and tact of Lieut. Warrren and his admiral staff, have smoothed down Moslem prejudice, removed local opposition, and thus brought about opportunities for exploration and excavation such as never occurred before; and besides large numbers of Arab laborers have been trained to the work, and are eager to be employed; and the exact points for successful explorations are now well known."

DISTRESS IN LONDON—FEARFUL FAMINE IN ALGIERS AND PALESTINE.

(London Cor. Halifax Chronicle.)

But there is worse than the hard weather to distress Europe now; there is an awful cry of hunger in London, and a wail more terrible still from the peasants of East Prussia and their neighbors on the Russia side of the line; and more appalling still rises the cry of the starving populations at both ends of the Mediterranean, in French Algiers and in Palestine. There would seem to be recurring years of famine to sweep the nations—what a French writer, I observe, terms "the Typhus of hunger"—just as the cholera has its periodical rounds. The horror of the famine in India, and of the famine in China, hardly subsided before this new apparition of so many countries starving simultaneously strikes the heart with new dismay. As for London, the poor she has always with her, yet never before were her poor so great and so miserable a multitude. The financial embarassments of commerce, the costly strikes of trades union, the failure of foreign markets have all told hard upon the humble working classes, and transformed hosts of them into helpless paupers. There are nine parishes in East London from which the spectres of want and disease are never wholly exercised, in spite of all the charity and poor law machinery used to charm them from their lurking places. This winter the distress has been aggravated by the dullness of trade, which threw thousands of shipwrights of the river, and others, out of work, and by the bitter cold. Week by week misery and wretchedness spread more widely. Week by week the great and generous stream of English liberality flowed in a golden current to assist the poor guardians of these parishes. But the distress increased, till its enormous proportions expanded, not merely week by week, but day by day. The sufferers are not of the usual pauper classes; they are, for the most part, workmen on whom the ruinous depression of trade has fallen as heavily as the cotton famine on the Lancaster operatives. Recently a mass meeting of the unfortunate Poplar and Bethnal Green hands was held in the silent shipyards of the Isle of Dogs, and resolutions were passed earnestly praying, not for charity, but for a chance to earn something, no matter how little, at their trades. Some of the stories told at these meetings were inexpressibly sad. Most of the men for the last two years had been unable to "do a hand's turn" for the maintenance of their families.—Three mechanics who had been honest and industrious, when they lost the chance of work in London, went off to tramp in search of employment, and walked everywhere for it, besought everywhere for it; and everywhere found neither help nor hope; till after seven months weary travel, they returned shoeless, ragged, footsore and heartsore to find their unfortunate families woefully reduced by want, and the bailiffs in the house to destrain for arrears of rent. Men who wrought hard for years, wives who toiled and saved and took pride in their neat though humble household stock, and never let themselves think of coming on the parish, are now huddled together with their famishing children like rats in cheerless attics, without food to eat except a morsel of workhouse bread which mocks the hunger of the youngest among them; with scarcely a stick of furniture to be pledged, and with the pledged and significantly numerous in each wretched dwelling. Of course, the greater the destitution the more the relief is diminished by its division among so many, and when you hear that a family of nine persons receives from the parish six loaves and three shillings a week, you can readily estimate how heavy a charge is laid upon the hands of private charity. The poor-law guardians endeavor to get some work in return for the little relief they afford; yet men and women wasted with want and with aching hearts cannot work long; nor would those waiting for their turn permit the others to enjoy too long the chance of earning the pittance for which they are thronging round the "Union" doors from morning till dusk—shivering and waiting, hour after hour in silent suffering.

