We insert some of the comments of the American Press, upon President Grant's message to Congress.

The New York *Sun* pronounces it a poverty stricken document, and takes exception to almost every feature of it. On the Alabama claims it thus remarks:—

About the Alabama claims and their speedy settlement, the message tells us nothing which is satisfactory. There are some vague hints on the subject, which the people will not accept as meeting the issue. Russia has taken the advantage of European complications to press her right of entry to the Black Sea.

On the fisheries it says:—

To make up for his deficiencies on this subject, Gen. Grant goes at length into the fishery question on the Newfoundland banks and the adjacent waters. He substantially admits that no violation of our treaty has yet been committed, but he threatens that if there is an open, palpable infringement of it at some future day, he will send the American eagle into those misty latitudes to seize our share of the codfish in his talons. This is buncombe hardly worthy of Mr. Caleb Cushing, who doubtless wrote so much of the message as relates to foreign affairs, and which, by the by, constitutes the greater part of it.

The *World* writes thus:—

On the fisheries difficulty, Gen. Grant asks for an authority which, in prudent hands, might perhaps have a salutary effect. If the illiberal interference with our fishermen is renewed next season, he wants power to suspend by proclamation, the laws permitting the transit of Canadian goods through our territory and even to forbid the entrance of Canadian vessels into our waters. The objection to these modes of retaliation is that the damage we inflict would recoil upon our own citizens. It would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. The Canadian products and imported goods which pass in bond over our railroads and through our canals are an important addition to their business and their receipts. The pecuniary losses to our lines of transportation, would, many times, exceed the injuries suffered by our fishermen. In effect, Peter would not be robbed to *pay* Paul, but Peter would be robbed by ourselves, because Paul had been robbed by the Canadians.

Of course loss and inconvenience would be also inflicted on Canada; but is there no way to bring her to her senses without punishing ourselves? Do we want to increase the trade, commerce and shipping of Quebec and Montreal, and contribute to build up those cities at the expense of our own forwarders? Would it be for our interest to prevent Canadian merchants coming to New York and buying of our importers, goods stored in the bonded warehouses? It would be cheaper and more manly to apply the plaster directly to the sore by sending a part of our idle navy into the Canadian waters next spring, with orders to protect our fishermen. Claiming nothing but our rights, our government should have no hesitation in enforcing them without a resort to circuitous, circumventing methods which would bring upon our citizens, greater injuries than we undertake to redress.

The remarks of the Canadian Press may be summarized thus:—

In reference to the enforcement of the Canadian rights in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, that the President does not found his objection against the action of our Government upon the seizure of vessels actually engaged in fishing within forbidden boundaries, but on the seizures and examinations of vessels suspected of a design to violate the regulations of the Canadian Government. He states that while the Canadian act permits of such seizures and examinations, the law has not yet been put in force, and he is resolved to postpone action until an actual offence has been given. Whether such seizures and examinations form a necessary part of the police duty of our navy, is a question to be considered. We need hardly say, however, that if these proceedings are necessary to driving out of the intruders upon our waters, the law ought to be enforced whatever objections may be made by the American Government.

The threats of retaliation which the President holds out, will not have the slightest effect in preventing the assertion of the just rights of Canada in the waters of the gulf.

President Grant may try these measures of coercion whenever he likes. He will not cause the people of Canada to abate their claims one jot or title. The President asserts the right of the United States to the free navigation of the St. Lawrence. It is hardly worth while to dispute this claim.

Whatever rights the American people may possess to the navigation of the river, they certainly have none to the canals along its banks. Whenever a request has been made to permit the passage of an American vessel down the river, it has always been granted, and the President can safely allege therefore, that eight States on the Lakes, of which he makes so much, have been so seriously injured by the denial of his claims. It is in coming up the river, we beg to inform his excellency, that the trouble arises. Perhaps he has never made a trip from Kingston to Montreal. We assure him that, without the use of our canals, Americans would obtain wonderfully little advantage from the free navigation of the St. Lawrence.

The President's message and General Butler's speech read very much alike, on the Fishery and Alabama questions. We may, however, say with the St. John *Freeman*:—

Fortunately a President's Message is not as important or momentous as a formal declaration made by the English Premier or Foreign Secretary under similar circumstances, or a despatch from any of the European Governments, would be. It is often but the expression of the opinion of an individual which finds no echo in Congress or in the country. Very often, much of it is written with a view to the next Presidential election, or for the purpose of strengthening the party to which the President belongs, by turning some temporary excitement to account. It does not follow because a message is warlike or monitory in its tone that there must be war or danger of war.

