companion was answering a question he had put just before he fell asleep; so that his slumber could not have lasted many seconds. Lord Holland, overpowered by fatigue whilst a friend was reading to him, fell asleep, and had a dream which took him a quarter of an hour to commit to paper; yet when he awoke he found that he had not missed a sentence of the work that was being read to him.—*Dream Reading in Harper's New Monthly Magazine.*

THE FALSE STORY OF MURDER OF A SHIPWRECKED CREW.

[From the Halifax Evening Express, Sept. 19.]

The contradiction and exposure by this journal, a short time since, of the absurd story of the murder of two shipwrecked crews at Cape St George, N. F., has had the effect of "stirring the bile" of one Joseph McVane, of Bothwell, (wherever that is,) who endeavours in a rambling column of whining excuses, and inconsistent statements *from hearsay*, lately published in the *Islander*, to shift the responsibility—occasioned by his old-maidish desire of making public some "cabin-gossip" picked up on the Labrador—on the shoulders of Capt. James Jeffrey, of the schr. "J. R. Stewart," and Edward Stewart, seaman, of the same vessel. An affidavit is also published by the last named person to the effect that he was *informed*, in July last, on the Labrador, by the crew of the schr. "Delitris," of Nova Scotia, Capt Anderson, that the Captain and crew of the "Sirocco" were murdered at Cape St. George last December, after having suffered shipwreck.

In view of the clear and lucid statements of Capts. Shaw and Messervey, (both residing in the vicinity of the wreck,) published by us, it is rather astonishing that "*ampler evidence than has yet been adduced*" should be required, but we suppose due allowance should be made for persons of weak, excitable temperaments, and great powers of imagination, as they are more readily imposed upon than plain every day matter-of-fact people.

Possibly this Joseph McVane, of Bothwell, may be a little "soft," nay, "easily gulled," not to put too fine a point upon it, and, not improbably, as fond of a bit of gossip as any veteran spinster that ever sipped Bohea, and it may charitably be concluded, that had he further been informed by Captain Jeffrey or Edward Stewart, A. B, or "any other man," that the unfortunate crew of the "Sirocco" were roasted and eaten by the fishermen of Newfoundland, "many of whom," to quote his own words, "are but one remove from savages;" this "Bothwell celebrity," like the ghost in Hamlet, might

"A tale unfold, whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy [illegible]l; freeze thy young blood;
Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres;
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,
And each particular hair to stand on end
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine."

But seriously whether this Joseph McVane had a hidden *motive* in making this extraordinary slander in the absence of more authentic information, or whether from officiousness, or an overweening sense of self-importance, he circulated it, the result is the same to the unfortunate individuals thus publicly accused of the basest of crimes, and we have reason to know that although "only fishermen" in a remote district, and in humble circumstances, and from their isolated position, debarred from ready access to any of the usual modes of redress for gross defamation such as they have been subjected to, yet they feel the indignity attempted to be put upon them, just as keenly, and *perhaps more* than would Joseph McVane, of Bothwell, Captain Jeffrey, Capt. Anderson, or Edward Stewart, under the same circumstances.

CANAL TO CONNECT THE BAY OF FUNDY AND GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE.—The propriety of connecting the Bay of Fundy with the Gulf of St. Lawrence, by cutting a canal through the narrow isthmus which connects Nova Scotia with New Brunswick has been recently started by New Brunswick and Canadian papers. It is shown that "by the aid of this work the circumnavigation of the entire coast of Nova Scotia would be saved to those who wish to pas from the Bay of Fundy intothe Mediterranean of British America.—From St. John to the Gulf at Shediac the distance by water is at present more than 500 miles; by cutting across the neck of land at the head of the Bay the distance would be reduced to 100 miles. Of course the long sea voyage is never made, and there is no community of interest between those parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia which are situated on the Bay of Fundy, and those on the North shore of the same Provinces. On both sides there is a great loss in consequence, and the narrow isthmus is especially a hindrance to the profitable development of the Fishery business in these parts. Owing to this cause, the Yankees at Cape Ann, Mass., are nearer the valuable mackerel fisheries of the Gulf than the Nova Scotian and New Brunswick fishermen who live on the Bay of Fundy; and the consequence is, that the latter do not participate in the fisheries, though the Nova Scotians on the Atlantic side do, for the simple reason that by way of the Gut of Canso they are near the fishing grounds. By the people on the Gulf side of these Provinces, the fishing business is pursued to a very limited extent, and the main reason is, that they cannot follow it during the long winter, the harbours being closed by ice. But this is not the case on the Bay of Fundy, at the mouth of which, among the numerous islands, fishing is carried on for herring as well as other fish during the whole winter. By means of a short canal the waters on both sides could be thrown into one, and fishermen with their schooners and boats could pass from one to the other, as the season required. Thus, so far as the fishery business is concerned, the Gulf of the St. Lawrence would have easy access to open water all the year round. For general purposes of navigation too this shortening of the route would be of great advantage; and the chief difficulty, we believe, would be in finding a channel to which the acces from the Gulf side would be deep enough for vessels of any considerable size. There is one point at which a cutting of four or five miles would connect the two waters by means of rivers on each side; but at this point it is doubtful if vessels of more than 200 tons could enter by way of Bay Verte. Even a limited gain like this would be worth considerable outlay; but to benefit the united Provinces, and to establish a claim as a national work, the canal would need to be located so as to afford a passage to the class of sea going vessels and propellors, which, if St. John engages largely in the West India and South American trade, would be employed in carrying between that city and the St. Lawrence if this route were opened."—*Halifax Evening Express, Sept. 19.*

IT MUST GO ON.