One poor young mechanic with a skilful hand for his proper work, and a proud English heart, left his wife and two children the other morning to seek bread for them from the workhouse table. He was sent to earn his share by breaking stones in the yard—and he tried his best. But the hunger that had subdued him so far as to ask for relief, had cruelly reduced his strength; yet he toiled the best part of the day and was paid—two pence. Two pence—and three at home besides himself to keep alive these bitter and sorrowful nights! He durst not go home to meet the misery of his disappointed children with his two pence. He never went home. He went mad. He went down to the old empty shipyard; and when his white faced wife—God help her—come to look for him, there he swung from the beam whereon he hung himself in his frenzy. Another woman, while her husband was absent in search of work, had to carry almost the last rags of needful clothing left her to pawn for a mouthful to eat. She wrapped her child in a shawl she meant to pledge, and clasping it in her half naked arms went shivering in the biting wind of one of the coldest days I ever saw in London. The poor creature was as cold as an icicle herself, yet she suddenly stopped with a scream as she felt som thing colder still meet her breast, and knew with a terrible instinct what it was—the dead body of her child killed by want and the wind.

From other parts of the country come tragic stories of starvation. Martha Harris was the widow of a railway contractor who had been one time well off, but died insolvent. She parted with her furniture bit by bit, and like many a poor, downhearted woman in London to night, sold marriage-ring for bread, and then went to the poor house. It was crowded and repulsive to her, and before she could sufficiently forget what she had been to take quietly to its dreary life, she came out and looked for work. She found none, and garment after garment was sold to keep body and soul together. One December morning she lay before a fireless grate when all the sweet glad bells from the venerable spires of Oxford rang out the holy chimes that told it was Christmas morning. The poor heart took a faint hope of life from these sounds—surely Merry Christmas that filled so many homes with joy would not forget her. She threw her petticoat down to a neighbor nearly as poor as herself in the lower story of the wretched tenement, and begged that it might, for God's sake, be pledged for a bite of bread. There was no shops open that happy holiday, she was told; and again she replied with a prayer for bread for the sake of Him who had made the day so blessed. The charities of the poor to the poor are the purest acts of our race; and a half-starving neighbor was found to exchange a bit of her bread for the tattered wrap which nobody knew to be the last article of dress Martha Harris had. She slipped her hand out at the door for the Christmas gift—and was the last seen of the living. Nothing was heard of her that day or the next, till at evening the neighbors went up and found a naked corpse in an empty room; the broken arm-chair was all the remaining furniture; the dead woman clung with one arm to its back; her other arm she had bitten through and through in her last delirious agony. A coroner's jury was summoned, and when they came, some poverty-stricken hand had found a sack to cover decently the body of one who had been a lady.

These are heart-rending incidents, yet they are told as necessary and exact illustrations of the fearful calamity which now burdens the community. Of the whole number of suffering poor in London, I cannot give an accurate estimate, but it is announced that in East London alone where the workhouses are all crammed more full than sheep-pens would be, there are still nearly fifty thousand paupers who cannot be housed by the Unions and get "outdoor relief." If we add to these large proportions of the poor who struggle proudly with their misery rather than hold out their hands for parish aid, we may guess that this mighty Babylon almost as far surpasses other cities in her sorrows as in her glory. It is cheering to know that Government and the public are combining to provide a proper machinery for immediate relief in a more substantial manner than heretofore, and I hope to be able to write more satisfactorily of "poor humanity" in East London next time.

NEWS SUMMARY.

By the arrival of the steamship *City of Washington* at Halifax, we have European dates to the 9th inst. A fresh element is to be introduced into the Alabama controversy, by a statement about to be published by a London underwriter. The purport of his return will be to show that a very large proportion of the loss caused by the depradations of the Alabama has fallen upon England and other European countries, whose underwriters have insured the vessels destroyed and damaged. The longer this affair remains open, the more it will become complicated.— The official returns of the Bank of England show a decrease of £149,000 in specie in its vaults during the week ending Feb. 13th. ——In the House of Commons, M. Leferre gave notice of his intention of calling the question of the Alabama claims on the 4th of March. This, no doubt, will create a lively discussion. Mr. D'Israeli brought in a Bill to prevent bribery and corruption in elections.——The great distress in starvation in London still continues. In another column we publish an extract from a letter in the Halifax *Morning Chronicle*, which is most appalling.——In Cork the Fenians are still attempting outrages, and riotous attempts have been made to rescue Capt. McKay. Two men have been arrested and identified as the men who shot the two policemen on the above occasion. On the 11th another attack was made upon the police in the street by a mob, who pelted them with stones and brickbats. The police fixed bayonets and charged upon them. A short and desperate fight followed, in which several of the Fenians were bayoneted, one was killed, and several were wounded. The trial of Lennon ended, and a verdict of guilty of murder, felony and treason was given against him. No doubt he will meet the same doom as did Allen and other Fenians. Mr. Sullivan, of the Dublin *Irishman*, has been indicted for publishing seditious articles. This is about all the Fenian news we have.

