

CONTINENTAL POSTAGE.

Canada has hitherto lagged behind the United States and Great Britain in the wisdom and liberality of their postal arrangements.

The charge on ordinary letters within the Dominion is three, and in Great Britain a penny sterling, or less than two cents.

But the authorities at Ottawa, in accordance with the general sentiment of the people from whom they derive their power, intend to reduce common postage, and in doing so are likely to adopt the three cent rate in practice in the United States, making it universal throughout the Dominion of Canada.

The event will afford a favorable opportunity for the mutual adjustment of interests between the United States and their northern neighbors. At present our mutual postal arrangements are full of incongruous anomalies.

Letter postage to or from the United States costs the Canadian ten cents in specie, while the citizen of the republic is only charged the same amount in currency, the latter may be its value.

The citizen of Maine pays ten cents for a similar service to the next township, separated perhaps, only by an invisible line from his own land.

Yet, in Great Britain, the London and Portland rates to his correspondence in Detroit, or the most westerly portion of our territories, has carried some two hundred miles more through the province to the Detroit River, and thence westward, on the continent as he pleases, paying only three cents for the whole route of some thousands of miles, while the resident near the frontier have to pay ten cents for one mile on the same route.

The present movement in Canada should be extended by a liberal arrangement on behalf of the people on both sides of the lines. It would meet the approval of all who in either country desire the prevalence of mutual affection and good understanding on both sides.

Besides the weighty considerations and unanswerable arguments in favor of cheap international postage in general, the case of our neighbors has a special claim. Our respective territories are mutually indebted and situated so as to make the greatest possible freedom of intercourse desirable for us.

Our languages are the same, our laws are the same, and we are so situated that individual citizens of either nation. The inhabitants of several of the Western States regard the route through Canada as the best way of communicating with our people in the New England States, while through New York and other Atlantic States the Canadians avoid an immensely circuitous route when sending their letters to the ocean.

It is a part of the world—in fact almost every part of it. The removal of the present odious and unjust tax upon the interchange of sentiment and the mutual exchange of information can have no more favorable beginning than by inaugurating a genuine American system of postage, in which a proper convention with the United States should be the result.

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LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

LONDON, 18, midnight.—The St. Petersburg Herald says that the policy agreed upon between France and Austria on the Eastern question if persisted in will issue the peace of Europe.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Paris Monitor published a circular by the Prefect of Police, placing the press under a more rigorous censorship. Advice here says that the Trade at Hong Kong is quiet, and that at Shanghai is firm and active for some time.

LONDON, Dec. 20, midnight.—It is reported that the Emperor has proposed to Belgium, Holstein and Switzerland that they join France in a customs union.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The Monitor has later dated the recent battle of the Marston. If Theodor should, in alarm at the magnitude of the invading host, at once give up his prisoners, it is thought another half million will be frayed all charges; but in the event of the same monarch's determining to fight, and his being found necessary to carry on the war until next April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer says the expenditure will be three millions and a half.

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the present position and aspect of such national questions and affairs as we notice to be universally interesting. Our notes might easily, perhaps, have been made both a little more extended and a little more inclusive; but we have deemed it best in this case, so to mete out our article as rather to lay ourselves open to taxation for brevity, than censure for prolixity.

In Great Britain, the absorbing theme at present, are the Abyssinian War and Fenianism. As respects the former, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has accomplished the object for which Parliament was summoned at so unusual a period as the month of November, and a vote of credit for two millions sterling, on account of the Abyssinian Expedition, has been agreed to.

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asm, which, in times of less forbearance, would have subjected them to a quick visitation of pain and penalties. Allen, Larkin, and Gould were connected with a political confederation, whose designs were subversive of the Government and Constitution of the Kingdom, but the outrage for which they suffered had in itself no political character whatever; consequently it is irrational to assume a political complexion, and ascribe the enforcement of the sentence for political revenge.

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delay to Caprea. The Elenard characterises as regrettable that authorisation should have been given to Garibaldi to return to Caprea. A great meeting of Roman Catholics was held in London recently, to express sympathy with the Pope. Archbishop Manning presided, and among the speakers were the Earl of Denbigh, Lord Arundel, of Wardour, Sir George Bowyer, and other Catholics. Lord Denbigh, with all the enthusiasm of a convert, repudiated "such a thing as nationality," and declared "he was not a Catholic, but an Englishman; that he was not a Catholic, but an Englishman, would admit that our Government was the best in the world," but denied that the Pope was the worst. On the contrary, he "would extol it as irreproachable, just, and merciful." He considered it "the duty of every Christian Power to protect, if need be, in war, the head of the Christian world." An address to the Pope was adopted by the meeting, and is forwarded to his Holiness by Dr. Manning.

It would appear that the Italian Kingdom is other troubles to contend with besides the Roman difficulty. Twelve Mazzinians have been arrested having for its object the overthrow of the dynasty of Victor Emmanuel and the establishment of a Republic. It appears to have had an extensive ramifications, as committees were formed in all the Italian cities, and the minds of the working men have been instilled with the views of the conspirators.

