The Examiner.
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LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The R. M. S. *Asia* arrived at Halifax from Liverpool on Thursday last. The latest dates are to the 17th ult. The Mails for this Island were received here this morning. We give below from *Willmer & Smith's European Times* of the 17th ult. a resume of the latest English news.

All other matters in Parliament pale before the announcement made in both Houses last night, that Government will, to-day, at noon, propose the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland, an announcement which was received by the Commons with loud and general cheering. That is what is called "taking the bull by the horns," and the suspension, it is believed, will be for twelve months. The object is to seize, without bringing to trial, a great number of persons who hold, or have held, commissions in the army of the United States, and who abound in the hotels and taverns of all the principal towns of the sister country.

From conspiring, the Fenians in Dublin appear to have taken to assassination, which may be described as cause and effect. A member of the "brotherhood" has been thrown into a canal and drowned, on suspicion of intending to betray his fellows to the Government. The taking away of this man's life was needless murder, for in every Irish conspiracy informers abound. The difficulty is not so much to get at the root of the evil, as to deal with it when the facts come to light. Trials and convictions have lost their terror, for guns and pikes were being largely manufactured for rebellious purposes at the very time that the judges in the Four Courts, in Dublin, were exercising all the powers of the law to put down this horrible conspiracy. The late debate in the House of Commons was less important in itself than in the opinion generally entertained and expressed, that the evils of the sister country cannot much longer be allowed to ferment and breed this terrible crop of disloyalty and treason. As a very large portion of the soil of Ireland is the property of English landlords, it behoves *them* to assemble and see what can be done to remedy evils which time out of mind have been chronic, and now threaten an explosion of the most sanguinary character. They might thus set an example to Irish proprietors. The chronic poverty of a country always breeds the worst crimes, and, when neglected, gives rise to desperation—an instance of which may be found in the horrors of the first French Revolution.

Sir George Grey has introduced a bill into the House of Commons, the object of which is to frame an oath which can be taken by all members of the House, without distinction of sect or creed. In the new oath the first part of the oath of allegiance will be retained, and the other parts discarded, and thus the oath taken alike by Protestant and Catholic members will be assimilated. A few years ago such a proposition would have called out all the latent bigotry in the land; but even ultra zealots now begin to discover the folly of maintaining old jealousies and hatreds in the presence of a great danger, and in a country which boasts of its enlightenment and liberality. The London *Times*, of the 14th, has an article on this subject, so well reasoned, and pervaded by such excellent sense, that it cannot fail to have a very salutary influence on the public mind. Our contemporary says: "Reason and policy combine to demand this simple reform. If we consider the matter in a philosophical light, nothing can be more unjust and contrary to all the principles of representation than that a member should be precluded from forming and expressing an independent judgment on any question that may be brought before Parliament. It is not only a wrong to the member himself, but to his constituents, who have sent him to represent their opinions—to the House of Commons, whose number is arbitrarily diminished as far as that measure is concerned—and to the whole country, which loses the due discussion of most important topics. But if we may thus declare *a priori* that the present oath ought not to be imposed on the Catholics, we may also decide, from the experience of thirty-seven years, and from the present state of Ireland, that it is practically injurious. Above all things, it is advisable that the differences between Protestants and Catholics should cease." Opinions like these, in a leading organ of opinion, would not have been uttered so plainly and honestly some time ago; and it is a remarkable proof of the "good time coming" that the only member of Parliament who objected to the change was Mr. Newdegate, who has obtained any notoriety he may possess by his ultra-Toryism. That the bill will pass hardly admits of a doubt in the present state of public opinion.

The outcry for more stringent measures to stop the cattle plague, with which both Houses of Parliament at the opening of the Session resounded, has compelled the Government to move. A bill was introduced by the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, on the 12th, for this purpose, and it contains clauses apparently arbitrary, that a few weeks ago would have been denounced as tyrannical and uncalled for. So severe, however, has been the visitation, so rapid its progress, and so fatal its effects, that strong as the Government bill is, it is now assailed for not being strong enough in its prohibitory regulations. The bill enforces compulsory slaughter of all infected cattle, prohibition of the removal of cattle except under peculiar circumstances, the disinfection of suspected premises, and regulations respecting cattle imported by sea. These regulations are applicable to the whole country; but in certain extreme cases the local authorities are invested by the bill with a discretionary power, and it is this last feature which has encountered the strongest opposition. Compensation is to be retrospective, and powers are given to borrow money from the Public Works Commissioners on the security of the rates. Mr. Hunt opposed the second reading of the bill because, mainly, of the powers conceded to the local authorities—powers, he contended, which destroyed its value. The principal opponent of the measure was Mr. Bright, who described the compensation clauses as monstrous, but was in favor of isolation of the cattle, which he thought would render needless indiscriminate slaughter. There will be considerable difference of opinion as to the principle of compensation, and many people will agree with Mr. Bright in thinking that merchants and shipowners would be justified, according to the same theory, in asking for compensation from the entire country whenever the winds of Heaven destroy their property at sea. Mr. Lowe entered the list against Mr. Bright, and accused him of setting class against class. In this debate Mr. John Stuart Mill, the great writer on Political Economy, made his maiden speech, and maintained that the compensation should not be excessive, as it might prevent the farmers from taking measures to guard against the spread of the disease, knowing that they would be paid for any animal that died or was slaughtered. As a class, he added, the landed and farming interest had no claim whatever to compensation, except in reference to the extreme inequality with which the loss was sustained. Several amendments have been made in the bill as originally introduced. The compensation, for instance, is to be only half the value of the animal, and not two-thirds, and an amendment by Mr. Hunt, to prevent the movement of all cattle by rail or road, which was opposed by the Government, was carried by 201 to 181.

