a melioration of the people, and the advancement and prosperity of the whole Island.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 23.

The greatest portion of the day was occupied in Conferences with the Legislative Council, relative to the amendments made by that body to the unfortunate Debtors' Act. The House in Committee received the report of the Committee on Contingent Expenses the discussion on which took place with closed doors.

FRIDAY, April 24.

ON Friday, at half past three o'clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came down to the Council Chamber, and after giving his assent to 25 bills prorogued the Legislature.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BRILLIANT EXPLOITS OF GEN NAPIER AND THE BRITISH TROOPS IN ABYSSINIA.

One of the marvels of modern times is the rapidity with which the details of great events are made known all over the civilized world. Seldom have we had a better example of this than in the case of the war in Abyssinia. The N. Y. *Herald* of the 27th has two columns of Cable telegrams containing all the news known on the subject, in London on the 26th. The following are the principal particulars, not already mentioned, and they are of great interest. The victory is far more brilliant, because involving greater efforts than was supposed:—

On the 9th instant, news was received at head quarters from army spies, to the effect that Theodorus intended moving immediately on the British. Gen. Napier instantly crossed the Judda River to the plain of Tanta, which he commenced to traverse, many animals were lost in crossing a terrible ravine. It is eight miles wide having a descent of three thousand five hundred feet, and an ascent extending four thousand five hundred feet on the other side. The Queen's army having accomplished both, marched over the "King's road," thirty feet wide, onward Gen. Napier then halted and reconnoitred the position at Magdala in person. He saw the King's camp, with intrenched defences which appeared impregnable. On the 8th of April Mr. Rassam, one of the captives, forwarded a letter to Gen. Napier, dated Magdala, 6th, in which he said:—"Beware, the King is moving." At this date King Theodorus had 28 guns mounted inside the works, and mostly in front of his camp, bearing on the English advance. Gen. Napier forwarded a letter to the King, officially demanding the release of the captives. The English army was concentrated on the Beshelo River, the troops were furnished with scaling-ladders, torpedoes and other engines of assault, and were held in readiness for an attack on the fortress of Magdala.

THE ATTACK.

A despatch from the *Herald's* correspondent, dated before the fortress on Good Friday, reported that the British army had arrived there in front of the King's stronghold. The troops were six miles distant from the fortress. The King's camp was situated on a great height, in full view. The third despatch of the 13th of April said a truce which had been agreed on between General Napier and Theodorus terminated early that morning. Immediately after the termination the King not having surrendered the captives, General Napier placed himself at the head of the first and second brigades of his army and moved up the hill towards the fortress as far as Shillassi. This portion of the strong works was surrendered to General Napier by the chief in command after a brisk attack in which the African troops were defeated. Theodorus observing the English advance, and its first fruits, retreated into the centre of the Magdala works on the plateau, having first planted five guns at the base. When Gen. Napier came in sight with his brigades the King's artillery opened on the advance with these guns in the presence of Theodorus. The British replied immediately with 12 pounder Armstrong guns and 7 inch mountain mortar rocket guns, throwing rockets into the place.

The King's works were carried after a vigorous resistance. Theodorus lost during the engagement sixty men killed and two hundred wounded. The English had fifteen rank and file wounded. After the works were completely taken Theodorus was found dead by the English soldiers in the centre of his stronghold.

LATER.

Two despatches from Gen. Napier to Sir S. Northcote have been received. The first says there had been an engagement on Good Friday, 10th April, when King Theodorus was defeated with heavy loss. On the English side Capt. Roberts, of the 4th Infantry, and 16 men, were wounded. None of the British were killed. During the next two days Theodorus surrendered all the European captives, but had not surrendered himself as beaten in war. He was allowed 24 hours from the 12th of April in the morning to decide as to his course.

The second despatch is dated the 14th. It says the King's army was then greatly disheartened in consequence of its severe loss, and that the Chiefs had surrendered the most formidable position on the approach to Magdala called Shaloose, and many thousand native soldiers had laid down their arms. Theodorus retired to Magdala with the troops which had remained faithful. An assault was ordered on the 13th, under cover of the Armstrong steel guns rocket battery. The ascent to the gates of Magdala was of the most formidable description. The King was killed inside, defending himself and his position to the last. The loss of the British was small, and the army would set out on its return on the 14th.

LATEST.

Later advices, dated Zoula, the 18th, state that 14,000 native troops had surrendered to Gen. Napier. Theodorus had 500 killed and 1500 wounded. The European captives, numbering 60, including men, women and children were already on their way to Zoula for home.

The Impeachment of the President draws near a close. The speech of Manager Boutwell, which was read for the most part, from printed slips, and which occupies sixteen columns of the Boston *Journal*, was an extraordinary effort. It dealt with the evidence and with the law—also with early constitutional history in a very masterly manner. It concluded as follows:

Senators, as far as I am concerned, the case is now in your hands, and it is soon to be closed by my associate. The House of Representatives have presented this criminal at your bar with equal confidence in his guilt and in your disposition to administer exact justice between him and the people of the United States.

His conviction is the triumph of law, of order, of justice. I do not contemplate his acquittal—it is impossible. Therefore I do not look beyond. But, Senators, the people of America will never permit an usurping Executive to break down the securities for liberty provided by the Constitution. The cause of the country is in your hands. Your verdict of *guilty* is *peace* to our beloved land.