GORTSCHAKOFF'S REPLY TO EARL GRANVILLE.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—A special correspondent of the *Tribune*, at St. Petersburg, telegraphs a full text of Prince Gortschakoff's reply to Earl Granville, it being a despatch to Baron Brunow, dated Thorskoe, Nov. 26:

"*Monsieur le Baron!* The Ambassador of England has read and left with me a copy of Lord Granville's reply to our communication of the 19th of October, which I submitted to his Majesty the Emperor. Our august master was pleased to point out that it contained, in the first place, an expression of earnest desire of the Cabinet of London to preserve cordial relations between England and Russia; and secondly, an assurance that the English Cabinet would not have refused to enter into an examination of the treaty of 1856, so far as they have been modified by circumstances. As for the question of strict right, stated by Lord Granville, we have no wish to enter into any discussion, to recal any precedent, or to cite any example. Such a controversy would in no way promote the good understanding which we desire. Our august master had to discharge imperious duty to his own country, without wishing to injure, in any way, the governments which were signatories of the treaty of '56. On the contrary, his Imperial Majesty appeals to their sense of justice and to their regard for their own dignity.

"We regret to see that Earl Granville addresses himself principally to the form of our communication. The form was not our choice. We would have asked for nothing better surely than to obtain our end by an agreement with the signatories of the treaty of 1856, but the principal Secretaries of State of her Britannic Majesty well know that the attempts made at different times to assemble the powers in a general conference, with a view to remove the causes of difficulty which disturb the general peace, have universally failed. The prolongation of the present crisis and the absence of a regular government in France postpone still further the possibility of such an agreement. Meanwhile, the position in which the treaty left Russia has become more and more intolerable. Earl Granville will agree that the Europe of today is far from being the Europe which signed the treaty of 1856.

"It was impossible that Russia should agree to remain the only power bound indefinitely to an agreement which, onerous as it was at the time when it was concluded, becomes daily weaker in its guarantees. Our august master has too deep a sense of what he owes to his country to force it to submit any longer to an obligation against which the national sentiment protests. We cannot admit that the abrogation of a purely theoretical principle, not followed by its immediate application, and which visibly restores to Russia a right, of which no great power would consent to be deprived, ought to be considered as a menace to peace, nor that in avoiding one point of the treaty of 1856, the abrogation of all is implied. The Imperial Cabinet never had any such intention. On the contrary, our communication of October 19, declared in the most explicit terms that his Majesty the Emperor maintains his adhesion to the general principle of the treaty of 1856, and that he is ready to come to an agreement with signatory powers of the treaty, either to confirm its general stipulations or to renew them, or to substitute for them any other equitable arrangement which may be thought suitable to secure the repose of the East or the equilibrium of Europe. There seems, then, to be no reason why the Cabinet of London should not, if it please, enter into an explanation with the signatories of the treaty of 1856. For our part, we are ready in any deliberation having for its object the settlement of guarantees, for the consolidation of peace in the East.

"We are persuaded that fresh guarantees would be found in the removal of the prominent cause of the irritation existing between the two powers, which are most directly interested. Their mutual relations would be more firmly established on a base of good and solid understanding.

"You are desired Monsieur LeBaron to read this despatch, and to leave a copy of it with him. The Principal Secretary of State of her British Majesty has expressed to us the regret he would feel if this discussion should disturb the harmony which the Government of her Majesty the Queen has striven to maintain between the two countries.

"Be good enough to express to his Excellency how entirely this regret would be shared by the Imperial Cabinet. We believe that friendship between the two governments is essentially useful to the two countries, as well as to the peace of the world.

"With lively satisfaction we have seen this friendship during late years grow more and more close and cordial, and the grave circumstances in which we find ourselves at this moment seem to make it more durable than ever.

(Signed,) GORTSCHAKOFF."

THE SPANISH THRONE.

The following is the official report of the voting on the election of the Duke of Aosta to the Spanish throne:—Three hundred and eleven members took part in the voting, the number of members entitled to vote being 345. For the Duke d'Aosta 191 voted, in addition to which two members who would have voted for him were detained at home through illness; for a Fedral Republic, 60; for a Republic, 3; for the Duke de Montpensier, 27; for Espartero, 8; for the Prince Alphouse, 2; for the Duchess de Montpensier, 1; blank tickets, 19, of which 12 were given by the Carlist members. The majority required by the law for the election of a monarch was 173. The Duke d'Aosta having obtained 191, and two adhesions more, have been proclaimed King by the President of the Cortes. Salvos of artillery announced this event to the town, where perfect tranquility prevails.