It will interest all who follow the progress of events in the United States since the end of the war, to know that a large portion of English society heartily sympathises with the abolition of slavery, and to give expression to this sentiment a crowded meeting was held in Exeter-hall on the 15th, ostensibly to celebrate the passage of the Constitutional Amendment Act in the Union, which abolishes the property of man in man. Several distinguished persons, some of them ministers of religion, were in attendance, and amongst them the Rev. Newman Hall. The Chair was filled by the Chamberlain of London, Mr. Scott, and strong expressions were indulged in during the evening that amicable relations between England and the great Republic might long continue. The Freedmen's Aid Society, with which this movement originated, is not insensible to the condition of the blacks in Jamaica, and a large sum of money is about to be collected on their behalf.

Very painful intelligence comes from the Cape of Good Hope. The war between the Boers and the Basutos was virtually at an end; but a war almost as frightful—a war of want and famine—had succeeded. The distress at the Cape is described as being most serious. The crops throughout the colony had failed for want of rain, and when the steamer left there were no symptoms of the drought abating. A day had been set apart for humiliation and prayer, and the condition of the labouring classes thrown out of employment is described as being piteous in the extreme. It is just one of those cases, in which help from home, or assistance from the nearest point, will save incalculable misery. The Governor at the Cape will need the exercise of all his energies to meet this demand upon the resources of all parts of Southern Africa within his reach. Within a circle of fifty miles from Cape Town there had been abundance of rain. No doubt the subject will not go unnoticed in England, for the present destitution of the Cape colonists demands and must meet immediate attention. In a pressing emergency of this character, the charitable propensities of our countrymen are never appealed to in vain. Dr. Colenso commanded large audiences in Maritzburg Cathedral and some fanatics may be disposed to attribute the terrible misfortune which has overtaken the colony to his ministrations.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Mails from abroad, received during the past week, have been somewhat excessive in quantity, but as regards the quality of the information furnished, it is not of the most attractive description. A few paragraphs may contain the gist of the news.

There are vague rumours afloat, set in motion by the telegraphic wires, that the United States Government, through the Congressional Committee of Ways and Means—are anxious to re-open negotiations with the view to the adoption of a new reciprocity treaty, and that Sir Frederick Bruce, the British Minister at Washington, has had several interviews with the Committee on the subject. The Federal authorities do not appear to have made any new proposals; and we do not think it is likely that Delegates from the British Provinces will again, in a hurry, be induced to dance attendance upon them. The Americans made a great mistake as to the temper and disposition of the Colonists, and their supposed desire to go for annexation rather than lose the benefits derived by them under the Reciprocity Treaty. The Colonists were never so determined as they are at present in their opposition to the disloyal project of annexation. The recent manifestation of an unfriendly feeling on the part of the United States has taught them one of the most valuable lessons they ever learned.

Lord Monck, the Governor General of Canada, arrived at Montreal, on his return from Europe, on the 11th ult. He was received on his route from New York to Canada with the most distinguished honors, and at Montreal he was especially honoured in the reception he received. In the several addresses presented to him special reference was made to the subject of Confederation, to which his Lordship made most emphatic responses, urging on the people of British America the accomplishment of that measure.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia met on the 22d. ult. The Speech of his Excellency the Lieut. Governor is quite unimportant to us. He congratulates the Province on the prosperous state of its affairs, but makes no allusions to any questions apart from the immediate interests of the Province.

From New Brunswick intelligence comes to us that a political crisis is imminent in that Province. It is reported that another member of the Government (Hon. Mr. Hatheway) has resigned his place; and that the Lieut. Governor, Mr. Gordon, has been ordered in hot haste to Canada, to consult with the Governor General there. The Press which usually supports the present Government of New Brunswick, has lately manifested a most hostile feeling towards Governor Gordon; and the impression now prevails that the Governor and his Council are at variance on the Confederation question.

REVENUE OF THE YEAR 1865.

We are indebted to the *Islander* for the following statement of the revenue for the past year, which, we presume, has been compiled from official records. The increase over the revenue of the past year—only £1,717 12s 1d—seems to be exceedingly small in view of the way in which trade has been flourishing in all the other Provinces. As regards the statement, that "the expenditure *proper* of the year just closed is *about* £66,800," there is something exceedingly vague in it. What is meant by the word "proper" tacked on to the word "expenditure?" The Government organ appears to be exact to one penny in getting at the amount of receipts. Why should there be any difficulty in getting at the amount of the public expenditure, instead of leading its readers to all sorts of surmises by using that suspicious phrase, "*about* £66,800?" Our opinion is, that if we take into account the cost of building the Barracks and bringing the Military here, the expenditure will be found to be much nearer eighty thousand pounds than sixty-six thousand eight hundred. However, we suppose we must wait with such patience as we may command, until our rulers be required to make a "clean breast" of the financial state of the Colony before the House of Assembly. Meanwhile we give the following statement from the *Islander*:—

"Revenue of the Year just closed.—Although the returns are not fully completed, certain sums having not yet come in from several outports, we are in a position to state that the actual receipts to the 31st of January, 1866, amount to £68,041 3 11d. The revenue of the previous year was £66,333 11s 10d, showing an increase of £1,717 12s 1d. The expenditure proper of the year just closed is about £66,800, leaving a surplus of over £1,100. When the extraordinary expenditure of the year is considered, it is some satisfaction to find that our liabilities are more than met.