(From the Montreal Trade Review, Sept. 7.)

We refer to the Intercolonial Railway.—Every week shows the people of British America more and more that we are too dependent upon the neighbouring Republic for means of transportation to the seaboard. This renders this railway a necessity! and recent intelligence from Great Britain leaves little reason to doubt that Lord Derby's Government are prepared to guarantee a loan to the extent of £4,000,000 stg. It is well known that the Palmerston Ministry gave a pledge to this effect, the immediate parties to the pledge being Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Gladstone, Lord de Grey and the Duke of Somerset. The only condition of importance imposed was, that the different Provinces should agree to Confederation. This condition is now in a fair way of fulfilment, and it is reported on good authority that Lord Carnarvon, the new Colonial Secretary, has signified the intention of the present British Government to make good the pledge of their predecessors. There is no reason to doubt this whatever, so that we may rest assured that with the consummation of Confederation, the Intercolonial road will be commenced. There is no denying the fact that this line will cost the Provinces considerable, the bulk of which will fall upon Canada; but if the Provinces unite, of which there can now be no doubt, it will be absolutely indispensable. It has also become very essential from a trade point of view. This is particularly the case since the Americans abrogated the Reciprocity Treaty, and we have been compelled to look to the Lower Provinces for a market for our breadstuffs. The sooner, therefore, the road is commenced the better. The present is probably not the best time to float a loan on the British money market, the rate of interest having lately been very high, but the guarantee of the British Government will enable the whole amount necessary for the construction of the road to be procured on easy terms. The advantages to the Provinces from the Imperial guarantee cannot be over estimated; without it, it is very doubtful if we could raise so much money in England at the present time. The course of the Mother Country in this matter deserves the warmest thanks of the Colonies, and must soon insure direct railway communication between all Canadian cities and Halifax, the Nova Scotian capital.

THE FENIAN CONGRESS—THE LAST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Fenian Congress at Troy adjourned sine die at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning, having remained in session all night and continuously for 22 hours, with the exception of a brief adjournment of two hours during Saturday. The session was as stormy as it was protracted, and related mainly to a consideration of General Sweeney's military and executive abilities. His financial report was reported upon favorably by the Committee, and approved by the Congress, but the Military Committee censured him for the appointment of incompetent officers to some of the subordinate positions. They consider that he has not administrative ability to discharge the duties of Secretary of War, but that he has the military skill to command an army in the field. In view of these strictures, Gen. Sweeney at once tendered his resignation as Secretary of War. The Senate was reduced from fifteen members to nine, and the President of the Brotherhood has the appointment of the Executive officers. Power was also conferred upon the President to appoint a Commander-in-Chief, and before the Congress adjourned a resolution was passed requesting the recognition of Gen. Sweeney's abilities by his appointment to that position. But the General has expressed his determination to serve no longer in any capacity, as he does not consider the partes who now have the management of the Brotherhood capable of doing anything to serve Ireland. The resolution tendering the thanks of the organization to Gen. Banks and Congress for the action taken in reference to the modification of the neutrality laws, was adopted with great unanimity, previous to the adjournment. Mr. Roberts declined a re-election as President of the Brotherhood, but a unanimous vote and the persistent endeavours of his friends to retain his services at last overcame his scruples, and he consented to serve for another year.

President Roberts made the following appointments: Inspector-General, Gen. J. O'Neil of Nashville; Chief Military Organizer, Col. Michael Bailey of Buffalo.

Gen. Sweeney is very indignant over his virtual deposition by the Congress, and his friends, who were quite numerous in the body, are considerably excited thereat; but they will, it is believed, fully acquiesce in the action of the delegates after the first ebullition of passion subsides. I may state that Gen. O'Neil was tendered Gen. Sweeney's place, but peremptorily declined. Gen. Logan is spoken of as Sweeney's successor. The Central Organizers, Messrs. D. O'Sullivan, James Brennan, and W. J. Hynes, have been retained. I am able to assert, as the result of the action of this Congress, that if the finances of the Brotherhood will admit, a raid upon Canada will take place before the snows of Winter. President Roberts and Gens. Sweeney and O'Neil left for New York this evening.—*New York Tribune.*

THE PRINTING PRESS.

