

From The English Papers.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT—THE ABYSSINIAN QUESTION.

Parliament assembled on Tuesday last, the usual time for meeting having been anticipated on account of the Government having resolved to send a military expedition to the comparatively unknown country of Abyssinia, for the purpose of releasing British and Prussian subjects held in captivity there by the "Negus," or Emperor, who after exhibiting a friendly disposition towards the prisoners, suddenly, from some cause or other, threw them into confinement, and treated them with great cruelty.

It is a great mistake on the part of Governments to draw the sword before all other methods of obtaining satisfaction have been exhausted; and this is the mistake into which Lord Derby's Government appears in the present case to have fallen. It is not clear that conciliatory steps would not have accomplished the object of the war expedition; and if it were to be said that hypocrisy and dissimulation are unworthy of the character of a great nation, the reply would be that with fierce and semi-savage tribes who do not comprehend the principles and the amenities of civilization, it is indispensable that a peculiar course should be taken, and the characteristics of the people steadily borne in mind.

Of the character of Theodoros it is represented by one who seems well acquainted with the man, that he is more powerful than either Abd-el-Kader or Schamyl. He is fierce and cruel, adding to the natural savagery of the savage, "some of the worst tricks of half-civilized kingcraft. In his wars with the puppet Emperor Johanne he displayed much military capacity. He so dazzled the chiefs who were sent against him by unlimited promises, and so charmed them by his insinuating manners that they deserted at once to his standard. When fully prepared he chose his battle ground at Amba Chara with such skill that in a single battle he utterly broke the power of his adversary Ras Ali, and made himself master of the whole kingdom.

And when all this is accomplished, what then? Will Theodoros be left in possession and with the ability as well as desire to revenge himself upon any British subjects who at any future period may stray into his power? Or will a more potentate be set up in his place with great professions of attachment to the British Government, and living under its virtual protection? If the British Government should choose to set up a prince of its liking, the British Government will have to pay for its luxury; and, besides, the jealousies and suspicions of other Powers would entail further embarrassment upon this country.

fully charged, and, perhaps, overcharged, already with responsibilities of empire from which they cannot in honor escape, but to which it would be folly and guilt gratuitously to add." Sir Henry Rawlinson, at a meeting of the Ethnological Society a few evenings ago, spoke of a coming time when the Indian Government would have a sanatorium on the highlands of Abyssinia, for although the low-lying territory is unhealthy, the case is different on the hills. It would seem, then, the ideas of some persons extend beyond the recovery of the captives. That a British settlement in Abyssinia is the subject of many brilliant visions may be inferred from assurances plentifully given, that cattle and sheep breed there in profusion, the pastures being good all the year round, having the advantage of "Abyssinian rains from June to September and the coast rain from October to the end of March" moreover, promising information is afforded that in one place there are valuable sulphur mines; in another extensive salt plains and sal lakes, where the surplus British capital, now lying unemployed and waiting for some good mode of investment to turn up, may be employed with a certainty of immense returns. Any amount of money might be laid out in Abyssinia. If the British Government were only to take possession of the country—what with its sheep and its camels, its sulphur and its salt, it would become one of the brilliant gems in the British crown. It is devoutly to be wished that Lord Derby and his colleagues will turn a deaf ear to such ideas as these. There is nothing to be got out of Abyssinia but trouble and disaster. We might be settled there for "sanatory purposes," but we should find a hornet's nest under us and horrids all about us. Our European allies, who are not observant of English influence in any part of the globe, might not regard even the small advantage of a sanatorium on the Abyssinian highlands with the composure which is characteristic of the perfect friendliness it is the desire of the British public to cultivate and sustain, and what with explanations, disavows, and vindications, we should have infinitely more trouble upon our hands than Abyssinia can possibly be worth.

THE FENIAN MENACES TO THE GOVERNMENT.