The sources of revenue of the year ending 31st January, 1866, are as follow:—

	£	s	d
Impost Duty,			
" Charlottetown,	49,581	1	6
" Bedeque	4,169	4	6½
" Georgetown,	2,105	2	10½
" Malpeque,	1,019	5	0½
" Souris,	501	15	5
" Cascumpec,	1,353	2	7
" New London,	477	18	11
" Murray Harbour,	183	7	3
" Crapaud,	570	7	0½
" Grand River,	50	4	5
" St. Peter's,	22	10	6
" Orwell,	13	16	7
" Pinette,	11	0	1
" Rustico,	81	2	0
Light & Anchorage Duty,	1,161	8	11
Land Assessment,	4,510	4	11
Public Lands,	6,153	2	7
Crown Lands,	154	14	10
Rent of Warren Farm,	27	15	6
Post Office,	1,940	0	0
Colonial Secretary's Office,	219	18	2
Registrar's Fees,	351	10	0
Custom Fees,	64	16	0
Warehouse Fees,	76	10	0
Land Assessment Fees,	5	6	8
Trustees Prince of Wales College,	22	5	6
License Duty,	626	10	0
Seizures,	14	1	4
Fines and Penalties,	127	8	0
Casual Interest in Bonds,	1,191	2	6
Sale of Imported Breeding Stock,	280	2	0
Sale of Port Wine,	34	8	3
	£68,041	3	11

Our readers will perceive that we are favoured with another letter from our friend Mr. Coles on the harmless issue between us, respecting the way in which the negotiations were conducted at Washington in order to effect a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. Our friend seemed to think that the Provincial Delegates were much to blame for the absurd nonsense propounded in Mr. Derby's Report to Congress—acting for the Treasury Department—and that *they* (the Delegates) endorsed the recommendations. We thought otherwise, and think so still. Our friend Mr. Coles apparently supposes that we labour under profound ignorance of the whole subject, and jauntily says, that he "cannot be responsible" for our "want of finding proof that the Delegates agreed to the proposal submitted by the American Secretary of the Treasury." We are quite willing to pass over the insinuation of ignorance from our friend Mr. Coles, and of course we do not hold *him* "responsible" on that account. It is a matter, we think, of small consequence as to what passed between Mr. Henry and his Government over the telegraph wires, or what has been published in the Toronto *Globe*—a paper not apparently friendly to the Washington negotiations from the outset;—but we hope our friend Mr. Coles will place some reliance on the official report of the negotiations. Last week we gave an abstract of the proposals submitted on both sides; now we are enabled to give, from the most authentic source, the official records of the Conference at Washington between the Federal authorities and the Colonial Delegates. The report signed by Messrs. Galt, Howland, Henry and Smith, proves how far they laboured to secure a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, and their Memorandum marked A, shows the extent of the overtures they were willing to make, (and certainly that extent is very different from that which Mr. Derby indicated in his hi-faluting speech before Congress.) The memorandum marked B, shows how extravagant and unreasonable were the demands of the United States Government on the Colonies; and the Delegates thereupon withdrew from the negotiations. Mr. Derby's so-called report, or speech in Congress, is not referred to on either side.

Mr. Coles has favoured us, in his postscript, with a rather lame extract from the *Scottish American Journal*. We reciprocate by giving a much larger extract from the same journal, on the same subject, which tells a very different tale from that which our friend would fain have us believe.

RECIPROCITY NEGOCIATIONS.

The following papers will explain the nature of the late negociations at Washington. We stated on Monday last all the facts of any importance. But our readers will probably desire to see the record of negotiations in the authentic form:—

Washington, February 7th, 1866.

Sir,—We have the honor to inform Your Excellency that our negotiations for the renewal of Reciprocal Trade with the United States have terminated unsuccessfully. You have been informed from time to time of our proceedings, but we propose briefly to recapitulate them.

On our arrival here, after consultation with Your Excellency, we addressed ourselves with your sanction to the Secretary of the Treasury, and we were by him put in communication with the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. After repeated interviews with them, and on ascertaining that no renewal or extension of the existing Treaty would be made by the American authorities, but that whatever was done must be by Legislation, we submitted as the basis upon which we desired arrangements to be made the enclosed paper (marked A).

In reply we received the memorandum from the Committee, of which a copy is enclosed (B). And finding after discussion that no important modifications in their views could be obtained, and that we were required to consider their proposition as a whole, we felt ourselves under the necessity of declining it, which was done by the memorandum also enclosed (C).

It is proper to explain the grounds of our final action.

It will be observed that the most important provisions of the expiring Treaty relating to the free interchange of the products of the two countries, were entirely set aside, and that the duties proposed to be levied were almost prohibitory in their character. The principal object for our entering into negotiations was, therefore, unattainable, and we had only to consider whether the minor points were such as to make it desirable for us to enter into specific engagements.

These points are three in number.

With regard to the first, the proposed mutual use of the waters of Lake Michigan and the St. Lawrence, we considered that the present arrangements were sufficient, and that the common interests of both countries would prevent their disturbance. We were not prepared to yield the right of interference in the imposition of tolls upon our canals. We believed, moreover, that the privilege allowed the United States of navigating the waters of the St. Lawrence was very much more than an equivalent for our use of Lake Michigan.

Upon the second point, providing for the free transit of goods under bond between the two countries, we believed that in this respect as in the former case the interests of both countries would secure the maintenance of existing regulations. Connected with this point was the demand made for the abolition of the Free Ports existing in Canada, which we were not disposed to concede, especially in view of the extremely unsatisfactory position in which it was proposed to place the trade between the two countries.

On both the above points, we do not desire to be understood as stating that the existing arrangements should not be extended and placed on a more permanent basis, but only that, taken apart from the more important interests involved, it did not appear to us at this time necessary to deal with them exceptionally.

With reference to the third and last point, the concession of the right of fishing in Provincial waters, we considered the equivalent proposed for so very valuable a right to be utterly inadequate. The admission of a few unimportant articles free, with the establishment of a scale of high duties as proposed, would not, in our opinion, have justified us in yielding this point.

While we regret this unfavorable termination of the negotiations, we are not without hope that, at no distant day, they may be resumed with a better prospect of a satisfactory result.