ed from the Abyssinian Expedition. Gen. Napier was at the front pushing in the advance, and the hostile forces were drawing nearer to each other. Reports have reached Annesley Bay that skirmishes had already taken place between the British advance and the forces of King Theodore, but no particulars of the fighting are given. Official despatches from Gen. Napier are anxiously awaited.

It is reported that the Pope has declined to enter into negotiations for the revision of the Austrian Concordat, and that Prussia has made advances for closer diplomatic relations with Rome. In reply to an address presented to the King of Prussia by a deputation of Roman Catholics from Rhenish Prussia, his Majesty avowed his determination to protect the interests of his Catholic subjects and the dignity and independance of the Pope.

The announcement of a fresh French loan of 440,000,000 francs has not been received very favorably in Paris. It is contended that the fact of the loan not exceeding the above amount proves the Government to have only pacific intentions, as that sum would be wholly inadequate to meet the expenses of a war.——Peaceful relations between Prussia and France are generally believed to exist. It is said that, in reference to the Italian affairs and the Eastern question, Prussia has recently shown herself more willing to enter into the views and wishes of the Emperor Napoleon than she was formerly, and that circumstance has, on the part of the French Emperor, produced a corresponding disposition to avoid all that might be calculated to displease Prussia.——Reports are rife in Paris that the King of Italy meditates a *coup d'etat*, and that five divisions of the army have been mobilised. The truth of this statement is doubted, but events of a very disquieting character are occurring in various parts of the kingdom, and particularly in Naples, where an insurrection is imminent.——Reports are current in Paris of a contemplated change in the Ministry in deference to the wishes and sentiments of the Liberal Party.—— An article has appeared in the *Patrie* with reference to the efforts made at Naples, and encouraged at Rome, to secure the restoration of the Bourbonds. The *Patrie* declares that the French Government has confidentially communicated to the Court of Rome the hope that the Papal Government will neither lay itself open to suspicion nor compromise the present situation.——The *Liberte* reports from Naples that the Italian authorities have lately discovered that one-franc pieces are circulating, some with the effigy of "Francis II., King of the Two Sicilies," and others with that of "Humbert I., King of Northern Italy."—Both these coins bear on the obverse "*Confederazione Italiana*," and both were struck in France. These circumstances are referred to in support of the idea that the Emperor of the French is now compassing the destruction of Italian unity and contemplating a return to the theory of a confederation, which he broached at Villafranca. The Paris correspondent of the London *Daily News* says:—"Nothing but a general war can now save Italy from whatever fate it may please the French Emperor to decree for her. Victor Emmanuel is paralysed, and indulges no other hope of preserving his throne, or a remnant of it, than the protection he may get in return for obedience to orders from the Tuileries." The Provincial Council at Cosenza has recently given a positive contradiction to the assertion made by a portion of the foreign press that the southern provinces of Italy desired separation from the kingdom.

Although Russia has recently assumed a more modest attitude in the Eastern question, fears are entertained that the intrigues she has been carrying on for some time are likely to produce trouble. In Bulgaria, Bosnia, and Servia there is great agitation, and proclamations are in circulation calling on the Christian populations to rise in arms under the guidance of the Czar, to put down the Ottoman empire and humiliate the "rotten West." According to the *Independance Belge*, M. de Lavalette has drawn up and forwarded to the Emperor a report on foreign affairs. His Excellency advocates a close alliance between France, Prussia, and Austria, with a view to go to Russia.——The *Czar*, a Russian journal, asserts that, according to private intelligence received from Warsaw, an army of 200,000 men is to be assembled in the Kingdom of Poland as soon as the weather permits. The troops are to be chiefly stationed in the districts adjoining the Austrian frontier, and some of them will live in tents, their maintenance being exacted from the owners of landed property in the kingdom. The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says that "if this intelligence is correct, the national party at the Court of St. Petersburg must be assumed to be strong enough to attempt a certain pressure upon the resolves of the Austrian Government in Eastern affairs."——All the Russian fleet available for service is being equipped for a foreign expedition.

