EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A YOUNG NOVA SCOTIAN AT THE CRIMEA.—"8th October, 1855.—I was glad to receive your letter by the last mail and to hear you were enjoying yourselves: you may depend upon it you are much better off where you are than out here, though, I doubt not, you would like to inspect the places I have read so much of. Sebastopol must have been a magnificent city, although now mostly destroyed. The principal houses and public buildings are almost palaces, and much handsomer than any I saw in London. But the most interesting is the Redan and the trenches, where so many of our noble fellows have perished. We went through them and entered the caves of the Redan, where I cut off two buttons from a Russian soldier's coat. I met young Moorsom, a grandson of the late Judge Wilkins; he arrived the day before the assault, was wounded in the arm, and has returned home. He will receive his £100 blood-money, his medal, and most probably be promoted. He does not look more than twelve. I see James Bezalgatte very often; we talk over old Halifax friends —we have many here; but God only knows how long we may have to live. I visited the spot where poor Major Welsford was buried. Every one speaks highly of him, and he was sincerely regretted by all. A large body of troops embarked to-day, and sailed on some secret expedition; it is supposed to destroy the forts in the Black Sea. Some are to go to Kinburn, at the mouth of the Bug, and destroy the Russian shipping which has been floated down the river. I often go up to the front, now that the hot weather is over, and one can take exercise without the fear of being laid up for a month. When I go up to visit the 2d Division, I always remain all night, as returning at night, through an enemy's country, unless you are very well acquainted with the way, is not the pleasantest thing in the world. The weather here now is beautiful, and I am better than I ever was, even before my illness. Charles is very well, and it is so pleasant, when we meet, to have a long chat about you all.

Everything here seems to go on just as it did before the fall of Sebastopol, and we do not think we are likely to have peace for some time yet. We are getting along very quietly in our little establishment. We dine in the middle of the day, so as to have the evening for exercise, as we found it much better. Pursue the study of the Modern Languages: they are absolutely necessary if you travel. There is no knowing where you may be cast in after life. Little, indeed, did I suppose this time last year, that I should be here, living in the midst of almost every nation in Europe, or that I should have visited so many places. I have been already in England, Ireland, Gibraltar, Malta, Constantinople and Sebastopol, as well as many parts of the Crimea; besides seeing Tenedos, Abydos, and the many places we have read of in our classical studies.

The preparations out here still look very warlike, and it is supposed by many that another great battle will be fought before the winter sets in. The Russians have thrown up earthworks on the North side of Sebastopol. It is almost impossible to go into the town without one of their shells bursting about you. Sydney Bazelgette, riding through the town on duty, had his horse shot from under him, the ball passing through the horse's neck—a second more and he would have been killed himself, as many others have been, who, having been warned of the danger, have ventured too far. Now sentries have been posted, and allow those only on duty to pass. I have many letters to write and must say good bye."—*Acadian Recorder.*

TURN YOUR FENCE POSTS.—It is mentioned as a curious fact, that a farmer in Connecticut who recently took up a fence after it had been standing fourteen years, found all these posts solid which had been inverted from the way in which they originally grew, while others placed differently were rotted off at the bottom. Heads down, therefore, seems a specific against decay.

The attitude of Sweden was regarded in St. Peterburg with increasing suspicion.

FRESH PERSECUTIONS AT NAPLES.