We have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most obdt. servts.,

A. T. Galt,
Minister of Finance, Canada.
W. P. Howland,
Postmaster General, Canada,
W. A. Henry,
Attorney General, Nova Scotia.
A. J. Smith,
Attorney General, New Brunswick.

To His Excellency Sir Frederick Bruce, K. C. B., &c., &c., &c.

MEMORANDUM A.

The trade between the United States and the British Provinces should, it is believed, under ordinary circumstances, be free in reference to their natural productions; but as internal taxes exceptionally exist in the United States, it is now proposed that the articles embraced in the free list of the Reciprocity Treaty should continue to be exchanged, subject only to such duties as may be equivalent to that internal taxation. It is suggested that both parties may add certain articles to those now in the said list. With reference to the fisheries and the navigation of the internal waters of the continent, the British Provinces are willing that the existing regulations should continue in effect: but Canada is ready to enter into engagements with the view of improving the means of access to the ocean, provided the assurance be given that the trade of the Western States will not be diverted from its natural channel by legislation; and if the United States are not prepared at present to consider the general opening of their coasting trade it would appear desirable that as regards the internal waters of the continent, no distinction should be made between the vessels of the two countries.

If the foregoing points be satisfactorily arranged, Canada is willing to adjust her excise duties upon spirits, beer and tobacco, upon the best revenue standard which may be mutually adopted after full consideration of the subject, and if it be desired to treat any other articles in the same way the disposition of the Canadian Government is to give every facility in their power to prevent illicit trade.

With regard to the transit trade it is suggested that the same regulations should exist on both sides and be defined by law. Canada is also prepared to make her patent laws similar to those of the United States.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2, 1866.

MEMORANDUM B.

In response to the memorandum of the Hon. Mr. Galt and his associates, Hon. Mr. Smith, Hon. Mr. Henry and the Hon. Mr. Howland, the Committee of Ways and Means, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, are prepared to recommend to the House of Representatives for their adoption a law providing for the continuance of some of the measures embraced in the Reciprocity Treaty, soon to expire, viz: For the use and privileges as enjoyed now under said treaty in the waters of Lake Michigan, provided the same rights and privileges are conceded to the citizens of the United States by Canada in the waters of the St. Lawrence and its canals as are enjoyed by British subjects, without discrimination as to tolls and charging rates proportioned to canal distance; also for the free transit of goods, wares and merchandise in bond, under proper regulations, by railroad across the territory of the United States to and from Portland and the Canada line; provided equal privileges shall be conceded to the United States from Windsor or Port Sarnia, or other western points of departure to Buffalo or Ogdensburg, or any other points Eastward, and that the free ports established in the Provinces shall be abolished: also, that the bounties now given to American fishermen shall be repealed, and duties not higher imposed upon fish than those mentioned in Schedule A, provided that all the rights of fishing near the shores, existing under the treaty heretofore mentioned, shall be granted and conceded by the United States to the Provinces, and by the Provinces to the United States.

It is also further proposed that the following list of articles shall be mutually free, viz:—

Burr Millstones, unwrought.
Cotton and Linen Rags.
Firewood.
Grindstones, rough or unfinished.
Gypsum or Plaster, unground.

SCHEDULE A.

Fish—Mackerel	$1.50 per bbl.
" Herring, pickled or salted	1.00 "
" Salmon	2.50 "
" Shed	2.00 "
" All other, pickled	1.50 "

Provided that any fish in packages other than barrels shall pay in proportion to the rates charged upon similar fish in barrels.

All other fish . . . . ½ ct. per lb.

As to the duties which will be proposed upon the other articles included in the treaty, the following are submitted, viz:—

Animals, living, all sorts	20 per cent, ad val.
Apples & Garden Fruit and Vegetables	10 " "
Barley	15 cts. per bushel
Beans (except Vanilla and Castor Oil)	30 " "
Beef	1 ct. per lb.
Buckwheat	10 cts. per bushel
Butter	4 " " lb.
Cheese	4 " " "
Corn (Indian) and Oats	10 cts. per bushel
Corn-meal (Indian) and Oatmeal	15 " " "
Coal, bituminous	50 " " ton
" all other	25 " " "
Flour	25 per cent, ad val.
Hams	2 cts. per lb.
Hay	$1 00 per ton
Hide	10 per cent, ad val.
Lard	3 cts per lb.
Lumber—	
Pine, round or in the log	$1.50 per M.
" sawed or hewn	2.50 "
" planed, tongued and grooved or finished	25 per cent, ad val.
Spruce and Hemlock, sawed or hewn	$1.00 per M.
" planed, finished or partly finished	25 per cent, ad val.
Shingle bolts	10 " "
Shingles	20 " "
All other, of Black Walnut, Chestnut, Bass, White Wood, Ash, Oak, round, hewed or sawed	20 " "
Planed, tongued and grooved or finished	25 " "
Ores	10 " "
Peas	25 cts. per bushel
Pork	1 ct. per lb.
Potatoes	10 cts. per bushel
Seed, Timothy & Clover	20 per cent, ad val.
Trees, Plants and Shrubs, Ornamental and Fruit	15 " "
Tallow	2 cts. per lb.
Wheat	20 cts. per bushel.

MEMORANDUM C.

In reference to the memorandum received from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Provincial Delegates regret to be obliged to state that the proposition therein contained in regard to the commercial relations between the two countries is not such as they can recommend for the adoption of their respective Legislatures. The imposts which it is proposed to lay upon the productions of the British Provinces on their entry into the markets of the United States are such as in their opinion will be in some cases prohibitory, and will certainly seriously interfere with the natural course of trade. These imposts are so much beyond what the delegates conceive to be an equivalent for the internal taxation of the United States that they are reluctantly brought to the conclusion that the Committee no longer desire the trade between the two countries to be carried on upon the principle of reciprocity. With the concurrence of the British Minister at Washington, they are therefore obliged respectfully to decline to enter into the engagement suggested in the memorandum: but they trust that the present views of the United States may soon be so far modified as to permit of the interchange of the productions of the two countries upon a more liberal basis.