UNITED STATES.

Advices received from Alabama report the elections progressing favorably for the new constitution.——Twenty-five nuns recently arrived in the United States from Havre, under charge of the Bishop of Galveston, Texas.——Mr. Jeff. Davis has been nominated for the presidency of the Texas Pacific Railroad.——Philadelphia is said to be the second manufacturing city of the world. It has 1,266 mills and manufacturies.——Dickens is proferred $20,000 in coin to read thirty times in San Francisco.——Rogers of the Journal, is the richest newspaper man in Boston.—— It costs New York $100,000 per day for sleigh rides.——A single mile of the Western (Mass.) Railroad cost $220,000. ——A new Mormon Bible has been published in Illinois.——A few years ago fortunes were made in San Francisco by receiving imported grain and distributing it through the State. Fortunes are now made by exporting grain from San Francisco. In Europe ten years ago they knew California only as the land of gold; but already more Californian grain in value is sent to Europe than California gold. The grain crop of 1867 was more valuable than the gold crop. The disparity will be greater the present year, for gold has seen its best days in California, while during the coming season the cultivated area of the State will be doubled. American journals state that the recent sensational despatches from Washington, respecting the Alabama claims were merely intended for political effect and stock-jobbing purposes. All unite in saying that it would be madness for the States to enter upon a war with Great Britain at present. ——The following is a full and complete list of losses by the great fire which occurred on Tuesday evening. The total insurance was $1,137.475. Total loss $2-638,000. Only $35,750 was in Boston companies, as follows: New England $20-750; American $10,000. National $5000. And in other Insurance Companies, as follows: In Chicago Companies $144,375; in Cincinnati Companies $57,000; in New York Companies $380,000; in Providence Companies $46,625; in Hartford Companies, $133,125; Albany Companies $29,000; miscellaneous, except Boston, $311,500.

San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 1868;—Despatches just received here states that a severe Indian battle was fought at Camp Lancaster, which is two hundred and forty miles north-west of this place on the Rio Pecos, and is garrisoned by a company of colored cavalry belonging to the command of General Hatch. The Indians, about one thousand strong, attacked the camp at 4 o'clock p. m., while the company were watering their horses. In the dark three men were killed, a number wounded, and thirty horses captured; but the colored soldiers retreated in good order to the post, where, getting their Spencer carbines, they furiously assaulted the savages, driving them into the old post work near the camp, where the fight lasted until late in the night, when the Indians gave way in confusion. On the night of the 28th the Indians renewed the attack, but were repulsed with great slaughter, leaving the ground strewn with bows, arrows, guns, blankets, coats, pistols, and knives, but carrying off all their dead and wounded. During the battle a number of white men were seen among the Indians, wearing confederate gray uniforms, and apparently directing their movements.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Repeal! is still the cry in Nova Scotia. On the 17th a very warm and animated debate took place in Provincial Parliament on the Repeal resolutions. The Hon. Joseph Howe left Halifax on Friday the 15th, for England, as one of the Delegates from Nova Scotia to the Imperial Parliament, to have the Union repealed. He will be followed by the other Delegates in a few days. How far they may be successful we do not pretend to say, but no doubt they will get a hearing and be enabled to lay the grievances of the people of that Province before their Sovereign. A new anti-Union newspaper has been started in Halifax, called the "Nova Scotia Repealer."——A despatch was forwarded to Toronto thanking the citizens of that place for the relief afforded the distressed fishermen, and stating that no further subscriptions would be required.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Local Legislature of that Province was opened on the 13th inst. His Excellency, in his speech, congratulated the Members on the prosperity of the Province and the success of its fisheries during the past year. He further remarked that "while circumstances beyond our control have, to a certain extent, damped the prospects of our enterprising shipbuilders, yet, I trust, that with the continuance of peace in Europe and the consequent improvement in the trade and commerce of the world, combined with the facilities for shipbuilding in this Province, and the acknowledged energy and skill of our people, we may reasonably hope for an improvement in this most important branch of business.