The pronouncement given in Her Majesty's Speech to recent outrages in Manchester and elsewhere, and the remarks of the Prime Minister, will not fail to impress the public mind. It is seldom that an English Government in our own times has recognized so emphatically the prevalence of a spirit dangerous to law and order in this country. The attention of Parliament having been thus called to Fenianism in England, we may expect that even during the present Session it will become the subject of debate in Parliament. It is therefore time for us to look the matter in the face, and to consider both what it is that we have to "put down" and what are the proper measures for its "effectual suppression." Some light is thrown upon the former question by a strange letter delivered at the office of the Daily News, and published in that journal. It is dated from Dublin, and purports to be a circular of the Irish Revolutionary Government to its agents and friends abroad, being signed by a person who styles himself the Secretary of External Relations. Our contemporary, of course, does not vouch for its genuineness; but, whether it be genuine or spurious, its literary merit and argumentative tone are conclusive proofs of its having been composed by some well-educated person. Its professed object is to notify the course which the Fenian Executive has determined to adopt in the event of Allen and his fellow-conspirators being hanged, and by way of preface, it gives the Fenian view of the rescue and subsequent trials. Kelly and Dansey are designated as "two Irish officers of great and special service in Manchester," who had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the civil authorities, and whose release it was of the utmost importance to effect "at any cost." The writer proceeds to describe the death of Brett as accidental, and caused by "the (for him) fatal expedient of firing into the lock." He admits the exploit to have been illegal, but maintains that "disregard for the laws by which an oppressor seeks to protect himself is the first and necessary principle in a rebellion against that oppressor." Acknowledging the duty of insurgents to abstain from all acts of wanton violence, he then casts the same responsibility on the British Government. "If there," says he, "the Irish insurgents against England have honorably fulfilled their share of this moral obligation," and though England has not acted with corresponding forbearance, she has retained as yet from putting to death any Fenian prisoners. "Should she do so," he continues, "I am instructed to say that for every judicial assassination she is guilty of the life of a prominent Englishman will be exacted by this Government, and you will point out that upon England will rest the odium of having first inaugurated the policy of assassination in her present struggle with Ireland." He is careful to add that it will make no difference whether the persons executed are Fenians or not, for that retaliation will be enforced on their behalf, "in recognition of their claims as Irishmen. It is, perhaps, a waste of labor to point out false assertions in a document so audacious as this. Since, however, considerable misconception prevails as to the circumstances of Brett's murder, it may be well to remind our readers of two material facts. The one is that, according to the evidence, the sergeant was not killed in the process of breaking open the lock, but on the contrary, by a shot aimed at him by Allen through the ventilator. The other is that Larkin and Gould were not only parties to Allen's act, but themselves carried revolvers and fired upon the police. Indeed, that more bloodshed had been premeditated, and that, if Brett only was killed, it was not for want of murderous intent in the attacking party, which extends over her protesting agais; was estimated beforehand, and the actual cost was less than estimated." But these considerations in no degree affect the opinions and designs avowed here as well as in an equally singular letter received at the office of the Irish Times about a fortnight ago, and ostensibly written by the man who shot the Police constables Kelly and Kena. In both the rights of a belligerent Power are claimed for the Fenian organization, and murder committed within the United Kingdom is represented as a justifiable act of guerilla warfare. Neither the absurdity nor the atrocity of these sentiments, nor even the probability of their authors being men of straw, must blind us to the danger of their being promulgated at all. There are not wanting symptoms of a sympathy with Fenians, not as patriots, but as the enemies of constituted authority, which sophistry like this may seriously aggravate, unless it be silenced by a pre-emptory and decisive expression of public opinion. What is too certain is that a lawless temper, fostered, if not engendered, by Fenianism, and carefully

developed by professional incendiaries, is already making itself felt in our great towns. Whether it take the form of common street roidism, of desperate assaults on the police, of bread riots, or of seditious meetings, it is a temper which cannot safely be allowed to spread. The Queen's Speech hardly does justice to her subjects when it expresses confidence in the loyalty of "the great mass" of them. The fact is that disloyalty, in its proper sense, hardly exists among us, and Fenianism probably could not muster an hundred Englishmen under its banner. Were it necessary and expedient, we doubt not that special constables enough to outnumber all the roughs in any English town might be called out on an hour's notice. It is not, however, either necessary or expedient that recourse should be had to extraordinary measures until ordinary measures have proved ineffective. Peaceable citizens ought not to be required to protect their own lives and property when they have armed the Executive with ample means for that purpose.