How wisely events follow each other in proper order! Just at the time when the mind of Europe was waking from a thousand years' lethargy, and when means were required to spread abroad the results of the inquiries which the learned were making in all branches of science, Caxton gave to the world the Printing Press. By its instrumentality the discoveries and inventions of one land have become the property of the entire globe, and the advancement of science has been greatly promoted. No man of the present age has more fully comprehended this truth than Holloway. The same intellect that led him to the studies which resulted in the production of his celebrated Pills and Ointment saw at once the immense advantage to the world as well as to himself, which might be drawn from this source. He laid his discoveries before the world, sowing his seed broadcast, wherever a written language is read, and modestly awaited the result. His confident statement of his theory led men to try his remedies; their intrinsic excellence when once tried established them firmly in the confidence of the public of both Hemispheres, and Professor Holloway stands now, in the estimation of the people, as the most powerful opponent of all disease. For disorders of the liver and stomach, the Pills are claimed to be a swift and sure specific, and the claim is verified by an overwhelming mass of testimony. Now we all know how entirely the bodily health depends upon the condition of those two important organs. If the digestion is impaired, the bowels disordered, and the liver torpid or congested, the whole frame suffers; the strength declines, the spirits droop, the complexion becomes cadaverous, the flesh wasted, supineness and despair take the places of energy and hopefulness the sick man becomes as dead to the great objects and pursuits of life as if he were entombed alive. Out of his self-sepulchre, as it were, this powerful remedy lifts him as it by magic—a few timely doses of these Pills bring back digestion, appetite, and physical energy. These statements are too plain, and too easily contradicted if untrue, to admit of the slightest doubt. On the contrary, we know them to be nothing but the literal fact. They are not founded merely upon common report, but upon the testimony of parties occupying high positions in society—men of unblemished reputation and matured judgment—that likewise is confirmed by circumstances within our own immediate knowledge.—*Icerach Telegram.*

NAPOLEON'S OPERA HOUSE.—Louis Napoleon is building an opera house in Paris, which will rival in extent and grandeur the Coliseum at Rome. It will cost about $5,200,000 and will be constructed entirely of stone, brick and metal Nothing combustible will enter its composition. It will cover seven and a hal acres, and be two hundred feet in external height. The auditorium, however, is calculated to seat only about three thousand persons. Every box will have its separate saloon attached, fitted up like drawing rooms, and a carriage way will be constructed to the second story from the street. The most successful celebrated artists of France—painters, sculptors and architects—will be employed in its ornamentation and erection. It will be entirely unapproachable in finish and richness by any structure at present existing.

"A stitch in time saves nine."—It is much easier to guard against disease by taking proper care of the system, when unimpaired, than to mend it when once broken down. Upon the first appearance of pain use Bloed's Rheumatic Compound.

The Hon. Mr. Hamlin, late Vice-President of the United States, has taken the stump on an electioneering tour in support of the Black Republican party in the Northern States, and declares that the Johnson party will ultimately make an effort to assume the payment of the rebel war debt.

Governor Dundas and lady are at present on a visit to the Governor General of Canada. Mrs Dundas is visiting the Convents.—*Halifax paper.*

Dr. Kirwin, of Quebec, has been commissioned by Lord Monck to purchase 1,000 horses in Canada, on account of the Imperial Government, for the use of the Hussars and Artillery, soon to arrive.

The report of the Steamship *Persia*, making the passage from New York to Queenstown in six days is absurd. She left New York on the 5th, and arrived in Queenstown, on the 14th, being 9 days, which no doubt is the shortest passage on record.

We are instructed to inform the readers of the EXAMINER that if Parsons' Purgative Pills fail in any instance to give satisfaction, the money shall be refunded. Cut out this notice and take it with you.

The English judges decided at Westminster, a month ago, that it was a principle of common law that a counsellor, in questioning a witness, should address him in ordinary tones, and in language of respect, such as is employed by a gentleman in conversation with another; that such lawyer has no right to question the private business or moral character of a witness, any further than is apparent they absolutely affect his reliability, or touch the case in hand; and that a witness is not bound to answer questions put to him in an insulting manner. There is nothing new in this decision, but unfortunately it is too frequently forgotten in practice. In many cases the witness is treated worse than the criminal, and his efforts to tell the truth are rewarded by an amount of bullying which outside the court-room would entitle the questioning counsel to the benefit of summary flagellation We do not mean that this evil is at all general, or the majority of barristers do not recognize it as their duty to act as gentlemen in the court-room as well as outside of it; but there are exceptional cases familiar to all who have attended trials, where the conduct of the counsel is simply brutal. To such, as well as to remind witnesses of their rights while under examination, the above facts may be useful.

Prussia has cast a steel gun which shoots a missle weighing 1,255 lbs.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph Per Atlantic Cable.

LONDON, Thursday noon, Sept. 13.

The Atlantic Telegraph Company have called a meeting of the stockholders for the purpose of raising funds to buy up the interest of the Anglo American Telegraph Company, under whose auspices the cable has been completed.

PARIS, Thursday noon, Sept. 13.

The *Moniteur* of to-day publishes a Convention which was signed in the city of Mexico, by which Maximilian transfers to French agents one half of the receipts from Customs throughout the Empire, for the purpose of paying the liabilities of Mexico to France. The convention goes into operation on the 1st of November.

The *Journal des Debats* of to-day states that the French and English Governments have conjointly made an active representation to the Sultan of Turky, against the acquisition by the United States Government of an island in the Gulf of Orim.

MADRID, Thursday noon, Sept. 13.

The Spanish Cortes have voted to increase the import duty on certain goods to 12 per cent.

TRIESTE, Thursday, Sept. 13.

Advices from Athens state that the Cretan Assembly have voted for the annexation of the Island of Candia to Greece.

The Prussian Chamber of Deputies have voted an electoral law and Parliament for Saxony.

Negotiations between Prussia and Saxony make very slow progress. It is said that Prussia demands the taking of an oath of loyalty to herself by the Saxon troops, the payment of ten million thalers as an indemnity to Prussia for the expenses of the war, and the right to garrison the Fortress of Konigstern, and the cities of Dresden and Leipsic with Prussian troops.

ST. PETERSBURG, Thurday, Sept. 13.

