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The failures in Nova Scotia the past year numbered 168. The liabilities were $2,077,-663, the number of failures being 52 more than in the previous year, and the liabilities increased $801,260.

Louis Blanc is quoted by Mr. Yates as saying that in the coming "federation of the world," in the universal republic, two languages would alone remain—French, as the language of literature; and English as the language of commerce.

A Berlin correspondent is trustworthily informed that if the Pope would yield on the question of the nomination of the clergy a *modus vivendi* might be found. The Government inflexibly insists that the Catholic clergy shall receive their education in Germany alone.

Lord Shaftesbury holds that the drinking customs of the people have a good deal to do with the present stagnation of trade, arguing that if the working classes did not spend their money on drink it would go to encourage manufactures and useful industry.

Bismark is hard at work on finance, and is said to be elaborating a scheme of tax reform and a protectionist policy which is to remedy the grave financial condition of Germany. His scheme for a government monopoly of the tobacco trade has been rejected by the Reichstág.

A barometrical bonnet is the latest novelty in Paris. Ladies' head-gear are now trimmed with flowers colored with chloride of cobalt, which assume a dark blue color in dry weather, but turn pink at the approach of rain, thus furnishing their fair wearers with a reliable weather-glass.

Great satisfaction was felt in the American colony of Paris when the prompt payment of the fishery award was made to England. One American, at an expense of more than two hundred dollars, sent a cable despatch to the President requesting him, for the sake of American honor, to pay the award promptly.

The Duke of Connaught has been appointed Colonel *à la suite* of the Third Brandenburg-Ziethan Hussars. This is the famous regiment commanded by Prince Frederick Charles, the Duke of Connaught's future father-in-law, whose name, "Red Prince" is derived from the troopers' scarlet tunics.

It is announced that there will be an international exhibition of sea and river fishing material at Berlin in 1880. The exhibition will contain not less than nine departments. A programme will be sent abroad soon, giving all the necessary particulars to those who may desire to forward exhibits.

The Princess Christine, elder sister of the late Queen Mercedes, whom the European gossips have selected as King Alfonzo's second wife, is described as tall, thin and angular, with a pointed nose of portentous dimensions, but she is also said to be graceful and elegant in carriage and address, accomplished and possessed of strong character.

The late Princess Alice was a woman of fine mind and much literary taste. She was so far free from prejudice that in spite of her serious religious feelings, she had a hearty friendship for David Frederic Strauss, the famous author of "The Life of Jesus." One of his best works, the "The Life of Voltaire," consists of lectures which he read before the Princess and her Court.

The axe which Messrs. Mappin and Webb have been executing for presentation to Mr. Gladstone has just been completed. It is an exact representation of the American axe which the right hon. gentleman is accustomed to use. The blade is composed of solid silver, and is inscribed with the following words:—"Presented to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone by a few admiring friends." The handle is made of ebony.

Commenting on the Victorian deadlock, the *Colonies and India* remarks: The settlement of foreign complications may present more features of interest to the general public, but the end of this Colonial complication would be a matter of much more importance to the hundreds of thousands of Englishmen who have made Victoria their home, and to whom the termination of the present strife would present a new era of prosperity and advancement for one of the foremost of our colonies.

The movement in favor of prohibiting the liquor traffic appears to have eclipsed that in favor of the suppression of the use of tobacco. Yet the amount annually expended on the weed aggregates an enormous sum. In the United States, notwithstanding the hard times, it is estimated that £596,000,000, were paid for alcholic drinks, and no less than $354,000,000 for tobacco. This gives $27 a head for every man, woman and child in the Republic, a significent fact for the philanthropist.

Recently, while a workman was fixing the apparatus necessary for the production of the electric light on the premises of Messrs. Thomas Russell & Son, Piccadilly, London, the plank upon which he was standing suddenly gave way, and he was precipitated first against whole tiers of valuable watches, and finally through the large plate-glass window into the street. An enormous number of watches, valued roughly speaking at £20,000, were scattered on the pavement. The property, however, was secured, and the man, terribly injured, was conveyed to St. George's Hospital.

A revolution in naval architecture may result from the succesful experiments which have been made with the new English iron-clad *Inflexible*. This vessel is constructed on a new design, the old model having been abandoned in favor of an elongated, diamond-shaped figure. On a trial trip a speed of fifteen knots was obtained, and the inventor, Mr. Froude, claims that twenty knots will become an average speed. The subject is receiving considerable attention from the owners of passanger and freight steamers, and it is expected that some experimental vessels of the new class will be constructed.

While four fishermen were off the New Jersey coast, the other day, and hauling in codfish rapidly, they were suddenly surprised to see that their boat, which was 20-feet long and had been secured with a 20-pound anchor, was moving rapidly out to sea. They soon saw that they were in tow with a whale, which had somehow became entangled in the rope and was pulling them along at the rate of 25 miles an hour. The boat was in imminent danger of upsetting, but at last one of the men managed to crawl forward and cut the rope. The whale then made off, leaving a long wake behind him, for he swam very near the surface. So rapid was the boat's motion that the lines, to which were attached pound sinkers, trailed straight out on the surface of the water.

The Rev. H. C. Scurges sends from Biarritz the following account of an heroic act of bravery on the part of two British sailors, at the burning of a ship in the river Adour, at Bayonne:—When the French ship Melanie blew up with 500 barrels of petroleum on board, the captain of the Annabella Clark, lying some eighty yards distant, with an able-bodied seaman named J. McIntosh, at once put off in a small dingy to the rescue of the French crew; and although their boat was enveloped in flames and they themselves were all on fire, they hung on to the main-sheet of the blazing vessel till they had succeeded in rescuing the two men left on board. Both are dreadfully burnt, and their deliverer, John McIntosh, of Ardrossan, Scotland, is so much injured that he now lies in the Bayonne hospital, and in the surgeon's opinion it is doubtful whether he will ever regain the use of his left hand, by which he held on to the rigging of the blazing vessel. No man who wears the Victoria Cross ever earned it for greater bull-dog pluck.