SUMMERSIDE DEBATING SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the above Society was held on Monday evening last, in Messrs. Strong's Hall. The attendance was very good. The President, FINLAY McNEILL, Esq., opened the meeting with a very interesting and appropriate address, which we give below. The subject for debate was "Were the British Government justified in permitting the execution of the Manchester Fenians?" The debate was an animated one, and a large number of the members took part in it, who adduced arguments pro and con. After a somewhat lengthy debate it was decided in the affirmative. We hope the interest of the society will be sustained, and that such a good beginning will have a good end.

ADDRESS:

In opening the Summerside Debating Society for the season, permit me to say that our object in meeting is not for the purpose of hearing ourselves talk, but for mutual improvement. No matter who the individual is, or what his occupation, whether the artisan, the farmer, the sailor, the merchant, or the politician, he must be earning. If he remains stationary—if he does not keep up with the improvements and acquirements of the day, he must fall behind; and we, here in Summerside, locked up in common with our countrymen by barriers of ice, deprived even of seeing the dazzling loveliness of our rivers and harbors—deprived of looking on and admiring the shipping as they arrive and depart—and not having it in our power to stand loading on the wharf, looking on and wondering at the beauty of the ladies as they come on shore from the steamer—we can do nothing better than, after our day's work is over, to meet together once a week for a couple of hours, to discuss some of the many momentous things that have or are transpiring in the great world beyond us. Last winter, gentlemen, you are aware we had no debates, for two or three reasons. We had two Dancing Assemblies in full blast, taking up two nights; the British and the American Good Templars took up two nights; Masons another night—and then the whole of us were in the City for the General Elections; so that it was impossible for this society to meet, or to be able to do any good.

I need not remind you that the great object to be aimed at in our education, is that we be taught everything it is important we should know, having at the same time our minds disciplined; and there is something noble and grand—may, there is something impressively lovely, at beholding the fond mother first teaching her little boy his letters, then as he grows, sending him off to school, to fight, as it were, his own way there, and then in the world, to be the protector and the defender of that mother and father, and the half of her child, and that the world would deal gently by him. That boy, perhaps, for three or four years attends school, and as soon as he begins to exercise his powers of observation and reflection, or at all events as soon as he is able to work, whether to assist his father on the farm, on board the ship, at the work bench, or in the shop, he is taken from the school never to return. This is the case in a great many instances, and this the reason why, even in our own Island, we have Government affording every assistance and encouragement in its power, that education has not attained to a greater degree of perfection. The real cause is that in all our schools over the whole Island, there is a terrible deficiency of pupils, and for this lamentable deficiency our legislators are always altering and perfecting, as they style it, our Education Act time and again have not yet found a remedy. Again on the other hand, many fond fathers and mothers think that if their sons and daughters are left at school for five or six years, or by sending them away to some great institution for a year or two, that their education is complete, and that their work is done. Our education is never finished while we live, we need to be ever learning about ourselves and about common things, to say nothing of metaphysics and philosophy.

Gentlemen, if we look at the world now and compare the present state of Gods great universe to what it was two hundred, or even one hundred years ago, what a mighty change do we see in its moral and physical appearance. Countries changed, the people changed, everything changed. Let a Scotchman or an Irishman visit his native place after an absence of thirty or forty years, and what a disappointment awaits him—true, the everlasting hills and crags are the same, and the same rivers still are coursing down, but he sees no pleasure in them—the friends of his boyhood, the bright-eyed maidens of his early loves, the teacher and the minister have all passed away; he knows no one, and with a sigh and a tear he bids his native land a second and a last farewell.