Judge Nelson was next heard on behalf of the President. His argument occupied nearly two days, and was mainly of a hard legal kind. Four or five more Counsel are to be heard. The prejudice excited against Chief Justice Chase, seems to be subsiding. The Boston *Advertiser* and its correspondents at Washington state that nothing more dignified nor more like what justice ought to be has ever been witnessed in a Court of Justice than the rulings and bearings of the Chief Justice. It is alleged that Gen. Butler—who is not much in favor here or in New Orleans—has distinguished himself more than any of the other counsel. It does not appear what the result will be. That the President acted so offensively as to challenge impeachment there is no doubt, also that he infringed the letter of a law which he held was not constitutional or binding. That he is liable to impeachment in the sense of the constitution we more than doubt. Even the result of the trial will not settle this point. History may yet do so.—*St. John Journal.*

JAMES WHALEN.

The following is a detailed account of Whalen's history. It is from the columns of the *Montreal Telegraph*, and is the most comprehensive we have met:—

Whelan has not been long in this country, having arrived in Quebec only some three years ago. He was born in the neighbourhood of Dublin, and is about 28 years of age. Whether or not he got much education we cannot say. It is very evident that he is not what may be styled an ignorant man, and does not want at all for shrewdness. In due time he was apprenticed to a tailor in Dublin, and seems to have served out his time faithfully and well. When he became his own master he showed a disposition to wander about a good deal; went over to England, and when there never remained very long in one place. Now he was in London, now in Manchester, and some short time after at other places. Altogether he might be spoken of as one who was restless and dissatisfied, always thinking that he would be better if in a position different from what he actually occupied, and always ready to blame others as the cause of his troubles, rather than to ascribe them either to his own folly or his own incompetency.

When he got to Quebec, he found employment in his own line of business with Valliere and afterwards with McKenzie, and seems to have continued about that city for some time. It was during his residence in Quebec that he joined a volunteer troop of cavalry, and for a while behaved so well as to attain the rank of corporal. This was in 1866. Bye-and-bye, however, he seems not to have been able to restrain himself, either while sober or when in his cups, from saying very strong things against the British Government; and coming out very decidedly with Fenian notions and Fenian curses. For this he was put under arrest, and it was only from the clemency of the authorities that he was not dealt with in a severe and summary manner. He was, however, set free, and very speedily left the city. The next place where he turned up was Hamilton, and now in the character of a full-fledged Fenian from Buffalo, who could and would do terrible things; to whom the whole British Empire was a poor, miserable, worn-out thing, easily knocked to pieces like a child's castle of cards. He was, as might be expected, again arrested, but for some reason or another, possibly from his very insignificance, allowed once more to get off. A not very sober talking, swaggering, blustering snip might very naturally not be regarded as in any way a very formidable enemy to British authority, and prosecution, it might be thought, would simply entail expense, and give him a little notoriety, without having any influence in bringing Fenianism to an end.

Escaping in this way, once and again, from the hands of the authorities, seem to have made Whalen bold. Like poor Train, he may possibly have got into the idea that the British Government, or at least the Canadian Government was afraid of him, and had not the courage to take that course against his freedom or his life, which they were only too anxious to pursue. The delusions under which very small men sometimes labour are often the strangest, and it is just as likely a thing in the circumstances as possible that this tailor and Fenian should persuade himself that fear, abject fear, was at the bottom of all this clemency.

From Hamilton he seems to have gone to Montreal and worked there for some time with Gibbs and others. His Fenian proclivities became more and more decided, and his denunciation of England and English rule still more violent. As was to be expected, and as is the case with only too many, he was never more eloquent upon the wrongs of Ireland than when he was more or less intoxicated.

When Whalen was in Montreal, he joined the St. Patrick's Society, and became a rather active, bustling member of that fraternity. He also married one, who, from all accounts, seems to be a respectable person, and continued to make Montreal his home till the month of October or November last, when he removed to Ottawa and obtained work with Eagleson, in whose employment, according to Eagleson's evidence, he has been ever since. He must have joined the Ottawa St. Patricks Society almost immediately for we find that he was one of the Marshals at the procession on the 17th of March last, and as such figures on horseback in a photograph taken at the time of the prominent personages in that display.

Mrs. Whalen has not removed to Ottawa, but according to Eagleson she meant to do so very soon, and had been up to the city making arrangements. Whalen's employer gives him a good character, says he was well liked by his shop-mates, and could earn from $12 to $14 a week. Although neither Eagleson nor his brother, according to their own account, ever heard him refer to McGee, it seems unquestionable that while he always used very strong language against English domination in Ireland, he was peculiarly bitter against that gentleman whom he regarded as its great upholder in this Province. It is said that on one occasion, at any rate, his language was so strong and disloyal that he was turned out of his boarding house, and that on another, after speaking very harshly of the deceased statesman, he pulled out his pistol, shook it, and clenched his assertions with a "by G——," leaving the threat to be inferred. Rumor, of course, with its hundred tongues will be busy enough in circulating, and magnifying and distorting everything he may have said, and very possibly may be giving him credit for some things he never either thought or uttered; but enough is unquestionable to show that his antecedents have not made it unlikely that he would engage in such a desperate enterprise. He is upon the whole, not ill looking, as may be seen from the accompanying portrait, is vain, reckless, daring and excitable; not very well able to manage his own weekly income to any good account; but entirely persuaded that if he were put in charge of Ireland for a week or two he would soon right the wrongs of centuries. That he had any personal quarrel with Mr. McGee is not said. Indeed it does not appear that they ever came in contact with each other at all. But that he bitterly hated the murdered man as a traitor to what he was pleased to think the best interests of Ireland and Irishmen seems unquestionable.

We have already referred to the chain of evidence which connects him with the murder for which he will in due time be tried. His trial, of course, will be a fair one, and every opportunity will be afforded for clearing himself from the odious charge. While, as we have said, we do not wish to prejudge the case, we must say that matters at present look very badly for the prisoner, and his whole course of life since he came to this country seems rather to confirm than to weaken the likelihood of his guilt. No one, however, convinced of Whalen's guilt, believes him to be alone responsible for the deed of blood which has made his name so prominent the world over. The authorities it is said, have evidence which goes to show that he is but one of a large number banded together for this purpose, and that it happens that he now stands in the position he now occupies simply because it was so determined by lot. In such conspiracies this is generally the plan. All are morally guilty of the murder, and the one who kills is simply the instrument detailed according to a pre-arranged plan for the work.

