on my arrival here, I came up to the diggings last year, about this time, I had some business at Mr. John Simpson's station, near which I was at work. A violent storm came on while I was there, and the creek rose so much that it was impossible for me to return to the camp that night. Mr. Simpson, therefore, very kindly offered me supper and a bed. During the evening I had the misfortune to break my pipe. 'I can,' he said, only offer you a clay, for I have no other in the house.' 'Have you not a very handsome meerschaum?' said I involuntarily. He looked at me for a moment with surprise, and then replied, laughing: 'I had certainly, but my wife there, compelled me to part with it.' 'And with good reason,' said she. I made no remark, but from their words I infer that my friend, the ghost, had at last succeeded in securing his prize.'

'Well,' said the storekeeper, 'I suppose that's all true.'

'Every word of it.'

'Then all I can say is, that I shouldn't have believed it had I heard it from any one else.'

AN OLD CHUM.

The Civil War in the States.

LATE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

The correspondent of the Tribune gives the following account of the butchery of General French's division :—

"It is not using too strong an expression to say that in this battle we were butchered. The loss of the enemy in comparison to ours must be insignificant.

"More than one half of the division of Gen. French were placed *hors du combat* before they had fired a shot, having orders to withhold their fire, charge bayonets and rush upon the entrenchments. They anticipated no obstacle until they should meet in the hand to hand fight for the crest of the first range of hills. Lying close upon the soft earth, behind a low stone wall and half destroyed fence, which we had not taken into our calculations as obstacles, the enemy watched the approach of General French until every man in the battle line came under aim of the best sharpshooters in the rebel army. In an instant, almost before the fence itself was discovered to be an obstacle, a long thick line of flame and smoke streamed above the fence and wall, and at the moment the first volley of smoke was fired, sixty pieces of artillery, charged with grape and cannister, sent their infernal contents straight through our advancing lines, raking them in front and on both flanks. Destruction so terrible has never been seen during the war.

Gen. French went into the action with 7000 men; to-night, two days after the battle, but 1200 men have reported to him. The entire loss in the corps of Gen. Couch, consisting of the divisions of Gens. Howard, French and Hancock, and which on the morning of the battle contained 40 regiments, old and new, amounting at least to 20,000 men, is about 10,000. The loss of Gen. Reynold's corps of Franklin's grand division, which were at first supposed to be but 2000, is to-night considered by some of Gen. Franklin's staff officers to be nearly 4000. The following are the estimated losses in the three grand divisions :—The total in the right grand division, 7,505; centre grand division, 2,950; left grand division, 3,050. Total 13,505. It is believed that these figures will fall under rather than exceed the official report. Gen. Franklin suffered some what from the enemy's shells while crossing the river. Had he remained a day longer, his position would have been most perilous. One of our brigades left its tents and knapsacks behind in Fredericksburg."

Halleck, in his report, is very severe on McClellan, whom he is accused of wishing to defame and destroy. We have already published some passages which show this. He says of McClellan's inactivity after the battle of Antietam :—

From the 17th of September till the 26th of October McClellan's main army remained on the north bank of the Potomac, in the vicinity of Sharpsburg and Harper's Ferry. The long inactivity of so large an army in the face of a defeated foe, and during the most favourable season for rapid movements and a vigorous campaign, was a matter of great disappointment and regret. Your letter of the 27th, and my reply on the 28th of October, in regard to the alleged cause of this unfortunate delay, I submit herewith, marked Exhibit No. 5. In reply to the telegraphic order of the 6th October, quoted in my letter of the 28th, above referred to, Gen. McClellan disapproved of the plan of crossing the Potomac south of the Blue Ridge, and said that he would cross at Harper's Ferry and advance on Winchester. He, however, did not begin to cross till the 26th of October, and then at Berlin.

This passage occupied several days, and was completed about the 3rd of November. What caused him to change his views, or what his plan of campaign was, I am ignorant, for about this time he ceased to communicate with me in regard to his operations, sending his reports directly to the President. On the 5th inst, I received the written order of the President relieving Gen. McClellan and placing Gen. Burnside in the command of the army of the Potomac. This order was transmitted by a special messenger, who delivered it to Gen. McClellan at Rectortown on the 7th.

Of the acknowledged inertness of the Federal armies he says :—

It is seen during the last two or three months that while our soldiers have generally fought with bravery, and gained many important battles, these victories have not produced the usual results. In many instances the defeated foe was not followed from the battle-field, and even where a pursuit was attempted it almost invariably failed to effect the capture or destruction of any part of the retreating army. This is a matter which requires serious and careful consideration. A victorious army is supposed to be in a condition to pursue its defeated foe with advantage, and during such pursuit, to do them serious, if not fatal injury. This result has usually been attained in other countries. Is there any reason why it should not be expected in this? It is easily understood that in a country like that between Yorktown and Richmond, or the thickly wooded swamps of Mississippi and Louisiana, that the retreating force, by felling trees across the roads and destroying bridges over deep and marshy streams, may effectually prevent any rapid pursuit. The one in a few minutes blocks up or destroys roads, which the other cannot clear or repair for hours, or even days. The pursuer has very little hope of overtaking his flying foe. But this reasoning is not applicable to Maryland, and the greater part of Virginia, Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. It must be admitted that in these theatres of war the rebel armies have exhibited much more mobility and activity than our own. Not only do they out march us, both in advance and retreat, but on two memorable occasions their cavalry have made with impunity the [illegible]tire circuit of the army of the Potomac, [illegible] that the success of an [illegible] arms and legs," [illegible] latter [illegible]

ment to increase the immobility of our armies in the field.