Looking for a moment at the old world, do we not see important and unmistakable changes in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Isles of the sea; in all these we discover Gods purposes being accomplished, and liberty and civilization extended to the people; and in Britain, the "Home of the Brave and the Free," whose flag has braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years—the country with whom we are connected, and which extends over us her protecting agis; the country whose laws and institutions we were wont to regard as almost perfect, we see there a new comet shooting up into the heavens and causing tyranny of all kinds to tremble. The Government of England is now more than ever in the hands of the great body of the people; the time has gone past when the higher classes can hope in any indirect influence, either of property or of education, of any kind to direct the course of public affairs. Fewer has passed out of their hands, and that they do not do so, by superior education and cultivation, by the aid of a mind over mind, by that sign and signet of the Almighty which never fails to be recognized where it is truly attested. Looking nearer home, what great changes we see in America. We see John Brown's march on; the people free and supreme; the poor man's son eligible to the highest offices, and civilization rapidly extending. We see also a "new nationality," as it is termed, formed over borders, and formed on principles of full freedom and equality to all, and reaching their ends over us her protecting agis. Let it be our duty therefore to use every means in our power, to encourage and to foster the education and instruction of our-

selves and the whole community. Let Debating Societies or Mechanics Institutes be opened up as handmaids to the school. Let them be well attended, especially by the young men who must take their turn in the events of the world. Let the young ladies attend in order to be better able to advise afterwards at their homes.

Gentlemen, for the well being and the prosperity of our Society, we ask your countenance and your co-operation.

From the Patriot, Dec. 12, 1867.

TRADE OF CHARLOTTETOWN.

Having as a people offered up our thanks-giving to the Bountiful Giver of all good for the abundant harvest which the farmer has gathered into his storehouse, as well as for the thousand other mercies of which we are the daily, but too often ungrateful, recipients, we now purpose at this close of the shipping season to glance at the industrial and commercial operations of the year, so far as these are within our reach. The Official Returns of the Customs Department are not yet accessible to the public. However desirable it might be to have such Returns thus early, sufficient time has not elapsed to admit of their preparation. Of the trade of the outports, we cannot speak at present. With regard to Charlottetown the case is different. Of its Exports and Imports (in part) from the opening of the navigation in April last, until its close on Tuesday, Mr. Donald Currie has kept a weekly account, taken from the Custom House Book, kindly placed at his disposal by the Collector, W. E. Clark, Esq. From that account, which we believe is sufficiently correct for all general purposes, we find that during the past season there have been shipped from this port—

Table listing exports: 622,500 bushels of Oats, 14,181 do Potatoes, 49,639 do Barley, 49,639 do Turnips, 185 barrels of Carrots, Parsnips, &c., 12,052 do Mackerel, 3,428 do Herring, 2,581 do Pork, 49,655 pounds of Hams, 293 dressed Hogs, 4,322 quintals of Codfish, 108,724 dozen of Eggs, 254 tubs of Lard, 221 do Butter, 6014 barrels of Oatmeal, 923 do Flour, 454 do Oysters, 2,544 bags of Salt, 21 crates 17 lbs & 25 cks Sheep Skins, 778 boxes Preserved Salmon, &c., 7 kegs and 1 bbl. Sauceauges, 107 live Hogs, 198 Horses, 1,305 Sheep, 912 head of Cattle, 93 barrels Flour Sd., 18 hds, and 23 puncheons Molasses, 40 hds, and 40 lbs. Sugar.

This is only a portion of the Exports of Queen's County, which will be largely increased by the returns from the ports of Pictou, Orrell, Crapaud, Instico, and New London. At current prices the value of the produce alone amounts to £101,087, or \$325,456. The pork, ham, and dressed hogs figure up £12,453, or \$39,850; the fish, exclusive of the mackerel and preserved salmon, &c., £5000, or \$15,200—total £134,337, or \$580,000. Eggs at seven pence per dozen, represent £4770, or \$14,224; horses about £5,000, or \$16,000; and mackerel at £3 per barrel, £37,500, or \$120,000, of which about one fourth was owned by P. E. Island fishermen. The oats, potatoes and barley, were distributed as follows:

Table listing imports: Oats, Barley, Potatoes. Nova Scotia, 66,727 2,660 26,608; N. Bruns., 4,724 5,820 335; Nfld., 28,393 2,540 54,782; U. States, 19,489 100 30,963; W. Indies, 21,890 100 7,098; France, 49,773 90; England, 424,320 2,974; St. Pierre, 190 4,100; Cuba, 84 1,088.

