[illegible] sheets, Andrew! We maun [illegible]ward o' our ain bonnie boat, [illegible] picking up their stragglers,' which [illegible] in great hurry to begin.

[illegible] sheets were hauled aft, and the cutter's [illegible] lead in channel, on a course which would carry us almost a mile to windward of the Watch, the wind being from north-[illegible], enabling us to choose our own [illegible], still holding the wind free, while to [illegible] off, the former would be obliged to haul to on a taut bowline, when her lack of ballast would undoubtedly ensure her defeat. Our change of course soon brought us within view of the boat a second time, when her crew, supposing they had at length attracted the attention of the ship-keepers, bent to their oars with a will, and as we passed them within thirty yards, raised a clamorous shout, demanding—'Where the deuce we were going with the Agile?'

'On a smuggling cruise, my bantams! This saucy craft carries the flag of a contrabandist just now!' shouted the mate, in reply, while the skipper chimed in with,

'Ay, lads, and just be sae kind as to bear Jack Greaves' respects to Maister Davis, and tell him I'll meet him ony time in the next new moon, an' gie him back his barkie, in return for my ain bonnie Witch, which I'd be owre sorry to part wi' for gude.'

This polite speech was received by the boat's crew with a volley of oaths, while they relinquished their oars, and were speedily lost to view as we dashed away into the deep gloom.

Captain Greaves, with the aid of a night glass found in the binnacle, was enabled to maintain a vigilant watch on the movements of our foes, whom he soon reported to be trimming the Witch's canvas in chase; but they soon relinquished the attempt, and evidently have to awaiting the return of their comrades, to whom our skipper had entrusted his message. Being assured of security from further molestation, Captain Greaves piped all hands to splice the main brace, when the watch was set, and the larboard watch—of which I was a humble member—suffered to seek repose in the hammocks of the revenue men.

At daylight next morning we were up with the 'Scheft,' and could descry the Witch, nearly hull down to the southward, when, easing off our sheets we ran in, and before the afternoon was half spent, came to anchor a few miles below Antwerp.

Our cargo was all ready, and a few hours sufficed for its reception, when we hove up, and at daylight next morning was beating for the Downs, which we entered as the tide turned, and easing off our sheets on the larboard tack, ran down along the coast of Belgium, the Witch tacking in chase as soon as she discovered us, but being too distant to cause us apprehension.

When off Bruges we hauled our wind for the English coast, saluting the several cruisers as we passed, and making the cutter's signal to the station at the mouth of the Tombridge soon after the sun went down. It is needless to add, we ran in that night and discharged our cargo in safety; the only difficulty experienced being in convincing our allies of the assumed character of the Agile.

Day was just breaking when we hove to in the offing next morning, and at sunrise we were gratified by a sight of our own little craft in mid channel, when we crowded canvas with a view to speak to her—an event her commander protem seemed strongly inclined to hasten by hauling on a wind and standing for us direct.

'Agile, a-h-o-y!' he shouted, as soon as he came within hail.

'Ahoy!' shouted Captain Greaves, in reply.

'Heave to, you rascally pirate, or I'll sink you!'

'Bleeze away, Maister Davis, but bear in min' ye'll be wastin' the Queen's poother on her ain vessel.' And as he spoke, Captain Greaves signalised to the mate to haul aft the fore sheet, when the nimble craft flew up in the wind, and became stationary on the weather beam of the Witch.

'What do you mean by running away with the Queen's cutter Agile, sir?' demanded the lieutenant, as soon as we had become stationary.

'I beg your pardon Maister Davis, fair exchange is na robbery.'

'The deuce! That remains to be tried.—But what have you done with my men—murdered them—I suppose?'

'Na, na, not quite sae bad as that. Just relieved them frae duty for a day or twa.'

'Well, it's your turn now, my fine fellow. You can make up your mind to visit the penal colonies for your effrontery.'

'Na, na, dinna be sae fast mon. Did ye tell any o' the cruisers that ye had lost a Queen's cutter?,

'Was I a fool?'

'I trow ye wad ha' been if ye had betrayed yer ain secret. But gie me back my barkie, and ye can hae yer ain again.

'Insolence! Surrender, or I must carry the cutter by boarding?'

'An' ye were wise ye wad attempt na sich thing. I mak' ye a fair offer. Tak' up wi' it an' nane need be the wiser; refuse it, an' I wadna' say how lang the name o' Lieutenant Davis is like to appear on the roll of officers on active service in her Majesty's revenue.'

The officer was dumbfoundered by the implied threat, which he was well aware was far from idle, and calling his second in command, held a brief consultation with him, when he resumed:

'I grant that you have the advantage, but remember your vessel, if carried in, would prove quite an argument in my favor.'

'Na doubt. But would that argument be all powerful while yer ain bit barkie was in the hands o' a smuggler?'

'Hark'ee, sirrah! Use that tauntingly and you'll have cause to rue it. I'm disposed to treat for possession of the Agile, but not to be taunted with my evil fortune.'