Again, our troops, especially those in the East, have been very little accustomed to march, at least to that kind of marching usually required by active operations in the field. Absenteeism is one of the most serious evils in all our armies. Hundreds of officers and thousands of men are almost continually from their commands. Many of these are really stragglers and deserters. In regard to officers, the evil is being abated by summary dismissals, and if the law could be stringently enforced against the men it would soon put an end to desertions. But straggling on the march and in battle can be prevented only by a severe and summary punishment inflicted on the spot. In this and many other important particulars our military laws require revision and amendment. They were mostly enacted for a small army and for times of peace, and are unsuited to the government of the army we now have, and the war in which we are now engaged.

FROM THE SOUTH.

GREAT BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

From the Richmond Despatch, December 16.

The Battle of Saturday, taking into consideration the number of men engaged, the quantity of artillery and other engines of war employed, the valor of the combatants and the skill of the generals, was probably the greatest battle ever fought on this continent. It was fought by nearly two hundred thousand men and several hundred pieces of artillery. It was contested for ten hours. It resulted in a complete victory to the Confederate forces. We say complete, because, although the enemy's force was not annihilated—killed, captured or dispersed—the failure was entirely owing to the near neighborhood of their strongholds, to which they fled when they found themselves unable to face our force any longer in the field. Had the battle been fought twenty miles this side of the Rappahannock river there would have been such a rout as the world did not witness in the forty-six years that elapsed between the battle of Waterloo and the first battle of Manassas. As it was, it has proved to the Yankees that no superiority of numbers or of preparation can avail them in a pitched battle with the forces of the confederacy—a truth so patent and so often exemplified that we believe they are the only people on earth who venture to deny it.

Our loss has been heavy, but bears no comparison whatever to that of the enemy. *We have to regret about twenty-five hundred killed, wounded and missing*, while, according to the report of those best skilled in making estimates of this description, does not certainly fall short of ten thousand, and in all probability greatly exceeds it. This will not be regarded as at all improbable when we take into consideration the relative position of the opposing armies. The Confederates were on the heights, which rendered them less accessible to cannon. The Yankees were in the low grounds, subject to a murderous fire of artillery and musketry as they advanced. Every shot told, and those who witnessed it say that the slaughter was awful beyond anything yet witnessed in the war. General Longstreet succeeded in getting possession of a long stone wall on the outskirts of Fredericksburg, and in placing a whole division behind it. The Yankees, with more boldness than they usually exhibit on such occasions, attempted to get possession of it. They were repulsed with unparalleled slaughter in every attempt, and at last broke and fled in confusion.

The Yankees, we presume, will wait for the arrival of Sigel's corps before they try their luck again. What may be the strength of this body we have no means of determining; but we feel convinced that it is not sufficiently great to alter the result, and that if after its arrival another attack should be hazarded, the end will be the same. The general hope here is that the trial will be made, so confident are all in the valor of our army and the consummate skill of its great leader. It seems to be doubted whether General Lee permitted the enemy to come over, or whether he could have prevented it had he tried. It seems to us that he had every reason to wish them to come over. He had selected his field of battle, and had thoroughly studied it, as Napoleon had done the field of Austerlitz, when he fell back thirty miles to draw his enemy to it, and as Wellington is said to have done at Waterloo. He had an army full of confidence in themselves and in him. The disparity of force was not so great as to render victory at all improbable when the composition of the two armies and the animating spirit of each are taken into consideration. If they were determined to pass he could hardly have prevented them, since they had possession of the heights on the Stafford side, and had crowned them with innumerable batteries.—What may have been his motives it is impossible for us of course to say; but we understand one of his officers, very high in rank, expressed himself, in strong terms, anxious above all things for them to come over and try their fortunes on the very ground which was the theatre of the battle several weeks ago.

This is the tenth pitched battle in which General Lee has commanded, within less than six months, and in all of them he has been victorious. No other campaign, except that of Italy in 1796, and that of France in 1814, presents such a result. Our people are cheered by the reflection that their armies are commanded by two Generals who have no rival in the art of war—Lee on the Rappahannock, and Johnson in the Southwest. They are as superior to the Yankee generals in every quality that constitutes the military chief as the soldiers they lead are to the thieves and cut-throats that Lincoln sent to subjugate them.

VICTORY IN KENTUCKY.

From the Richmond Examiner, Dec. 18.

We have authentic accounts of two engagements with the enemy on the 7th and 8th of December. On the 7th General Clarkson, with a part of General Floyd's force, met the enemy near Prestonsburg, Ky., and after a hard fight of seven hours routed them totally, capturing eighty-five prisoners.

On the 8th General Floyd, with another part of his force, in conjunction with Col Caudel's Kentucky regiment, fell upon the enemy near Piketon before daybreak, taking them completely by surprise and instantly routing their whole force. The loss on our side was trifling, but the butchery of the Yankees was terrible General Floyde captured near a hundred prisoners, a train of several hundred pack mules, seventeen hundred stand of arms, and large supplies of ammunition and other stores. enough, it is said, to supply his army for several months. The loss of the enemy in killed, in the two engagements, was about two hundred—among them Colonel Dills, and two others of the vilest and most dangerous Union men in Kentucky.

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, on the 22d day of September, in the Year of our Lord 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing among other things the following, to wit: That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then henceforth and forever free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any effort that they may make for their actual freedom; that the Executive will on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people therein respectively shall be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto, at Election, wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall in the absence of stronger countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not [illegible] in rebellion against the United States.

Therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President [illegible] United States, by virtue of the power in me [illegible] Commander-in-Chief of the Army and [illegible] States, in time of actual arm[illegible] United States, and, as a [illegible]easure, do, on this first [illegible] our Lord 1863, and [illegible] so to do, publicly [illegible] 100 days from [illegible] and designate [illegible] wherein the [illegible] in re[illegible] to [illegible]

ties thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons. I hereby enjoin upon the people declared to be free to abstain from all violence unless in necessary self-defence, and I recommend to them in all cases, when allowed, they labour faithfully for reasonable wages. And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service; and upon this Act, sincerely believed to be an Act of Justice granted by the Constitution upon Military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, &c., &c.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY TELEGRAPH.

ST. JOHN, Jan. 5.—At the battle of Murfreesboro on Friday last, the Confederates charged heavily and were repulsed; on Saturday they again attacked the left wing of the Federal army, and were again repulsed. Colonel Anderson reports that the Confederates were decidedly "whipped," and that the Federal forces were nine miles south of Murfreesboro.—The Confederates kill all Contrabands captured on the Federal wagon trains General Sherman's (Federal) advance on Vicksburg had a terrible conflict with the Confederate forces, lasting five hours, driving the enemy in the rear of the city, and from his entrenched works. The next day there was a general advance made by the Federal forces, who succeeded in carrying a strong Confederate position situated on rising ground. The gunboats did not co-operate in the engagement. General Banks and Admiral Farragut were expected to arrive at Vicksburg.—The iron clad steamer "*Monitor*" foundered on Tuesday night last, near Cape Hatteras There were three officers and thirty-eight men drowned by this catastrophe. The "*Passaic*" which sailed in company with the "*Monitor*" had arrived at Beaufort, North Carolina.—The Richmond papers claim great success to the Confederate cause in Tennessee.

ST. JOHN, Jan 5, Evening.—Advices from Murfreesboro to Saturday night represent Federals having advantage and will hold it; everything favorable unless the enemy receive reinforcements from Richmond.—Bragg reports to Richmond Wednesday gained great success over Federals, capturing four thousand (4000) prisoners, 31 pieces artillery, 500 wagons.—Believed at Fredericksburg that large number of Confederates had gone to reinforce Bragg at Murfreesboro. — Gen. Grant telegraphs gunboats engaging Vicksburg batteries.—Grenada Appeal says the Yankees have got possession of the city.—Six millions (6,000,000) worth of property estimated destroyed by recent Confederate raid upon Holly Springs.—General Blunt reports further successes over enemy in his department.—Confederate Creek and Choctaw Indians desire to lay down arms.—New York Commercial says another senatorial raid in contemplation on the President to our Secretary Seward.

ST. JOHN, Jan. 6.—A despatch from Gen. Rosecranz on Sunday announces the retreat of the Confederate army on Saturday night, and a pursuit by the Federals across Stone River. — Another despatch says that the Federal success is complete, and that the entire Confederate army is fleeing towards Tullahoma in disorder.—The federal loss is estimated at nine thousand. The Confederate slaughter is great.—Gen. Sherman, at latest accounts, had carried three lines of the Confederate works near Vicksburg, firing on the fourth and last. He was only two miles from the city, which it is supposed had surrendered. He had captured ten guns and 700 prisoners. The Federal force is 40,000.—General Sullivan, with six thousand men, had a desperate fight, which lasted all day with Forest, near Lexington, Tennessee, routing and scattering the enemy with a loss of 1400 killed and wounded, and 400 prisoners, over 300 horses, one battery, and six guns.—Flour, super. $5 90 a 6 00; $6.35 a 6 50.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

THE HONBLES. E. PALMER AND JOHN LONGWORTH.

TO THE ELECTORS—

Gentlemen,—One of the avowed principles under which the present Government came into power was embodied in a solemn declaration and public pledge before the last election, that, should they be returned with a majority, no member of the Assembly should hold office of emolument, nor enjoy any position of profit from the Government.

The two gentlemen whose names figure in the frontispiece of this letter were among the most active and zealous in promulgating this no-pay and no-office doctrine, and did solemnly pledge themselves publicly to adhere to that political course, if they should be returned to the Legislature.

How they kept their pledge let us examine. Having surreptitiously, with their political confederates, manufactured a majority in violation of justice, they seized with guilty hands the Government of the Colony. Thus positioned, and so empowered, and placed beyond the reach of their confiding constituents, the Honbls. E. Palmer and John Longworth, no longer begging hat in hand, under vows and pledges for your suffrages, dared to disregard their word, and stooped to the violation of their solemn pledge. How! do you ask me, Gentlemen. Give me your attention for a few minutes while I tell how Palmer and Longworth broke their obligations to you.

In seeming accord with their pledge, Messrs Palmer and Longworth — both members of the Executive—the former leader of the Government, filled the public departments with gentlemen unconnected with the Legislature;—thus far faith was kept with you, and all looked fair and honorable. Mr. Palmer, who, under the Responsible system of Government, would have been by right Attorney General, refuses by his pledge that office, but deceives you in that refusal, and imposes upon you the belief of his self sacrifice of pay and position, in not accepting the office of Attorney General. But he, the Leader of the Government, appoints Mr. F. Brecken — one of the juvenile members of the Bar — and partner in the law of Mr. T. H. Haviland, another member of the Executive, first Crown Officer of the Government, with the emolument of £350 per annum. But unmasking this job, it appears that Mr. Palmer is *sub rosa* secured in the salary of Attorney General, £350, which sum Mr. Brecken hands over to him, deducting, however, such amount of fees, as Mr. Palmer receives as Queen's Counsel, which fees, during one term of the Court, amounted to £100. Mr. Brecken, of course, engages Mr. Palmer in all Crown cases, in order to pile on the Queen's Counsel's fees, and leave him, Mr. Brecken, the smallest practicable balance to pay Mr. P. out of the £350, which would in the ratio of the one term of Q. C. fees, £100, reduce the $350 to £150, payable from Brecken to Palmer, and leaving bona fide in the hands of Mr. Brecken £200, to be divided between him and his partner, Mr. T. H. Haviland, ex M. P., ex M. E. C., as spoils out of the office of Attorney General—involving a cost to the country of £550, which work was executed under the old regime, or late Government for £450.