Washington, Feb. 6, 1866.

From the Scottish American (N. Y.) Feb'y 17.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN DELEGATION AND THEIR MISSION TO WASHINGTON.

We happen to be in a position to state that although the proposition of Messrs. Galt, Howland, Henry, &c., in regard to Reciprocity was rejected by the Ways and Means Committee of Congress, a body controlled by ultra-protectionists, a large and respectable party in both the House and Senate is strongly in favor of some satisfactory trade arrangement with the Provinces. Mr. McCulloch is especially desirous that a thoroughly good understanding should be come to; and before the delegation left Washington the Secretary of the Treasury made arrangements, after asking permission of the delegates, for them to have a special interview with the President. It is no secret that President Johnson expressed in the strongest manner his desire that some satisfactory basis of agreement should be reached. Both the President and the Secretary indeed expressed a strong wish that the delegation should prolong their visit in the hope of their mission being ultimately successful. It is probable that the delegates consulted their own dignity in leaving when they did. They showed at least that such Reciprocity as the Ways and Means Committee are willing to concede is a thing that British America can do without, at least until her people comes to be many poorer and meaner than they are to-day.

The upshot, we think, will be that Mr. McCulloch will seek another interview with Mr. Galt and his colleagues before the latter seek an interview with Mr. McCulloch. It is a great deal to have enlisted a man of the official and personal standing of the Finance Minister of the United States in a fair measure of international trade. It is still more to have the President of the United States exhibit so strong an interest in the maintenance of friendly, political, and commercial relations with any portion of the British Empire. It shows that wisdom, discretion, and sobriety have not yet deserted the high places of the land, and there are yet men left to think and act for the American people, who are not yet utterly the victims of passion and prejudice.

Far more, we think, has come of the mission than appears at the first blush; and the delegates at least can console themselves with having done all that was in their power to serve their country by offering and proposing to accept such terms as should not compromise their relations with the Home Government, or imperil the vast commercial interests committed to their trust.

FENIANISM.

This subject—or, as it is now properly denominated, "Villainous Swindle"—was discussed before the C. Y. M. L. Institute on last Wednesday evening. The audience on the occasion, was the most numerous we ever saw assembled in St. Andrew's Hall. In fact, very many, as we have been told, failed to obtain admission—so crowded was every available seat. Thomas Kelly, Esqr., presided as Chairman, and we may here observe that he discharged the duties incident to that situation with at *least* sufficient strictness.

The Rev. A. McDonald, Rector of St. Dunstan's College, opened the debate in a brief address—merely indicating the line of argument he intended to pursue in his closing discourse. In his introductory, however, the learned Rector submitted some general propositions as the basis of the position he then assumed, and condemnatory of the principles and doctrines of the Fenian organization. This association, said he, is essentially a bad one: it is wrong *per se*, and utterly indefensible, and therefore he, as a Catholic Priest, responsible for his sentiments, as a citizen, a loyal subject, and as a *friend* of Ireland, was conscientiously opposed to it, and would consider any man who undertook to defend the "Brotherhood" to be a Fenian in sympathy and spirit.

On resuming his seat, the Rev. gentleman was followed by several speakers, including the Hon. G. Coles, who occupied a seat on the platform. Mr. Coles spoke at considerable length in opposition to the Fenian "scheme"; but admitted that Ireland had, for centuries, endured aggravated and unmerited oppressions at the instance of her Imperial rulers—that she was still compelled, with great injustice, to submit to inequitable exactions in connection with those two standing grievances—tithes and absenteeism. The hon. gentleman expressed his hopes that those sources of strife and misery in Ireland would shortly be removed or modified, and he felt persuaded that the Imperial Parliament would—as they have been doing for sometime past—enact measures calculated to elevate the social and commercial condition of that country. He believed also that this very question of Fenianism, which he earnestly condemned, would be instrumental in convincing the British ministry that the welfare and prosperity of the Irish people are indispensible to the safety of the whole Empire. Mr. Coles's remarks were calm and convincing, and had the effect of conciliating the impulsive assemblage before whom he stood.

It is noteworthy—and we think the fact reflects much credit upon the large audience of Irishmen who were present on this occasion—that not a single individual declared himself as an advocate of the "Irish Republic." This tacit acknowledgment of the non-existence of Fenian theories in Charlottetown, of course, left the ground quite clear for the Rev. Mr. McDonald, and the debate was closed by him in excellent style. He addressed himself more especially to Irish Catholics, and admonished them to form no connection with such societies—fortifying his eloquent advice with that of the most eminent prelates who denounced secret associations as detrimental to religion and society. This organization, said our rev. friend, is not composed of gentlemen of social character, of talent, or military qualification. The leaders are but demagogues and adventurers, who have nothing to lose in this mad and ridiculous experiment—whose object is selfishness—whose aims are folly and wickedness and plunder—who delude and entrap the unreflecting, and obtain money from them wherewith to enrich themselves.

We venture to say that the Rev. Rector fully, clearly and satisfactorily demonstrated that this last "gigantic humbug" is but a base and anti-Catholic movement—that its avowed doctrines are such as no honest man can espouse or defend; and that it finds no favor or encouragement with the Priesthood, either of Ireland or America. This certainly must have appeared palpable to every candid mind who enjoyed the privilege of listening to Mr. McDonald's admirable *expose* on Wednesday evening.

☞ We have received a Letter from G. W. Howlan, Esqr., M.P.P., on the subject of the law relating to the inspection of Pickled Fish. The Letter is accompanied by a considerable amount of correspondence from Fish dealers in the United States. It is hardly necessary to say, that—being *the* pet measure of our friend at Cascumpeque—the correspondence glorifies the Fish Inspection Act immensely. Of course we shall publish it in our next.