'Say na mair. I ha na wish to taunt ye, an' still less to see you suffer for want ye couldna avoid. Just fill awa' for an hour or sae. Ye ken 'twill be only natural-like to see the Agile in chase o' the Witch, an' will prove a feather in your cap when ye least expect it; besides it's only necessary to the safety o' your character, which it wad be like to suffer if boats were seen to pass between us.

'Thank you for the suggestion, sir. I did not look for so much generosity in a smuggler—but I trust I shall live to convince you that my failings, whatever they be, do not include ingratitude in their number!' And bowing low, the lieutenant leaped from the rail to the main deck, while a minute later the yacht' bows fell off towards the French coast, and her sails being trimmed to the breeze, she bounded along at a dashing rate, closely followed by the cutter.

We stood in towards the land for nearly two hours, when, being fairly within the jurisdiction of France, Captain Greaves signalled the yacht to come to, and hauling aft the cutter's foresheet, ordered the boats to be lowered, and every preparation made for instant departure.

Lieutenant Davis adopted the same measures on board the yacht, and leaving one boat's crew to retain possession until we gained a footing on her deck, embarked with the remainder of his men, and shoved off at the same instant that we deserted the cutter, leaving her in possession of those in whose charge we had found her. As the boats drew near each other, each commander issued the order to unrow, when Lieutenant Davis said:

'I cannot part with you, captain—smuggler though you are—without expressing my deep sense of the obligation you have laid me under. You have saved me my rank in the service, sir, a favor for which I am deeply grateful, while I can only regret that the wide mile difference in our vocations interposes such an insurmountable barrier to any return of your part. You are aware that all our future intercourse, on this element must be characterized by hostility; therefore I beg of you to believe, that should we meet in private life you will not find me forgetful.'

'No doubt, as doubt, lieutenant. I kenned ye was chasing us', and therefore had an eye to the market. As you remark, we maun be on the opposite sides of these waters, still that fact need not prevent us from being friends for one of the few occasions, when we can meet and service Sugar, and then only as to smuggle them in, and the revenue officers.

'I assure thee we are mistaken in thy calling, if thou art not a good one, and if we should meet, I will be sure to give thee a good word.'

'Fortune favorite you, an' mistake fa' the calling you may be for fra the mouth

for naething wad pain me sae mickle as to to raise my hand against ony I esteem sae highly. As for the obligation you are p eased to mention, it's naething. The Agile served me weel while I retained her, therefore we're square. Keep your ain secret, sir, an' ye need na fear that I'll betray it. 'Twad only add to my reputation in a way I wadna fancy. Gude een to ye, and a pleasant passage back to England.'

'And to you, whithersoever bound, I shall not soon forget you, sir, or the lesson you have taught me. Fargwell.' And bowing low, Lieutenant Davis made a signal to his men to resume their oars, when the boats separated, Captain Greaves remarking to his mate:

'A braw laddie, Andrew—a verra braw chiel indeed, is Lieutenant Davis. Mair's the pity he's only a revenue shark.'

The mate nodded an affirmative but said nothing, while the old man gave himself up to a pleasant reverie, the nature of which he betrayed ere we reached the yacht, where the old man dismissed the keepers with a full bumper, and ordering the sails to be trimmed, went below to shape a course for Brest, which was our destination.

In conclusion I would add—all attempts to keep the secret of exchange proved vain. Not many months elapsed ere it became generally known—but not before Lieut. Davis—who doubtless apprehended some such event—had applied for an appointment to a frigate on foreign service, while his former command—the Agile—was known by the sobriquet of "*The Smuggling Cutter*," so long as I remained on the coast.

THE END.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., DEC. 20, 1864.

Mr. Coursol's Decision and Gen. Dix's 'Order.'

The Government and people of Canada have been most unpleasantly aroused from their dreams of perfect security by the precipitate action of Mr. Justice Coursol, and the consequent threatening 'order' fulminated by the equally hasty General Dix. That Mr. Coursol acted with unpardonable haste we firmly believe. Very little elevated above the position of a stipendary magistrate, he took upon himself to decide upon a point of law in a manner which any man possessing a single grain of common sense might have known would at once endanger the peaceful relations subsisting between our Government and the United States. He may have been sincere, indeed we cannot believe for a moment that he conspired with Lamothe, the chief of police, to dismiss the raiders for a handful of greenbacks, but we do blame him severely, because, knowing that his decision might and would, in all human probability, plunge his country into a desperate war, he did not think it worth while to appeal to the judgment of the Law Officers of the Crown, whose decision upon the point of law involved would have been carefully considered. However determined Canadians may be to preserve their British institutions at all hazards, they cannot afford to fight with a doubt hanging over their heads as to whether the war is one of their own bringing on. We are not one of those who think that the recognized law of the land should be warped out of either fear or favor, but we have a right to ask, in the name of all we hold worth living for, that the interpretation of those laws be left to men whose heads have grown hoary in the study of jurisprudence, and whose ability is as great as their characters are above the breath of suspicion. The haste of General Dix was equally unpardonable. He had no right to infer from Coursol's decision that the act was deliberate and sanctioned throughout by the Canadian people. He must have been aware that the Canadian Government were bending every energy to prevent the organization of raids on the border, and yet by virtue of the brief authority vested in him he saw fit to issue an order, which subsequent events prove to have been without the sanction of the Executive at Washington, as the following dispatch amply shows:

"*Headquarters, Department of the East, New York, Dec. 17.*

General Order No. 100—The President of the United States having disapproved of that portion of department general order No. 97, current series, which instructs all military commanders on the frontier in certain cases therein specified, to cross the boundary line between the United States and Canada and directs pursuit into neutral territory. The said instructions is hereby revoked. In case, therefore, of any future marauding expeditions into our territory from Canada, military commanders on the frontier will report to these headquarters for orders before crossing the boundary line in pursuit of the guilty parties.

By command of Major-Gen. Dix.
Official.
D. T. VANBUREN, Col. and A.A.G.
CHAS. O. JOLINE, Maj. and A.D.C."

It is a matter for great thankfulness that, however freely Canadians have availed themselves of the British privilege of untrammeled criticism, they have by no *act*, public or private, endeavored to take advantage of the distractions beyond the border to injure the Americans in any shape or form. Not a single Canadian, that we have heard of, has been found guilty or even suspected of organizing raids upon American towns or American Commerce. In this respect we can positively assert that our neutrality has been preserved even more completely unquestioned than by the people of Britain itself, whence the Proclamation of Neutrality issued. We have all along given this course our cordial approval, because we have believed it to be based upon a principal of right and justice. For the future we advocate every lawful step that wisdom can suggest in order to prevent the abuse of our hospitality, on the part of refugees from the United States, which is a duty incumbent on us as a professedly civilized people, and which is in strict accordance with the lofty principle of doing, not as we have been done by, but as we would wish to be done by under similar circumstances. But while we are perfectly willing to go thus far, we by no means wish it to be understood that we are willing to go the length of the blatant organs who pride themselves on being infinitely more American than the Americans themselves. While we, as a people, feel that we owe much to the law of nations, let us by no means forget that we also owe something to our own sense of self-respect.

BALLOTING THE MILITIA.

The following order has been issued by His Excellency the Governor General.—Although the coincidence is somewhat startling, we believe the order has not been immediately prompted by the excitement consequent upon the release of the St. Albans raiders, and the subsequent order of Gen. Dix, but is intended to carry out the Act 27th Vic. It does not follow that when the ballot is completed the men will be called out for training, but we shall not be surprised if the two events follow each other pretty closely.—The total number of men raised by the ballot will be 50,000:—

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is pleased, in pursuance of 27th Victoria, chapter 2, sections 22 and 23, to order the organization of a service battalion or service battalions from the several regiments of militia of this Province undermentioned, and that the ballot shall be taken on Friday, the 30th day of December instant, in manner provided by law, for the purpose of organizing such service battalion or battalions respectively, according to the proportion of men to be furnished for each such battalion from each township, city, town, or incorporated village. Regimental Division of Brant, one battalion; Bruce, one; Carleton, two; Dundas, one; Elgin, one; Essex, one; Frontenac, two, Glengarry, one; Grenville, one; Grey, two; Haldimand, one; Halton, one; Hastings, two; Huron, two; Kent, one; Lambton, one; Lanark, one; Leeds, two; Lennox and Addington, one; Lincoln, one; Middlesex, three; Norfolk, one; Northumberland, two; Ontario, two; Oxford, two; Peel, one; Perth, two; Peterboro', one; Prescott and Russell, one; Prince Edward, one; Renfrew, one; Simcoe, two; Stormont, one; Victoria, one; Waterloo, one; Welland, one; Wellington, two; Wentworth, two; York, five; in all fifty-eight battalions.

THE MAYORALTY NOMINATION

J. V. DETLOR, ESQ., ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.

The nomination for the Mayoralty of the Town of Goderich took place in the Town Hall on Monday the 19th instant, according to announcement.

Mr. James Thomson, Town Clerk, acted as Returning Officer.

The hour of ten o'clock having arrived, the returning officer stated the object of the meeting, and called for nominations.

W. M. White, Esq., after wishing the large audience the compliments of the season, nominated Mr. W. G. Smith as a fit and proper person to represent the Town of Goderich as Mayor for the coming year.

John Longworth, Esq., said as no other person came forward to second the nomination he had much pleasure in doing so himself.

Mr. Smith said, with the consent of his mover and seconder, he would beg to retire from the contest, providing the explanations of Mr. Detlor on the Market Question proved satisfactory.

Messrs. White and Longworth signified their willingness to withdraw the nomination if Mr. Smith desired it.

Robt. Gibbons, Esq., said he had much pleasure in nominating his worthy friend Mr Detlor, as a gentleman fully qualified to act as their chief magistrate for the year 1865.

Robt. Runciman, Esq., had great pleasure in again seconding Mr Gibbons' motion.

