silver and Plated Goods is superior to last year. A Lot of Gold JEWELRY and WATCHES, elegantly cased, for presentation. E. W. TAYLOR, Queen Street. Ch'town, Dec. 20, 1884.

ELGIN WATCHES. A GRAND Clearance Sale of Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, Silverware, Spectacles, &c., to make room for a large importation in the Spring. Now is the time to secure Bargains for Xmas and New Year's presents at half price. As I intend selling at reduced prices for one month, do not fail to call early. I have a large stock of Watches, Chains, Lockets, Charms, Brooches, Ear-rings, Cuff-Buttons, Wadding (in 10k and 18k) and Set and Band Rings, Bracelets, &c. A nice assortment of Clocks, Silverware, &c. Repairing punctually attended to. Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, &c. All work warranted. Don't forget the place. G. G. JURY, North Side Queen Square. Ch'town, Dec. 5—1aw wkly

WANTS, LOST, FOUND, &c. LOST.—On Tuesday, 30th December, between Kent Street and the Market House, a dark brown silk Umbrella, with bone handle, in form of a ring. The finder will be suitably rewarded by having it at THE EXAMINER office. dect31-1w

TO LET.—A Cottage near Spring Park, containing six rooms (bump in kitchen) with stable and garden. Apply at "Oakland House," King Street. dect31-1w

TO LET.—The premises at present occupied by Messrs. Hargreaves, Esq., at the foot of Queen's street. Possession given on the 1st day of January next, A. D. 1885. For further particulars apply to R. B. Fitzgerald. dect31-1w

FOR SALE. ONE Horse, 1 Box Sleigh, 1 Round-back Sleigh, Harness and Buffalo, all complete. Terms easy. HECTOR McLEOD, Ch'town, Dec. 24, 1884—41

PROGRAMME. ORCHESTRAL CONCERT (NO. 1) MARKET HALL, New Year's Night.

Overture—"Gavotte".....Giese Orchestral Club. Vocal Solo—"The Pilgrim Fathers"..... Miss Barr. Waltz—"Loved Ones".....Waldteufel Orchestral Club. Chorus—From opera of "Anna Bolena, with Orchestral accompaniment..... Mr. Earle's Glee Club. Cornet Solo—Air from "Falstaff".....Balfé Mr. Fletcher. Vocal Solo—"The Heart Bowed Down," Balfé Mr. C. Hermans. Waltz—"Tres-Johé".....Waldteufel Orchestral Club. Vocal Solo—"The Low-backed Car"..... Mr. Unsworth. Violin Solo—"3rd Arie Varia".....Dancila Mr. Vinicombe. Overture—"Diamond Cross".....O. Metra Orchestral Club. Vocal Solo—"The Green Trees Whispered Low and Mild".....Balfé Mrs. Roome. Bass Solo and Chorus from "Hernani," with Orchestral accompaniment.....Verdi Mr. Earle's Glee Club. Selections from "Chimes of Normandy"..... Orchestral Club. Vocal Solo—"Thy Voice is Near".....Wrighton Miss Crabbe. Comic Song (in character)—"The Maggannis Guards"..... Mr. Maynard. Vocal Waltzes—"Dream Faces".....Meissler Orchestral and Glee Clubs. "God Save the Queen."

Doors open at 7; Concert at 8. Tickets 25 cents; Reserved seats 25 cents; to be had at the Drug Store and at the door. G. A. SHARP, Secretary. Ch'town, Dec. 30, 1884.

FOR SALE. ONE Horse, 1 Box Sleigh, 1 Round-back Sleigh, Harness and Buffalo, all complete. Terms easy. HECTOR McLEOD, Ch'town, Dec. 24, 1884—41