Such then are mere prominent facts in the history of James Whalen. The following few weeks will supply more for his history than all the past year. It remains to be seen whether he will live in the history of Canadian criminal trials a great offender, who pursuaded himself that he was playing the part of a hero, when he simply proved that he was one of the meanest of midnight murderers, or as one who with much circumstantial evidence against him, was on the eve of securing a permanent though far from honorable, niche in Canadian history, from which, through his own innocence, he after all made good his escape.

ACTIVITY AMONG THE FENIANS.—The Washington correspondent of a Boston paper writes that great activity prevails among the Fenians, and that there is reason to fear a formidable attack upon British America during the coming summer. He says O'Neill, the present Fenian President, is a brave and daring man, and though he has little administrative power, would not hesitate to strike a blow if there were the slightest chance of success. It seems probable that the attack will be made on more than one point. At Buffalo, for instance, there is a large quantity of Fenian arms, which were seized by the Washington Government in 1865, but were restored to the Fenians a few months ago. In California there is great activity among the Fenians, and much apprehension prevailed at Victoria, the capital of Vancouver's Island.

COLONIAL.

We clip the following from the Ottawa correspondence of a Montreal paper:—

Several influential gentlemen from Nova Scotia are about to have an interview with the Minister of Finance with the object of presenting and supporting a petition from the Intercolonial Coal Mining Co., of Cape Breton, on the subject of a railway. It appears the Company owns some extensive and valuable beds on the Island, twelve to fourteen miles from Sydney, to which fine harbor they desire to build a railway for the purpose of opening up the interior resources of Cape Breton; their own, of course, included. They represent that the harbor near their mines at which vessels now load, is too exposed and unsafe for shipping; and that in the present depressed state of the money market, it will be impossible for them to raise the money required, unless at a great loss, and they therefore ask the Dominion Government to guarantee the interest of a loan of $400,000 at 6 per cent; a sum which will put them in a position to build the road, stock it with three locomotives and 150 cars; as also to erect piers and slides, and such other accommodation as will enable them to load six large vessels at a time. The request is not unreasonable when you come to reflect on the tendency of the present conciliatory policy, and consider that the railway will be used by the other Mining Companies on the island; that it will enable them to lay down coal at $1.50 to $1.75 per ton; and that the Company's request is backed by all the clergymen and leading men of Cape Breton; and not less than 1,300 taxpayers, who state, in a supplementary petition, that owing to the present lack of employment, they are frequently in a great state of destitution, and will likely continue so, unless the Dominion Government gives this guarantee, and incidentally furnishes them with permanent employment. Should the Dominion Government grant their request, the Company will give it a first lien on the whole of its property as security for guarantee.

THE LATE MR. McGEE.—We extract the following from a letter addressed by the late Mr. McGee to M. J. H. Daley, the Emigration Agent at this city, principally in answer to enquiries as to the formula to be observed in connection with the intended presentation of a portrait to the deceased statesman on his birth-day—Easter Monday—the day of his funeral. The letter possesses a melancholy interest as being among the last he ever wrote:

MY DEAR DALEY,—The Mayor would be the very best person to make the presentation, but I think a preliminary meeting of the principal subscribers ought to be held, say twelve or more of them, and *they* ought to invite *him* to act as their spokesman. * * * At Easter, *I shall be sure to be down*, April 13th, is my birth-day, the presentation might be left till then. * * * I am glad our friends are so pleased with the Patrick's Day speeches. You may take telegraphic rumours about my accepting office with some grains of salt: when I go down at Easter if there is anything to be told I shall then and there submit to my friends *first.* * * * * * * *

Yours always,
[Signed] T. D. McGEE.
J. H. DALEY, Esq. —*Montreal News.*

George Etienne Cartier, Minister of Militia, and leader and representative man of the French or Lower Canadian element in the Dominion, has been elevated to the dignity of a Baronet of the United Kingdom. No colonial distinction has been conferred, which could be more appropriate, more worthy, or in every sense more just and politic. It is an acknowledgment, not only of the services and ability of the recipient, but a recognition of the claims due to a name which is both national and historical, the proudest name in fact which could be borne by a Canadian. Some three hundred years ago Jacques Cartier discovered the St. Lawrence and the country known as Canada, and one of his collateral descendants, has after this wide interval of time, made for himself a distinguished position in that great colony by the force of his character, and the vigour of his talents. Every French Canadian is justly proud of him, partly on his own account, but largely on account of the honoured name he bears. Of what other discoverer, on this side the Atlantic, can it be said that even the name survives? The posterity of Columbus has been long extinct, nor have we ever heard, that any descendant could be traced of Sebastian Cabot, of Cortez, of Henry Hudson, or indeed of any of the daring explorers and adventurers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with the single exception of Jacques Cartier who discovered Canada. How fitting then in every way the honor, how appropriate the time and the occasion! The first Baronet created, belonging to the Dominion of Canada, is George Etienne Cartier, descendant of the first European who set eyes upon the land, and whose pinnace first broke the waters of the mighty St. Lawrence. Long may he wear the title so honorably earned! and we trust he may be spared to add additional lustre to the honored name he bears.—*Hx. Express.*

