

The year is dying. What has it done for us? What has it done for the world?

IN THIS PROVINCE

the labors of our people have been blessed with a bountiful return—thanks to the Giver.

In the ranks of the laborers there are, as there will be at the end of every year, gaps. Diphtheria and typhoid fever have been prevalent, and many families mourn the loss of loved ones. The sudden death, early in the year, of Mrs. Howlan, was a heavy blow to one of our most active public men; and the more recent death of the Hon. Patrick Walker, has produced a void within our small political and commercial circles.

Our various religions denominations, have, on the whole, prospered. The members of St. James' Church have supplied the loss of the Rev. Thomas Duncan, by obtaining the ministerial services of the Rev. Kenneth McLennan. The Methodists of this city, have built a small new church, over which they have placed the Rev. Mr. Steel. The Rev. John Ellis—early in the summer—left the Island to return to England; and Mr. V. E. Harris, of Nova Scotia, supplies his place in St. Peter's Church, and, to a certain extent, in St. Peter's Church. Throughout the Island, we know of no remarkable denominational change.

There has, however, been a great temperance revival. In the autumn, D. Banks McKenzie came and set up the banner of Temperance Reform. Thousands enrolled themselves under it, and there are now Reform Clubs in nearly every section of the Island.

In Civic matters, too, there has been a decided reform. The Corporation has, to a certain extent, been re-organized. The election of Mayor Carvell, and the infusion of some new blood into the City Council, has resulted in the introduction of system into Civic affairs, and a more careful attention than ever before practiced, to the details of Civic business. The work of making stone streets and laying plankways and crossings has also been vigorously prosecuted.

We have also had a taste of autocrat Government. The City School Board, as constituted, is entirely independent of the city and of citizens. Yet on behalf of the city they have entered into heavy arrangements. They have bought, sold and leased; they are spending thousands of dollars which the city will have to repay—without authority from the City Council, and without being in the most remote degree responsible to the citizens. It may be urged that they have acted judiciously. Perhaps they have; but they have nevertheless acted in direct opposition to the principles by which we are or should be governed—if, indeed, they have not invaded the chartered rights of the city. Each school district throughout the country is incorporated for the purposes of providing its own school houses and educational appliances. Charlottetown has a Charter by which the citizens themselves are invested with the right of electing a Mayor and Council with power to provide for the public requirements of the city. And here we have a Dictatorial Board—providing a city requirement and looking to the city for the repayment of the money they expended—neither appointed by the Mayor in Council, nor elected by the citizens. It is true that under their care the city schools exhibit a marked improvement and that an amicable agreement has been made which will probably lead to the united action of citizens respecting public schools; and the City School Board may be borne out by public opinion. But their acts are inconsistent with principle—if not with law.

From the acts of the City School Board to the Acts of the Government the graduation is easy. Backed up by an overwhelming majority, the leaders of the Grit party in the Province succeeded in carrying through the Legislature a number of crude, ill-digested, bungled, untimely Acts.

Having donned the mantles of Coles and Whelan, they doubtless imagined themselves true reformers. They certainly beguiled their legislators into that belief; and with a levity and thoughtlessness worthy of boys, a series of acts of the utmost importance were transferred—slightly altered,—from the statute books of larger and older Provinces to the statute book of Prince Edward Island. The "Public Schools Act,"—intrinsicly a very good Act—was so bungled in the want of order and care in its alteration, that it is all but unworkable; the passage of the Roads and Bridges Act has resulted in the disfranchisement of our young men; the "Assessment Act," with its numerous Boards of Assessors and Collectors, has—as might be expected—operated unjustly and tyrannically upon all classes of the community. Altogether, the legislation of last session was most unfortunate. Years must pass away before it can be remedied, and we may safely predict that the evils of the reign of Davies and Stewart will never be forgotten.

THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION

there have been no radical changes to note. The harvest, fortunately, was a very good one. The sister City of St. John met with a terrible misfortune in the great fire; while the sister City of Halifax has been fortunate in successfully introducing the thin edge of the wedge which will eventually open to her unrivalled port, during winter, the commerce of the vast Dominion. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have, for some years past, been contemplating a legislative union; and the leading politicians of both Provinces have recently held a conference for the purpose of arriving at a definite understanding respecting it. It is reported that they found no insuperable obstacles to the consummation of such an union.