The *Unita Cattolica* gives its opinion of the election as follows:—

We may be allowed to write a word of condolence on the very grave danger which our Prince Amadeo, Duke d'Aosta, runs of being elected King of Spain, or of the Spaniards. If we pitied Queen Isabella when she was driven from her throne, we feel much more pity for the Duke d'Aosta, who is about to ascend it. Nowadays fallen kings are better off than those elected in their stead. We have seen how the former fell; but how and when the latter will fall, God only knows! The Duchess of Genoa, with that exquisite political sentiment which naturally flourishes in a mother's heart, opposed her son's candidature with all her strength, and her opposition prevailed. If the Duke d'Aosta's mother were still alive, we are sure that she would throw her body across the path to prevent him from ascending the throne of Spain. As for us, we can do no more than bewail the matter in the columns of our journal. The Duke d'Aosta has many virtues, and is acquainted with the affairs and the men of the time. To us, he did not appear to deserve the fate which is reserved for him. But, as he is determined to sacrifice himself, we may be allowed to express our pity, and let him accept our pity as the homage of our respectful affection. When the fatal day of undeceiving arrives, let the Prince recollect two things; namely—how he witnessed the presentation of the Roman plebiscitum in Florence; and how the clerical defenders of the Pope-King dared to warn him in time that the road to Spain was not the road to happiness or glory.

A Spanish journal some time ago spoke of the future King thus:—

From Rome, by way of London, there has reached us the news that, at length, a Prince is found valiant enough to accept the throne of Spain, if it be offered to him! This hero is one of the sons of that loyal cavalier and fervent Catholic who has just seized upon Rome by the cannon's mouth!

The Herald.

Wednesday, December 21, 1870.

THE Christmas salutation of "peace on earth to men of good will" is this year heard in Europe by the nations, some of which are engaged in mortal strife, and others are busy preparing huge armaments which may, at any moment, be let loose to increase the carnage and desolation. Devastated provinces, trampled harvests, smoking villages and towns, ruined homesteads, countless widows, beleagured cities, disease, starvation, and probable pestilence,—amid such things the celestial augury sounds almost like a mockery; and the deep-dug trenches of the battle-field, wherein sleep the unnumbered dead, the only objects with which it seems to harmonize. Yet it is not the misery entailed by a terrific war which jars the rudest with this peaceful Christmas time. There is another and a more dreadful conflict going on at this moment in Europe—a conflict against that very Christianity which was heralded by notes of peace to men. Any one who has watched the movements of European society since, or even before, the outbreak of the present war, must have observed how strong were the indications of a reversion to the principles of the first French Revolution. These principles were never wholly eradicated from society. Their growth, though unseen, has been nevertheless going on. To-day they rise before us in almost every European Government, not as brittle saplings, but as growths of strength, spreading, and striving to overshadow. The Universal Republic and its red flag have a well defined meaning. They mean the complete overthrow of Christianity; the abnegation of all restraint, whether imposed by Divine, Ecclesiastical or Natural laws; and the establishment of confusion, anarchy and tyranny. When Louis Napoleon was a wanderer throughout Europe, he became an associate of the secret brotherhoods which had, for their objects, the above grand consummation. Seated on the Imperial Throne as Napoleon III., he seemed for a time to forget his allegiance to the secret socities. He was greeted with the title of Vanquisher of the Revolution, and he appears to have thought the title no vain compliment; for in speaking to his Senators and Deputies, at the opening of the session of 1857, shortly after the disastrous inundations, he said, "I hold for certain that the waters, like the Revolution, have re-entered their channels, and that they will not again be able to break forth." This dream of security was rudely broken by the bursting of Orsini's bombs. He might forget the revolution, but the Revolution was resolved not to forget him. For ten years he strove "to reconcile the irreconcilable." He coquetted between Christianity and the Revolution. At the commencement of the German war, his resolution was fixed to identify himself with the power he once boasted of having overthrown. In his proclamation to the French people, announcing the war, on the 22d of July, he used these words:—"The glorious flag which we once more unfurl before those who have provoked us, is the same which bore over Europe the *civilizing ideas of our Great Revolution*. It represents the *same principles*, it inspires the same devotion." What the principles of the Great Revolution were, need not be told. France, by a decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and Paris received the announcement with rapture. Was it with principles like these inscribed upon her banner that France threw down the gage of battle. At all events, how readily they were accepted by Paris, was made evident on Sunday, the 14th August. On that day, the Germans were winning the battle of Courcelles, and Paris, with the formal consent of the new Minister of the Interior, was setting up a statue to Voltaire in the Square Mouge, while disaster after disaster followed the banner of the Revolution, and the man who went forth to do battle for its principles, the precursor of that Revolution, and the apostle of its principles, was receiving high honors at the hands of his admiring countrymen. When it is remembered that no man despised, or affected to despise the French people more than Voltaire, and that no man ever played the sycophant more servilely than he to the Prussian King Frederick—the enemy of France—, the erection of that statue at such a moment, appears most inexplicable. But it should not be forgotten that it was not to Voltaire, the habitual contemner of his countrymen, or to Voltaire, the abject flatterer of Prussia, that honor was paid on that occasion, but to Voltaire the enemy of Christianity and scoffer at God's worship. These were traits in his character to be admired in France, now that the principles of the Great Revolution were emblazoned on her flag. The man who emblazoned them was suddenly hurled from power, and the Government that succeeded him was composed of ministers eminently qualified to be called the disciples of Voltaire. Excepting General Trochu—a pious Breton, who believes in God and worships him by acts of Religion—your Gambettas and your Rocheforts, "gentlemen of the pavement" are the very impersonation of a Voltarian Government. And to support this Government, there arrives that mixture of stupidity and impiety known as Garibaldi. He comes, not to support Christian France, sinking under great disasters, but to aid in the propagation of the Universal Republic. It is no wonder that Christian men feel alarmed at such indications of a defiance of High Heaven; no wonder if they rush into voluntary exile over every frontier. They flee not so much from an invading and victorious enemy, as from the provoked judgment of an insulted God. At the present moment, throughout France, "wherever the officials and supporters of the Government are not actually obliged to take the field against the Prussians, they proceed as at Lyons, to impress or imprison Priests and to hunt Nuns." Prussia, ambitious and grasping, might be successfully resisted by France, but Prussia, the avenger of Heaven, is a very different thing. We care not to bring the state of Italy forward, as corroborative of our opinion, regarding the duel now going on in Europe, between Infidelity and Christianity. The catastrophe is there already ripe, and living witnesses will be able to testify, in a short space, to the scenes that must necessarily be enacted.