Mr Ross said that as the hour allowed for nominations was fast expiring, he, and he had no doubt many others, would be glad to hear Mr Detlor's views upon the question which had agitated the minds of the ratepayers for the past few months.

Mr Detlor said he had supposed that he was sufficiently explicit in his written response to the requisition that had been forwarded to him. He wished to state as distinctly as possible that if the Market Question came up again he would be governed by the decision of a majority of the ratepayers of the town. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Ross.—In case the question is submitted to the people, how would you use your influence?

Mr Detlor.—As your representative I would use no influence in favor of it, but as an elector I should reserve my right to act as I pleased. If elected, I shall, as mayor, represent your views, and if anything is carried contrary to your wishes I shall resign my seat, but as an elector I will be free. (Applause.)

The questions, from Messrs. Wm Kay, Ross and others, and the replies, mingled with expressions from outsiders, fell so thick and fast that it was impossible for even short hand to follow them all, but the gist of it all was a strong reiteration on the part of Mr Detlor of the answer at first given, with the addition that if the question came to a tie at the Council Board he would vote in the negative.

Mr Gibbons said there was not the least probability of the question ever coming to a tie, if, indeed, it ever came up again at all.

In answer to a question from Mr D. Kerr, Mr. Gibbons said if a By-Law of the kind alluded to came to a tie on the popular vote he did not think the decision would lie with the Mayor at all, but with the returning-officer!

In reply to questions as to how he would vote as a simple elector if the question should come up, Mr Detlor said he denied the right of any one to question him upon what he considered his right, as a man and a British subject, to his private judgment. He would repeat, however, that as their representative he would use no influence in favor of the measure.

Mr Crabb, in rising to propose a candidate, went into an explanation of the benefits the town would derive from the purchase of his property. He thought both in common law and chancery he could compel the town to stick to the bargain that had been consummated by the seal of the corporation. It did not rest with Mr Detlor or with them to say whether the buildings should be purchased but with him (Mr Crabb) (Laughter and applause.) He would now propose Mr Lefroy as a fit and proper person for Mayor, on account of the great interest he took in the market question. (Laughter.)

Mr Lefroy declined the honor.

Mr Detlor's explanations not being deemed sufficiently explicit, Mr Lefroy moved and Mr Johnston seconded the nomination of D. McDougall.

Mr Gibbons said it was not showing much respect to Mr Smith, who had been brought before the people by requisition. It looked very much as if he had been made a cats-paw of.

Mr Smith repudiated Mr Gibbons' sympathy, and spoke of the combination entered into by certain parties to run in Mr Detlor. Between the assessor and Messrs. VanEvery and Rumball, Detlor, Cameron, &c., a great many new votes had been manufactured during the year. A Mr Smith had got a lot away on the South boundary, and so on. This was all, no doubt, intended to influence the election.

Mr Charles Robertson here jumped up and said if Mr Smith meant that his vote had been manufactured he wished to inform him that he was a ratepayer of the town and just as good a voter as he (Mr, Smith) was! (Laughter.)

Mr Smith, after the confusion had subsided, went on to say that if the electors present were satisfied with Mr Detlor's explanation, he was also.

Mr A. Smith remarked that at the close of the election last year Mr Detlor said he would never come out for municipal honors again. He did not consider, therefore that he was acting an honorable part in coming out as he was doing that day. He (Mr D.) was thereby telling a public lie! [The speaker was here interrupted by such vociferous marks of disapprobation that we lost his concluding remarks.]

Mr Detlor then came forward and said that after the learned and gentlemanly—*very* learned and *very* gentlemanly—manner in which Mr Smith had alluded to him, it could hardly be expected that he would devote much attention to him. The spirit in which he spoke was derogatory to that of a gentleman and directly contrary to that of a neighbor. But, if every man of refinement and respectability had to have his name put up as a target for such men, the day would surely come when they would be deterred from offering themselves for any position of trust or responsibility. It was supposed by the statesmen who gave us our municipal system that they were conferring a boon upon us, but they had all seen in too many instances how it had been abused, and in consequence of that abuse of power right-thinking men were frequently deterred from accepting the honors offered them. When the Hon. Mr Cauchon was offered the Mayoralty of Quebec, what did he say? His answer was, "No, I will have nothing to do with it while there is so much license on the part of the people." He even said he would advocate that that power be revoked and vested in Commissioners. They had even gone so far as to circulate a report that he (Mr D.) had made an assignment and was likely to break down, but he was happy to inform them that the man who started that rumor would fail in attaining his object. (Cheers.) He was too strong to be injured in his credit by such petty calumnies as that. (Applause.) It had been said that there was a combination for the purpose of carrying the Market Question through his election, but upon this point he wished to say a few words. He did intend last year to retire from municipal life altogether, and when he was asked this fall to stand for the Mayoralty, he had urged every argument against his doing so, but when he saw the requisition sent to him, signed so largely and respectably as it was, he felt it a public duty to comply with the request that he should allow himself to be put in nomination. There was, however, no combination, no pledge, either directly or indirectly, as to how his actions should be governed! [Cheers.]