The Concert, given at the Temperance Hall, under the auspices of the Masonic Brethren, on Monday evening last, was quite a brilliant affair. We have not often seen so large an audience there, and we are confident they all separated with a feeling of intense satisfaction at the evening's entertainment. We are happily spared from entering into particulars of the Concert—which we might not be able to do satisfactorily—certainly not so well as "An Auditor," who gives in another column a minute account of the interesting reunion.

C. Y. M. L. Institute.—The Rev. Mr. Belcourt, the venerable Pastor of the Rustico Mission, will lecture at the above named Institute on Wednesday evening next. His subject will be, we understand,—"The Manners and Customs of the Indians." This is quite an attractive theme, and ought to draw—as we feel assured it will—a very full house.

The Reciprocity Treaty.—The Halifax *Chronicle*, of the 17th Feb'y—which paper, alleged, has strong annexation tendencies—makes the following remarks in reference to the Reciprocity Treaty, now about expiring:—

"We observe that some of the public journals in the United States are gloating over the fact that the negotiations for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty have failed. The New York *Herald*, and some other papers of the same stripe, imagine that the British Provinces will be seriously embarrassed by the abrogation of the compact. They are vain enough to imagine that our existence as a people is dependent upon access to the American markets, and that when these are cut off, or closed, by the barrier of custom houses, we will cry aloud to share the advantages of the "glorious" Union, which has been so much engendered by the late Southern revolution. It is a delusion, yet it appears many people in the neighboring republic believe it to be true, and so we may safely leave them to the consequences of their commercial insanity. With men in such a mood and temper, so swayed by passion instead of reason and common sense, it would be useless to argue. Let the Reciprocity go by the board if needs must. It has served a good turn to us, while it has been no less valuable to the United States, but it appears that a majority of her diplomatists have the blindness not to see it. We are not a dependent people by any means, nor are we likely to be. We are prospering and continually improving in every respect. Our shipping is respectable in its proportions, and can successfully compete in the carrying trade of any part of the globe. We have nearly all the markets of the world open to us, and therefore our farmers, merchants, shipowners, fishermen and miners, need suffer little loss by the abrogation of the compact. We should not for a single moment admit that we, as a people, are at the mercy of the United States, so far as the treaty in question is concerned. Nay, if we were so disposed,—if we made our rule of conduct correspond with that of the American people so as to seek to punish,—we could annoy and seriously embarrass them. But we are not inclined to do anything of the kind. We will attend to our own business, and pursue the even tenor of our way, confident that we are in the possession of the means of future advancement and prosperity, independent of any doubtful favors from our republican neighbours. We opine that before long the Americans will discover that they have made a fatal mistake. When they find themselves debarred from the privilege of fishing in our shore waters, and restricted otherwise in their commercial pursuits, it is not unlikely they will commence to knock at our governmental doors for admission to negotiate a new treaty. Although, for some reasons, we regret the action of the American authorities in terminating the treaty, yet we see little reason why we should be despondent over the fact. If the people of the United States can do without the treaty, so can we."

CHARLOTTETOWN DEBATING SOCIETY

The adjourned discussion on the fishing interests of P. E. I. was re-opened on Monday evening last, by I. C. Hall, Esq.

The subject appeared to have lost none of its interest by adjournment, and the very excellent opening address was listened to with an attention which seemed to indicate that the inhabitants of Charlottetown regarded the development of this branch of trade as of the greatest importance, and demanding immediate attention. Mr. Hall spoke of the impetus which the fishing interest had received in P. E. Island during the last few years, and stated that the question now was—shall we go into this business and build up a trade, which will be remunerative to those engaged in it, and of great permanent benefit to the whole Colony; or shall we, on account of the rather heavy duty about being placed on Mackerel by the United States, lose the advantage already gained and relapse into our former apathy with respect to this important branch of business? The operation of our inspection laws, he stated, was just such as was required; that the No. 1 Mackerel of our inspection suited the United States market, giving us an advantage over Nova Scotia, as their inspection law required No. 1 Mackerel to be of a larger class than ours,—in fact, larger than the trade required. He spoke of the class of barrels manufactured here as better than those of Nova Scotia. He alluded to the favorable position of this Province for the prosecution of a large and lucrative fishing business. The proper route for fishing vessels, from spring to autumn, was clearly and interestingly described.

Mr. Hall referred to the frequent enquiries made by young men, natives of the Island, (who had learnt the fishing business from the Americans) for situations as captains of fishing vessels, and regretted that there were comparatively no vessels here fit to engage in the trade; consequently, a large number of our young men went to the United States to seek employment. The superiority of vessel over boat fishing was clearly shewn, and its tendency to draw off the boat fishermen from the Island to the more lucrative employment of vessel fishing in the United States' employ.

At the conclusion of the address, a very satisfactory debate ensued, which was taken part in by different leading business gentlemen of Charlottetown and vicinity, who, for the most part, endorsed the opinions expressed by Mr. Hall, and advocated the encouragement of this business.

The following Resolution, which was spoken to by members of the Legislature, merchants, agriculturists, and others, was then unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, that it is advisable, on the part of the Legislature, to encourage the Mackerel fishery business of this Island, by granting a bounty on every barrel caught by our people, or otherwise.

Debate on Tuesday evening next. Subject—Is it the duty of a Representative of the people to vote on public questions according to the wishes of his constituents, irrespective of his own opinions.—*Com.*

SUPREME COURT, GEORGETOWN.