The Turnips went nearly all to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and in very nearly equal proportions. 620 bushels were shipped to St. Pierre. In former times the most of our produce to Nova Scotia was sent to Halifax and the ports south of Canada. This year, several small cargoes of Island Potatoes &c. cleared for Pictou, and Cape Breton. Of the Mackerel, nearly the whole went to the United States. The Eggs found their way into the same market, by the Boston and Colonial Steamers, but principally by New Brunswick. Of the Pork, Nova Scotia took 2190 barrels, 125 dressed Hogs, and 17,130 pounds Ham; New Brunswick 136 barrels, and 52 dressed Hogs; Newfoundland 234 barrels, 106 dressed Hogs, and 6,035 pounds Ham; England 141 barrels, and the United States 60 barrels and 80 dressed Hogs. The Codfish, &c., went mainly to Nova Scotia, the United States and the West Indies. To Nova Scotia we sent 5 Horses and 420 Sheep; to New Brunswick 175 Horses and 329 Sheep; to Newfoundland 112 Sheep, and to the West Indies 14 Horses and 424 Sheep.

Of the following articles the imports were:—

Table listing imports: Flour, Cornmeal, Bread. 1867 21,025 4,799 930; 1866 34,700 5,631 1,029.

We also imported 1,185 barrels of apples, 7,624 tons large, and 5,100 tons small coal, 3,777 tons limestone, 899 thousand laths, and 3,506 thousand feet boards, exclusive of deals and scumling. With the exception of the apples, the whole of these articles came from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; the boards and laths indicate the extent of our house building during the season. Perhaps, however, no fact connected with our import trade is more gratifying and encouraging than the marked falling off in the item of flour, which has annually, since the failure of our wheat crop, been making such a heavy drain upon the resources of the Colony. Next year we hope the decrease will be still more marked. Among our imports are also 6,678 bls. of herrings, and 1,058 quintals codfish. Of the 8,600 barrels of mackerel entered by the Gulf fleet, about 3,040 barrels, as near as we could ascertain, were caught in Island vessels.

In our notice of the trade of Charlottetown in Thursday's paper, we omitted the article of leather, of which several thousand pounds worth were exported to Montreal via New Brunswick during the year. The shipments direct to Canada, were, in May and June, 27 hds, and 40 large sugar; and in September 55 tons of coal, 5 bls. seal oil, 30 do mackerel, 125 do and 944 qtls. codfish, 12 do and 24 do hake, 16 rolls leather, 1 do calfskin, 4 bundles wool, and 5 do and 8 casks sheepskins.

Mrs. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer and Zylabalsalum or Worlds Hair Dressing are unequalled, and so acknowledged by all who use them for restoring, invigorating, anointing the hair, rendering it soft, silky and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position; quickly cleansing the scalp, arresting the fall and imparting a healthy and natural color to the hair. They never fail to restore grey hair to its original youthful color. They act directly upon the roots of the hair giving the natural nourishment required. No lady's toilet is complete without the Zylabalsalum or hair dressing. It cleanses the hair and imparts to it most delightful fragrance, and is suited to both young and old. The Restorer Reproduces. The Hair Dressing cultivates and beautifies. If your hair is thin try it, if curly try it, if bare try it, if lustreless try it, if none of these try it, for who else will preserve your hair through life. For sale by all Druggists.

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1867.

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.

CHRISTMAS.