The session of Parliament was a very acrimonious one. The Grit Party, feeling that they were fast losing their hold upon the country, and that Sir John McDonald

and his friends were coming into favor again, resorted, as usual, to slander. They brought up the "Secret Service Slander," and the "Northern Railway Slander." Their efforts proved futile. It was shown that, in the Secret Service transaction, Sir John had saved to the country some \$5,000. It was also shown by Senator McPherson, that Sir John did not, and could not, know that the Northern Railway had contributed towards a fund for the support of his family—raised when he was sick and nigh unto death—by men who admired the fine abilities, and self-sacrifice of the chief of the party instrumental in uniting, politically, the various Colonies of British America. The session was not, however, marked by the passage of any great or important Act. But there was an increase in taxation—Grits appear to have a genius for laying on taxes.

The political picnics of Ontario and Quebec seem to be political institutions. Both parties held them during the summer; and, both report, with the most satisfactory results. Thousands—we might say tens of thousands—thronged to hear the racy speeches of Sir John McDonald and the unanswerable philippics of Dr. Tupper. The Premier, fairly beaten in the picnic fields of the Upper Provinces, thought he would come down and carry all before him in the Provinces by the sea. He met a cool reception. Personally, he has none of the magnetic power which invariably characterizes great leaders of men—which characterizes his brilliant opponent, Sir John McDonald, in an eminent degree—and he does not *draw*. The careless manner in which he threw away \$109,000 of the people's money to a convenient contractor, and wasted or misspent some \$3,000,000 upon steel rails, had been made known in the Maritime Provinces, and doubtless accounted, in some degree, for the coldly civil manner in which he was treated when in P. E. Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

There have been several elections; and the Grit party have lost several seats. Two seats, at the beginning of the year occupied by Grit Ministers of the Crown, are now occupied by Conservatives.

The result of the Fishery Commission has been satisfactory. It has been a great surprise to the Premier, Mr. Blake and many other politicians who were prepared to attribute failure to want of statesmanship on the part of Sir John McDonald. Successful as it has been, it forms still another proof of the prudence and foresight of that statesman.

ABROAD.

The United States narrowly escaped the peril of revolution after the Presidential election; and the bloody railway strikes of the summer, gave serious alarm to its people. Great Britain has been narrowly watching her interests in the East, while her eastern subjects have been starving by the million. In Turkey there has been a fearful war—horrible destruction of human life—and terrible suffering on the part of sick and wounded. The Turks offered a stubborn, an heroic, resistance to a foe greatly its superior in strength and prestige. Two of their strong-holds, and some of their best generals have fallen. Still they resist; and the end is not yet.

Our time and space is exhausted. We turn from the contemplation of strikes, and famine and war in other countries to wish the people of the tight little isle in which we securely and prosperously live

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

To the Editor of the Examiner:

Sir,—A Political Meeting of the First Electoral District of Queen's County will be held at Hartzville Schoolhouse on Wednesday, the 9th of January next, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of considering the acts of the present Government at its last session. The representatives of the district are requested to attend. Also the Leader of the Government and of the Opposition are respectfully invited to be present.

MURDOCH McLEOD,
ALEX. McINNIS,
MURD. GILLES,
KEN. MCKENZIE,
ARCH. MCKINSON,
D. E. CAMPBELL.

Hartsville, Dec. 26, 1877.

The members of St. Joseph's Total Abstinence Society intend holding a Musical and Literary Entertainment in St. Patrick's Hall, on Friday, the 4th of January, in aid of the funds of the Society. Judging from the programme, we have no hesitation in saying that this entertainment will rank among the best of the season. The choir of St. Dunstan's Cathedral will attend, and under the direction of their talented leader, Mrs. Pennee, those present may rely on hearing some select choruses well rendered. The instrumental part consists of choice pieces on the harp, cornet, violin and piano. The remainder of the programme is made up of vocal music, addresses and recitations. The execution of each part has been intrusted to persons well known in the city for their musical and literary ability, and in the performance of which we have no doubt they will sustain their well-deserved reputations. As we have mentioned, the object of this concert is a benevolent one, and we trust those interested in the temperance movement especially, will not fail to patronize it.

