

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

From some I, Old Father Christmas, Christmas or not, I hope Old Father Christmas will never be forgotten.

Our Railway is doing good work this winter.

QUESTION FOR CHRISTMAS.—What can be done for our poor?

DALTON McLELLAN, conservative majority in Cardwell was 262.

OUR HOUSEHOLD FIRE.—Mr. Harvey's Almond has been removed.

CHIEF OF RING.—The City Council propose that policemen shall in future light the street lamps.

LEVEE.—His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will hold a Levee at one o'clock on New Year's Day.

RAFFLES FOR CHRISTMAS.—To watch the performance of the Northern Light in four inches of green ice.

AUSSELLAN EXHIBITION.—The Hon. John Young of Montreal, has been appointed sole Commissioner to represent the Dominion at the Australian Exhibition.

GOVERNORSHIP OF QUEBEC.—Hon. Letellier de St. Just has been appointed Lieut. Governor of Quebec. Some think that Senator Fabre will succeed him in the Cabinet.

FATAL QUARRER.—In a quarrel at Leithfield, Ont., last week, Thomas Clarkson struck David Roy with his fist, killing him instantly. Clarkson gave himself up immediately.

GRAND JURY.—The Governor General and Council of Dufferin intend visiting Lieut. Governor Macdonald of Ontario about the 10th of January. A grand bill will be given by the Macdonalds in their honor on the 10th of January.

PRETEXT TO DEATH.—On Saturday night last, a man by the name of Angus Gillis, belonging to a settlement beyond Kensington, while on his way home, was frozen to death on the road. He started out from Mr. Wm. Tuplin's, at the old corner, for Margate, and when about half way between these two places the sad occurrence took place. He was found the next morning a short distance from his sleigh, lying in the snow with his cap and mittens off. His body was conveyed the next morning to Mr. Reuben Tuplin's, Margate. —Journal.

ON MONDAY EVENING last, Mr. George Pettick, of Cornwall, lost his only son, a young lad about 9 years of age, by drowning. The little fellow went to water cattle at Mr. John Hyde's Mill Pond, near by, and not returning home when expected, search was made for him. The pond was covered with a thin coating of ice, and the little lad venturing on it, fell through. Upon repairing to the pond, Mr. Pettick observed the hole through which his son fell, and going out on the ice himself, broke through and had considerable difficulty in saving himself. The lad was found standing in an upright position. We sympathize with Mr. Pettick in his affliction. —Argus.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Halifax Reporter says that amid the general depression of business which overpreads the world, it is pleasing to learn that there is one oasis at least in the commercial desert. According to a correspondent of the Toronto Globe, the ancient colony of Newfoundland enjoys an immunity from "hard times." Never was business in a healthier condition. The disastrous failures which have spread ruin and desolation over almost every commercial centre, have been almost unknown in that colony. It imports and exports there are no falling off in revenue, while the revenue will be considerably in advance of former years. Stock of all kinds have risen in value. St. John's is looking up house accommodation is quite sufficient, and as a consequence rents are advancing. The mining industry has largely contributed to bring about this pleasing state of affairs; but the enhanced price of the great staple—codfish—for 60 per cent is received and the success of the Labrador fishery, have all combined to bring about the "good times" the people are now enjoying.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS. (By telegram to McNeill's Reading Room.)