Mr Ross here interrupted to say that the declaration just made completely satisfied him. [Hear, hear.]

Mr Detlor went on to say that great changes were being made, constitutionally and otherwise, and it behoved them to do all in their power to advance the interests of the town of Goderich. [Cheers.] Let all envy and malice be thrown aside, and let every one do what he could to sustain the business men of the town and thus contribute to the general prosperity.—[Applause.] If he was placed in the Mayor's chair he could assure them that he would put forth his best efforts to sustain the interests of the town. In conclusion, Mr Detlor urged the electors to send men to the council board of practical ability and sound judgment, and, having wished all the compliments of the season, resumed his seat.

Messrs. Lefroy and Johnston expressed themselves satisfied with the explanation that had incidentally dropped from Mr Detlor, and, therefore, withdraw their nomination of Dr McDougall. [Applause.]

After some further conversation of a pacific nature,

The returning officer declared John V. Detlor, Esq., Mayor of Goderich for the year 1865.

The announcement was received with three ringing cheers, and after three more for the Queen the audience dispersed in very fair humor, all things considered.

THE RECENT FIRE.

As near as can be ascertained the loss of property caused by the fire on Monday night is about $50,000. At first it was rumored that Mr. Grace was fully insured, but it now seems that his store building, the bank building (which belonged to him) and his stock were only insured for $18,000, which could hardly cover the complete loss of all, at the lowest estimate. Messrs. Story & Davis had altogether, on building and stock, an insurance of $1800, and their loss will be fully as great as at first estimated. The building belonging to Mr. Blake was insured for $800, so that the owner will not suffer much, if any. We should have mentioned in our hurried article of Tuesday that a barn in the rear of the consumed block, belonging to Mr. Andrew Donogh, caught fire and was only saved from complete destruction by the utmost exertion on the part of the firemen and others. A large quantity of furniture, &c., was moved out of Mr. Donogh's hotel, in the full expectation that no earthly power could save it. Indeed, if the barn had been destroyed, it is difficult to see how the remaining buildings on the corner could have escaped.

We understand that the furniture in the Bank of Montreal was insured.

After the fire it was found impossible to open Mr. Grace's safe by ordinary means, and a telegram was despatched for a man from the establishment of the manufacturer (Taylor, of Toronto) to come up for that purpose. Mr. Taylor came up himself, last night, and after the safe was opened the contents were found to be uninjured.

It was Mr. J. R. Black, not *Jonathan* Black, who escaped by means of a ladder.

We may derive several useful lessons from the late disastrous fire. It teaches us, in the first place, the folly of having a costly fire engine so much exposed to the cold as to be frozen up at the very moment when it may be required. The cost of keeping up a fire in the Engine shed would be a mere trifle, and we trust that immediate steps will be taken to remedy that evil. We can hardly think the Town Council would refuse a small grant for the purpose, if application were made. Several other precautions are necessary, such as having the key of the building and all requisite tools where they can be found at a moments warning. Again, it would, in our opinion, be a vast acquisition if the town had at the Firemen's Hall a few good, serviceable hooks and ladders. We have hardly ever seen a fire in Goderich where a frantic search has not been made for a long ladder. Now, if it were known exactly where one could be had much trouble and perhaps a good deal of property might be saved. A few stout hooks in willing hands would also be the means of materially assisting in staying the progress of a conflagration.

The town is greatly in want of an alarm bell. No regular alarm was given on Monday night, and the consequence was that people not more than three hundred yards distant slept it out entirely oblivious of the fact that a number of their fellow-citizens were struggling manfully with the devouring element, and few indeed of those who reside in distant parts of the town knew until next morning of the terrible visitation. These are a few of the thoughts naturally suggested by our affliction.—Others, however, will occur to the minds of our readers, and we earnestly hope that every precautionary measure possible will be taken against a recurrence of such a scene as we have passed through.

COUNTY COURT AND QUARTER SESSIONS.

B. U. C. *vs.* Boyce *et al.*—Verdict for plaintiff, $193.46.

B. U. C. *vs.* Veal.—Verdict for plaintiff, $338.21.

Bush *vs.* Gunn.—Verdict for plff. $2.00.

Clement *vs.* Budd.—Verdict for plaintiff, $120 50.

Archibald *vs.* Gunn.—Verdict for plaintiff, $160.94.

VanEvery *vs.* Murray.—Verdict for plff., $100.

Sinclair *vs.* Hobbs.—Verdict for plff. $131.35.

McKay *vs* McDonald,—This was an action brought to recover the amount of an account. It was alleged that the deft. had got possession of the note given by him for the amount and destroyed it. The evidence offered to prove the claim, in the absence of the note, was of a peculiar character. There was a letter put in written by the deft. which, though obviously framed for the purpose of evading an admission indirectly proved indebtness. Two accounts were put in each of which a single entry had been made by deft. and his son. For the defence the deft's son was put in the box. He swore that the account had been overpaid by over $100. The jury however rejected his testimony, and found a verdict for the full amount claimed. The case was managed with manifest ability on both sides, Mr. Ross of Kincardine, for the plff, and Mr. Cameron for the defence.