We, naturally enough, feel grateful, that here amongst us, the earthquake which is shaking Europe to her centre, is unfelt. The principles of the Great Revolution are not the beacons by which our ship of state is steered. We are, to all intents and purposes, an eminently Christian people. We plume ourselves upon our Religious sentiments. There are many churches throughout our land, and worshippers are numerous. Public sympathy with the doctrines of Voltaire is among us impossible—his followers, if any, must be so in secret, for fear of public indignation. "The great thinker, and the grand philosopher," has no statue erected to him in our public squares, and his teachings will never close our church doors. Yet, by an Act of our Legislature, we have given him the control of our Schools, and appointed him the guardian of the children whom the State undertakes to educate. Let us not deceive ourselves, our school system is eminently Voltarian. Continue it and you will breed up a race of men who will adopt the principles of the Great Revolution, and scoff at the Christianity which their forefathers professed. Figs will not grow from thistles, nor Christian, men grow up in Godless schools.

THE *Patriot* of the 15th inst. contains a leading article under the heading of "Self-Vindication," in which David Laird's unselfishness and patriotism are painted in characteristic style. Of course, everybody knows that Mr. Laird is one of the most unselfish creatures in existence, and deserves, at the hands of the people, a monument, in honor of his special virtues. Nor do we require to be told that he never quarrelled with the late Government, to obtain the whole of the Queen's Printing. Neither did he scorn the pickings which his friends gave him, even after his failure to oust Mr. Ings, until the people turned the whole lot about their business. When a change of Government occurred, he did not fawn upon and bully, by turns, the new Administration to obtain a share of the public printing, and to turn Mr. Reilly out of office. With evidences such as these, of Mr. Laird's self-abnegation, before the public, they will be prepared to accept his *pronunciamento* that he "would not have accepted the Queen's Printing from the Pope-Howlan-Brecken-Reilly combination." Of course not! The only little doubt about the matter, in our mind, is, that the offer was never made him; for if it had, we feel morally certain that he would have been the mouth-piece of that howling No-Popery Party, which he strove so zealously to construct, before the formation of the present "combination." This hint will serve for the edification of his "Catholic" and "Liberal" contributors. After assuring us of his utter unselfishness, Mr. Laird proceeds to give us a public profession of his faith upon the School Question. To assert that he ever was in favor of sectarian grants, "is a base and malicious untruth, manufactured out of whole cloth." Yet, in the same paper from which this extract is made, he has the hardihood to taunt Catholics, because they refuse to follow the leadership of a party whose mouth-piece is the puritanical spectre of the seventeenth century who now publishes the *Patriot*. We agree with the Hon. Mr. Haythorne, that it was to the utter stupidity of the politicians of Mr. Laird's way of thinking, who failed to see the settlement of the School question, for some years to come, at least, in the giving of a grant to St. Dunstan's College, that we owe the breaking-up of the late Government. Their statesmanship will never again be tested with a settlement of that or any other question. Confederation and a Pope government, with all their evils, were before them on one side, and on the other, was the simple matter of giving *justice* to Catholics, by placing St. Dunstan's on a level with the Prince of Wales College, in a pecuniary point of view. The *statesmen* of a few months ago, with Mr. Laird at their head, accepted the former on their own confession, and rejected the latter. Messrs. Pope and Haviland risked, at all events, their elections and political existence, upon the School question, and as one Member of the Legislature, we would rather serve under them without office, for eternity, than to occupy the first place in the synagogue, with the heterogeneous set of bigots and imbeciles who really broke-up the late Government. Mr. Laird is at liberty to accept what consolation he likes from his *sot-disant* "Catholic" and "Liberal" friends, but he can mark down these as some of the reasons which cause us, though no "slave," but as free and independent as any of the *Patriot* clique to use our judgment in political matters, to accept the present combination. With respect to the personal attack made upon us by the *Patriot*, we have simply to remind our contemporary of his habitual failing—that he does not tell the truth when he asserts that Mr. Reilly "signed the bond of submission to the Popes and the Confederates, under the impression that he would hold his office." The question of the Queen's Printing was fully settled before the "bond" was signed, and Mr. Reilly was fully prepared for the loss of his office when he seceded from the late party. We leave Mr. Laird with his lies crammed down his throat. He cannot make a scapegoat of us, nor of any sensible portion of the Catholic community of this Island. He has made his bed; let him lie upon it. When our "axe" is as dull and worthless as his, we shall have the decency to hide our disappointment, and throw a veil over our chagrin.