The Provincial Exhibition held at St. John during the last autumn gave satisfactory evidence of the advanced state of our manufactures. It is highly gratifying to me to be able to inform you that the state of our Revenue is very satisfactory, and that after providing for all the ordinary services there will be surplus amply sufficient to enable you to make the usual provisions for roads and other public works.

Since the last meeting of the Legislature of this Province, the Act of Parliament for the Union of the Provinces has come into force, and I confidently trust that its operation will be found to advance the social, material and political interests of the Dominion over which it extends."

FARMER'S CLUB—MUSSEL MUD.

(From the Patriot, February 15)

A large and influential meeting of this Society, was held in the North American Hotel last evening, to discuss the question of mussel mud as a manure. The Royalty, Brackley Point Road, Lot 48, St. Peter's Road, West River, and North River were well represented. The President, Dr. John T. Jenkins, M.P.P., occupied the chair, and opened the proceedings with an address, of which we can only give a faint outline. The Doctor observed that agriculture was in all ages an honorable profession. Lot and Abraham, Prince Patriarchs of ancient times, were cultivators of the soil. Cincinnatus the Roman Dictator, both before and after his elevation to that high dignity, cultivated his own farm. In our own day the late Prince Consort was a practical farmer and a Patron of agriculture. It was a virtuous occupation. Many of the vices incident to other professions were foreign to agricultural communities. In this Island, associations like ours were wanted in order to bring farmers together, to compare systems and multiply individual experience. The discussion provoked at these meetings had a beneficial tendency. If properly conducted the Club would prove a great advantage to the merchant when he wanted to procure produce. From its members assembled together he could purchase a cargo of oats in five minutes, and give the runner's commission to the farmer. A servant's Registry might also be formed in connection with the Club.

David Mutch, Esq., of Rustico, a practical farmer, having been called upon, addressed the meeting at considerable length, describing the manner in which he had used mussel mud on his farm, and its effect upon the soil and crops. He referred to our dependence in this Island on agriculture; we live by it. We have long winters, and a short farming season to contend. Our fathers, while clearing the forest, raised good crops; but since their day the country has been denuded of its shelter, and the natural fertility of a generous soil, largely exhausted. Scientific farming and new manures are now necessities of our position. Intelligence will give us the first, while a beneficent Providence has kindly placed in the beds of our rivers and bays, one of the latter. Several years ago, he bought a farm, and worked it according to the custom of the country, but found he could not raise good potatoes, oats, barley or wheat. The soil appeared to be dead, and the fruit of his labors proving so unsatisfactory, he had almost given up farming altogether. One ton of hay to the acre was all he could get. He then tried lime, but it did not answer his expectations, and was expensive. His land was rather light, to be sure, but he had since turned his attention to mussel mud, which he had now used for five years, with the best results. From the acre, 2½ tons of hay is the ordinary yield. The after-grass for grazing is excellent. In the quantity of straw, there is very little difference. There are various modes of applying the mussel mud to the land. Some spread it on the surface, and then harrow it over, which certainly helps to pulverize it. Others put it out in the winter, and spread it on the soil. Mr. Mutch ploughs it in. For potatoes, he puts out twenty loads to the acre; then adds twenty loads of barn yard manure; harrows over the whole and plants the sets. Next year, for wheat, he gives the land another twenty-five loads of mussel mud. This he found by experience, to be superior to the lime for his land. Some used forty loads of mud to the acre; others twenty-five loads; but on this point much depends on the nature of the soil. Mr. Mutch also referred to our agricultural implements, and said that in respect to many of them, we were behind the age. Ten dollars in gold, would get from the United States a machine for cleaning seed grain, which was required, if we wished to keep up the character of our grain in the foreign market. He also highly recommended the introduction of the English Wheat Drill—a very useful but expensive machine. With this machine, one horse will sow 12 or 15 acres of ground in a day. It does more work regularly than can be be done by hand. It also saves seed. It sows three bushels of oats; 1¾ bushels of barley, and 2½ bushels of wheat to the acre, which is less than the quantity used when sown broad cast.