Mr. Ross, by the way, made his first appearance at our County Court, and was received with much favor. We wish him every success.

The remaining civil business was not of a particularly interesting character.

The Queen *vs.* Benj. Coombs.—Assault. This was a case growing out of the late election excitement in Bruce. The simple facts are that on the last day of the Legislative Council election, Mr. Coombs met Mr. Geo. Sturgeon in Kincardine, and a conversation into which they entered led on from one thing to another until Coombs struck Sturgeon. Hence the present suit and a great deal of cost inflicted upon the counties to settle an affair that should not have gone beyond the jurisdiction of the local magistrates. Verdict, guilty of common assault. Mr. Sinclair for deft. Mr. Ross counsel for Mr. Sturgeon.

The Queen *vs.* James Duffy, larceny. The prisoner, a lad of about 14 years of age, pleaded guilty on two indictments.—He lived somewhere near Kincardine.

The Queen *vs.* Donald Kippen, horse-stealing. This is the alleged case of stealing horses from Mr. Colthard, of the township of Bruce, the particulars of which have been published in our columns. From the very peculiar way in which the case was gone into, it would encroach too much upon our space to report the evidence in full, but it is only just to the prisoner to state that the able counsel engaged on his behalf—Messrs. W. Rook, of London, and J. S. Sinclair and H. Macdermott of Goderich—contrived most ingeniously to make it appear from the complicated business transactions which have passed between Kippen and Colthard that the former had at least a *shadow* of excuse for taking the horses. The jury evidently took this view of it, for they brought in a verdict of "guilty, with a *strong* recommendation to mercy."

The Queen *vs.* Colin James.—This was a case of sheepstealing. The prisoner was accused of having stolen a lamb in the month of June last, and a ram in the month of July following, from one Robt Ross of the Township of Grey. Verdict, guilty of attempting to steal a ram in the month of July last.

The Queen *vs.* Noble Kells.—This is this watch-stealing case, the particulars of which were published in our columns a week or two ago. Verdict guilty.

The following sentences were passed on Saturday at 3 o'clock:—

James Duffy.—14 days in gaol and five years in the Reformatory Prison.

Donald Kippen.—Before the sentence was passed in this case, the County Attorney said that some of Kippen's neighbors had spoken to him regarding the excellent character the prisoner had borne previous to this affair, and taking all the circumstances into consideration he felt warranted in asking the bench to to pass the lightest possible sentence compatible with the ends of justice. Mr. McDermott also, on behalf of the prisoner, said the whole case was such as to leave the way open for a very light sentence. One fact, he said, must be apparent to all, viz: that Kippen was in such a state of health that he could not possibly endure a lengthened incarceration in Gaol or Penitentiary. The sentence was therefore limited to three months in the common gaol without labor. We believe every one who heard the evidence heartily concurred in the sentiments expressed by the Court and the prisoner's counsel.

Noble Kells, for stealing a watch was sentenced to six months in gaol, three of which to be at hard labor.

The following is the Grand Jury's

PRESENTMENT.—The Grand Jury presented as follows: They have examined the gaol and found the rooms clean and everything connected with them in good order, except privies, which we find in a filthy state for want of proper draining, and the cellar for want of a proper drain has from three to four inches of water in it. They would recommend that the lunatics confined in the gaol be sent to the asylum, and the boy Duffy be sent to the Reformatory Prison for the whole period allowed by the Statute.

The Sessions Board removed Daniel Moran from the constabulary and appointed James Beatty in his stead.

The following gentlemen were appointed Gaol Inspectors, viz; Robert Gibbons, Hugh Johnston, S. Pollock and H Horton, Esqs.

The Court adjourned until Tuesday, the 27th inst., for the purpose of drafting juries for 1865.

STARTLING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

The *Leader* of Thursday says:—"The most important news which has come from the Federal States since the war commenced will be found in our columns this morning. On the morrow after the release of the St. Alban's raiders, in accordance with the law, we receive intelligence of three movements of great importance to British America which have been made at Washington. Gen. Dix issues an order in pursuance of which Southern raiders from our border are, if they escape back, to be followed into Canada; the Senate votes $1,000,000 to place six revenue cutters—in reality gunboats—on the lakes, and a resolution has passed one branch of Congress, the House of Representatives, by a very large majority, calling on the President to give the requisite notice to terminate the Reciprocity Treaty, but not without an appended provision that measures may be taken to reconstruct the treaty on a new basis.