THE *Patriot's* opinion of the people of a portion of King's County, may be gathered from the following sentence, which we clip from its issue of the 17th inst.: "The *Herald* talks of smuggling and robbery, of which we know nothing. Some localities in the neighborhood of Mr. Reilly's district, in former years, enjoyed an unenviable reputation for illicit trading." We might pardon Mr. Laird for his misrepresentation of what we said respecting American poachers upon the fishing grounds, but the people of the First and Second Districts of King's County, will not be so ready to forgive the gratuitous insult offered to them.

As this will be our last issue before Christmas, we take the opportunity of cordially offering to our friends and patrons, all the kindest wishes of the season.

LITERATURE.—Blackwood, for November, is, as a whole, dull beyond ordinary. "The very Strange Correspondent," is our old friend Cornelius O'Dowd, and Count McCaskey, is, perhaps, a trifle more amusing than Cornelius. "The poetry and humor of the Scottish Language," contains nothing new. It seems to have been compiled very much from Jamieson's Dictionary. "New Books" is a current review of late publications, and furnishes a fair digest of the latest contributions to English Literature. By far the most interesting article of the number, is the "Great Collapse." It is thoughtful and well written. "Earl's Dene" drags along dully enough.

Messrs. Mann & Co., 37 Park Row, New York, have forwarded to us a copy of the United States Patent Laws. It is illustrated with a great number of diagrams, contains a variety of useful information, and can be had free by any one, on application to the above address.

LAST week, His Lordship Bishop McIntyre, in company with the Rector of St. Dunstan's College, visited several of the Western parts of his diocese. We are informed that the Bishop has consented, at the solicitation of the people of Grand River and Summerside, to give in the course of the winter, extempore addresses on his recent tour through Europe and Palestine. An interesting intellectual treat may be looked for.

We also learn that His Lordship, before his return from Prince County, had the satisfaction of seeing contracts entered into for the completion, next summer, of the greater portion of the work on the new Catholic Church at Summerside, and for the building of a first-class Parochial residence at the same place.

The Catholics of that rapidly growing town are entitled to great praise for the generous manner in which they have seconded their Bishop's efforts in behalf of those important undertakings. As an instance of this, we may state that two young men belonging to Summerside, each subscribed fifty pounds towards the building fund.

THE proceeds of the entertainment of the Charlottetown Amateur Dramatic Club, in the Market Hall, on Thurday night last, under the distinguished patronage of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, are as follows:—

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Major Pollard, for lamps,	0	16	0			
Advertizing and tickets,	2	17	0			
Programmes and hand-bills,	2	10	0			
Hennessy, stage work,	2	10	0			
Music,	1	10	0			
Painting,	6	14	4			
Act drop, and cotton for 1 scene,	2	3	4½			
Powders and dyes,	0	10	6			
Strain, for services,	0	3	0			
				19	16	2½

RECEIPTS.

Amount received at door per J. Hatch,	12	19	6			
Amount received from W. R. Watson, Esq.	4	10	0			
				17	9	6
Balance against the Club,				2	6	8½

W. W. McINTYRE,
Sec'y and Treas.

THE entertainment by the Amateur Dramatic Club, under the patronage of His Honor W. C. F. Robinson, Esqnire, Lieut. Governor, for the benefit of the sufferers by the Saguenay fire, came off as announced on Thursday evening last. Owing to the fearful state of the streets, the affair was not largely attended, and the consequence was that the receipts did not cover expenses.