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—A sad, and in his case we must say mysterious occurrence, took place in town on Monday last. A man named Allan McDonald, from the Gulf, came to town on Sabbath. In the evening he went to West Acadia Mines, and on Monday morning returned to New Glasgow. At about ten o'clock he went out in company with Mr Thomas Smith to Smith's house. When in the neighborhood of Mr. Roche's house he suddenly exclaimed "I am drunk," and on reaching Smith's house he fell to the ground. Mr. Smith endeavored to get him into the house, but the man violently resisting, he desisted, allowing him to lie on the ground supposing that he would become sober in a short time—Two young men laid him on a platform, placed a bundle under his head and left him. Mr. Smith passed him several times, and seeing the man apparently asleep, he concluded not to disturb him. About 11 o'clock it was discovered that the man was dead. He was immediately carried into Smith's house, and medical aid called, and after a long and careful examination it was found that life was extinct. Edward Roach, Esq., Coroner, summoned a jury, and Drs. Mitchell and Murray were called in to make a *post mortem* examination. The jury called in on Monday night failed to agree on a verdict, and a new jury was summoned on Tuesday morning. The *post mortem* examination proved that there were no signs of the man having suffered violence. It was proved that he had drunk no liquor at Acadia Mines, but that he had drunk two glasses of gin at McKraracher's, one at eight, and the other at at about ten o'clock, Monday forenoon. The medical men stated that there was no food in his stomach, that it contained nearly a pint of liquid, which emitted strong fumes of alcohol. It was found that his brain was completely congested, and also emitted a strong smell of alcohol. The man's heart, liver, and lungs were in a very healthy condition, and it was evident that the man's death was caused by intoxicating liquors. The Jury, therefore, gave in a verdict, that in their opinion, "the deceased came to his death from congestion of the brain, superinduced by the use of intoxicating liquors." This agreed with the opinion expressed by Drs Murray and Mitchell, who conducted the *post mortem* examination.—*New Glasgow Chronicle.*

A man named James T. Shand, an employee in the Saw Mill of George McLeod, Esq., on the Kouchibouguac River, was accidentally killed in the Mill on Thursday evening last, under very distressing circumstances, having been struck by the connecting rod, knocked under the crank, and his head and body horribly bruised and mangled. Deceased was about 36 years of age, and a native of Scotland, and leaves a family of four small children.

A terrible accident occurred in Montreal, on the 25th ult. An experiment was being made at the Reservoir with a new explosive substance, when a premature explosion occurred, killing one man instantly—literally blowing his head to pieces—and seriously injuring six or seven more

Sir John A. Macdonald, K. C. B., has been appointed the grand representative of the Grand Lodge of England at the Grand Lodge of Canada, which sits in London on the 14th July next. It is said that there will be about four hundred and fifty delegates present from all parts of the Dominion; and further, that it is the intention of the Free Masons of London to entertain the grand lodge at a banquet.

Colonel Kelly, one of the Fenians rescued from the Manchester Police, has arrived at New York.

The amount of destitution in some parts of Nova Scotia, and especially in the Island of Cape Breton, is great, almost beyond precedent. The mere fact that such is the case ought to call forth the efforts of the benevolent, ought to command the attention of the government at once, without stopping to enquire into the cause. It is enough that such is the case, and our duty now is to give relief first and institute enquiry afterwards. The facts stated are at once alarming and deplorable. We are told that in a part of the county of Inverness, the cattle will be nearly all lost from want of food, that indeed they are already gone, that the people have consumed all their seed oats and potatoes, and that dire necessity is compelling them to feed upon their horses. Surely this is a state of things which has only to be made known, in order to obtain instant consideration and relief in a civilized country. Not a day should be lost in ascertaining the facts of the case, and acting in accordance with its requirements.

If nothing else can be done, let the Road money, for the year, go for this purpose. If our people are suffering as represented, an imperative duty is upon the Government to provide the remedy without delay. Let not the reproach be upon us that any of our fellow creatures in this Province died from actual want, or that whole districts are famine stricken and unrelieved, while we and those about us are cognisant of the fact. The past winter has been the longest and most severe for many years. It set in early in October, and has been now lingering till late in April. There is not yet even a sign of vegetation, and it will probably be six weeks before the cattle can find a mouthful in the fields. If assistance is not afforded to those who are utterly destitute now, what will become of them before even that short time will have elapsed? This is a sort of thing to which mere private benevolence is altogether unequal, however willing it may be. Under ordinary circumstances, we would be the last to advocate Government bounty in this way, but from the accounts which reach us, it is evident that the present is an emergency, so pressing and exceptional, that all hesitation should be thrown aside. We say then, to the Government, give what is really needed, to tide over the present severe trial,—give road money, school money—if absolutely necessary—borrow if you have not got money; but turn not away from the cry of famishing women and children, to say nothing of strong men.

THE FRASER CLAN.—A meeting was held in Fraser Hall, New Glasgow, on Monday, the 27th day of April, 1868, at 11 o'clock, a. m., to organize the "Clan Fraser" for the County of Pictou.

John McP Fraser, Esq., Chairman,
John A. Fraser, Secretary,

Hon. James Fraser being called upon addressed the meeting, and explained its import, being in connection with a similar movement lately taken place in the Province of Quebec.

It was moved by Hon. James Fraser, seconded by Donald A. Fraser, Esq., and passed unanimously, that it is desirable that the family of Frasers do organize themselves into a Clan with a benevolent and social object, and do now proceed to such organization in sympathy and accordance with the late movement at Quebec.

It was moved by James Fraser, Esq., (Downie) seconded by Mr. Archibald Fraser, (ozg) and passed unanimously, that the Hon. James Fraser be the Chief of the Clan for the County of Pictou, and also be a delegate to the Convention to be holden at Ottawa on the 14th day of May next.

It was moved by Hon. James Fraser, seconded by Mr. Murdock Fraser, and passed unanimously, that John McP. Fraser Esq., be a Chief for the Eastern District, and Donald A. Fraser, Esq., for the Western District of the County of Pictou.—*Pictou Standard.*

A Parliamentary return shows that expenses of the Fenian prosecutions in Canada to have been $86,620.