The coincidence of all this news reaching us on a single day is not perhaps so ominous as might, at first glance appear. The order of General Dix was, of course, founded on the release of the St. Alban's raiders; but the building of the revenue cutters was a foregone conclusion, even before the notice to terminate the arrangement with England restricting armaments on the lakes, had been given. And the resolution about the Reciprocity Treaty was passed before the decision in the case of the St. Alban's raiders was known at Washington, and the day before it had been given. This resolution reaches us by mail, the telegraph to the Toronto papers having unaccountably omitted all notice of it. Nevertheless, these movements are ominous, and some of them seem to point to a possible rupture between the United States and England. The order of General Dix has the appearance of a rash act; but we are not prepared to say that in no possible case would it be justifiable for a belligerent power to follow raiders into neutral territory.—Every country is expected to preserve the neutrality of its soil; and one of the penalties of the infraction of this rule is that the country which neglects or is too weak to perform this duty is liable to be the battle ground of other belligerents. But it is clear that the power claimed by General Dix, if it may be exercised at all should only be resorted to in case of the clearest and most extreme necessity. American precedents would not justify the order. There is reason for the utmost vigilance on the part of our Government to prevent raids being organized here against a nation with whom we are at peace; and we trust that it will not be found wanting in this duty. The raids from the States on Canada, during the rebellion in the latter country were numerous; and England actually apologized for the only act of retaliation to which she ever resorted—the destruction of the steamer Caroline."

The St. Alban's Raid.

The prisoners discharged from custody—The case without the jurisdiction of the Court.

From the *Leader's* telegram dated Montreal, 10th, we learn the following interesting particulars:—"To-day the time granted to the prisoners charged with being implicated in the St. Alban's raid, to enable them to procure evidence from Richmond, Va., expired, and they appeared in the Court of Sessions attended by their counsel. Mr. Justice Coursol presided, and there was a number of spectators in the court.

Mr. Justice Coursol delivered a lengthy judgment in the case, of which the following is a synopsis. He said that objection had been taken to the jurisdiction of the court on the ground that the Imperial statute passed to implement the extradition treaty with the United States was liable to be suspended in a colony of the Crown only when such colony passed a law regulating the procedure to be taken within its limits, and then only by proclamation of Her Majesty in her Privy Council; that when this colony passed the act, 12th Victaria, cap. 19, a proclamation was issued suspending the operation in Canada of the Imperial act as long as the 12th Victoria should remain in force, but no longer; that the 24th Victoria repealed the material clauses of the 12th Victoria, by means of which the proclamation ceased to have effect as suspending the Imperial act; and that, as no such proclamation had been issued with regard to the 24th Victoria, the Imperial act was now really in full force and effect; and as that act required a warrant of the Governor-General to give jurisdiction to a magistrate, which warrant had not been issued in this case, the magistrate had no jurisdiction. He therefore discharged the prisoners from the process of the court.

Latest from Quebec.

QUEBEC, Dec. 14, 1862.

The discharge of the raiders in Montreal yesterday greatly surprised the members of the Government here. The ground on which the discharge was made is pronounced ridiculous. Mr. Coursol held that the Extradition Act of 1861, amending the Act of 1849, is not in force, because it was not proclaimed by the Queen. It did not require to be specially proclaimed. It was asserted to by the Crown in Canada, and an Order in Council was passed in Eng and, expressly approving and recognizing it. It is as much in force as any other law on the statute book. This is one of those stupid blunders which inferior judges fall into when they attempt to be wiser than ther superiors.

The Government can do nothing, except perhaps remove the man who has shown himself so incompetent. New warrants have been issued by a Superior Court Judge for the re-arrest of the raiders. Two or three of them have gone towards Riviere du Loup, but constables are after them. It is hardly possible they can escape, unless into the United States.

As regards frontier difficulties, it is understood that an efficient military force will be sent to the border towns immediately, to put down illegal demonstrations from this side.

Messrs. Macdonald, Cartier, Galt, McDougall, Campbell; Chapais, and Langevin attended the Council meeting to-day, being the only members here.—[Globe.

European News.

PORTLAND, Dec. 17.—The steamship Hibernian, from Liverpool, on the 1st *via* Londonderry on the 2nd inst., arrived at this port this evening. Her dates are five days later than those already received. Earl Russel had replied to the recent manifesto of Confederate Congress, expressing equal friendship for the North and South, deploring the war and pledging England to a strict neutrality. The London Times thinks that Mr. Lincoln will make some attempt to close the war by negotiation. The Federal troops are to be immediately withdrawn from Holstein under a demand from Prussia. A meeting was held at Bristol to celebrate Mr. Lincoln's re election. Cheers were given for Jeff Davis, and Gen. Lee, and groans for Grant, Butler and Lincoln. A rush was then made for the platform and the speakers driven away from it.—The police finally cleared the room. Earl Russell has made the following reply to the despatch of the Confederate commissioners and manifesto of the Southern Congress:—

"FOREIGN OFFICE, Nov. 25, 1864.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have had the honor to receive the copy which you have sent me of the manifesto issued by the Congress of the so called Confederate States of America.—Her Majesty's Government deeply lament the protracted nature of the struggle between the northern and southern States of the formerly united republic of North America.—Great Britain has, since 1783, remained with the exception of a short period connected by friendly relations with both the Northern and Southern States. Since the commencement of the civil war, which broke out in 1861, Her Majesty's government have continued to entertain sentiments of friendship equally for the North and the South. Of the causes of the rupture Her Majesty's government have never presumed to judge. They deplored the commencement of this singuinary struggle, and anxiously look forward to the period of its termination. In the meantime they are convinced that they had best consult the interests of peace, and respect the rights of all parties by observing a strict and important neutrality. Such neutrality Her Majesty has faithfully maintained and will continue to maintain. I request you gentlemen to accept, &c.