The Club have at last made a respectable appearance, and though the acting was not of the first water, yet we would wish to see them give an entertainment once a month during the winter season; studying their parts will give the young folks a literary taste, as well as keep them from standing around street corners.—*Com.*

MR. DONALD CURRIE opened a discussion at the Charlottetown Debating Club, on Friday last, on the Fishery Question. The nature of his remarks can be learned from an editorial article in the *Patriot*, of the 17th inst., directed against our observations on the *Clara F. Friend* case. He was supported in his views by Mr. Roche, of the Normal School, and others, with the result, that when the question was put to the vote, they were outnumbered by two to one. Annexation and the surrender of the fisheries, do not find much favor with the members of the Debating Club.

THE Christmas services at S. Peter's will be as follows:—

First Evensong of the Festival, 11.15 p. m; a Solemn Celebration of the Blessed Sacrament at midnight; second Celebration of Holy Communion, 8 a. m.; mattins at 11; third Celebration of Holy Communion at 12; second Evensong, 3.30.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, being respectively the Feasts of S. Stephen, S. John and of the Holy Innocents, there will be the usual Saints Day services, viz: Holy Communion, 7.30; mattins, 9.30; and evensong with sermon at 7.30 p. m.; with the exception of the latter festival, when evensong will be at the usual hour of 4.30.

THE schr. *St. Cecile*, belonging to Capt. John McIntyre, of East Point, and Mr. Peter Stewart, of Souris, and which cleared from St. Peter's Harbor with a cargo of produce for Newfoundland, this fall, was wrecked on the Newfoundland shore, on the 20th of November. Both vessel and cargo are a total loss, as it is supposed that no insurance had been effected on either. The crew had much difficulty in saving themselves. We sympathize with the owners in their loss.

THE *Musical Times* for December has come to hand. It contains a "Festival Hymn," composed by C. P. Morrison. The musical intelligence contained in this number is varied and entertaining. Any one wishing to subscribe for it, will address G. W. Stratton, 375 Washington Street, Boston.

THE Wesleyan Bazaar opened yesterday in Market Hall, with great success. It is being continued to-day with equal satisfaction. The funds are to be appropriated towards the support of the new schools belonging to that denomination, which are about to be opened in this city.

HIS Excellency the Lieut. Governor, will hold a Levee at Government House, at 12 o'clock, on Monday, the 2d January next.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.—In all cases in which matters of fact are involved, Correspondents must furnish us with their names and addresses—not for publication, but as a guarantee of authenticity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

As the question of a Trunkline of Railway from Tignish to Georgetown, is now engaging the attention of the public throughout the Island, it may not be out of place to publish the following letter, which I received in answer to one addressed to Mr. Boyd, requesting some information respecting narrow-guage roads, which I knew he had made the study of a lifetime.

Mr. Boyd has travelled East and West of the Island, and also examined carefully our late census returns, together with our exports and imports, for some years past. I may also add, that as he is a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, of London, and has had considerable experience, both as Engineer and General Superintendent of the E. & N. A. Railway, from Shediac to St. John, his statements on railway matters may be considered reliable.

I am aware that with some people the mention of a railroad is synonimous with Confederation; but in my humble judgment, we are quite able to build the road from our own resources, without seriously interfering with the monetary or commercial affairs of the Colony. A Colony unoppressed by a greater public debt than it has lands to pay for, cannot be a bad security to offer to any company, who might be willing to take the contract to build the road

Very respectfully yours,
GEORGE W. HOWLAN.

Alberton, Nov. 28th, 1870.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

Hon. George W. Howlan, Cascumpec, P. E. I.

SIR;—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th inst., asking for some information respecting narrow-guage Railways of 3ft. 6in. guage. I published a pamphlet in 1865 on the subject. A letter written by me to the Directors of the proposed N. Y. Railways, out of Toronto, in July, 1867, was also published in pamphlet form, with letters from M. Carl Pihil, Chief Engineer of Norwegian Railways, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Chief Engineer of the Queensland Government Railways, Major Adelshold, Swedish Royal Engineers, and others. The latter had reference to many merely local matters, and the former was based on a much more limited knowledge of the system than I now have. Instead of sending you either of these, I think it will be better to compile from various sources such information on the subject as will be interesting to you.

The chief points in question are the cost of construction, the cost of maintenance and the working expenses, the traffic capacity, the speed attainable, and the safety of the 3ft. 6in. lines, as compared with those of the ordinary English guage of 4ft. 8½in., or the Canadian guage of 5ft. 6in.