The dodge in the office of Attorney General being accounted for, I next find Mr. E. Palmer and Mr. John Longworth sitting snugly in Council, and appointing themselves, in company with [illegible]k of the Executive Council and Secretary [illegible], Mr. W. H. Pope, Commissioners [illegible] of this Province. For this ser[illegible]ave received, or will be [illegible], by order of the [illegible] Under a Colonial [illegible] the House [illegible]molument, [illegible]

revising the laws, and illegally held seats there. Mr. Palmer covertly receiving the pay of Attorney General, and openly pocketing the remuneration as reviser of the laws, did, as also did Mr. John Longworth, in fobbing the revised law remuneration money, violate the law in respect to their seats in Parliament, and broke their solemn pledge to the country, made previous to the last election.

There can but be one universal feeling of condemnation, in honorable minds, of the deception and disingenuous course adopted by these gentlemen to blind their constituents, and hoodwink the country; and let me, in conclusion, ask you, Gentlemen, what faith or confidence can be placed in the public word or pledge of those gentlemen?

Yours,

IPSO FACTO.

Third Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Charlottetown Debating Club and Reading Room.

It is now some three years since this Institution has been inaugurated in Charlottetown, and your Committee, in accordance with the usual custom, would present a Report of their proceedings and of the progress of the Club while under their management.

When your Committee assumed office in the beginning of 1862, the prospects of the Club were anything but encouraging; some unhappy differences which had previously arisen among the leading members of the association had cast a gloom over its debates, and by excluding many who had hitherto been in the habit of participating in them, had rendered them less interesting and instructive. These differences were, however, by the prompt and decisive action of the Club soon restored, and your Committee rejoice to report that, with one unhappy exception, that harmony and good will, which is the sure harbinger of prosperity and advancement, was then established and has ever since continued to govern and animate the members of this society.

With regard to this exception, your Committee do not think it necessary to particularize but merely to report, that differences having arisen between the Committee and the Superintendent of the Reading Room, a division took place which resulted in the establishment of a seperate Reading Room. It was, however, found that the number of those desirous of supporting societies of this kind was not sufficient to sustain two of them in an efficient manner, and that an amalgamation, if such could be effected, would be highly beneficial to both parties. Acting on this belief, and with the sincere desire of benefitting the Club, your Committee entered into an arrangement with the proprietor of the "Merchants' News Room," which at length resulted in a junction of the two on terms well known to the Club at large. Your Committee feel that the result has justified their expectations as regards the benefits to arise from this amalgamation, and they feel assured that, all former disputes and prejudices being buried in the dust, the Charlottetown Debating Club and Reading Room has now attained a position far above any of a like character which may have hitherto existed in our little Isle, and that it will compare not unfavourably with many institutions of a similar kind in the lower provinces. Your Committee feel that this is not a mere boast, and they would point with pride and satisfaction to the numerous files of newspapers, now received here from almost all quarters of the globe, in support of their statement. They would also embrace the present opportunity of publicly thanking those ladies and gentlemen who have kindly placed on the tables of the Reading Room many instructive and interesting papers, thus proving by their conduct that they have the interest of the society at heart; and they feel assured that if this course of procedure were adapted by all who have it in their power to do so, it would not only be the means of rendering the tables more interesting and attractive, but might, perhaps, enable the Committee to lessen that expenditure which now weighs so heavily on the finances of the Club.

When the Reading Room was first formed in connection with the Club, it was not anticipated that it would reach the dimensions to which it has now expanded itself; the intention of its originators was merely to get, if possible, one or two of the leading English journals in order to render the Club more attractive and interesting than it otherwise would be. It has, however, expanded itself beyond these bounds, and among the papers now received may be numbered the leading journals not only of England, Scotland and Ireland, but also of the United States, Canada and the Lower Provinces. It is unnecessary for us to remind the Club that these papers have entailed an additional expense, which, not being in the first instance foreseen, was, therefore, left unprovided for, and that to this circumstance the existing debt now burdening the Club or at least the greater part of it, must be attributed.

The debt of the Club at the beginning of 1861, according to the report of the Committee previously in office, was about £25; but your Committee are sorry to report that this statement was made under a misconception, and they now find that instead of £25 the debt of the Club was upwards of £30. Your Committee, by practising the utmost economy in the expenditure of the Club, have reduced this amount by a few pounds, but the debt is still so heavy that it retards the progress of the Club greatly: and your Committee view with undisguised satisfaction the recent action of the Club in raising the subscription to 15s. instead of 10s. as formerly, for it proves decisively that all are determined the Club *shall stand*; and if the members come forward, as is expected, your Committee feel confident that at the end of the coming year the debt will be so sensibly decreased as to warrant a return to the old rate of subscription. This debt was, as will be seen at a glance, a serious obstacle to the efficient working of the Society, and in this light it was viewed by the Committee, who immediately endeavoured to devise some method of at least reducing it in amount if not of wiping it away altogether. As a means to this end it was intended to hold a series of "Literary and Musical Entertainments," (several of which have already taken place), the proceeds arising from them to be applied to this object, and your Committe rejoice to report that aided as they were by the exertions of the members of the Club and patronized by the citizens of Charlottetown generally, the results were attended with *perfect success*. The proceeds of the first of these entertainments, after paying all the expenses connected therewith, amounted to the sum of £10; and although the second, owing to some unfortunate misunderstanding, did not (looking at it in a pecuniary point of view), realize as much as its predecessor, still the net proceeds amounted to the not despicable sum of three pounds.