THEFT OF A GOLD WATCH.—On Friday morning last, Thomas Boardman, on waking, found himself minus a gold watch and chain. After a search he concluded that it had been stolen. He acquainted the police of the matter, and the Marshal sent orders to the different watchmakers not to receive a gold watch of the description of Boardman's. As the orders were being given, it was discovered that a boy answering to the description of one John Doyle, had been at the store of Mr. J. F. McKay, offering to sell a gold chain for twenty-five cents. Doyle was immediately arrested. While in the Police Station he confessed to Officer Shea that he stole the watch and had it hid in the snow at the Prince of Wales' College. Officer Shea, after a search, found the watch in the place named. Doyle confessed to the robbery in the Court this morning, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labor.

CITIZENS' SKATING RINK.—If the ice permit, the Citizens' Skating Rink will be opened on Monday evening next.

Local and Other Items.

No DAILY EXAMINER to-morrow.

The market to-day was very small.

A REPORT of the City Council proceedings on Saturday is crowded out.

THE City Council meets this evening at half past seven o'clock.

THE remains of Dr. Lawson, of Bedeque, were interred by Mosanic honors to-day.

THERE were one hundred cases before the City Court of St. John on Wednesday last.

IT is announced that the Dominion Parliament will meet for the despatch of business on the 7th of February.

ON Christmas Day an excursion took place at Montreal in commemoration of a green Christmas and an open river for the first time in forty years.

BY CABLE TO HON. D. DAVIES.—Brigt. "Bittern," James Irving, master, arrived at Liverpool on the 28th inst., 20 days from Murray Harbor.

THE strike on the Lachine Canal, Montreal, ended on the 27th, when all hands returned to work.

STARVING LABORERS DEMAND WORK.—A Toronto despatch says that about one hundred unemployed laborers waited on the Mayor to-day, and stated that they must have work, or their families would starve.

I. O. O. F.—Election of Officers will take place in St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 8, I. O. O. F., Monday evening next, 31st December. Members are requested to attend.

A COMPANY is being formed in this city for the manufacture of starch from potatoes. It is wonderful this has not been done before. Our potatoes are always cheaper here than elsewhere, so that we can undersell the world in starch from them. Labor is cheap and the market firm and constant.—Patriot.

AQUATIC.—A despatch from New York says that Wm. Scharff has accepted the challenge of Hanlon to row a five-mile single-scull race, for \$1,000 a side. The race will probably be at Toronto. Courtney has accepted the challenge of Trickett. Courtney named Oswego Lake as the place of meeting.

A SURPRISE.—The clerks of the Bank of P. E. Island were all surprised at Christmas by the Cashier presenting them with the handsome sum of fifty dollars each, as a Christmas present. The clerks of the other banks have not, as yet, been so agreeably surprised; but we have no doubt they will be in like manner surprised on New Year's Day.

LATE ARRIVAL.—The latest arrival of the season as yet is the schooner "Montrose," Captain Brown, which arrived at this port from Halifax on Sunday. Her cargo consists of 10 hogsheads of sugar to Duncan & Co., 10 puncheons of molasses to Longworth & Co., 60 pieces and 1 barrel of iron castings, 16 packages and 1 box of furniture, and 106 barrels biscuit.

THE Dominion Alliance for the Suppression of Intemperance have resolved to present a petition at the next Session of the Dominion Parliament praying that the Bill entitled "A Bill to Provide for the Local Prohibition of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors throughout the Dominion of Canada" may pass and become law.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL.—The press is divided in opinion as to whether it is the Marquis of Normanby or the Duke of Manchester who is to be the next Governor General of Canada. In either case the selection will not be bad; but if the next Governor General attempts to rival Lord Dufferin in expense, in travelling, or in popularity, he will have a good deal of labor before him.—Hc. Herald.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL.—We overlooked the following paragraph, which appeared in the Patriot of the 22d inst:—

"It gives us sincere gratification to be in a position to inform our readers that arrangements have been made to place that splendid school-building, St. Patrick's Hall, under the management of the City School Trustees. This has been done, we understand, without reserve, and in the most liberal spirit."

THE GREAT FINANCIER.—The Halifax Herald's correspondent at Yarmouth writes:—"The great financier Vail is here holding caucus meetings of Grits. The expenses of the meeting will not be paid by Mr. Vail, who almost bankrupted himself recently by contributing fifty cents to a Weymouth Sewing Circle. It is reported, also, that he intends to add 15 cents to his recent contribution of 46 cents to the Weymouth circulating library."

M. F. ELLIS,
FANCY REPOSITORY
—AND—
BOOKSTORE.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS,

NEW YEARS' GIFTS!