NAPLES, Oct, 8.—The differences between the British and the Neapolitan governments are, as I have already informed you, what is called terminated, but in a manner, as it appears to me little satisfactory or complimentary to a great power. It is certain that Mazza was dismissed with great reluctance, that an effort was made to give that dismissal the appearance of concession to the military, and that it is within the last week only, that a note has been sent to the British ambassador representing that fact as the *amende honorable* for the insult to Mr Fagan. The satisfaction has been accepted; bygones are permitted to be bygones, and this government, like a hoary sinner after confession, is ready to commence a new account. Meantime, the people are vexed beyond measure that the fleet does not make its appearance, and they take their revenge by circulating the report that its absence has been purchased with a large sum of money. What now, then, it is well to enquire, is the spirit of the government and the position of the country? are they changed by the recent events? Not in the slightest degree. The fall of Sebastopol and the threatened visit of the fleet produced an immense effect. The police were stunned, Mazza sent to the right about, and ministers were to be changed But nothing has come of all this promise and sanguine expectation. A list of new ministers has been handed about for a fortnight, but nothing settled. Some of the names are indifferently good, others intolerably bad; but names matter little, when the sovereign is his own minister, especially in affairs of police; and in this department, it is clear to me that though its ferocity may for the moment have been a little mitigated, the old system is being pursued. Bianchini is the nominal director of police; but, imbecile as he is, he is the creature of Mazza, who does not appear, but who pulls all the strings. A short time ago, some 120 or 150 of the mule-drivers in Sicily were employed by the British government to accompany the mules which were purchased by our government for our service in the Crimea. Knowing well the tender mercies of their own government, they asked for passports, but were informed, that passports were not at all necessary. A British steamer not many days since landed these men at Messina. Six of them, it appears, belonged to Reggio, where, upon their arrival, they were arrested and most cruelly beaten. This act has taken place since the fall of Mazza; it shows, therefore, that his mantle has rested upon his successor. The case, too, of a young student in the Priests' Seminary at Sorrento has created a great sensation in that quiet village. The lad is a native of Massa, of poor but respectable parents. When the news of the fall of Sebastopol became known there, the enthusiasm of the poor fellow was greatly excited, and he wrote a few lines in honour of the allies; and, in the course of his little poem, branched off into some aspirations for liberty in Italy. He dedicated his piece to four individuals, three of whom were unknown to him personally. The acquaintance of the fourth, a young man of great learning he made, it is said, a few weeks ago in the boat which plies between Sorrento and Naples. Not satisfied with his handwriting, the lad sent his poem to a serjeant of the invalids at Massa, his penmanship being clearer. As the termination of some of the verses rather bothered the serjeant, he showed them to a lieutenant, who immediately smelt treason. The rhymes were forthwith carried to the commandant, who considered them of sufficient importance to be carried by him specially to Naples. Orders soon arrived for the arrest and incarceration of the hapless boy. For eight days he remained in prison in Sorrento, and at the expiration of that time, an order was sent for his transfer to the prisons of Naples. On the evening of his removal, the ill-starred companion of his boat voyage, whose only sin it was to be thought worthy of a dedication, was arrested at the Casa Leva and report says, that two or three others have shared the fate. Here is another proof of the mildness and wisdom of our police :—One Gabriele Marotta has a book-shop near the church of the Jesuits. He was arrested a few days since because he had in his possession Rousseau's(!) Dictionary of Music. The name was enough. Down with it in this moral and religious country. So the man was arrested. A judicial court, however, decided that it was not exactly a penal but a correctional case, and dismissed it to be treated in a different way. And with such cases, and many others, does any one dream of improvement! It cannot take place. The people, finding themselves abandoned to incompetent and imbicile rulers are heaving constantly, and threatening an everapproaching storm. I think such a move would be disastrous, but it is not less true, that all classes are hopeless, desperate, disgusted; and the undoubted and increasing harmony of opinion on one point, at least, between the extreme parties, shows how grinding must have been, and is still, the tyranny practised here. I am informed that some differences still exist between the Neapolitan and the French Governments on the subject of the refusal of passports to the subject of this country who are desirous of going to the Crimea. This diplomatic battle the French are fighting alone. I have heard from several quarters, though as yet I give it as a report, that there has been a disturbance in or near Catania, and that 800 additional soldiers have been sent off for that point, through the Calabrias. His Majesty having recently disarmed all his fleet, steamers and others, has deprived himself of means of sending down reinforcements.—*Correspondent of Daily News.*

FROM THE ISTHMUS.—We have dates from Ruatan, Honduras, of the 16th. The Revolutionists were within twenty miles of Truxillo, and the inhabitants of the latter place were fleeing to Ruatan for safety. The former commandant of the city was endeavoring to make a stand against the insurgents.

GLASS ROOF HOUSES.—A correspondent of the London *Builder* proposes to roof London houses with glass, and form them into gardens, smoking rooms, or observatories. He declares glass roofs would be warmer and more air-tight than those of tiles or slates.

PUNISHMENT FOR DRUNKENNESS IN SWEDEN —In Sweden a man who is seen four times drunk is deprived of his vote at elections, and the next Sunday after the fourth offence is exposed in the church.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—At the late meeting of the British Association, Dr. Pearson, in the chemical section, asserted that there were only two articles manufactured for food which were not adulterated—common salt and refined lump sugar. He challenged any gentleman present to add another article to the list.

STAG'S HEAD CHANDELIERS.—Two magnificent stags heads, royals, with twelve points each, which were killed in Rhidorach Forest, Rosshire, have been fitted up as gas chandeliers for the Marquis of Stafford, at Dunrobin Castle. Each point of the antlers gives forth a jet of gas.

Captain Kirby, the Collector of Light Duties in Canso Gut, having boarded a ship passing through, on the 1st instant, melancholy to say, in going over the side of the ship to get into his boat, slipped into the water and sunk immediately. The body was found in an hour afterwards.