A lively discussion then followed, in which the President, the Hon. George Beer, Rev. Angus McDonald, Rector of St. Dunstan's College, Theophilus Crosby and Henry Longworth, Esquires, and other members of the Club, took part. While all the speakers acknowledged that both lime and mussel mud were good manure, there was considerable difference of opinion as to which was the better. Of the former, some farmers use only from 10 to 15 barrels to the acre; but 20 barrels seem to be about the proper quantity. Both Mr. Crosby and Mr. Beer agreed that lime could be used nowhere better than on new land, cropped for the first time. Put out in little heaps in the fall, it would give an excellent wheat crop, and good hay afterwards. The Crosbys' farms, West River, were, perhaps, the oldest farms on the Island on which the mussel mud had been used, and the result there was certainly much in its favor. The Rev. Mr. McDonald, who warmly approved of the object of the Club, remarked that he had not long since put lime on one part of his field, and mussel mud on the other. He had a heavier crop of grain off the latter than he had off the former, but while this was so, he had the first year, good hay on the land where he put the lime, but no hay at all scarcely where he had used the mussel mud. An explanation of this was more easily asked than given. Some thought that the heavy crop of wheat might have choked the grass seed—a plausible, if not a satisfactory reply. The coming season's crop may solve the problem. The question was asked, how would mussel mud suit after lime, but no one appeared able to answer it from practical experience. The discussion of such topics as these, however, will, we trust, exercise a beneficial influence throughout the country, and induce our farmers to make experiments year by year, with a view to testing the relative merits of the manures we have mentioned, and of the different modes in which they act under different circumstances.

PRINCE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this Society was held on Saturday afternoon, at Strong's Hall, Summerside, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Constitutional Committee, appointed at the last meeting, and to choose officers for the balance of the year. James G. Wiggins, Esq., in the chair.

The Committee submitted a draft of a Constitution which was adopted, with some amendments. According to this document,—"The object of this Society shall be the improvement and furtherance of Agriculture, by meetings for mutual encouragement; the relation by farmers at these meetings of their practice, and discussions on the different kinds and branches of farming, &c.; by the collection of facts having a particular reference to the capabilities of the Soil, and the peculiarities of the Climate; the general management of Agricultural produce: the improvement of Husbandry; the introduction of new and improved varieties of seeds; the best method of procuring, preparing, valuing and applying Manures; the introduction and breeding of improved Stock of all kinds; and generally for the encouragement of rural and domestic economy within this County."

The officers to consist of a President, Vice President, and a Committee of nine members, who are empowered to appoint a Secretary and Treasurer, and four additional members to their body, and regulate the time and place of meeting of the Society.

After the adoption of the Constitution, the following officers were chossen to serve until the second Tuesday in July, at which time the Annual meeting is to be held.

President—James G. Wiggins, Esq.

Vice President—Cornelius Howat, Esq.,

Committee—Hon. Alex. Laird, M. P. P. (Chairman), Daniel Green, Esq., M. P. P., Stephen McNeill, George Compton, Thos. H. Schurman, Esqrs., and Messrs. George M. Price, Wm. Taylor, A. Craswell, and Robert Glover.

The Committee have not yet appointed a Secretary and Treasurer.

It was decided that meetings be held in Summerside on the evening of every alternate Tuesday, at 7 o'clock, until April 1st, and once a month during the summer.