The mail-steamer *Merlin* arrived on Sunday from St. John's, N. F. The General Assembly of the Province was prorogued on Wednesday the 29th ult. The total arrival of sealers from the ice, to date, are as follows:—

St. John's, 30 vessels with 134,140 seals.
H. Grace, 21 " " 100,240 "

Total 60 vessels with 234,370 "
—*Halifax paper.*

There was great rejoicing in Toronto on Monday last on the reception of the good news from Abyssinia. Flags were hoisted throughout the city; the chimes of S. James' Church rang forth a merry peal, and the rejoicing was universal.

The Government schr. *La Canadienne* is to sail this week for the protection of the fisheries, and the enforcement of fishing regulations in the lower St. Lawrence. She is now commanded by Mr. Tetu, who has been definitively appointed in the room of Capt. Fortin, now M. P. for Gaspe.

GOLD DISCOVERY.—We learn that a valuable gold discovery has been made at Sutherland's River, in this County, and a right of search has been taken out by Mr. W. S. Copeland. Some of the specimens shown us yesterday had a very promising appearance. It is proposed to form a joint stock Company with 50,000 shares, at $1 00 per share, and test the auriferous character of the locality in which the specimens have been found. From all we can learn we think the discovery is an important one.—*Pictou Chronicle.*

The armies of Europe are said to be larger at the present time than at any time since the wars of the First Napoleon. France has 1,300,000 men, of whom 550,000 are in the reserve. England has 200,000 men; Prussia 600,000; Italy about 215,000; Austria 800,000, with 400,000 more in reserve, and Spain about 80,000.

MAJOR GENERAL HASTINGS DOYLE, Lieut-Governor and Commander of the Forces in Nova Scotia, who has arrived in England on short leave of absence, it is reported is to receive the honor of Knighthood for his valuable civil and military services in that Colony during the late threatened complication of affairs between the United States and Canada. It is not improbable that the Companionship of the Bath will be conferred on this distinguished officer.—*Court Journal.*

Three hundred and fifty Irish emigrants have recently accepted a free passage from Liverpool to Rio Janeiro, where they will get land at a shilling an acre and have five years to pay it in The next St. Patrick's day will be celebrated in Brazil

Latest News by Telegraph.

FROM EUROPE.

London, May 2

It is said to-day that the Prime Minister Disraeli, had tendered his resignation, but it was not accepted Gladstone, on Monday, will move to suspend all orders, and take up resolutions introduced by him relating to the Irish Church. If the resolutions are carried out, it is thought that an Address to the Queen will follow.

A despatch states that Cranelli, the Austrian Ambassador at Rome, had arrived at that city yesterday.

London, May 2

The crisis in the British Cabinet occasioned by the recent division on the subject of the Irish Church, monopolizes the public attention to day It is thought that if the measures which are in effect approved by both Houses, are not opposed by the Liberals the present Cabinet will not dissolve or resign Parliament until an appeal can be made to the new constituencies. The *Times* recommends this course

Consols closed this afternoon at 93⅞ *a* 94. Breadstuffs easier without quotable change. Provisions steady.

London, May 4th, even

The proceedings in the British House of Commons to-night were very interesting and important A the opening of the Session the Premier defended the course of Ministry, and expresses hope that the Liberals would not press the Irish Church question to a debate until he should have an opportunity for deliberation regarding the course he should pursue. Mr Gladstone replied to Mr Disraeli and to his defence of tories and stated that it was the duty of the party represented by him to press their policy He termed it unprecedented and unconstitutional Mr Gladstone was followed by Mr. John Bright and Mr Robert Lowe, who were equally forcible. Before Mr Gladstone concluded, he stated that he would not urge consideration of his question at that time if the Ministers would name an early day for the purpose Mr Disraeli fixed Thursday, the 7th inst, for the debate on the Irish question

London, May 4th, p. m.

Consols 93⅞ a 93⅞; U. S. 5 20's 70¾; Breadstuffs steady; Corn declined to 39s 3d.; other articles unchanged.

A Hong Kong letter of Feb. 26, says that Prussia was negociating for the accession of the Island of Cheuson to Germany and thus place the interests of the Confederation in command of a great highway of the China and Japan trade.

FROM THE STATES.

New York, May 2

In the Impeachment trial the Presidents Counsel closed their arguments to-day. Congressman Bingham made final argument for the prosecution on Monday, and it is thought a decision will be reached on Wednesday

Gold steady at previous quotations.

New York, May 4th.

North German steamer *Smidt* left Bremen Haven early on April 4th, with a full compliment of passengers, and has not arrived up to this date at New York, to which place she was bound Fears are entertained for her safety, the more as the cable has not reported her anywhere.

Gold 138¼.

New York, May 4.

The North German Steamer *Smidt* has arrived

FROM CANADA.

Ottawa, May 5.

In the House of Commons last night, E. M. McDonald (Lunenburg), in the absence of Croke moved for returns relating to the St. Peter's Canal. Carried

Mr. Oliver, (Oxford, O.) moved that the Governor General's salary be reduced to $35,000 after the 1st of July next. M Dufersne moved in amendment that it be reduced to $32,000. A long discussion ensued, in which ministers and several of the leading members on the ministerial side spoke, opposing the reduction. Amendment finally carried by 90 to 45. The motion, as amended, was then carried by 108 to 27. Ministers in both cases voting in the minority. House then went into Committee, carried the resolutions, and adjourned.

Boyle and Hynes editors and publishers of the "Irish Canadian," Nolan Secretary of the Hibernian Society, and Owen Cosgrove, were arrested in Toronto yesterday for Fenianism. The papers have been seized and their sale forbidden.