BEFORE we again address our readers, Christmas will have come and gone. We believe heartily in Christmas customs and in Christmas influences. At this happy period every one who has a heart at all susceptible of the softer and holier emotions, endeavors to feel at charity with all men. At this season more than at any other, we realize that all men are brothers. In ordinary times, when the selfish instincts of our nature bear sway, and our hearts are unsoftened and our affections uninfluenced by holy associations and grateful remembrances, we give a cold inoperative assent to this proposition, but at Christmas tide we feel it to be a living and an operative principle. The affections of every man who feels the faintest glow of faith in the Great Founder of the religion of love, now struggle to break the bonds by which custom and diffidence ordinarily fetter them. We for a while throw off the coldness and shyness of our Anglo-Saxon nature, and obey the benevolent and loving impulses of our hearts, with the ardor and the enthusiasm of the warmer blooded and more impulsive races of mankind. At the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of mankind men are drawn nearer to one another—they in a great measure forget the distinctions of rank, and disregard the usages of society. This is a season of mutual good wishes and of mutual kind offices. The rich and poor meet together, and feel that they are the children of a common Father. The pride of the rich and the high born is laid aside, and the murmurings of discontent and of envy cease for a season. Cheerfulness illumines every countenance, and love fills every heart. Men at Christmas strive to become in practice, as well as in faith, Christians. Family ties which through the year became weakened and broken, are then strengthened and united. The misunderstandings which occasioned coldness are now as if they had never existed, and offences, though serious, are sincerely forgiven. The family meets round the cheerful board, happy and united once more. Who can bear malice or who remain hard and unforgiving on Christmas Day? The delightful social intercourse of that day renders doubly endearing every social and every family relation. As we grasp the hand of friend or neighbor, and hear his hearty good wishes, we feel him a dearer friend or a closer neighbor; and amidst the innocent mirth, the delightful interchange of gifts and good wishes of the family circle, we feel that father and mother, brother and sister, were never nearer or dearer to us. The remembrances of the harmless pastimes and joyous festivities of Christmas remains a green spot in the memory of many of us when those who participated in them are scattered over the face of the wide world, or are silent and mouldering in the habitations of the dead. What a flood of melancholy, yet softening and elevating, recollections rush upon the mind of the storm-tossed sailor as he and his shipmates attempt, in a rude and imperfect way, to celebrate Christmas on ship board. Recollections of the happy home of his childhood crowd upon his mind. Every circumstance attendant upon the Christmas celebrations of his youth comes fresh to his memory. His smiling parents—his happy brothers and sisters—the much prized and long expected presents—the little feast—the merry games and the religious exercises of the day—are all present to his mind's eye. He feels himself a child again. He forgets the years of hardship that have passed since he spent his last Christmas at home. The evil influences that it may be, have hardened his heart and blunted the finer sensibilities of his nature, have for the moment no power over him. He sees the beauty of innocence and the loveliness of piety as he never before saw them. Vice, perhaps for the first time, appears to him in all its native deformity; and when he contrasts his present with his former state, he shudders at the picture. Who knows what effect these early recollections of a happier time and of a purer life, inseparably connected with the annual return of Christmas, may have in humanising him and in assisting in his ultimate reformation.

The influence of early association is seen in the endeavors which Christian men in all countries and in all situations make to render Christmas Day a happy one. We have already alluded to the observance which sailors pay to that day. Soldiers, too, have been known to make extraordinary efforts under the most unpromising circumstances duly to observe it. Christmas in the Arctic regions must be a very cold Christmas indeed, yet the voyagers in those dreary regions do not neglect to distinguish the season of Christmas by appropriate religious services and customary festivities. The pauper in the workhouse has a feast provided for him at this season, and the felon in his cell then mercifully receives a temporary mitigation of his punishment. Perhaps those whose enjoyment of Christmas is most hearty and most unalloyed are the children. Who does not sympathise with them in their eager expectancy of that happiest of days. How bright are their anticipations. How slow time lags till it arrive. How devoutly the younger ones believe in the generous, child-loving Santa Claus. With what eager hopes the whole of them—the fully believing, the half-believing, and the unbelieving—hang up their stockings on the eve of the auspicious day. Who does not enjoy their exclamations of delight and wonder as treasure after treasure is extracted from the well-lined receptacles of Santa Claus' bounty. On this day the little ones hear none but kind words, and every

one greets them with a smiling face. No dull lessons to learn, no tiresome work to do, they are indulged to their hearts' content; and even the staid and serious elders join in their romps and contrive their more elaborate amusements. Happy are the children who spend a really merry Christmas, and happy are the parents who provide the means of such happiness and behold their innocent enjoyment. A store of pleasant recollections and healthful associations is then laid up to be a solace in future years, when the freshness of youth is past, and when cares and griefs seem like to overwhelm the overburdened soul.