MR. WEBSTER'S ESTATE.—The executors of the estate of Daniel Webster have sent printed circulars to persons having claims against the same, in which it is stated that the nett amount of assets in their hands is $35,180:86, and the amount of claims is about $155,600. The executors are now making a distribution among the creditors. They divide twenty one and three-quarters per centum, retaining in hand about 1 per centum to defray expenses and charges in the suit against the city of New Orleans for a claim of $29,000 for counsel fees in the Gaines controversy.—*Boston Transcript.*

PEEL'S FIRST EFFORTS IN ORATORY.—Soon after Peel was born, his father, the first baronet, finding himself rising daily in wealth and consequence, and believing that money in those peculiar days could always command a seat in parliament, determined to bring up his son expressly for the House of Commons. When that son was quite a child, Sir Robert would frequently set him on the table and say, "Now, Robin, make a speech, and I will give you this cherry." What few words the little fellow produced were applauded, and applause stimulated exertion, and produced such effects that, before Robin was ten years old, he could really address the company with some degree of eloquence. As he grew up, his father constantly took him, every Sunday, into his private room, and made him repeat, as well as he could, the sermon which had been preached. Little progress in effecting this was made, and little was expected, at first, but by steady perseverance, the habit of attention grew powerful, and the sermon was repeated almost *verbatim*. When, at a very distant day, the senator, remembering accurately the speech of an opponent, answered his arguments in quick succession, it was little known, that the power of doing so was originally acquired in Drayton Church.—*Memoirs by the Dean of York.*

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Saturday, November 17, 1855.

As the City Council is just now busied about the important, but not most grateful, task of providing the "ways and means" for defraying the necessary expenses attendant on the improvements of the City, either in progress or contemplation; it may not be amiss to say a few words on taxation in general. The old proverb "give a dog a bad name," is as applicable to taxes as anything else; the very word taxation, with most people, implies tyranny, and almost the worst species of it. Let us, however, consider whether it merits the odium into which it has unfortunately fallen. Of course we mean by the word, that species of taxation to which we are subjected by laws of our own making, through the medium of our representatives, whether members of the Assembly or the City Councillors; in short, voluntary taxation, the proceeds of which are to be spent for our own benefit or gratification. It is perfectly clear, that if we wish for good, smooth roads or streets, convenient side-walks, wharfs, bridges, or public works of any description, we must either make these ourselves, or pay others for making them. It is generally admitted, also, that where every body is benefitted, every body ought to contribute. Agreed! But how? What is to be the rule and proportion of the contributions? Will you tax every body alike? Make it a poll tax then, let every individual in the community pay an equal sum. Where the amount to be raised is not great, and where the object for which the tax is levied affects all in an equal degree, as the copious supply of water in a town, an equal tax may have some shew of justice. When, however, communities have arrived at a greater height, both as respects population and wealth; when the inhabitants of a town or city are divided into classes, of which one is possessed of means in such abundance, as to afford its inmates all the comforts, conveniencies and luxuries of life without any labor or exertion on their part; another has a decent competency; a third is engaged by means of trade and commerce, or by the exercise of professional skill, in accumulating riches, so as to qualify those who are successful, for one or other of the first mentioned classes; a fourth is, from a knowledge of the arts of handicraft, supporting those of which it is composed in decent comfort, and, with pains and care, enabling them to lay by something, more or less, for old age or casualties; the greater proportion form a fifth class, who depend for their daily subsistence upon the daily labour of their hands, when such a state of society occurs, it is obvious to those who give even the least consideration to the matter, that a different rule must be adopted. That each one should contribute in a ratio proportionate as well to the benefit received, as the ability to pay would seem but just and reasonable. By what criterion is this to be ascertained, has been, and will continue to be, a problem, difficult, if not impossible, to solve. Hence, most municipalities have been adopted as a rule for taxation, the possession of property. As far as Real Estate is concerned, it is the most equal tax, and one most easily raised. In the first place, the thing itself is taxed, and as it cannot be concealed, and its value can be easily ascertained, there is little or no difficulty in ascertaining the amount of the tax; but then, it is to be observed, that in this case, only one class of the community—the owners of Real Estate—is taxed. If you tax the house-holder, according to the rent he actually pays, or would have to pay, if the house were not his own, you have, say the advocates of this method, a fair criterion of his ability. A rich man lives in a large house at a great rent; the poor man, in one proportionate to his means of paying. Apparently, this would meet the second contingency—*the ability to pay*, but would it equally so the first—*the benefit received?* In every well regulated community, an efficient police force is absolutely necessary for the preservation of property. But what benefit does he whose whole property is of so little value, as to afford no temptation to the robber care for the protection of a police force? The gentleman, whose sideboard or table glitters with silver plate, whose drawing-room abounds in articles of *virtu*, as portable as they are valuable; the merchant, whose stores are plentifully furnished with silks, laces, jewelry, and other articles of value, may well be afraid of the shop-lifter or the burglar, but I, says the labourer, fear neither, nor do I care for side-walks or gas lamps. The tax on the rental is also but another name for an income tax, for it is based on the principle, that every man lives in a house proportionate to his income, but this is never any where the case, least of all, Charlottetown. A poor man makes in 300 working days, on an average, 3s. 6d. a day, or about £50 per annum, one room—and that of the most humble description—costs 2s. per week, or £5 per ann., thus he pays one-tenth of his precarious income for rent. Take a government functionary, who with his public and private income together, is in possession of from £1,000 to £500 per annum, do they live in houses, for which they pay respectively from £100 to £50 per annum?