Ottawa, May 4th.

It is rumored that another Banking institution of Ontario is likely to fail, and lead to fresh financial embarrassment.

In the Commons this afternoon the Committee on Fisheries and Navigation reported, recommending the construction of a large additional number of lighthouses.

Mr. Jones (Leeds) moved a reduction of the Privy Council to nine. Neither ministerialists nor opposition noticed his arguments, and the motion was declared lost.

Some debate took place on matters relating to old Canada.

Toronto, May 4.

The "Irish Canadian" newspaper has been suppressed by the Government, Patrick Boyle, editor, and several leading members of the Hibernia Society have been arrested, and papers of a treasonable character belonging to the Hibernia Society seized, the parties under arrest are supposed to be implicated in Fenian Conspiracy

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MR. EDITOR,—

It is very evident that the "Observer" of the *Islander* is no Sydney Smith. Joke-making is not his forte. His elaborate and elephantine attempt at pleasantry is chiefly amusing on account of its extreme clumsiness and its ridiculous inappropriateness. When even a witty man is out of temper, he very seldom says or writes a good thing; but "Observer" is not a witty man, and he is very much out of temper. It is no wonder then that his solitary joke is tame and far fetched, and uttered with such a very bad grace. But if "Observer" fails as a wit, he shines as a moralist. He is determined that there can be no mistake about that. He takes a great deal of trouble to convince his readers that he, at least, is the purest of the pure. Being such a rigid moralist, he will, of course, admit that a man is bound at all times to speak the truth of his neighbour; and that when a Christian asserts anything likely to injure a fellow-Christian, in reputation or estate, he should first have spared no pains to convince himself of the truth of what he utters. "Observer" now states that Mr. Coles, among others, voted against the grant—*in caucus.* Well, if Mr. Coles did not vote against the grant in caucus, what then? That Mr. Coles did not so vote, "Observer" might have found out if he had taken the trouble to enquire. I am informed on good authority, that when the question of the grant was discussed in caucus, Mr. Coles occupied the chair. The division went against the grant, and it only remained for Mr. Coles to declare the result. As Mr. Coles did not vote against the grant, either in the House of Assembly or in caucus, any argument founded on such an assumption is necessarily without weight. The imposing structure which "Observer" has erected with so much ingenuity, being thus shewn to be without foundation, topples to the ground.

"Observer" accuses me of endorsing Mr. Coles' morality, which he pronounces to be unjust, unchristian and I know not what else. If I know myself I would be very sorry indeed to approve in any way of doctrines, either in politics or in religion, which I believed to be dishonest or unchristian. One of the doctrines attributed to Mr. Coles in "Observer's" own words, is, "A thing is right and just in itself, but because there is a certain number against it, it becomes wrong." I, for one, subscribe to no such doctrine, and I believe that Mr. Coles would be about the last man in the country to give his assent to it. The Catholics of this Island have good reason to know that he is not the man to desert a cause merely because numerous and powerful enemies are arrayed against it. What I do say is, that it is sometimes most unwise, nay, that in some cases it is even criminal, persistently to urge claims about the justice of which there can be no doubt. I have no wish to enter into a theological controversey with the learned "Observer," but I don't think that it would be very difficult to prove from the Sacred Writings that forbearance is a christian virtue, and that it is not always expedient to insist upon our lawful rights. If, in pursuing a claim, or in sisting on a right, we can see no fair prospect of success; if it can be shewn that, by persisting, we would only raise strife and do ourselves serious injury, and, after all, not succeed in accomplishing our ends, would it not be our duty, to postpone our exertions until a more propitious season should arrive? What man, possessed of common sense, would enter a contest in which he would be sure to receive hard blows and incur much obloquy, with the moral certainty that the struggle would be in vain? Mr. Coles and his Catholic supporters were in precisely such a situation during part of the past Session of the Legislature. They saw clearly that there would be an overwhelming majority in the House of Assembly against endowing denominational schools, and they were morally certain that the Protestant population of the Colony, almost to a man, strongly disapproved of such a policy. Under these circumstances, what course was left them to pursue except the one they followed? The usual commonplaces about doing justice and about carrying out principles at all haszards, are what our Yankee neighbors very properly denominate "tall talk." Those only can do justice who have the power to do it; and no one deserving the name of politician would use means to carry out a principle which were calculated to defeat the recognition of that principle indefinitely. If "Observer" is so indignant at some of our politicians hesitating in the face of a hostile majority to press a measure which they believe to be good, but know to be unpopular, what does he think of the morality of the Conservative statesmen of England who actually did what they believed to be wrong, because the Parliament and the country required it? If we do not find political morality among the Conservatives of England, it is rather a hopeless business to look for it among the Liberals of Prince Edward Island.

Religious animosities, "Observer" remarks, are not to last forever. History and experience, however, tell us that such disagreements are tolerably long lived. If "Observer" carried out practice his own principles, he would have given some credit to those Protestants who, in the days of persecution and proscription, stood by the side of the Catholics and manfully fought their battles with them. To do this required no small amount of moral courage on their part. They were traduced, abused and misrepresented; their names were literally cast out as evil by a very large portion of their coreligionists, because they remained true to their Catholic fellow Liberals; and no Protestant fought more stoutly in that struggle than he upon whom "Observer" so plentifully heaps his abuse, and to none did a greater share of unmerited obloquy fall. But Catholic claims have found a new and a strange advocate. Whether he will be as true to his Catholic as he has proved to his Protestant friends, time alone can tell. As an humble but sincere and tried friend of the Catholic community of this Island, I advise them keenly to scan the motives of their new friends, and to consider well their antecedents. It is godlike to forgive our enemies, but it is the extreme of folly to trust them.