COST OF CONSTUCTION.—It is a well established fact that the resistance due to curves diminishes as the width between the rails is reduced, and it is by taking advantage of this ability, which the narrow guage lines possess of adapting themselves to the natural surface of the country, by sharper or more frequent curves without meeting corresponding loss of power, from increased resistance that a great part of the saving in earthwork is effected. The proportion of this saving is, however, entirely dependent on the state of the country, and is necesarily less in a level country than in a hilly and difficult one. The Norwegian Government has now in operation 182 miles of N. Y. Railway. M. Carl Pihil the Chief Engineer says: "The formation width for the line of 4ft. 8½in. guage is generally from 15 to 18ft., say 16½ft. on an average, and for the 3ft 6in. guage it is here 12ft. 6in. The average height of the banks and cuttings on the narrower guage is less than on the broad, owing to the greater facility of adaptation to the country. With us the height is 10ft., whereas had the broader guage been adopted, it would have been from 12ft. to 14ft., say 13. This would make the proportion of quantities nearly as 4 to 7." The saving in earthwork leads naturally to a saving in masonry. If the embankments are lower and narrower, the culverts are shorter and the bridge abutments of less height and width. As the engine and trains are lighter the bridge superstructures are much less costly. The cost of permanent way is about 66 per cent. of that of the broader guage. Major Adelskold, Swedish Royal Engineer, who has constructed several of these railways says: "Their principal advantage is their original cost, which is so considerably below that of the broader (4ft. 8½in.) guage both here and in Norway." In Queensland 200 miles of 3ft. 6in. lines are now in operation, and some 250 miles more are in progress. Mr. Fitzgibbon, the Chief Engineer to the Government says in his report: "It was found on calculation of the quantities of work that the cost of the line with 4ft. 8½in. guage, would exceed that of the 3ft. 6in. guage by more than threefold." This is of course an extreme case, as the country was exceedingly difficult, but the estimate was fully borne out by the result. The New South Wales Railways of 4ft. 8½in. guage cost very much more than those of Queensland. The item of permanent way alone exceeding by £834 per mile. The Victorian Railways of 4ft. 8½in. guage cost £28,000 per mile more than those of Queensland, or in other words the cost of one exceeded the cost of the other sixfold on the lighter section and threefold on the mountain inclines. Owing to the skill and energetic management of Mr. Fitzgibbon who organized and constructed the whole of the lines, and his success in the battle against the broad guage advocates, Queensland, above all the Australian Colonies, has a system of Railways adapted to the wants of the country, and constructed at a cost which leaving the resources of the Colony comparatively unburdened, places it in a position to extend the lines when necessary for the further developement of the country.

I wish particularly to impress upon you that none of the advocates of the narrow guage system, propose to arrive at the saving in first cost by inferior construction or the use of inferior material. The object is to construct lines, which though their first cost be low, will not be extensive to work and maintain. And in order to meet these two important requirements, it is necessary that the materials and workmanship should be of the very best description, and all parts properly proportioned to the services they have to perform. Of the Queensland kind, Mr. Fitzgibbon says: "As regards the quality and durability of the works, of the rolling stock and the equipment of the line, nothing is left to be desired;" and again: "the construction of the road and the various appliances employed, are in all respects equal to any railway in the world, excepting only that they are limited in power to the wants of the case." Mr. Chas. Douglass Fox says of the Norwegian lines, of which he made a thorough examination: "I would again testify to the excellent condition of all the works on the lines; the permanent way, some of which has stood the test of two Norwegian winters, is without exception, the smoothest road I have been on."

COST OF MAINTENANCE AND WORKING EXPENSES.—The cost of maintenance of the narrow guage must be less than that of the broad, if only for the reason that the perishable parts are less expensive to replace.

Major Adelskold says of the Swedish lines: "The working expenses have also been considerably lower, partly because the resistance on the curves, with the same speed diminishes in proportion with the guage; partly also, because the dead weight of the carriages comparatively diminishes with the guage; and finally, because the light locomotives on the narrow guage line, do not wear out the rails so easily as a heavier engine on a broad guage." My own impression, in the absence of any reliable statistics, is that while the cost of repairs would be less per mile, the expense of moving a passenger or ton of goods, would be about the same on either guage.

[The remaining part of Mr. Boyd's letter will appear in our next issue.—ED. HERALD.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

DEAR SIR:—Knowing that your readers are always interested in hearing from "P. E. Islander abroad," I thought a few jottings from one six years in this "Hub of the Universe" would not be unacceptable at the present time. First let me congratulate you on the continued success which has followed your efforts in the years past, and the prospect widened, by your enlarged and improved paper, of still greater results in the future.