A farewell banquet was given to-day to the American embassy; Mr. Fox and several U. S. Naval Officers were present. Count Gortschokoff made a speech, expressive of the hope that the era of good faith now prevailing between Russia and the United States, may be permanent and stationery, that there was danger of its being considered a menace to other nations.

Gold 144⅜.

PARIS, Friday, Sept. 14.

In an article published in to-day's *Moniteur* it is stated that Maximilian has named General Osmond as Minister of War of the Empire of Mexico to reside in France, but his military duties to his own country being incompatible with the proper discharge of the duties of the new official position thus offered him, the Emperor Napoleon has refused to grant the necessary authority to General Osmond to accept the position.

FLORENCE, Friday, Sept. 14.

It is announced that the Plenipotentiaries of Austria and Italy have agreed upon all points but the amount of Indemnity, and that they will soon arrive at a satisfactory adjustment on this score, when the Treaty of Peace will be officially signed by the high contracting parties, and proclaimed throughout the two countries.

BERLIN, Friday, Sept. 14.

Some doubt having been expressed of the passage of the bill authorizing the King to make a loan for the liquidation of the late war expenses, it is announced on what may be considered semi-official authority, that should the bill be defeated, the Chamber of Deputies will be dissolved by a Royal decree.

QUEENSTOWN, Sept. 14th.

The steamship *Persia* from New York Sept. 8 has arrived, thus making one of the shortest passages on record.

PARIS, Friday, Sept. 14.

A report is current here that the Emperor has sent to Mexico for the recall of Marshal Bazaine.

PARIS, Sept. 14.

It is stated that arrangements for a meeting between the Emperor Napoleon and Count Bismarck have been completed, and the interview will soon take place.

BERLIN, Friday, Sept. 14.

The army of the Main is on its homeward march, and the vanguard has reached Frankfort.

TRIESTE, Friday, Sept. 14.

A conflict has taken place in Syria between the Parsees and the Bedouins, in which the latter were defeated.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Friday, Sept. 14.

Advices received from the Turkish army announce that it has commenced the invasion of Lebanon.

LONDON, Sept. 15.

There is a rumour of difficulty between Italy and Austria on the subject of the debt of Venetia.

It is said that Great Britain has urged the Porte to give an autonomy to the Cretans, and that the Porte has refused.

The troubles on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean are on the increase.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 15.

The United States Squadron left Russian waters to-day.

MOSCOW, Sept. 15.

The Moscow *Gazette* extols the alliance between the United States and Russia.

BERLIN, Sept. 15.

Count Bismarck has sent a letter of thanks to the United States Minister, acknowledging the kindness of the American residents who furnished the fifty tons of ice for the wounded in the hospitals.

PARIS, Sept. 15.

It is expected that the circular which the Emperor Napoleon is about to issue to the Powers of Europe will be very pacific in its tone and character.

Breadstuffs firm.
Consols 89¼. Five-twentie's 72¼.
Gold 144¼.

NEW YORK, Sept. 17th.

Tribune has the following cable despatches:

VIENNA, Sept. 13.

We are on the verge of another war, which threatens to equal in extent that just ended.

Austria shows bad faith in negotiating with Italy, and has made unreasonable demands to which Italy will not submit.

Austria has overcharged the debt of Venetia, and withholds Venetian property which she was bound to transfer.

BERLIN, Sept 14.

Prussia has emphatically notified Austria that she will not suffer Italy, her ally, to be insulted and defrauded, and that if Austria insists on her present course war must follow.

PRAGUE, Sept. 14.

The homeward march of the Prussian troops has been peremptorily arrested, and the demobilization of the entire army stopped.

DRESDEN, Sept. 14.

Everything looks like war.

There is no reply from Austria to the notification of Prussia.

It is now but a question of hours whether troops be not again put in motion for Vienna.

QUEENSTOWN, Monday, noon, Sept. 17.

The *Ann*, from Liverpool for the Baltic, has put into this port badly damaged.

HAMBURG, Monday morning, Sept. 17.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of North Schleswig, held in the city of Flensburg, a resolution was adopted in favor of the incorporation of the entire Duchy with Prussia.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sunday, Sept. 16.

Reinforcements of Turkish troops have been sent to the Island of Candia, where the insurrection still presents a bold front.

SOUTHAMPTON, Monday, noon, Sept. 17.

The Mail steamer from Rio Janeiro brings the important information that the troops of the Allies have been badly defeated by the Paraguayans.

FROM THE STATES.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19.

A Toronto despatch of yesterday says a full financial statement of the Bank of Upper Canada, will be published immediately. It is said the assets will be sufficient to cover liabilities. No serious apprehensions as to other Banks are felt.....The work on the Huron and Ontario Canal was formally commenced yesterday, by the President, Mr. Apriat, turning the first sod.....No cable news.....Gold 142⅞.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19, p. m.

A rumor is current that 300 Fenians are about to leave Boston for a raid upon some Canadian Bank. Col. Roberts and Fenian Senate are taking measures to prevent the expedition from starting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Dear Sir:

In perusing the columns of the *Summerside Progress*, my attention was drawn to an editorial article, the subject of which was "Westward Ho!" in which he gave an account of a "flying visit" he had made to the Western portion of the Island, in which the "learned" editor makes use of many incorrect statements relative to the different branches of trade carried on in the enterprising village of Alberton.