The President in his Message informs the Congress that the "Alabama claims" are still unsettled, and that he had felt it his duty to decline arbitration, because, as proposed, it has been accompanied by reservations incompatible, in his opinion, with the rights and interests of his country. Lord Stanley offered to refer to an arbitrator the question whether Great Britain is responsible for any neglect of duty, moral or legal, in connexion with the Alabama and kindred ships. Mr. Seward insists that the propriety of the recognition of the Southern States as belligerents must be included in the terms of the reference. There the matter stands.—Mr. Johnson also proposes to Congress to declare that the naturalization of a foreigner as a citizen of the United States, absolves the recipient from allegiance to the sovereign of his native country. This is evidently intended to meet the case of American Irish, who may be charged in Great Britain with sedition against the sovereign. Mr. Johnson and his advisers must, however, know very well that the American Congress cannot affect to legislate for any country but its own. The allegiance which a natural born British subject owes to the British Crown, cannot be absolved by any other Legislature than that of Great Britain.

The message does not increase the prospect of an early and pacific settlement of the great questions which await the action of Congress and the Executive in the United States.

This country is represented as being in a sad condition. Robberies are, day by day, becoming more common and audacious.

President Juarez has commuted the sentences of most of the Imperial prisoners to shorter sentences of imprisonment. All foreigners who adhered to the Emperor and all the higher Imperial officials are to be banished.

The members of the court-martial upon General Santa Anna, have been sentenced to four years imprisonment for improper leniency. The Mexican treasury is exhausted.

Hostilities have been renewed in Candia, and several battles have been fought between the Turks and the Cretans. This is unfortunate, not only for the brave insurgents, but may yet prove so for Turkey itself.

King George of Greece has declared to the Austrian Government that he and his advisers now feel bound to give their moral support to the Candian insurgents. His Excellency Baron Von Bunsen is reported to have advised caution and prudence to Greece. What this new "moral support" may mean it is difficult to imagine, since all the world knows that Greece has long accorded, in an officious, if not official way, both moral and material aid to the Cretans. King George, however, under Russian dictation, may be induced to thus open the "Eastern Question." Greece will find no advantage in France. According to late advices from Athens, brigandage is as rife in Greece now, as it was during the worst days of King Otto.

The notices and items which compose the foregoing News Digest—having been selected with great care, and as so, we trust, with something of due discretion and discrimination of judgment—will, we are not but persuaded, prove, to most of our readers, a very reasonable and acceptable compendium, affording them, as it does, almost at a glance, much accurate and important information, of which they could not so easily have been put in possession by any other means. We, therefore, trust they will cordially accept it as an earnest, though but a small one, of the faithful and zealous endeavours—feeble, comparatively speaking, they may be—whilst, in the future management of this journal, will be made to render it worthy of the continuance of that extensive support, which was so happily acquired for it through the influence of that enlightened, liberal, and generous spirit, which so largely attached, not only to the public writings, but to the public acts of the deceased and much-lamented Mr. Whelan. In concluding this—to our readers, our last service of the departing year—we most heartily wish them

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

RECIPROCITY.

It was feared by many intelligent people, both on this Island and in the neighbouring Provinces, that the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty would prove ruinous to the trade of British America. As regards this Island, particularly, the fear appeared to be anything but a groundless one. Previous to Reciprocity, trade was very dull on this Island. The prices of our staple articles of export were very low indeed, and for many of the products of the farm there was no market at all. Money was exceedingly scarce, and a primitive and clumsy system of barter largely prevailed in the country. But Reciprocity changed all this. Its effects were almost magical. The prices of farm produce rose at a bound. Many articles were formerly a drug in the market brought remunerative prices. Money became plenty, and cash transactions soon came to be the rule and not the exception as heretofore. The effects of this impetus to trade soon became apparent all over the Island, and among all classes of men. Our farmers built new houses and barns, purchased handsome carriages and harness, and procured a better description of