Your Committee do not view these entertainments with *so much* favour *merely* because of the pecuniary advantages arising to the Club from them; they also look at it from another point of view and from a broader basis, viz: as a means of diffusing a love of literature and music among the people at large. Separated as we are during the greater part of the year almost entirely from the rest of the world, without the advantages which many of the cities of our sister colonies possess, we feel that entertainments on this principle are to be heartily desired; and your Committee would express the hope that during the present winter the scheme may be further advanced; and they feel assured that (judging from the past at least) the citizens of Charlottetown will heartily respond and endeavour with all that lies in their power to render them as entertaining and profitable as possible.

Your Committee regret to report the absence of C. C. Vaux, Esq., our late worthy President, who, since the formation of the Club, laboured assiduously for its advancement, and whose zeal and energy in promoting the welfare of the Club, entitles him to the good wishes of every member.

During the year which has just now closed, and since the report of the previous Committee, a great event has occurred in the national history of the world. The great "International Exhibition" of 1862 has come and passed; thousands, hundreds of thousands from all quarters of the globe have congregated in that one centre, and have displayed their wares, their products, and their manufactures in a worthy and glorious competition with each other; the swarthy and semi-civilized son of Asia has there met with the refined and gentlemanly European; and the inhabitant of the icy regions of the North has tested his skill in the arts and sciences with those who live in more genial climes. Little Prince Edward Island has also made her display; the articles, as a leading English journal remarks, have been "more those of a thoroughly useful and necessary than fanciful or ornamental cast, but on the whole very creditable;" we feel, therefore, that it has not been made in vain, and that the day is not far distant when we shall reap its fruits in an extended and beneficial commerce with the mother country. Thousands who hitherto have been altogether unaware of our very existence, will now be made ultimately acquainted not only with our prospects and our resources but also with our civil history. Your Committee feel all the more proud of our Island display because they remember that it was within these walls that the subject was earnestly recommended and urged on the Government; and if ever asked by some doubtful member if the Club ever did anything beneficial to the Island, they would point with pride and satisfaction to the Island Exhibition in the great Industrial mart of 1862, and say, it was through us the Island was represented there at all.

As regards the debates, the primary object of the society, and indeed that for which it was first formed, your Committee have also a cheerful Report to [illegible] subjects discussed during the year [illegible]ws: 1—Can any means be devised [illegible]fitable employment to our surplus po[illegible]—Which has conduced most to the [illegible] of civilization, the Pen or the Sword? 3—Cromwell's character. 4—Whether has Ireland or Scotland produced the best songs? 5—Imprisonment for debt. 6—Award of the Land Commissioners. 7—Limited Liability as applied to our Island commerce. 8—Universal or qualified suffrage. 9—Necessity of change in Charlottetown Corporation. 10—Elective Legislative Council. 11—Southern Confederacy, should it now be recognized? 12—Interference of clergymen in politics. 13—Establishment of a Poor House. 14—French Revolution of 1790. 15—Union of the Colonies. 16—Royal Agricultural Society—its benefits. 17—Relative merits of Shakspeare and Milton.

Your Committee feel that it needs only a glance at the subject matter of these questions to determine that they all, or most of them at least, are of great, of paramount importance to the interest of the Island. Embracing, as they do, questions of a political, historical, social, and commercial character, and stretching over such a wide field of useful inquiry, they cannot fail not only to give a temporary and pleasing gratification, but also to implant many useful and highly necessary truths upon the mind, not only of those of the rising generation, but also of those who have attained maturer years. Nor are the subjects confined or interesting only as regards ourselves. Abroad, and in that country which for many years we have regarded in the light of an elder sister—which for years has lived a life of luxurious ease and prosperity, we now behold torn assunder by internecine war and bloodshed—we now behold a strife which for rank hatred and opposition on the one hand, and firm but determined resolve on the other, has, perhaps, never before been equalled, and certainly never surpassed in the civil history of the world. It is, indeed, a glorious sight (however much the consequences attending it are to be deplored) to behold a people rising en masse in resistance to what they consider an infringement of those rights which have been handed down from their forefathers, and for which they have bled and died. It is, we say, a glorious sight to see them go forth standing "shoulder to shoulder," determined, come what will, to preserve those liberties which are so dear to them. It proves them, indeed, worthy descendants of their great liberty-loving forefathers.

It is our duty not only to acquaint ourselves with the facts of such events, but also to judge of the merits of the causes of the contending parties. For such inquiries this Institution is admirably adapted; for while upon the one hand are collected upon our tables a large and well-assorted number of papers, containing clear and lucid accounts of passing events, we also have in the debates a means by which each and all of the members of the society are enabled to give their reading and their knowledge for the benefit of the others.

Your Committee have no hesitation in saying that the system of debates adapted by the Club is infinitely superior to the lecture system; for while upon the one hand you assemble merely to hear the opinion of one man upon a subject generally of his own choosing, and more, as has been aptly remarked, "for the purpose of shewing off rather themselves than the subject," on the other we meet to hear the views not of one man only but of many, and not only to hear but to sift them of all their dross and arrive at the proper truth of the subject. In this Society and under this system our judgment need not be warped, either through fear of displeasing a prejudiced audience or meriting the countenance of party; a free and unlimited scope is given, and the speaker may, without fear or favour, openly and fearlessly advance what arguments and sustain what views he may think just and proper. The Society being composed of all classes of religious belief, questions of a sectarian character are alone excluded.