The February Term of the Supreme Court for King's County began on Tuesday last and ended on Thursday. His Honor Mr. Justice Peters presided. The following gentlemen constituted the Grand Jury: Hon. Joseph Wightman, Foreman; Roderick McIntyre, Alexander Campbell, William Moar, Lewis J. Westaway, Duncan McDonald, George Alley, John Knight, George Moore, James E. McDonald, David McClure, Augustine McDonald, Alexander Kennedy, John Scrimigeur, John Cowan, John McLean, Thomas Annear, John Nicholl, Neil Matheson and Joseph H. Dingwell, Esquires. The criminal calendar this term was a light one, a circumstance as gratifying to the Court as it is creditable to King's County.

The Queen at the prosecution of Jane Manly *vs* Simon Mullison—indictment for larceny—No Bill.

The Queen at the prosecution of James W. Truelove *vs* Daniel McInnis—indictment for larceny—No Bill.

The Queen at the prosecution of Pierce Gaul *vs* Malcolm McLean and others—indictment for forcible entry—a true Bill. The trial of this case was put off till July, the parties having entered into recognizances for their appearance at that time. The following civil causes were on the docket:

James Cantwell and ano. *vs* John Conley, and ano.; action on the case for not delivering goods according to contract. Plaintiff non-suited.

Doe dem James McDonald *vs* James McVarish—action of ejectment. Verdict for the defendant.

John McLellan *vs* John Knight—assumpsit. Amount claimed £57. Special Jury empannelled. Verdict for Plaintiff for £4 16s 6d.

Martin Martin *vs* Angus McDonald—overflowing Plaintiff's land—referred to arbitration.

William Heard *vs* John Knight—action of Trover—Judgment for Defendant.

Of the appeal causes the following three only were prosecuted:—

Pierce Gaul, pplt. *vs* Malcolm McLean and others, respts.—appeal dismissed for informality of notice.

Laughlan McKinnon, applt., *vs* Nathaniel Westaway, respt.: appeal confirmed and judgment below reversed.

James McWade, applt., *vs* Angus Cameron, respt.: appeal dismissed and judgment below affirmed.

Of the remaining appeals some stand over for hearing till next term, and others were dismissed for want of prosecution. In Doe dem James Moynagh *vs* Roe, and same *vs* same, judgment was given against the casual ejector in both cases. The Grand Jury having made presentments against Matthew Young for resisting a constable in the execution of his office, and against certain parties having taverkeeper's sign boards on their houses, though their names do not appear on the list of licensed retailers in King's County, the Court on Thursday afternoon adjourned *sine die.*

JAMAICA.

By papers to the 18th ult. from Kingston, we learn that Sir Henry Storks had been inducted into office, and had called upon the Legislature to make provisions for compelling the attendance of witnesses before the Royal Commissioners, and to facilitate in other ways the enquiry that is pending. The Assembly, after much animated discussion, in the course of which Mr. Gordon's death was stigmatized, concurred by a vote of sixteen to eight. It is clear that the temporary suspension of Governor Eyre, and the proceedings instituted, have had their effect in the Colonies. The abject submissiveness of the chastized negro is removed, and in some districts he declines to work, imagining, in the fulness of his little intellect, that the Imperial Government is devoted to his interests. At home, the publication of a report of the court-martial that condemned Mr. Gordon has revived public feeling, and made more bitter and more numerous the denunciators of Governor Eyre.

Some uneasiness was felt regarding the safety of the W. I. mail steamer *Atrato*, having on board Mr. Russell Gurney, Mr. Maule, and several newspaper correspondents and lawyers, attracted to the spot on which all eyes will soon be rivetted. She sailed from Southampton at the height of the terrific gales, in which the *London* and many another vessel was lost.—*New York Albion.*

Free Labor in Texas.—A letter from Texas says that there is no surplus of labor in that State, and that planters have trouble to get hands enough for their work:—

"One man, hearing that his neighbor had seduced away some of his hands by an offer of higher wages, determined he would not be outbid, or outwitted, and after consulting his better half, which Henry Clay once said he always did with profit, went and bought a barrel of whiskey, hired three fiddlers, and got up a grand barbacue and a dance on his plantation, to which he and his wife personally lent the charm of their society. They had a high old time; the freedmen were thoroughly won over to their employer, and his designing neighbor woke up the next morning to find himself flanked."

The Toronto, Montreal, and Kingston police forces have all been served with seven-barrelled revolvers. Some of the Canadian papers condemn the proceeding.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM THE PACIFIC.

DECLARATION OF WAR BY PERU AGAINST SPAIN—TREATY OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN CHILI AND PERU.

We learn by the latest news from South America of the ratification of a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, between Chili and Peru, and the formal declaration of war by Peru against Spain.

The Peruvian fleet, consisting of the frigates (screw) Apurimac and Amazonas, and corvettes America and Union, the former of forty guns and the latter of sixteen guns each, had sailed to effect a junction with the Chilian fleet, consisting of the screw corvette Esmeralda, sixteen guns, steamer Covodonga, four guns, and steamer Maipu, two guns. This fleet is under positive orders to commence immediate hostilities against the Spaniards.

A decree has been issued by the Peruvian Government prohibiting the embarkation for foreign ports of all Spaniards resident in Peru, and a passport is now required to be taken out by every person leaving the country, without exception.

A visit to the harbor of Callao now by the Spanish fleet must bring on an engagement; for the place is said to be admirably fortified with most approved ordnance, and in positions where the presence of a heavy gun is not thought of, even by residents. We hear also that some of these batteries are officered by men who have had some experience in the four year's American war, and who know what to do when the time comes.

Now that Peru is fairly launched into the war to be waged against Spain, it cannot be long before Bolivia and Ecuador join hands with Peru and Chili against the common enemy of the South American Republics. Knowing full well that operations can only be carried on afloat, the Spanish commander, even with the force at his disposal, may take it upon himself to inaugurate active warfare by bombarding the seaport towns and cities of both Republics, commencing probably at Valparaiso, which offers the largest and most shining mark for the broadsides of his squadron, and which is literally defenceless and at his mercy. The destruction of property there will fall far heavier on foreigners than on natives, and after he has expended his shot and shell against the houses and hills upon which Valparaiso is built, he dare not land a man, even under the cover of his guns, to complete the work; for before his boats could touch the beach he would find a force at hand to oppose him, that could and would defeat every available man of the fleet; hence what good would be had by the operation?

CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

The whites of the South have discovered, to their surprise and dismay, that large numbers of the negroes in their cities and towns are armed with deadly weapons. The Petersburg, Va., *Express* says: "From many of the negroes who are arrested from time to time, pistols, loaded clubs and well strung slung-shots are taken. In the house of the negro, Peter Taylor, where the Federal soldier was killed on Friday night, minie balls and powder were found. Those who are arrested constitute a very small proportion of those who are not, and it is fair to presume that deadly weapons of some description are widely scattered among the colored population of Petersburg, in manifest violation of the law. The fact cannot be denied, but on the contrary, it will be substantiated by those persons who have the best means of knowing. If then, there are arms and ammunition in the hands of hundreds of negroes in the city, danger lurks about. It bodes no good. The quiet and respectable portion of the colored community need no arms. They have always lived without the concealment of deadly weapons about their persons, and under their heads, and they live so now. It is only that class of negroes whose conduct is not the most irreproachable, and whose objects are not the purest, who supply themselves with pistols and slung-shots and guns. And it is much to be regretted, that this class is not limited to a few but counts hundreds—we might say thousands—in every large Southern community. All admit the fact of armed negroes in our midst all acknowledge the danger to the peace of the community arising therefrom; therefore, what's the remedy? We will let wiser heads than our own discover it, and order the execution."

THE LAST PHASE OF FENIANISM.

The "Council of the Irish Republic" has issued an address to their friends in America. In this document we look in vain for any intelligible statement of grievances, which are to justify rebellion, as we have looked in all previous documents of a like kind that have been issued. Irishmen in America are told that the slavery of Ireland is a shadow on their path; but there is *no* bill of particulars, no list of grievances. This undefined and unexplained *slavery* is also described as a drag-chain on the progress of Irishmen in America; how or why is left to the imagination, and it will certainly require an unusually active one to fill the void.

The address is really an appeal to Irishmen in America for funds. They are asked to subscribe for the bonds of the Irish Republic, that they may have the privilege of being the first creditors of the Irish nation—that is to be. "Hundreds of thousands," we are told, "are waiting for the word;" and men who are to give the word are waiting for money from the States. O'Mahoney, too, wants money to support the pill mansions, and for other little needs, and Sweeny wants money to lead, we don't know how many, armies against Canada. He and Sweeny have been addressing a public meeting at Cleveland, at which their open threat of invading Canada was applauded by the audience. Take it altogether, Irishmen in the States have an excellent opportunity to disburthen themselves of superfluous cash, and make their pockets as light as their hearts.

O'Mahony sends forth the document issued by the Council of the Irish Republic, with sanction of his name. He no doubt feels the need of new contributions. The rival President, Roberts, has written a reply to Secretary Killian's report, in which the nakedness of the land is discovered. Referring to the statement that the gross sum expended on the Union Square Government from the 20th October to the 16th January amounted to $56,573, he says $60,000 more must be added for the expenses of O'Mahony's "skirmishers" through the States: and when he has put these two amounts together he finds a balance of the enormous sum of $17,000, applicable to the purchase of arms, equipping soldiers, and fitting out ships. He charges on his rival the "murder of defenceless men," the dupes in Ireland who are suffering in their criminal conspiracy.

The Responsibility of the States in Fenian Aggressive Movements.—The Toronto *Leader* discusses with its usual force and ability matters connected with the Fenian designs upon Canada. It closes with the following:—

"The moment Gen. Sweeny takes the first practical steps for putting his threats into execution, we shall expect from the justice of President Johnson a timely exercise of the necessary means of vindicating those neutrality laws of the United States, of which the movement will be a gross violation. President Van Buren sent troops to the Canada frontier to enforce the neutral obligations of the State immediately after such a demonstration as has just been made at Buffalo. Sweeny and his fellow conspirators have probably not yet gone so far as to render their punishment certain under the neutrality laws of 1818 and 1838. Let them go on until their necks are fairly in the noose, and then a gentle pressure of the executive hand will do the business."

A Few Stubborn Facts.—The following facts, taken from the official returns of the Boston Custom House, are commended to the attention of those politicians who desire that there should be no Treaty of Reciprocity whatever between the British Provinces and the United States.

Imports from Lower Provinces to Boston, in 1865, two and one half million of dollars.

Exports during the same time, three and one half millions.

Outfits in Boston for cod and mackerel fishery, four millions.

Returns in fish, seven millions.

Total amount of trade, *seventeen millions of dollars per annum.*

Of long or lustre wool, we received last year over five million five hundred thousand pounds, chiefly for Boston and Lowell account, and equal in value to three millions of dollars; grain and animals over two millions of dollars worth. Our returns in goods and specie to Canada were five millions, making the sum total of Boston trade with the Provinces, *twenty-seven millions of dollars* per annum. The general imports of Boston for the year ending June 30, 1865, according to the official accounts, were twenty-five millions, and the exports twenty-one, a total of forty-six millions. We see, therefore, that the trade with the Provinces is more than one half the entire general exports and imports of this port for that year—a statistical fact worthy the attention of treaty makers and politicians.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

It is estimated, says the London *Times*, that about three hundred thousand fat cattle, representing about ninety thousand tons of beef, are taken for our annual supply. But it is also estimated that eight thousand tons of fish of larger and finer kinds enter into the year's consumption, independently of sprats, herring and shellfish. There is reason, therefore, to rejoice at the announcement that, if the supply of beef should be diminished, that of fish is not likely to fail.