Want of space prevents our giving a more extended report of this meeting; but we cannot forbear stating that, as it is a proper step in the right direction, and as the Prince County Agricultural Society is composed of some of the most intelligent farmers in this neighborhood, we expect to see it prosper, and ere long embrace in itself, or its branches, the farming population of the whole County.

The price of membership of the Society is only one dollar.—*Progress.*

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1868.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

SUMMERSIDE.

In the year 1852 this Town was commenced, and since then has been annually increasing in size and importance; a fact which arrested the attention of the Legislature a few years ago so forcibly, that in 1861 the representation enjoyed in the House of Assembly by Princetown and Royalty, was transferred to Summerside, together with all other parts of Lot Seventeen. The reasons assigned for this transfer are thus set forth in the 24 Vic. cap. 34, sec. 2:—"And whereas Princetown, although intended by the original plan or design by which this Island was laid off into Counties and Townships, to be the chief Town of Prince County, has never as yet become inhabited, and the advantages possessed by the village or settlement of Summerside, or Township number seventeen, as a port for steam navigation, and for all commercial purposes, as well as the growing increase in its trade and number of its inhabitants, render it better adapted than Princetown as a site for the chief Town in the said County."

Experience has since shown the correctness of the reasons thus advanced, and the wisdom of the course then pursued by the Legislature, as Summerside has grown so materially since 1861, by an annually increasing concentration of mercantile, mechanical and education interests, which now so fully justifies the Legislature of that year for regarding it as the place best adapted for the chief Town of this County.

When this Island, in 1766, was laid off into Counties and Townships, a site was also laid off in each County for a principal Town, and with the selection of the site something more substantial was secured, for the special benefit of the Town of each County, than the bare announcement of the selection of the site; and it was these rights and privileges, then secured to the chief Town of each County, that laid the basis from which afterwards arouse the privilege of sending representatives to the Legislature from each principal Town, when in 1773 this Island elected members for the House of Assembly; and when in 1861 the Legislature transferred the right of representation in our Parliament from Princetown to Summerside, for the sufficiently just reasons assigned, we do consider that something more should have been secured for the chief Town of this County than the transfer of the representation in the Legislature from the one place to the other. This was due alike, we believe, to those who bestowed and to those who received this graceful recognition of a privilege, honorably now, and in so far as it went, gracefully bestowed, upon Summerside. As the Government of 1861 halted when it came thus far, it has thereby afforded a better opportunity for the Legislature of 1868 to supply the deficiences of their predecessors, by securing some public property for the use of this Town, and thus in so far as can now be done, correct the error that was made by those who laid off the County Town in the wrong place.

When this Island was divided into Counties and Townships, there was 7,300 acres of land reserved for the Town and Royalty of Charlottetown, and 4,000 acres for the Towns and Royalties of Princetown and Georgetown, and when the Government of 1861 went so far in the right direction, in favor of Summerside, it was then, and has been since, confidently expected that at least two public squares, and other small plots would have been purchased by the Government for this Town. This expectation was a reasonable one, and we exceedingly regret that it has not been done.

Queen's County has not only had secured to her chief Town the land for the Town and Royalty, with the fine public squares so well laid off in Charlottetown, but her first and her last Market House was largely contributed to by the Legislature from the general revenue. Offices have also been built at the expense of the whole Island, for all the principal public departments. We do not complain of this, we would complain were it otherwise; but we do say that similar justice has not been extended to Prince County. We maintain, that in these respects, Prince and King's Counties are also entitled to their fair proportion of aid in the same direction. It is an old maxim, but none the less true, that governments exist for the benefit of all those who are governed, and not for the special benefit of a favored few. On this principal we contend that the chief Town of Prince County is entitled, in proportion to their wants and the obvious exigencies of the public requirements, to the same favor from the general Government, as is bestowed upon the chief Town of Queen's County. That such has been the case with respect to Summerside, we do not think there is a public man in the Island who will undertake to affirm; but we do hope that such will not continue to be so much longer.