In Great Variety.

North Side Queen Square Charlottetown.
Dec. 6—eod t 1st jan

ST. PETER'S SCHOOLS

WILL REOPEN ON

MONDAY, 7TH JAN., 1878.

In the Schools there are three Departments:—
Primary Department, for very young children.

Girls' School, Boys' School.

Five Teachers are engaged in the Schools. All English Branches, Classics, Mathematics, French and German, Music and Singing are taught.

For terms, etc., apply to
G. W. HODGSON,
St. Peter's Clergy House, Kent St.
Dec. 28—pat til jan 7

Grand Success!

—AT THE—

London House

THE GREAT

CASH SALE

Advertised during the months of November and December, which has given such universal satisfaction in town and country, we have decided to continue from the beginning of the year, offering still Greater Attractions to those who wish to buy.

A Choice Lot of ENGLISH TEAS,
by chest and small package,
marked very low.

GREAT INDUCEMENTS

Are offered in the Cloth Department, and parties in want of Suits or Single Garments, can have them made up at the shortest notice, and in the best style.

The latest Instalment of NEW GOODS just received by "Northern Light," via Halifax.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CITIZENS' SKATING RINK.

Grand Opening Night,
MONDAY, JANUARY 6,
AT 8 O'CLOCK—ICE PERMITTING.

GALBRAITH'S BAND

WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.
TICKETS for sale at Apothecaries' Hall.
J. R. BRECKEN, Sec'y.

NOTICE.

Tailoring and Cutting.

JOHN BELL is now prepared, at his Residence, Fitzroy Street, west, near the Kirk, TO MAKE UP TO ORDER, every description of GENTLEMEN'S & BOY'S CLOTHING!

Shirts,
Ladies' Sacques,
Military Uniforms,
Clergymen and Lawyers' Gowns,

—AND—

LADIES RIDING HABITS.

—ALSO—

Carnival and Fancy Dress Ball Costumes on reasonable terms and short-est notice.

Pattern and Garment Cutting a Specialty.
JOHN BELL, Tailor & Cutter,
Fitzroy St., west, near St. James' Kirk,
Ch'town, Dec. 31, 1877. } tf

LECTURE!

THE Third Lecture of the Course, in connection with the Y. M. C. Association, will be delivered on

Friday Evening, Jan. 4, 1878,

—BY—

REV. W. S. PASCOE.

Subject:—"A Diamond from a Coal Pit; the Story of a Great Transformation."
Doors open at 7.30; to commence at 8. Admission 10 cents.

J. McLEOD, Sec'y.

Dec. 31—

FOR SALE!

THE STEAMER

HEATHER BELLE,

with all her Machinery, Boats, &c., will be offered at Private Sale, until THURSDAY, the 10th day January, 1878.

Should the Steamer not then be sold at Private Sale, she will be offered at PUBLIC AUCTION, at 12 o'clock, noon, on THURSDAY, the 10th day of January.

For terms and particulars apply to JOHN HUGHES, Agent.
Ch'town, P. E. I.,
Dec. 26, 1877. } 2aw pat a ne till 10th

CALL AND LEARN

CLEARING OUT PRICES

TOYS AND FANCY GOODS!

HASZARD'S BOOKSTORE,

BEFORE PURCHASING ELSEWHERE.
Dec. 29—2in

SALVAGE CORPS.

THE Adjoined Meeting of the Salvage Corps is postponed till the first Monday of January, 1878, then to take place at 8 o'clock, p. m., sharp. A full attendance is respectfully solicited, as matters of importance will be laid before the Club. By order,
A. A. MCKENZIE, Sec'y.
Dec. 29, 1877—

Retiring from Business.

BARGAINS!

BEING about to retire from Business, we offer our large stock of MILLINERY and DRY GOODS at the lowest possible prices, consisting of—

Bonnets, Hats, Feathers, Flowers
Scarfs, Squares, Clouds, Turquoises, Cuffs & Collars,
Ribbons, Laces,
Gloves, Ladies' and Children's Underclothing and other Goods.

Also—WOOLS OF ALL COLORS for Fancy Work, &c., &c.

THE MISSES CAVANAGH,
"Ladies' Establishment,"
Market Square, South Side.
Dec. 24—

New Fruit.

VALENCIA RAISINS, Layers and Musc-tels; Dates and Dried Apples.
HASZARD BROS.