The elucidation of truth ought always to form one of our principal objects, and your Committee would express the hope and belief that our efforts, feeble as they may have been towards the attainment of this end, have not been made in vain. In concluding their remarks, your Committee would remind the Club that our efforts, though in a measure feeble, ought not to be despised. We now number on our lists some 200 and odd of the leading gentlemen of Charlottetown, a number amply sufficient to give us at least some weight in the community and in the Island at large.

Societies of this stamp have always been and still are looked upon with favour by some of England's most literary characters, and your Committee would conclude with an extract from the opinion of one of them. Sir James McIntosh says—"The smallest Society brought together by the love of knowledge is respectable in the eye of Reason, and the feeblest efforts of Infant Literature in barren and inhospitable regions are in some respects more interesting than the most elaborate works and most successful exertions of the human mind. They prove the diffusion at least if not the advancement of science, and they afford some sanction to the belief that knowledge is one day destined to cover the whole earth, and in her beneficial progress to illuminate and humanise the whole race of man."

LOUIS H. DAVIES, Sec'y.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 12th, 1863.

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

WE attended, during the past week, five Public Meetings in the above district, from St. Andrew's to Grand River, extending over a space of thirty miles, and we can safely say, that, from a long and intimate acquaintance with the district, we have never seen public meetings there so well and numerously attended. The late members, Messrs. Whelan and Sutherland, were present and addressed each of the Meetings—the former giving a general review of public affairs — contrasting the policy of the present Government with that of the preceding one, as regards financial matters, education, the land question, &c. It is unnecessary to allude to the manner in which Mr. Whelan's remarks were received—it will be sufficient to say that his conduct as a member of the late House was approved of by the constituency without a single exception, and a determination was expressed by all to have him re-elected. A desire was shown by a large portion of the electors—particularly those residing at the western end of the district—for Mr. W. E. Clark to come forward as a candidate. Mr. Clark was at three of the meetings, and addressed them with good effect, but he declined coming out in opposition to another Liberal candidate — it being Mr. Sutherland's determination to run the district again — lest his doing so might cause a very unpleasant, and, perhaps, dangerous division in a constituency heretofore so thoroughly united in supporting liberal principles. Mr. Clark's forbearance and good sense were highly applauded, and will, no doubt, be remembered to his advantage, should circumstances render it necessary for either of the late members to withdraw on a future occasion. Dr. McKeon — a gentleman of superior educational attainments, who resided at the Head of St. Peter's Bay for some time, and who also announced himself as a candidate for the district—saw, likewise, the propriety of not contesting the election, being, like the other candidates, an advocate of liberal principles, and placed a letter of resignation in Mr. Whelan's hands before the latter went to the meetings, which Mr. W. read to the assembled electors. No other candidate was proposed; and it is generally believed throughout the district that Messrs. Whelan and Sutherland will be returned without opposition. Of this fact we are, however, quite sure, that no opposition against them could now be successful. The district has been saved, as we felt confident it could be, from internal division and commotion; and if any person should be silly enough to contest it, it will be only from factious motives, conscious that he will have his reward in being thoroughly beaten, heartily laughed at, and foolishly extravagant with his money.

At the several public meetings referred to above, the Hon. James Dingwell was present, and was proposed as a candidate for the Legislative Council to represent the first division of King's County. Mr. Dingwell addressed all the meetings, where his nomination was carried unanimously, and with great enthusiasm. The Hon. P. Walker, of Charlottetown, was named in connection with Mr. Dingwell as the other candidate for the Legislative Council, and the electors very readily and unanimously expressed their desire to have that gentleman as a candidate — Protestants and Catholics cordially agreeing that there should be a Protestant and a Catholic for the upper House, as well as for the lower one, to represent the district; and Mr. Walker was considered to have strong claims, from his having long served the country in the late Council without pay. There was some doubt entertained as to whether Mr. Walker could offer for the district — an impression having prevailed that he was engaged elsewhere; under which circumstance other candidates were named. But Mr. Walker has now removed the doubt by declaring his readiness to come forward; and we feel satisfied that he and Mr. Dingwell will be returned without opposition.

It was very gratifying to us to notice that the abominable spirit of intolerance and bigotry which the emissaries of the Government have been labouring to arouse in other parts of the Island, is unknown in the second district of King's County, as, indeed, is the case in nearly all parts of the County. There is a very large number of Protestants in the second district—chiefly Presbyterians; and in no part of the Island can a better class of people be found. Highly intelligent—independent in their circumstances, many of them wealthy, and commanding a high social position, they deservedly enjoy great influence; and they use it wisely in promoting harmony and good fellowship between themselves and their Catholic neighbors. We were pleased to hear many of them at the public meetings denounce the intolerant spirit evoked by Sutherland, Fitzgerald, Arbuckle, Pope, and other unprincipled agents of the Government. We rejoice in the belief that the wicked teachings of these hypocrites will never be allowed to pollute the Second District of King's County.

THE GREAT FLARE-UP AT GEORGETOWN AMONGST THE TORIES, AND ITS UNPROFITABLE RESULT.