Now, I have lived some years in Alberton, and I presume to know more about it by personal experience than the editor who was only on a flying excursion through it; yet he would have people believe, who knew nothing about it, that it is the centre of twice as much business as is really carried on. As regards the number of men, of which the Editor gives an account, who are employed in the several blacksmith shops, I can positively assert it to be a piece of gross misrepresentation, for I am certain that there is not near the number of men employed in the work that he would have us believe. The same may likewise be said of the other branches of trade, without exception.

I do not think the distinguished editor could have seen many stores of any note in his travels throughout the Island, when he speaks in such laudable terms of the new building recently erected by Messrs. R. & W. Reid. No doubt the Messrs Reid are enterprising men, and deserve credit for their untiring efforts; but at the same time there are stores throughout the Island of greater magnificence than theirs. However, I wish their efforts may be crowned with success.

No doubt the village of Alberton is both thriving and prosperous, in a degree that is highly creditable to its enterprising inhabitants; and is destined, from its immediate connection with that inexhaustible source of wealth, the Gulf fisheries, to become, at no very distant day, a smart little town. But the trade department of the little town was misrepresented by the editor of the *Progress*, though it might have happened unintentionally. * * * * * He must have been excited to a great degree when he took his departure from Alberton "at the gait of a two-forty, with the whole population looking after him with tears in their eyes." It appears that he must have made himself very popular when among them, when they thus expressed their sorrow.

Dear Sir, I fear I am intruding rather much on your valuable journal, therefore I will draw these few remarks to a close, hoping you will insert them in an early number of your paper.

I remain, yours, &c.,
JUSTICE.

King's County, Sept. 14th, 1866.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—

Your correspondent "Thistle," some five weeks since, made a flourish of intended benevolence by the Caledonian Club, arising from the proceeds of the great gathering at their games on the Government Grounds on the 15th of August last. But "Thistle's" vaunting note of material charity, to be bestowed upon the houseless and indigent sufferers by the desolating fires, is yet an empty sound. Had the starvelings and the unclad depended upon the action of the Club's Executive, the hungry would have been unfed, and the naked unprotected? Why is the aid promised still a myth? Why has the Club seemingly felt so cold towards the consuming calamity of the sufferers? I ask the Executive officers of the Club, why the balance in hand, derived from the gathering of the 15th August, is yet unapplied to the object which the Club publicly purported to serve, and is bound in honor to fulfil?

All charities raised for the benefit of the poor in view, excepting alone the sum gathered by the Club, have been handed over to His Worship the Mayor, or paid into the Poor Fund for appropriation to the eager necessities of the unfortunates, and yet the Club withholds.

PURPOSE.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, September 24, 1866.

A POLITICAL REVIEW.

No. 1.

WE never knew such little interest to be taken by the public concerning a general election as that which prevails at the present time. We have had so many pathetic appeals to the patriotism of our public men, imploring them to preserve our Parliament in its full integrity—so many fierce denunciations of all who favour Confederation as the means of lessening the power of our Parliament—that we surely thought there would be vigorous preparations for the election before now. No—there is about as little stir as there would be for the election of a Mayor and City Council.

That there will be an election this Fall or early in the winter, seems to us morally certain; and we cannot divine why it is deferred unless it be that the Government are waiting for an answer to the resolutions and address of the House of Assembly, passed last Session, on the question of Confederation. We may fairly assume that there has been no answer from the Home Government to the resolutions, or it would have been published. Negotiations have been so long pending between the Colonial Office and the other Provinces—by the result of which this Colony cannot fail to be affected one way or another—that it seems to us quite reasonable for the Colonial Minister to defer an answer to the Address of our House of Assembly until the negotiations shall have been brought to a close. Whatever may be the precise nature of the answer—and we may rest assured it will not be over complimentary to our little Parliament which declared hostility to the Imperial policy on the question of Confederation, and announced the determination of the Colony not to enter into a Federal Union with the other American Provinces *on any terms*—it will not, however, seriously affect the decision to be given at the hustings. There is not one district in the Island but will declare against a Federal Union—some districts more emphatically than others; and we believe there will not be one candidate throughout the whole Island who will say that this unpopular measure should be urged contrary to the wishes of the people. Confederation or anti-Confederation cannot, therefore, be properly a test at the polls; and those who say it should be a test are evidently—although they may not all now see it—leading the public away from the consideration of questions of a purely local character, of great importance to the Colony. We will take it for granted that amongst the thirty members to be returned to the lower House—(of the upper House we take little or no account)—not one will appear as the out-and-out advocate of Confederation, whatever his private views may be upon the matter. So that question will be promptly settled, *so far as our Legislature can settle it.* If the Home Government, having agreed to, and consummated the Confederation of the other Provinces, will consent to leave us out of the arrangement, we may be sure there will be onerous terms proposed about naval and military defence, and such things, and the entire payment by the Colony of every charge now borne by the Imperial Treasury—the payment of the Lieut. Governor's salary being not the least important. It will be an immense condescension to the august power of this Colony if Great Britain will allow it to keep aloof from the general plan of Confederation; but to say that we can keep aloof from that plan, and still have no greater burthens to bear than those which are inseparable from our present condition, is a thing which, we believe, no reasonable man should expect. There is a very general belief throughout the Island—(alas, how many foolish things this Island has been led to believe!)—that it is not in the power—(yes, "power" is the word generally used)—of the British Government to change our constitution without our own consent. If that be the case, it is not in the power of the British Government to impose any terms consequent upon our remaining in an isolated condition, unless the terms be perfectly acceptable to ourselves. We beg to decline entering into an argument on either of these propositions. We will only say that if the British Government should manifest this singular forbearance, it will not be in conformity with its general Colonial policy, the aim of which has been to place all the Colonies having representative institutions on an equal footing. The smallest of the Colonial possessions will then, in the extraordinary case assumed, be the recipient of more petting and coaxing from the British Government than has ever yet fallen to the lot of any dependency of the Crown.