(Signed) "RUSSELL.

"To J. Slidel, Esq., J. Mason, Esq., J. H. A. Dudley Mann, Esq."

The London *Times* fears that Earl Russell's letter will find no favor either with the North or South. 1st. He snubbs the Confederates, they are only "so called" Confederate States, and have yet to establish their appellation. This, too, is a compliment to the Union States, but then follows a counter snub to the United States. They are the formerly "United Republic" but to say they were formerly united, is to imply they are now disunited and to acknowledge, therefore, the existence of the Confederate States.

Earl Russell seems to be in danger of forgetting that neutral, does not mean both; therefore strict neutrality, it is necessary, to avoid any demonstration of friendship of either belligerents.

Money was in increased demand, and the discount market active, at 6½ to 7 per cent. The funds showed considerable depression.—Consols on the 30th further declined ¼ per cent. There was continued foreign export. Saltherthwaites circular reports market inactive for American securities of fluctuating rates according to the gold quotations from New York.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—A Vienna despatch of Thursday noon says, the mediation of Austria being accepted, there is no longer danger of a collision between the Prussians and federals in Holstein and Lunenburg.

The Times city article says that the demand for discount at the bank yesterday was about the average. In the open market there was an increased inquiry for discount. The ship Great Western has finally quitted Liverpool for New York, taking with her large numbers of the alleged Federal recruits and the agent who engaged them. The law officers of the Crown did not see sufficient ground for legal proceedings. The case of the Rappahannock has been fixed for the 5th of December, before the Queen's bench.—The New York correspondent of the Times does the Americans the justice to say the election was conducted with such good feeling, propriety and order as to be in the highest degree honorable to the American people.—The Times article replies to Mr. Cobden's remarks on the American finances, and justifies its own predictions. Daniel Roberts the artist is dead. The British export returns for October, shew a great falling off, owing to the derangement in monetary affairs The Paris Constitutional has published a strange paragraph, a warning against pirates and corsairs. It is supposed to have reference to the alleged letter of marque, stated to have been granted by Jurauz. The Opinion Nationale attacks the Constitutional for the warning, and taunts it with having upheld the Alabama, Florida, &c. It charges the Constitutional with changing its opinions, now that the French commerce may be jeopardized by similar cruisers.

The market is generally quiet and steady. Wheat rules firmer.

The Fenian Brotherhood

A meeting of the leading members of the Fenian Brotherhood was recently held at Chicago, at which measures for accomplishing the purposes of that organization were the subject of grave deliberation, after full information touching the resources at their disposal was submitted. The plans they have had in view for years past are approaching perfection, and, in the opinion of these gentlemen, the time for striking a decisive blow for Irish independence is near at hand. As a result of these deliberations, a National Fenian Convention is called to meet in this city, January 17, 1865, to which all the circles have been invited to send delegates, and it is estimated that over one thousand will be in attendance. The call for this convention announces that this will be the last general convention to be held in this country—that before the necessity exists for another convention, the fires of liberty will be rekindled upon the altars of Ireland, and Irishmen from all parts of the world returning to right their centuries of wrong. In this there is much significence, and more in the fact that each circle in the United States has been strongly urged to send with their delegates as much money as possible, in order to make a fund of $2,000,000.—*Cincinnati Daily Commercial, Dec. 9, 1864.*

THE AMERICAN WAR.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Richmond Whig of the 14th says we again failed to receive our exchanges from Georgia this morning, and are consequently without details of recent events in the vicinity of Savannah, and between there and Charleston.

As far as we can learn, Sherman's army has intested Savannah; but, beyond the usual skirmishing, no fight has taken place. Gen. Hardee is in command of our troops.

The Richmond Examiner of the 14th says up to yesterday forenoon no fighting had taken place between Sherman's army and the Confederate troops in the defences of Savannah. Gen. Hardee commands the latter.—A cotemporary paper speaks of Savannah as invested. This is not the case. Savannah is no more invested than Richmond, and we have no evidence that it stands in the least danger from assault or siege.

An official despatch of yesterday mentions that Sherman had developed his army near the town, but that does not signify that he will go into trenches. Savannah has a triple line of defences.

The following official report of the great victory achieved yesterday, by Major General Thomas and his gallant army, over the rebel forces under General Hood, in front of Nashville, was received this morning:—

One of the most surprising circumstances connected with the great achievement is the small loss suffered by our troops, evincing, among other things, the admirable skill and