farming utensils. They became more industrious, cleared more land, and paid more attention to its cultivation. Mechanics more constant and more remunerative employment. Almost every merchant in the country enlarged his establishment and quadrupled his trade. Charlottetown increased in size and improved its appearance, and villages and hamlets sprang up all over the country with amazing rapidity. Seeing such, and so many, beneficial results flowing from the working of the Reciprocity Treaty, it is no wonder that gloomy forebodings filled the minds of most men at the prospect of its abrogation. It was hard to go back to the old dreary state of things, to stop the career of progress in full career. But happily for the greater part of their dismal anticipations, however well grounded, have not been realized. Matters seem to go on pretty much in the same way, since the abrogation of the Treaty, as they did while it was in operation. All kinds of farm produce are in good demand, and prices rule high. Whatever of dulness and embarrassment there may be in commercial circles can easily be traced to other causes than the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. To the want of demand for shipping at home and the over-saturation and reckless extravagance of previous years may justly be attributed the evils under which trade on this Island at present languishes. The causes which led to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, were, we think, two-fold. The first was to punish British Americans for presuming to sympathize with the South in the late great struggle. There is no doubt that many people in these Colonies did sympathize with the Southern people in their attempt to secede from the Union. Many, too, both journalists and others, were very loud and indiscreet in the expression of that sympathy. We are of opinion that this feeling in favour of the Southern Rebels did not arise out of any ill-will felt by Colonists towards the northern people, or indeed out of any national conviction whatever. It was merely that partiality for the weaker side which most persons instinctively feel on witnessing a struggle between unequal opponents. This outspoken sympathy in favor of their enemies, was very annoying to the people of the Northern States; and to show their resentment, they abrogated the Reciprocity Treaty at the earliest possible period. They all along believed that the people of these Colonies received far greater benefits from this Treaty than they themselves did; and they consequently concluded that its abrogation, while it would be productive of immense injury to British America, would occasion but trifling loss to themselves. In this they have sadly miscalculated. Their action in this matter has no doubt hampered trade to some extent in the Colonies, but not nearly to the extent which they believed and hoped; while the restrictions which they themselves have placed on their trade with British America, have proved exceedingly burdensome to the over-taxed consumers of the Northern and Eastern States. The American people have, to use a common phrase, more expressive than elegant, "cut off their nose to spite their face."

The Americans expected to use the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty as a cudgel with which to drive British Colonists into annexation. Here again they reckoned without their host. It was thought that the depression, consequent on the loss of trade with the United States, would render the Colonists disgusted with the British connexion, and convince them that their interests were inseparably bound up with those of the United States. The exact opposite of these results have followed this American measure of gentle coercion. British connexion has never been so popular in these Colonies as it has been since the abrogation of the Treaty; and Annexation has never been at a greater discount. Confederation, not Annexation, has been the result of abrogation.

Some at least of the people of the United States are at last fully conscious of the mistakes which they perpetrated in restricting their commercial intercourse with the four millions of customers across their northern borders. They find that their policy in this matter has been attended with neither the commercial nor the political results which they fondly expected would follow it. They are, therefore, anxious for the renewal of the abrogated Treaty, or of one containing similar provisions. In their efforts to accomplish this, they will, no doubt, be seconded by politicians of all parties in these colonies. We of British America are fully alive to the importance of having unlimited commercial intercourse with the people of the Great American Republic, though, we are just now in no humour to enter into any closer political alliance with her.

SEVERAL of our exchanges contain the New Dominion Tariff, which came into operation on the 13th inst. Owing to its great length, we are unable to place it before our readers in the present No. of the Examiner, but we will endeavor to find room for it in next week. In the meantime, we insert the following short article, taken from a recent number of the Halifax Express:—

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.—The new Tariff of the Dominion coming into operation during the week has caused quite an excitement in business circles, and no one can deny that it is a most judicious and well-considered measure. The Tariff is distasteful to the trade, and we trust some modifications will be made hereafter. If we take into account the articles of Tea, Molasses, and other goods, which are imported into the Province, it must be apparent to any observer that we shall have to pay three fold more of the duties levied on these articles in proportion to our population than the sister Provinces of Ontario and Quebec (more especially the latter), and on whom will be the burden, most assuredly on our shoulders, to whom, Tea and Molasses are indispensable; again it will not do to say, as the Coal Mining interest of Nova Scotia for the imaginary benefits of Ontario. If we are to be a united people in reality, let justice be meted out to all. This Province is in a position to supply the whole Dominion with Coal, and if the United States will not reciprocate with us, it is only just that their Coal should be taxed in the same ratio as they tax ours; this is sound economic law. We hope the good sense of the Government will see the necessity of protecting our interests; all we want is fair play in common with the other Provinces.

The Halifax Express says the health of His Lordship Bishop Lynch, of Toronto, has become much impaired, and he has been advised by his physicians to pass a portion of the winter at Key West, Florida. It is the intention of His Lordship to proceed South as soon as he shall feel himself adequate to the journey.

INCREASE OF THE PONTIFICAL ARMY.—"In the prevision of a complete evacuation," says the Paris Union, "the Pontifical Government is reinforcing its army. The regiment of Zouaves will be increased to 3,500 men (4 battalions), the corps of foreign chassours will be transformed into a regiment of 2,000 men, and 2 battalions of the Ardennes Legion will be augmented by 1,000 men. The infantry will be furnished with breech-loading rifles, and the artillery strengthened by two batteries."

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, December 30, 1867.

OUR NEW-YEAR'S BUDGET OF NEWS.

In pursuance of the very acceptable plan which has now become customary with journalists, and which the lamented Mr. Whelan adopted some years back with respect to the Examiner, we, in this week's issue—the last of the year—present our readers with a sort of panoramic view of the present position of the great and absorbing questions, in which is involved, for good or evil, the future, not only of European and Asiatic nationalities, but also, to some extent, of those of Africa and America, and