I cannot conclude without saying I have formed a very different estimate of our educational system from that arrived at by "Observer."

SPECTATOR.

May 8, 1868.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 11, 1868.

THE newspaper is a wonderful institution. It is a complete library in itself. By no other means are the same amount and variety of knowledge given in an equal space. He who regularly and carefully reads the newspapers cannot be an ignorant man. If the reader wants information about a country—about its climate, the productions of its soil, its mineral resources, its manufacturing capabilities, the extent of its trade, its facilities for commerce, or the political, moral and social condition of its inhabitants—let him not refer to Gazetteers or dive into encyclopedias, let him not pore over books of travels or question living travellers, but let him procure a file of its newspapers and read them with care and attention. From these, if he has any discernment, he will be able in a few hours to form a better idea of the country, and of the condition of those who live in it, than if he had spent weeks in hunting up authorities and in comparing their conflicting and contradictory statements. The newspaper, better than any other species of modern literature, holds the mirror up to nature and gives the observer who has eyes to see, a better view of even the faintest and most evanescent lineaments of her countenance than he can obtain by any other means.

We have been established in the above conclusions by reading a few numbers of the *Natal Mercury*, kindly lent us by our friend Major Smith, of Brighton. Previous to reading them, we had some misty notions about the colony of Port Natal. We knew that it was situated on the eastern coast of Africa, that the famous Bishop Colenso lived there, and that the Zulus were rather shrewd fellows for black men; but if by some convulsion of nature the whole colony and the surrounding States had disappeared from the face of the earth, we would have had but a very faint notion of the loss the world had sustained. But the perusal of the newspapers alluded to above—there are but three of them—has made us quite familiar with Natal, and has created in us a lively interest in every thing connected with that valuable part of the British Dominions. We are now very anxious to see its splendid agricultural and mineral resources more fully developed, we wish to hear of its infant manufactres receiving judicious encouragement, we deplore the disadvantages under which the colony labours, we go in for a union with the neighbouring petty states, and we feel indignant at the treatment of its Delegates by the high and mighty authorities of Downing Street.

We will for the edification and amusement of our readers, and to remind them what valuable things newspapers are, give them a short sketch of Natal—its political and social condition, and its natural resourses, gleaned soley from the journals before us.

The climate of Natal is, we find, warm, some people would call it hot. It is not moist, and is not complained of as unhealthy. Doctors recommend consumptive patients to go to Natal, assuring them that they stand a better chance of being cured there, than anywhere else. Perhaps they are right. When we come to speak of the productions of its soil, we hardly expect to believed. Nearly all the productions of our northern climates flourish there. Peas, beans, cabbage, turnips, potatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, &c., grow in the gardens of the of the colonists, and their farms produce, wheat, barley—we are not clear as to oats—maize, dhoil and other grain not known in these parts, to which are to be added the sugar cane, the tobacco and cotton plants, and the coffee and the mulberry trees. Something, too, is said of the cultivation of tea. A mere list of the fruits that grow and flourish in Natal is enough to make our mouths water. Besides apples, plums and pears, there are grapes, pine apples, oranges, naartjes, whatever they may be—shaddocks, custard apples, lemons, citrons, guavas, peaches, apricots, bannanas, plantains and melons. A country that can raise its own bread, its beef, its cotton, its tea, its coffee, its sugar, its tobacco, its silk, its wool, and nearly every other necessary and luxury used by civilised men, without being unhealthy or necessarily badly governed, must indeed be a pleasant place to live in—almost a paradise one would think. Then for minerals, there are coal and iron, and indications of copper and lead, to say nothing of the gold fields lately discovered. To tell the truth, the gold is not exactly in the colony, and there are some slight obstacles to be surmounted before the enterprising colonists can make it their own. In the first place, the gold fields are about 900 miles from Natal; and in the second place, the country in their immediate vicinity is occupied by two savage chiefs one of whom can bring 40,000 armed warriors into the field and the other 10,000. One fact, indicative of the disposition of the aforesaid savages towards prospecting strangers with white faces, struck us as peculiarly significant. The discoverer, a German, Herr, Mauch by name, had to dig out his specimens with his fingers or a pocket knife, we forget which, not daring to use a pick or a crowbar, so jealous and suspicious were the native inhabitants. It is much to be feared that many valuable lives will be lost before the first crushing mill is erected at the New South African gold diggings. But coal and iron, which are after all much more necessary to the development of the new colony, are found in abundance. Experiments were being made to test the qualities of the Natal coal, some of which proved highly satisfactory, and some quite the reverse.

To give our readers an idea of the present state of the export trade of Natal, we insert below the account of the cargo of a vessel bound for London laden with the produce of the colony, the value of which amounted to £19164 sterling:

Per Vectis for London:—
439 bales sheep's wool 132,752 lbs
301 tusk 5 cases 67 pieces ivory 6,210 lbs
1159 bags 337 sacks unrefined sugar 2,877 cwt.
9 cases arrowroot 10 cwt.
25 bales buck skins 2,047
535 ox and cow horns
954 ox and cow hides 423 cwt
33 rhinoceros horns 306 lbs
600 sheep skins
4 cases cayenne pepper, 7 cwt
1 lot bones, 5 tons.

The harbours of Natal are bad. This is one of the great drawbacks to the commercial prosperity of the colony. The following extract, from the *Mercury*, will give the reader a tolerable idea of the difficulties that nature places in the way of free trade in one at least of the ports of Natal:

"The state of the bar has again become a serious matter. Until within the last few months we have latterly hoped that some practical improvement had been effected by the works that have been carried out. Detentions at the outer anchorage were very rare, and the recorded depth of the channel seemed permanently greater than it used to be. But these hopes have, since September, been unhappily exploded by the chronic shoaling up of the channel. We have returned to the old condition of affairs when vessels were kept outside as a matter of course for weeks together. Ships arriving from England have now to discharge much of their cargo at the roadstead before they can come inside. Outward-bound vessels have generally to go over the bar in light trim, and to take in cargo at the outer anchorage. But this is only part of the evil. Passengers continually suffer the greatest inconvenience from the difficulties and delays occasioned by the scanty depth, or rough state, of the water on the bar. The evil inflicted upon our commerce is becoming so great that it behoves our mercantile men to give some consideration to a subject so closely connected with their interests."