THE public have been informed by papers in the interest of the Government that there was a great flare-up at Georgetown, some day last week, got up under the especial patronage of the hypochondriacal Colonel and the Secretary with the "unclean hands," for the purpose of counteracting the effect of the large meeting which the Liberals held there a week before. A gentleman in Georgetown, who was present at the Tory meeting, led to go there like many others to witness an exhibition of foolery, writes to us as follows under date of the 6th instant:—"The Tory Meeting here yesterday was one of the flattest affairs imaginable. Col. Gray, the first speaker, apologized for intruding on the meeting by stating that his name was used in an unwarrantable and disrespectful manner by Messrs. Coles and Whelan on Friday last; and that it was entirely owing to that circumstance that we were indebted for his presence here. He then went on with the usual Tory story about the Award—talked of the wonderful benefits it would confer on the tenantry, and said that if the country lost it, there would never again be an opportunity of settling the land question on such favorable terms. He then attempted to disprove the charges of insincerity brought against him by Mr. Coles—told a long story about the Loan—most impudently tried to gull the people by stating that if the Loan were guaranteed, we would immediately be saddled with £7,500 a year, the interest on the whole Loan—he stated that if the Loan were granted, and the £100,000 in the Treasury, he could, if he were Leader of the Government, appropriate £5000 to his own private use, &c. [*Note*—Col. Gray, no doubt, remembers the time when, in his boyish days, a certain over-indulgent and careless father gave a scape-grace son an opportunity of filching public money from the Treasury — the Col. is no doubt shocked at the recollection, but we hope he regards the full grown men of this generation as not quite so depraved as some scamps of boys were thirty years ago.] Our correspondent continues: "Col. Gray said that Mr. Coles went to Mr. Howe and told him a long story about the Loan, and that by his influence the Commissioners were induced hypothetically to state in the Award that if lands could be purchased for 3s. 6d. an acre, the Loan would afford the best means of settling the Land Question. He then went on to defend the course pursued by the Government in their expenditure of the public money—said they were economical to a parsimonious or niggardly degree; and he concluded with a wild appeal to the electors, beseeching them to support him and his party at the ensuing elections, promising, as the reward for that service, free lands, and marvellous blessings of all kinds.

"Mr. Palmer followed, and managed to deliver himself, in a painful way—(Dr. Kaye casting a considerate look upon him all the while)—of one of the driest of his usually dry speeches. He said that Mr. Coles and his party were deceiving the people with regard to the Escheat and Quit Rent questions—that Escheat was not practicable—that the Quit Rents could not be recovered, and that even if they could, every tenant and freeholder on the Island would have to pay his share of them. He told a rigmarole story about the Rent Roll Bill, and how the Liberals sought to provide a Military Force to aid landlords in collecting their rents, which every man at the meeting knew to be a deliberate falsehood, contemptible if uttered by the most insignificant jackanapes who follows in the footsteps of the Government, but so foul a falsehood is deeply disgraceful to the man who is permitted, for a short season, to regard himself as the Leader of that Government. He made a hideous attempt, by distorting his own ungraceful and gaunt physique, to ridicule the personal appearance of the venerable Mr. Cooper; but those who seemed to chuckle were evidently more amused at Mr. Palmer's unnatural contortions of his own body than they were at the accuracy of his description of Mr. Cooper. When Mr. Palmer thought that he had done a very clever thing to bring his audience into good humour by slandering an absent gentleman, he made a desperate splurge at the sympathies of his hearers in favour of the Government—imploring them, in piteous tones, to come to the rescue without delay—assuring them that the country could not be safe unless the present Government be sustained.

"Hon. Heath Haviland next addressed the meeting. He praised himself to the skies for having resigned his seat in the Executive Council; but—affording a strong, though silent commentary on the independence he so much vaunted—he plainly confessed that if he remained in the Executive Council, and voted for the Award, his pocket would suffer, being an Agent for one or two absent proprietors. It is not for me to say, but it is for you to judge, Mr. Editor, how far we should value the *boasted* independence of a man who says—"I shan't remain in the Government any longer, because if I do, I must vote for a measure which I believe my employers don't like. It is far better for me to pitch the Government and the people of this Island to Jericho than to forfeit the good opinion of the Montgomeries; and, what is better than their good opinion, to lose the golden opportunity of forfeiting agency fees. Then farewell to the barren honor of a seat in the Executive Council."

Mr. Haviland made a bid for votes in the Murray Harborr District by saying that the Messrs. Montgomeries were in treaty with the Government to sell their estates at six shillings currency an acre—equal to the price paid for the Worrell Estate, and which price was so much condemned by the members and supporters of the present Government; but he plainly intimated that the sale would not be effected unless the Government were sustained. This bit of buncum had no other effect on the meeting than to shew that the Government were in a distressed state for the want of political capital; and while the supporters of the Government laughed in their sleeves at the humbug, the opponents gave unmistakeable proofs that they were not to be made victims to the imposition.

"The only other speakers were, Secretary Pope and Hon. R. McAulay. The former made a very lame attempt to vindicate himself from the charge of having grossly libelled all the Catholic women of the Island; but his published letters so clearly prove his guilt that the only feeling aroused at the meeting was one of shame that the man should be so cowardly as to deny having published the infamous libel, which is too gross to be particularised. As for McAulay's speech, no one listened to him, and I cannot tell you what he said."

[Our correspondent then proceeds to inform us that the meeting dwindled down to very small proportions, in consequence of the weariness and fatigue inflicted upon them by the dull speakers—that in a very small assemblage Messrs Haviland and McAulay were proposed as candidates for Georgetown; Messrs. Kaye and James Duncan for the Fourth District—the nomination of the latter being stoutly opposed by a deputation from Murray Harbour; and a Mr. John Hamilton was proposed for the Third District; after which the Meeting broke up, "the leaders," to use the words of our correspondent, "apparently exceedingly dissatisfied with the result of the day's proceedings."]

THE CHARLOTTETOWN ELECTION.