You will readily believe that here, as well as elsewhere, European affairs have monopolized the largest share of public attention. Indeed, so rapid and astounding have been the political changes, embracing in months, events which might fill centuries of history, that men's minds seemed for a time to loose sight of all other concerns. But as nations, like individuals, must occasionally vary the direction and scope of their thoughts and energies, the popular interest here has, within a short time, been alternating between the occurrences transpiring abroad, and the less-important, but more closely interesting local issues pending at home. The smoke of the political contests, incident on the late elections in these States, having entirely cleared away, we are now enabled to judge with accuracy what are the results, and what the position and prospects of the various contending parties. The fate of many an aspirant for public honors has been decided, and innumerable pet schemes have received their sentence at the hands of the great American system of all-ruling majorities. I would not attempt to lead your not over curious fellow-colonists into the inextricable labrynth of Yankee politics, even if I were capable of threading its interminable maze myself, for I am convinced that they are occupied in a far more discerning and profitable manner—attending to their own interests in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Let me simply take a broad view of the field as it appears to the eye of a non-combatant, and I observe two great dominant parties throughout the land; one the steady Conservative but somewhat backward Democracy, and the other the present triumphant Republican party with its bold though often doubtful ideas of progression. Between, and in the very ranks of these would-be ruling powers, I see slowly but grandly rising the young Labor Reform Party, headed by its architect and builder, Wendell Phillips, the brave and live-long friend of humanity, with the ever-spreading ideas of elevating the workingman and helping to lift up the lowly. It would seem evident to any disinterested person, that the policy of the foreign-born citizens, especially the Irish element, should be not to ally themselves wholly to any one of those opposing parties, but to watch what inducements each has to offer, and be always ready to throw their influence on the most favorable side. How to account for their tenacious and, until lately, almost unanimous adherance to the Democrats is a mystery to me. Those time-worn and oft-defeated politicians can hardly claim to have any particular benefits to afford our people, while they have several planks in their platform decidedly objectionable. But, of course, I am only giving my own impressions, although they are founded on what I consider good authority. A very important fact that concerns the adopted citizens has recently come to light here. It is the genuine active existence of a secret organization called the American Order of Phœnix, which is little more or less than a revival of the old Know-nothing clique, whose avowed object was the exclusion of all but native-born Americans from offices of honor and trust under the Government. The particulars of this powerful and dangerous organization became known by the energy and sagacity of the Editor of the *Pilot*, who exposed the whole machinery of narrow malignity, so that the cabalistic letters, "*A. O. P.*," on the street walls no longer stare at us with their unreadable mockery, and this relic of past meanness and stupidity bids fair to meet the ignominious fate of its predecessor, which was effectually stamped out under the iron heel of true America's spirit of honor. The crisis in this affair is approaching, and it will, no doubt, play an important part in the city elections next week. Whatever efforts fanatics may put forth, I can say with confidence, that our people are progressing here in every sense of the word, and the grand old Church, of which they are the pioneers, is spreading with wonderful strides.

Last Thursday was Thanksgiving Day. Have your readers any idea of what an American Thanksgiving consists of? If not, it would be impossible for me to convey it to them. The day here is inseparably connected with visions of roast turkeys, happy reunions and crowded theatres. I can assure you that whatever may have been the prevailing notions on the present Turko-Russian difficulties, New England, last week, went in strong for *Turkey*.

But I must leave off for the present. I hope to have the pleasure of imparting some more interesting things at a more favorable opportunity. Yours sincerely

H. O'M.

Boston, November 28.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR;—In glancing over your issue of the 7th inst., I was much pleased to know that you have not forgotten us with regard to the necessary public wants of this part of the Island. It is evident, Mr. Editor, that the want of justice in giving us an equal share of the public money to expend in the improvements of our harbor, prevents this locality from thriving. Why has Tignish Run been granted an over share? a place that never will admit vessels. During the reign of cats, is this justice? The small amount that has been granted towards this harbor, shows the great improvement it has done. Vessels drawing from 12 to 13 feet water, could go out this fall. And for the purpose of having the channel to run in same direction, we require some few hundred pounds granted us to build a breastwork on the west side, and to extend the present one on the east side. This would cause the channel to run in one direction at all times, instead of shifting.

There is another matter I would remind the Government of—the want of having sailing communication from Charlottetown to this port. I would therefore suggest the propriety of giving a grant to a Packet to run between this port and Charlottetown, touching at Georgetown and Souris. Capt. Lannigan, of the schr. *Charles*, can justify me in saying that, a Packet would have more than she could do in freights to or from Charlottetown during the season. We are, Mr. Editor, as you are aware, next to being out of the world. So situated as we are, neither steam or sailing communication to any parts—only left to paddle our own canoe. We cannot thrive where justice is not given in the distribution of public money. Sufficient money granted to us, and judiciously expended, would make St. Peter's Bay one of the best settlements on the Island. Trusting you, Mr. Editor, will be one of the main spokes in the wheel, on the meeting of the Legislature, in obtaining our necessary wants. And thanking you for the part you have taken in the welfare of this place, I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,
BONA FIDE.

St. Peter's Bay, Dec. 16, 1870.

Go to Smith's, if you want Comfortable winter wear, in Fur or First-class Buffalloes, all of which ladies and gents can purchase at very low rates and warranted free from moths.