The plot of ground adjoining that on which the drill shed stands, ought to be bought for a public square; and we know of no more useful purpose to which that building could be appropriated than by handing it over to this Town for a Market House. We believe further that the time has arrived when the Government should procure land here for other public uses. It is surely time that a Post and Custom House offices were provided for this town by the government, not to mention an office for the Registry of Deeds and Wills. Surely the time is near when the absurdity of monopolizing such offices in Charlottetown ought to be abolished. To say that there is but one office in the Colony where a deed or will can be recorded, is a reproach upon our intelligence, and an imposition upon the remote portions of our common country, and ore not much longer to be endured, if there is any real earnestness in what we have so often heard from many persons on this subject. We do hope that these matters may not escape the favorable notice and action of the Legislature at its coming session.

CRAPAUD HARBOR.

We are glad to learn from the letter of Mr. C. Collett, which we published last week, that the dredging of Crapaud Harbor, has not proved a failure, as we had supposed. Important benefits have, it appears, accrued from their service. There are many small harbors on this Island, which seem to be demanding that efforts should be put forth for deepening them, and thereby enabling the people living in their vicinity to avail themselves of those means of transit which nature seems to bid them arise and employ. Would it not be a wise appropriation, and proper step if the Government would procure a Dredging Machine, for the use of the Island? We are decidedly of the opinion that an energetic movement in that direction, by the Government, would be as beneficial to the future interests of the Island, as it would now be acceptable to many of its inhabitants.

GODEY'S LADEY'S BOOK for March has been received. It is a very interesting number. The Fashion Plates are beautiful, as are also the steel plates and wood cuts. Every lady should have it, if only for the valuable receipts it gives.

☞ During the past week the weather has been very cold. Saturday and Sunday night last were as cold as any nights we have had this winter.

☞ The House of Assembly will meet for the despatch of business on Tuesday next. We hope to make such arrangements as will enable us to lay before our readers a summary of proceedings each week.

☞ We received a Colonial and American Mail last night. The latest despatches will be found in another column.

☞ We learn that a house belonging to a man named Joseph Gallant, near Miscouche, was burnt down on Sunday night last.

☞ A late despatch from Harbor Grace, Nfld., reports that a severe storm had visited that locality, and upwards of thirty persons had perished. Mr. A. M. McKay, Superintendent of the Telegraph Company, had a narrow escape from death.

☞ Serious alarm prevails at Florence with respect to certain negotiations going on between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin. These negotiations are to induce Prussia to take part in a diplomatic act on the basis of the Convention of September, for increasing the guarantees in favor of the temporal power.

30,000 lives were lost by an earthquake in the Island of Fermosa.

A woman in Haliiax recently gave birth to three fine girls.

THE Westminister Review for January has been received. The contents are:—"Dangers of Democracy, Physiological Psychology, Two Temporal Powers, The Church of Scotland, Extradition, The origin of Electricity, Indian Worthies The Abyssinian Difficulty, and the Land Tenures of British India."

Free Church Sunday School Tea.

This Tea came off in Scott's Hall on Wednesday night, the 19th inst. The Hall was crowded, many being unable to effect an entrance, and the whole affair reflects great credit upon the managing Committee. There was a goodly number of children present, who appeared to have enjoyed themselves to their "heart's content." Their behaviour throughout elicited the admiration and applause of strangers, and must have been very gratifying to their Teachers. Speeches were made by Hon. Kenneth Henderson, Chairman, Charles Palmer, Esq., John Arbuckle, A. M., and F. W. Hales, Esq. The speeches were interspersed by Vocal Music, conducted by Mr John Scott.

Mr. Hubbard contributed greatly to the entertainment of the evening by his Magic Lantern. The hearty laugh of the children and adults was an ample proof of their appreciation of Mr. Hubbard's magical ability. The views were a decided improvement upon similar ones which we have seen exhibited by persons upon former occasions. We will never forget Mr. Palmer's speech, and it was decidedly the best that ever we have heard upon such an occasion. At the conclusion, a unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to all who, by their presence and talent, contributed to the entertainment; after which all dispersed to their homes, anticipating a similar gathering at some future day.—*Com. to Islander.*