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A colliery explosion occurred yesterday at South Wales, in a company's pit near Newport; seventeen bodies have been recovered. The miners that have been taken out alive are seriously, and some fatally, injured. —A railway collision occurred in Belgium yesterday; eight persons were killed and fifteen wounded. —A prolongation of the eastern armistice to March is probable. —A Times special from Vienna says a remark made by the Czar that Russia was ready to renounce occupation of Bulgaria, provided other guarantees could be found, has been officially communicated to the various Courts. This announcement is more important from the fact that all accounts represent warlike feeling as decidedly decreasing, besides other causes tending to check the war enthusiasm, such as the discovery of great deficiencies in military stores.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The plenipotentiaries at Constantinople have concluded their preliminary conference.—The Grand Duke Alexis is now en route for the United States with the Russian fleet. The object is to secure a favorable base of operations, such as cannot be found in Europe in case of emergency breaks down.—The Turkish Government has notified their representatives abroad of the appointment of Midah Pacha Grand Vicer, and says the policy of firmness, progress and conciliation will be continued.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—There is very little change in Southern States.—W. B. C. Egan, Assistant Accountant in the Bank of Montreal, (in Toronto) is under arrest for embezzlement—apparently amount, one hundred thousand dollars.—Gold 74.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Greek Chamber of Deputies have passed a Bill for raising the strength of its military forces to two thousand men.—A conference on the Eastern question assembled on Saturday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Nine European steamers are overdue, owing to rough weather.—It is reported that Mexican revolutionists have captured an American steamer at Cuba, and demand eight thousand dollars for his release. United States troops have gone to his rescue.

HALFAX, Dec. 21.—The S.S. Saraniam, six days overdue, arrived this morning, having experienced heavy weather.

A pitiful story is told of the efforts of a young woman, Maine girl to get an education. She wished to go to the Portland High School, but was very poor, and unable to pay her tuition. She was in a strange city, and made an arrangement with the proprietor of a boarding house to do what she could to assist her as payment for board. Her mother, who was in a very poor condition, was notified of the arrangement, and she was taken to the hospital. The mother discovered that the poor girl's clothing, while very valuable, consisted only of a calico dress and a new pair of shoes. The girl, as soon as she was well enough, will go home to her mother, and will keep her until she can again endeavor to support herself.

TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE. From M—chell to Smith.

OFFICE OF MARINE & FISHERIES. Charlottown, Dec. 18, 1876.

To the Minister, etc.—Northern Light ready for the charge. Ice forming slowly—no snow. Shall I order for out to-morrow or (under glorious opportunity) wait for three feet of green ice?

M—CHELL.

Smith to M—chell. DECEMBER 18.

Congratulate my boy Surry for forms so slowly. Oh, for a day with the thermometer forty-five degrees below zero. However, the Northern Light—my sole winter star—starts to-morrow. If she waits longer, people will talk, you know. They have been talking three years. Let them not talk longer.

SMITH.

M—chell to Smith. OFFICE OF MARINE, etc., Dec. 19.

Half-past one p.m. The hour has come. The signal has been given and your sole star has commenced her course. She moves, oh, so slowly, so very majestically.

M—CHELL.

Smith to M—chell. Good Boy. Give me note of her progress. I am big with expectation.

SMITH.

M—chell to Smith. Half-past six p.m.

Northern Light has reached three tides. Waiting—only waiting—for three feet of green ice.

M—CHELL.

M—chell to Smith. DEC. 21, 1876, 10 a.m.

Northern Light spent an anxious night. Cool start. Put back by my order for fresh supply. Ice in the bay five feet thick. Captain disheartened. What's to be done?

M—CHELL.

Smith's Private Secretary to M—chell. The Minister, on receipt of your telegram, was suddenly taken ill. Have referred to Premier.

Mackenzie to M—chell. DEC. 21, 1876, 12 m.

Sent Northern Light to sea—or bust. Report instant.

MAC.

Law Agent to Premier. M—chell confined to his room. Will see the face of no man or woman. He is as surly as a hyena. Have ordered boat to sea. Captain says he goes to Pictou or—

D.

Law Agent to Premier. DEC. 22, 1876.

Northern Light has reached entrance to Harbor. Day line. M—chell still surly. How's the Minister? How's Sewell? How's G. B.

D.

Premier to Law Agent. Minister's none the better of you or your steamer. G. B.'s mad. I must see Sewell.

MAC.

Law Agent to Premier. DEC. 23, 10 a.m.

The Northern Light has returned. Could not get out. The Province is lost. We are lost. M—chell sticks to his room. I your representative, am received with groans. Pope vows vengeance. The people laugh and curse by turns.

D.

Premier to Law Agent. DEC. 23,—noon.

Zounds! Have you any offices to fill? Any more relations to provide for?

MAC.

[We have not space this week for the list of names sent in reply to last telegram.]

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