Now, as nearly all the candidates at the elections will declare point blank against Confederation—(there may be a few who hold an unbiassed opinion in favor of the measure, but who will have good sense enough not to attempt an impracticable advocacy of it)—let us see what other questions there are worthy of the consideration of the electors at the forthcoming contests.

There are two parties here, as is the case in every other place which possesses parliamentary government—the *Ins* and the *Outs*, or the Conservatives and Liberals. The former have been in power nearly eight years. They went to the country with a long array of pledges—not one of which can we remember they have redeemed, excepting the pledge to make the Legislative Council an elective body—a measure of extremely doubtful utility, and in carrying out which most of the Liberal members of the House of Assembly aided the Conservatives. The party in office solemnly pledged themselves to settle the Land Question—which constitutes our only great grievance; but after trying the expensive experiment of the Land Commission, and the Delegation to England which grew out of it, and came to naught—after passing a Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, and the local Loan Bill as a supplementary measure, the Conservatives found that they could not satisfy the expectations which they had excited in the minds of the tenantry, without falling back upon the policy of their predecessors, carrying out *their* Land Purchase Bill, which they had declared while in opposition to be a very objectionable measnre, and most obnoxious to the freeholders of the Island. Some fair purchases were effected—the first and best being the purchase of the Selkirk estate; but whether even that will be a self-sustaining transaction is a matter about which there is more than considerable doubt. The purchase of the Cunard estates—the last and the greatest transaction under the Purchase Bill—has been effected at such a high price as to make it impossible for the majority of the settlers on that estate to become freeholders for many years to come. When the Worrell Estate was bought at six shillings an acre, but which was really not more than five shillings an acre, allowing for deductions on account of fishery reserves, and Lot 66, unattorned, it was said the country would be ruined, unless the estate were speedily sold at auction for whatever it might bring, and the Land Office finally closed. The Worrell Estate cost about twenty thousand pounds—the greater part of it is settled in freehold, and no apparent loss upon it yet. The Cunard Estates cost about ninety thousand pounds, and the Government party make no secret of their belief that it will involve a loss to the Colony of at least one half that amount. Forty-five thousand pounds is an enormous loss for a small, poor Colony like this, and must be provided for by further taxation. One might fairly think that the Government hastened the purchase of this large estate when it became highly probable a few months ago, that our Island would be embraced in the proposed Federal Union, notwithstanding all our opposition to that measure. We feel confident that such a large price as £90,000 would not be given for the Cunard Estate if Confederation had taken place; and we feel certain that no great while would elapse before means would be provided by the General Government to purchase out the claims of all the Proprietors. It was important to other proprietors that a high rate should be fixed as the standard value of township lands; and we may rest assured that no Proprietor will now be content with a less price for his property, should he be disposed to sell, than was paid for the Cunard estate. In short, the whole policy of our rulers, on the Land Question, has been especially shaped to serve the interests of the proprietors. It could not have been otherwise, for in the Executive Council at the formation of the Government, and long after, there was a majority of land agents and proprietors; and the minority, we imagine, was only too ready to coincide with them. The Tenant League troubles—which brought so much disgrace upon the country, such great personal suffering to many dupes of the League, and which led to a very heavy expense for the building of a Barracks, and other outlays connected with the support of a military establishment—were undoubtedly the offspring of the strong pro-proprietory policy which the Government were pursuing. The tenantry, who enrolled themselves in the League, saw there was very little prospect of getting the leasehold tenure abolished by Government action, and impatiently and foolishly attempted to set the law at defiance in its operation for the recovery of rent. Had the Government been sincerely interested in the welfare of the tenantry, the Tenant League would never have risen into any importance.

Turn to any other question besides the leasehold tenure: Education, for example. The system was sadly crippled when there was a reduction of fifteen pounds made in the salaries of teachers. Imposing the burthen of fifteen pounds to make up the salary of the teacher upon the inhabitants of each school district, was taking a long stride back in the old way in which schools were supported previous to the advent of Responsible Government. In very many cases, we understand, the district allowance is not paid. Where it is paid is by force of contention between teacher and people; and the consequence is, that teachers—or persons qualified to be good ones—are dissuaded from prosecuting a profession which affords them a miserable return for their labour and ability, and in which they could not fail to discover a prospect of contention with the people at whose firesides they would expect to be domesticated.