GREAT consternation prevails amongst the Government party in this city at the prospect of a successful opposition being given to their nominees. From the moment that Mr. Heard announced his determination to come out, they have been unceasing in their efforts to operate upon that gentleman's mind:—first, by mild, unctuous entreaty to withdraw from the contest—secondly, by loud talk and threats of coercion, withdrawing custom from his establishment, &c. &c.; and finally, they descended to direct bribery. The supporters of Brecken and Davies promised Mr. Heard that if he would pledge himself to vote for the Government, one of the Tory candidates would be withdrawn, and he would be allowed to run unopposed,—or, if not satisfied with that arrangement, they said they would secure his election in a country district, leaving him to take what course he pleased in the House; when all failed, promises of official patronage were made to Mr. Heard. But, to the honour of that gentleman, he has steadily resisted all these debasing overtures. Last week, a deputation from the Orange Lodges waited on Messrs. Heard and Trenaman, to ascertain whether those gentlemen would support the principles of the Order in the event of their being returned to the House. It was a modest application, to say the least of it; —both those gentlemen, of course, refused to have any connection with the Orange Society; and we understand Mr. Heard asked if Messrs. Davies and Brecken were pledged to support the Orange Order, *and he was told that they were not applied to*. We know several other candidates in town that have not been applied to, namely, Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Lord, Hensley and Davies. Why are not these candidates asked if they will support Orange Lodges?

We have heard that a Requisition, addressed to Mr. Heard, is now being hawked about the Town, asking that gentleman to resign. This requisition has been got up *merely* to test the strength of the Wesleyan body, as favourable to the Government and opposed to Mr. Heard. We do not suppose that it can have any other effect on his mind than to stimulate him to pursue more vigorously than ever the independent course which he has marked out for himself.

All these schemes and dodges of the Tory party, all their attempts at bribery, cajolery, coercion, and corruption, show very plainly that they look upon their cause as a losing one. Lost, it will be, in the election for Charlottetown; few candidates throughout the Island have a better chance of election than Messrs. Heard and Trenaman; and we are confident that the former is incapable of sullying the independent character he has so honorably assumed by succumbing at the last moment, to the wiles, machinations, or threats of the enemies of free speech and opinion.

NOMINATION DAY.

SHOULD the roads be favourable for travelling—and as we write there seems to be a good prospect of a fair covering of snow—the attendance at the Nominations in the three Counties will surpass in numerical strength anything of the kind ever before witnessed in this Colony. The Liberals of Queen's County are impatient for the coming of the day! How we should like to see the stalwart fellows pushing in from a hundred thickly populated settlements that need not be named, to preserve peace and order in Charlottetown, as they did at the memorable "Donnybrook Fair Meeting," when the rowdies of the Tory party were prepared to disturb the peace, to commit atrocious violence, and to trample the laws of the country under foot. In Georgetown there will be a glorious gathering on that day. The whole of the North and South sides of King's County, as far as Cardigan, are prepared to send such a contingent of loyal subjects of our Queen as will be prepared to maintain Her Majesty's peace at any cost. The Government, through their Colonial Secretary, are working hard to get up rows on the Nomination Day in Queen's and King's Counties. We warn the Government that they shall be held responsible for any act of violence that may be committed in any part of the Island,—they have encouraged their Secretary to throw firebrands broadcast through the land,—the Liberals are determined to put down disorder and mob violence: their praiseworthy efforts may not, in all cases, be attended with success, without, perhaps, some little personal damage to their opponents. But if any harm should be done, let it be clearly understood, beforehand, that the Government—and the Government only—will be clearly accountable for it,—that they, through their officials, are exciting the people to disturb the peace—to endanger life and property, and to prevent freedom of election. If the Government and their partizans should be check-mated in their unholy play, as they will be—if they should not be allowed to trample, by brute force, on the freedom of election, (a freedom they would wish to destroy for ever)—and if, as a consequence of their temerity, they should come to grief, we advise them not to look for sympathy from the Liberals. We hope that every Liberal elector will use his best exertions to preserve the peace; and if any pet lamb of the Government attempts to disturb it, let him be taken gently in hands, and quietly conciliated.

C. Y. M. L. INSTITUTE.—Mr. E. Roche delivered an excellent lecture before this Institute, on Wednesday night last, on "the Civil War in the States." He entered into the origin of the war, which he traced to slavery; he also gave an eloquent description of events since the breaking out of hostilities, and expressed the opinion that the people of this Island, at least, ought to sympathize with the Federal Government in their endeavour to preserve the Union, seeing that the people of the North are our best customers and friends; and he concluded by hoping that victory, decisive and complete, might yet perch on the "star-spangled banner." The debate which ensued was very animated; and an extraordinary amount of eloquence was displayed by the opposition, yet the main points of Mr. Roche's argument were not combatted. The discussion will be resumed on Tuesday evening next, 13th inst.—COM.

CHARLOTTETOWN DEBATING CLUB.—The question for debate on Friday evening last, the 9th instant—"Should a criminal be examined in his own cause," which was opened by M. Leod, Esq.—was, after discussion, decided unanimously in the affirmative. The subject for discussion on Friday evening next is the following—"Should the Usury Laws be abolished." To be opened by the President.

The late members of the Club and Reading Room, who have not yet renewed their connection for the present year, are requested to do so without further delay, as they will be debarred access to the institution if their subscriptions are not paid.

GEO. ALLEY, Sec'y.

Charlottetown, Jan. 12, 1863.

P. E. ISLAND CALENDAR.—A neatly-bound interleaved copy of this useful Almanack, for the present year, has been furnished us by the publishers, Messrs. Laird & Harvie. In addition to the usual astronomical calculations, table of remarkable days, &c., it contains accurate lists of all the religious, benevolent and literary Societies, clergymen, schoolmasters and magistrates on the Island, and a large amount of other useful information, of which every one should be in possession. The printing and general mechanical arrangement and appearance of the Calendar reflect credit on the establishment from which it was issued, and the calculations are as accurate as those found in the general run of almanacks, and quite precise enough for the use for which they were intended.—VIS.