The great want of Natal is men—civilized laboring men. This is the want of all new countries. The progressive party in the colony wish to offer inducements to emigrants of this class to settle in the country. For this purpose they wish to be able to give the new comers land near the towns. It seems that the public lands of the colony are not at the disposal of its local Government, and, consequently, the colonists are forced to, go cap in hand, to the Colonial Office to beg, as a favor, that the people of the colony shall have some voice in the allotment of the public lands which it contains. It is very singular that people in England should consider themselves better judges of what is best for a new country than men of equal intelligence living on the spot. We see that other countries have their land grievances as well as Prince Edward Island. The Railway question is being discussed warmly in Natal. The distance from a market and the rude means of intercommunication between the different parts of the country are by no means satisfactory to the more intelligent and enterprising of the planters and merchants. The Question of Union too occupies the attention of the politicians of Natal. The policy of the British in South Africa has for some years been non-aggressive. Indeed considerable territory which was at one time under British sway has been shaken off and the inhabitants have been permitted to erect petty kingdoms and republics in the immediate vicinity of the British colonies. These Lilipatian States, some inhabited by whole savages and others by half savages, are continually at war with each other. One of them, the Bashutos, getting tired of independence, begged to be permitted again to enjoy the advantage of British rule. A considerable party in the colony are in favour of giving the savages another trial, but they see clearly enough if the Bashutos become British subjects the Government of the colony will be held responsible for any outrages they may commit on the neighbouring Free States, with which they are in now a state of chronic warfare. To meet this difficulty it is proposed to take both the belligerents under British rule. It seems that the whole of the Free States are sick and tired of the burdens, the cares and the disquietude of independence, and would gladly exchange that state for one, which if less dignified, would be more tranquil and more secure.

We have only space remaining to make a few statements relative to the social state of the inhabitants of Natal The farms in the colony are very large, and the white inhabitants scattered over a wide extent of country. The natives are pretty numerous, by no means gentle, and not sivilized. Cattle stabbing is a very common crime. It is an exceedingly difficult matter to trace out the offenders, but where they are found they meet with summary and severe chastisement. The remedy proposed is to hold the whole tribe responsible for the offence of the individual member, and so make it the interest of the blacks themselves to put a stop to the perpetration of the cowardly and cruel crime. Outrages of another nature are by no means infrequent, if we are to judge by the papers before us. The punishment to be deterrent must we suppose be very severe. It is in fact terribly so. A movement has been set on foot to educate the blacks, but the example of vicious whites and the demoralizing influence of rum will, we fear, counteract the well meant efforts of philanthropists.

It is somewhat singular that the name of the man who is so much talked of in every part of the world where the English language is spoken is barely mentioned in these newspapers. The existance of Bishop Colenso is almost completely ignored by the journalists of Natal.

THE Dramatic Club, and the Charlottetown Amateur Christy Minstrels, according to announcement gave a grand performance at St. Andrew's Hall, on Monday evening last for the benefit of Mr. H. Vinnecombe. The introductory part of the performance was, the "Ripling Stream Galop," which was played in good style, by our distinguished Pianist S. N. Earle, and H. Vinnecombe, the talented Violinist, after which the Dramatic Club, gave us "O'Callaghan on his last legs," which was rendered and admirably performed. All the Amateurs acquitted themselves well in this piece "Tantum Ergo" was the next piece of music given,—it was played by particular request, by Messrs. Earle and Vinnecombe; after which, for the first time here, The Charlottetown Amateur Christy Minstrels' came forward on the Stage, and gave music both Vocal and Instrumental, which eclipsed anything of the kind, by far, ever attempted here before. The musical part of the performance was under the able leadership of Mr. Samuel N. Earle. Too much praise cannot be given to our Minstrels for the able manner in which they performed on Monday last. Messrs. Bones and Pompey is worthy of particular mention. The Minstrels intend giving a grand Concert in the Temperance Hall, on Thursday evening next; all lovers of good music would do well to attend.—*Com.*

WE observe in many of our exchange papers a detailed report of a conversation between the Fenian miscreant, Whalen, and his fellow prisoner, Doyle. Those of our readers who have seen this report will, we think, agree with us that, as no good can result from its publication, we do well to spare them the infliction of a column of low and blasphemous blackguardism. In this conversation Whelan confessed to having murdered the Hon. T. D. McGee.

The contents of *Blackwood's Magazine* for April are:—Horace the Causes of his Popularity; Linda Tressell—part VII; Historical sketches of the reign of George II—No. II; The Minister; William Edmondstoune Aytoun; Cornelius O'Dowd—Quack Remedies for Ireland—On our Partners in the Grand Cotillion—A New Opening for Younger Sons—On "Getting behind the Pumps"; Charles Kean and the Modern Stage; The New Nostrum for Ireland—A Song; The Battle for Place. Whoever wishes to view the Irish Church question from a high Tory standpoint, could not do better than read "Cornelius O'Dowd's Quack Remedies for Ireland." The genial Cornelius evidently writes in a very bad humour on this subject. He is very wrathy at the proposed reformation.

ERRATA.—In the Report of the Pownal [illegible] tary Association, published in last week's *Examiner*, fourth line of second paragraph, for "[illegible] volumes of useful books," read "eighty volumes."