The elective franchise is another important institution which has received no improvement by legislation at the hands of the party in power. The franchise was as free as the air when the Conservatives came into office a second time; and fearing—not unjustly, perhaps—that unbiassed popular opinion was opposed to them, they devised a notable plan for checking the free exercise of the franchise which the new law of 1854 guaranteed to all male adult British subjects. The notable plan was, first, to fill the office of Road Overseer with the creatures and dependents of the Government, and to clothe these people with authority to give certificates to such persons as had performed statute labour, the performance of such labour being one of the qualifications of an elector. Now, while the petty Tory overseers were very assiduous, on the eve of an election, in providing certificates for their own partizans, obstacles were thrown in the way of the Liberal voters who thought of procuring the document; but an immense number never thought that such a proceeding was necessary, and thereby deprived themselves of their votes. This was a political trick without precedent in the history of Colonial Government. It was monstrous to make the Road Overseers the custodians of the franchise for the whole people. This class of officers is not remarkable for any thing but strong partizanship,—that there are some exceptions to this is true enough; but in the majority of cases the Overseer acts in such a way as to please the Commissioner from whom he receives his appointment, and the Commissioner receiving his from head quarters, it is easy to perceive that the wishes of the party in power would be consulted as far as practicable in the granting of statute labour certificates. The Conservative party promised to extend the privileges of the people in the matter of the franchise, by giving them vote by ballot; and this would have been an excellent safeguard against the undue exercise of landlord influence at the hustings, where it was often rendered odious, and destructive of popular rights; but when the Conservatives got into office they took care to forget their promises respecting the Ballot system.

There are many other things connected with the administration of affairs, which might be noticed in a review of this kind, if we had sufficient space at our disposal,—for instance, we might comment on the state of the public debt in 1859, when the Liberals went out of office, and at the present time—the relative public taxation under the Liberals and under the Conservatives—the employment of deputies in the public departments, about which the Conservatives kept up such a terrible outcry while they were in opposition—the new fangled Militia Bill, so unpopular with all parties, and not likely to be of much service to the country. These are some of the things which the electors should think of before again exercising their privilege at the hustings, instead of allowing their minds to be occupied with only one idea—No Confederation. The Government party would, no doubt, find it greatly to their interest if the people continued in this frame of mind; but whether they will or not a few weeks must decide. We shall on another occasion offer some remarks on the points indicated; and we may venture, at the same time, an opinion respecting the prospects of the *Ins* and *Outs* at the coming election. But we must say there is very little satisfaction to us in writing about these political topics, when the people are so apathetic concerning them.

AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE politicians of the United States are making at present a wild turmoil in that country in view of their fall elections. Conventions, and public meetings, with a great outpour of stump oratory, abound throughout the land. The President seems to have taken the lead in the talking business, at the head of the Democratic party, whose desire is to admit the Southern States into the Union on the same terms as they enjoyed before the civil war. The Republicans, on the other hand, will not consent to the Southern States re-entering the Union, until the last vestige of slavery be removed, and the blacks admitted to a political equality with the whites. In the States of Maine and Vermont the Republicans have won a great victory over their opponents, carrying the election of Governor and Congress-men by a large majority, over which they have made an immense glorification. In the meanwhile both parties are bidding for the Fenian vote, and the consequence is, that the free booters and filibusters are very demonstrative in their preparations for another raid upon Canada. The mad enterprise of repeating in November the invasion of June last, seems to be confidently looked for by all intelligent men on both sides of the line; and while the Canadian Authorities are making vigorous and costly exertions to protect inviolate their territory, the Americans—Democrats and Republicans alike, who are in want of the Fenian vote—encourage the scoundrels in their piratical enterprise; and it is doubtful if the Washington Cabinet will take any vigorous steps to stop it. This state of affairs cannot continue long. If a second Fenian invasion should happen, there is no doubt it will be repelled with great loss to the invaders; but there is much reason to fear an entanglement with the United States Government for allowing the invaders to leave their territory a second time, having a previous and full knowledge of the assault that is contemplated upon a peaceful and inoffensive country. The immense preparations for defence which the Government of Great Britain are now making show that there is an increasing interest felt in the security of the Provinces, and that they will be preserved as they are now, under the old flag, at any and every sacrifice.

THE editor of the *Patriot* keeps "pegging away" at the Chiniquy business. He devotes another column on Saturday last to the interests of his poor French protege; but Mr. Laird evidently painfully sees that the public take no interest in him, and that it is impossible to get up another religious excitement just on the eve of the elections. As for any interest in the unfortunate man Chiniquy, we don't believe a particle was ever felt by his professed admirers in this place. It was expected that he would make good political stock, but he turns out the flattest ever handled. With respect to the article in the *Patriot* of Saturday, we could easily, if we were so disposed, expose several gross misrepresentations, one or two downright palpable untruths, and very contemptible quibbling in that article. If Mr. Laird can indulge in these things, without searing his pious, Christian conscience, why he may, to the end of his life, for aught we care; the indulgence will never do *us* any harm. Mr. Chiniquy's claims to credibility were fully disposed of by the report of the Chicago Presbytery—a very influential and respectable body of Presbyterians—quite equal, no doubt, in every respect, to their brethren in London, Canada West. Now, if Mr. Laird could only demolish his brethren of the Chicago Presbytery, he might do great things for his friend Chiniquy.