We advise all parents of whatever rank of life they may be to endeavor to make their children happy on Christmas Day. All the charities of life flourish on this day. Not only is it customary to interchange kindly greetings and offerings of good will among friends and kindred, but also to give liberally of our substance to those who are in need. The pangs of want and the privations of poverty are hard to bear at any time, but they are particularly so at this season of festivity and general rejoicing. The poor soul who has seen better days feels it exceedingly bitter to be obliged to forego the simple treat in which he or she has been wont to indulge on Christmas day. The poor man, and more particularly the poor man's wife, feel deeply their inability to provide those few and inexpensive luxuries for their children, that they have so long counted on enjoying. The poor house seems doubly bare on that day, the worn clothing doubly thin and insufficient, and the meagre and scanty fare doubly scanty and unwholesome. Those who have plenty—whose tables are loaded with food—whose grates are piled high with fuel, and whose bodies are warmly and richly clad—should now remember those of their neighbors who have not a sufficiency of food, fuel, and clothing. They will enjoy their Christmas luxuries with a keener zest, and perform their Christmas devotions much more devoutly, and we feel, with greater acceptance, if they are conscious of having made the home of some poor and friendless brother happy, or of having caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. We all should remember that He whose birth we are on Wednesday next called upon to celebrate and to rejoice over, said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

In conclusion we heartily wish our friends and patrons

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute.

On Thursday evening last, the 12th inst., the introductory lecture for the winter's course was delivered before the above Association by the President, WILLIAM HEARD, Esq. The subject was "an hour with the Apocalypse." From what we know of that gentleman's ability as a lecturer, we feel assured that the subject received justice, and that it was interesting and profitable. The Patriot says of it "that it was well composed and pleasantly delivered, and in all respects a worthy commencement of a profitable winter's campaign." At the close of the lecture, Mr. Heard addressed the YOUNG MEN of the Association. He endeavored to impress upon their minds the fact that it was organized for their especial benefit, and that the time had arrived when they would be expected to slip into the harness, and assume at once the responsibilities which should and must rest upon their shoulders. He informed them that a suitable room had been engaged and fitted up for a Reading Room, where they could very profitably employ their leisure hours. Mr. Heard also reminded them that it was not the intention of the older members to desert them. On the contrary, they might always rely upon having their counsel and assistance. They had no desire to shrink from a reasonable share of responsibility, but the work was essentially the YOUNG MEN'S. We would like to have found space for the whole of this valuable and timely address. We would say to all the young men in Charlottetown who are connected with this Association, you are a highly favored body. These, your fathers, have labored hard to bring this Association to its present state of perfection, and now they offer it to you as a free gift. True, we ourselves, when connected with it, were of opinion that the young men did not occupy that position in it which they should have done, and the name would have been more appropriate had it been called the "Old Men's Association." But we are led now to think that it was all for the better. Let the errors of the past be remedied, and accept the gift so freely offered, and let your predecessors see that you are capable of carrying it on and sustaining its interest. As union is strength, let it be your endeavour to work harmoniously together, so that your numbers may increase, and you may be enabled to exhibit, by your lectures, debates, and deportment in life, that yours is none other than a Young Men's Christian Association.

Bushing the Ice.

NOTHING is of more importance to the travelling public who are accustomed to travel to and from the country places to Summerside, on the ice, than that it should be well and carefully bushed. Many accidents have happened for want of this being done. How easy it is for the traveller—especially if he be a stranger—to lose the track where the ice is not bushed, if travelling through a thick snow storm or on a dark night. He may, ere he is aware of it, plunge himself and his horse into some crack or spring-hole. In order to prevent any such accidents, we think that all the principal tracks, at least ought to be well and carefully bushed. It would cost but a slight effort were the inhabitants near the shore to turn out and help in this matter. The only route on our river that is bushed is the one leading from Summerside to Bedeque, and even the bushing of this might be improved. The bushes should be allowed to go all round McDonald's Point, and kept well out of the land, instead of, as heretofore, being disconnected by a space of nearly a quarter of a mile. We would also suggest that the bushes, in being put down, be put on an angle leaning towards Summerside, so that a person, who might, in a storm lose his way, be able to know in which direction he was travelling. But there are other and just as important routes as the above mentioned, that are not bushed at all. The road leading from Fittow Point, and also the one up to the Wilnot Creek Bridge. The former of these is a very