MR. LAIRD once more displays his very bad taste and unchristian feeling, in referring to the case of the Hon J. A. McDonald, a member of the Canadian Parliament, who has been maliciously accused of intemperate habits. Could not Mr. Laird find members of Parliament nearer home, on whose sins on the score of intemperance he might expatiate with great propriety? But let that pass. He says that "when Mr. Palmer was vilified and abused by Canadian papers, the Editor of the *Examiner*" was "delighted." Not true. The *Examiner* felt no delight in the attacks made upon the Attorney General. Whatever was written and printed about Mr. Palmer had reference to his public conduct as a delegate. No one ever published a word to the prejudice of the honorable gentleman's private life; and believing that all public men have their failings, as well as others, we feel that they are not the legitimate subject of public criticism; and this is the reason why we did not quote any of the spiteful paragraphs of the *Globe*, which seemed to have been prompted more by private malice than a regard for the public good. Well! it is, indeed a notable discovery made by the *Patriot*—that Confederation ought to be rejected because two of the ablest advocates of that measure in the Canadian Parliament are not strictly Sons of Temperance, any more than certain opponents of it are in the Prince Edward Island Legislature.

The New York *Tribune* says:—"At this particular time, when great changes are being inaugurated, and the destinies of half a continent are to be shaped by the public men of British North America—if they are but true to themselves—we are very sorry to observe that column after column of leading daily papers are given up to throwing mud upon the persons, and blackening the public characters of men now in high places in the government of the provinces. That a "late colleague," and co-legislator of many years, should be thus treated in this civilized age, is indeed degrading to humanity, and the persons who will stoop to this low method of attack cannot possess the honorable instincts of either a minister or a gentleman." The *Tribune* alludes to the course pursued by the Toronto *Globe* and such papers.

BLACKWOOD'S, MAGAZINE, for August, has been received from the American publishers, and has a more than usually attractive bill of fare. "Sir Brook Fossbrooke" is kept up with unabated interest; "Cornelius O'Dowd" is as full of wit and philosophy as ever; the "Nile" is a very interesting sketch of recent explorations in Central Africa; but the article headed "British America" is worth them all. We should like very much to transfer this article to our columns, but its great length would compel us to extend it over three Nos. of our paper, and we fear this would be damaging to the interest of the article. There are three other articles in *Blackwood*, for August, which we have not yet read; but we think we have read the best of them, and can recommend their perusal to others.

TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION between this Island and the mainland is still suspended, and will be for a few days longer, until Mr. Cyrus Field shall have laid, as he promises to do, a new Cable across the Straits. Meanwhile, we can only give the latest telegraphic news, as we find it published in the Halifax and St. John papers. The Mail on Saturday night brought us papers of that morning's date, and from these we have taken the latest telegrams; but truly, the intelligence furnished by them does not appear to be of a very important character—making all due allowance for the sensational style of some of the telegrams.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW, for July, has lately come to hand. It contains the following articles:—Mahomet; Weather Forecasts and Storm Warnings; Annals of the Huganots; Mill's Examination of Sir William Hamilton's Philosophy; Baker's Exploration of the Albert Nyanza; the American Navy in the late War; Precious Stones; Charles Lamb; the State of Europe. We have had time to read only four of the articles, so far, and they bear the usual stamp of great ability and erudition which almost invariably characterise the papers of the *Edinburgh Review.*

The Ottawa correspondent of the New York *Herald* states that an American steamer on her way from New York to the lakes, suspected of being engaged by the Fenians, has been seized at Montreal; that thirteen battalians of volunteers have thus far been organized in the district of Toronto; and that Cabinet Councils are being held over the Fenian matter. This correspondent is our authority for the following paragraph:—

"Information has been received here that no Fenian raid will be attempted before November, at which time the gunboats will be frozen up, and many Fenians in the State of New York and the Canadas out of employment, and especially those along the borders. Besides this, they will be paid off about that time, and will be flush of funds. It is to be feared that the Fenians are ahead of Canadian agents in the purchase of the Peabody rifles in the United States. The sum appropriated for the purchase of these weapons by the Canadian government is $250,000 in gold.

The Canadian correspondent of the New York *World* thus speaks of the Hon. John A. McDonald in a letter from Toronto, dated on the 6th inst.:—

"The Minister of Militia, Mr. MacDonald, is so savagely abused by the opposition papers, and especially by the Toronto *Globe*, that I am led to put much faith in the stories that I have heard of his extreme activity and good judgment in organizing the forces of the Province to repel any meditated "raid" upon the border. He certainly seemed to me, in the only interview which I ever had with him, a very clear-sighted, wiry, and wary man, singularly like the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Disraeli, in the cast of his features and the general carriage of his person, but younger, more lithe, and more active than the prophet of the Great Asian Mystery."

The Rt. Rev. Dr. McKinnon, Bishop of Arichat, has contributed the munificent sum of $1000 in aid of the building fund of the Catholic Church in Pictou.

One hundred and twenty Irish emigrants lately returned to Queenstown from the U. States, where they had not been able to find employment to their liking. The same week one hundred and fifty emigrants left Cork for the United States.

A late American paper states that President Johnson and his party arrived at Harrisburg on the 14th inst. As they passed through Johnstown, Penn., a platform on which four or five hundred persons were standing gave way, and the people were precipitated a distance of 20 feet to the ground. Seven or eight are said to have been killed, and six or seven to be in a dying state, while 90 persons were seriously and a large number slightly injured. Twelve physicians were sent from Pittsburg to attend the wounded.

Among the new inventions is a button which is fastened to cloth without thread. It is said to consist solely of a button with a wire, to be inserted into the cloth like a corkscrew, and then pressed down flat, so as to form a ring to hold the button to its place. As this invention will enable every man to keep his buttons on his own shirt himself, it is calculated to do away with wives altogether.

Last year the people of England paid to religious institutions $2,800,000, and the tax on spirits paid to the Government amounted to $70,000,000.