The late Princess Alice.

The malady to which the Princess has succumbed was induced, it is stated, under the following circumstances:—Her Royal Highness, who has been unceasing in her attentions to her husband and children during their illness, had hesitated to inform the Grand Duke of the death of the young Princess, a child to whom he was devotedly attached, until a favourable opportunity should arise. When that opportunity arose she gently told him of the loss they both had sustained; but the shock was too great for Prince Louis to bear, and he fell back upon his couch, overcome by the distressing news. Rushing towards her husband, Princess Alice clasped him in her arms, and kissed him. The lady in attendance remonstrated, but the evil was done. The disease had been communicated to her Royal Highness. The Queen received the news of the death of the Princess with great fortitude, but naturally was much distressed, and her grief was shared in by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Christian. In the middle of the day her Majesty drove through Old Windsor and later on to the mausoleum at Frogmore. All the papers have editorials on the melancholy event. A writer in the *Echo*, however, protests strongly against the exaggerated tone of some of them. He remarks:—"If the people of this country had been asked to name, a fortnight ago, the member of the Royal Family whose death would arouse the widest feeling of sympathy, there can be no doubt, I think, that most men would have named the Princess Alice, Englishmen know, as a rule, very little about the Royal Family, though they hear about it a great deal. In the way of scandal, much is said which has very little foundation in fact; and, as only people of the foolish sort, who will believe anything, care for either kind of gossip, much that is false is believed both to the credit and to the discredit of the Royal Family. But the English people did know that the Princess Alice had shown herself a loving daughter, and a kind and patient sister; they knew that her attendance on her father and on her brother involved risk to her own life; and many believed that her health and strength had been affected by her self-sacrifice. And though, it is true, in private families such devotedness as hers is often met with, yet of neccessity domestic heroism in private circles is less widely known and appreciated than the same quality among Princes. It would not be true, perhaps, to say that the nation loved the second daughter of the Queen; but they loved her virtues. They may be truly said to sorrow for her death; though their sorrow is such as men feel for those they have never known. But I must confess that while I have seen much to show that genuine regret is widely felt for the death of the Princess Alice, I have noted nothing to show that any one has experienced actual personal suffering on account of it. I would ask, then, how far it is worthy of the dignity of the British people that the organs of public opinion should, almost without exception, describe the nation as "distressed beyond measure," "plunged into the profoundest grief," "experiencing the most poignant sorrow." When the degree in which we regret the Princess' death is so worthy of her and of us, why should we be represented as behaving like a nation of hired mourners? Can we not be allowed to sympathize as men and women with the sorrow of the widower and the children, the mother, brothers and sisters of the excellent woman who has just died, without being made ridiculous as a people bowed down by sorrow for one who to nearly all of us is but a name?—*Eng. Paper.*

The Ameer of Cabul.

I first met Shere Ali, the present Ameer of Cabul, in March, 1869. He was then about 50 years of age, of middle stature, with marked aquiline features, and with a fine, soldierly bearing. Shere Ali struck me as a man of remarkably good common sense, and his powers of conversation were very great. During his stay at Peshawur, both on his way to Umballa, and on his return to Cabul, he held daily levees, and spent most of his time in friendly interviews with the European and natives who visited him. In his lengthened conversation with European visitors (with whom he always took tea), he evinced a very correct acquaintance with the leading facts of European history. This was all the more notable because he was unable to read or write, and had acquired his information from conversations with those of his attendants who were able to read; and a special clerk acquainted with English has always been kept at Cabul to translate articles and telegrams from the Indian newspapers. I found he knew much of the history of Napoleon the First, Peter the Great, Alexander, and even Alfred the Great. His favorite character was Napoleon, and on no account would he yield the palm to our Wellington. His sense of humor was very great. "I know I am a savage," he said one day, "but you English were just as bad 300 years ago!" Once, when he was unusually talkative, he said. "How dreadfully afraid you English are of the Russians!" "Not in the least," I replied; "we shall be excellent neighbors some day!" "Ah," he said, "if you were not afraid of the Russians you would not make so much of me." He affected not to be impressed with the beauty of English ladies, and several times remarked as he passed them: "Ah! I see you keep all your pretty women at home!" He frequently expressed his abhorrence of low-necked dresses and short-tailed coats, and said such advances in the scale of civilization were contrary to his religion, for they were forbidden by the prophet! He professed to be a devout and pious Moslem, but numerous empty bottles told of frequent departure, from the strict injunctions of his religion and when at Jalander, where he was received in the most friendly manner by Sir D. Forsyth he did not hesitate to suggest that cherry brandy was much more suited to his taste when served in tumblers than in small liquor glasses. The Ameer's youngest son, Abdullah Jan, was with him, and appeared to be a youth of some promise—he was then about twelve years of age. He could read and write Persian, and was then learning English. The Ameer often spoke of his eldest son, Yaccoob, in terms of admiration, and told me he was a very fair English scholar and a fine soldier. The Ameer generally spoke Persian, but to the Afghan villager and hill-men he spoke Pushtu; he could also make himself understood in Hindustani, and could give the military words of command in English. He has had the reputation of being an author, for a book against Wahhabyism bears his name, but it was written by a Moulvie in the name of the Ameer of Cabul. He always seemed much interested in the manner and customs of the English people, and conversed for hours on subjects connected with our national and domestic life. When in India, he bought up all the second-hand uniforms of European officers he could lay his hands on, for the use of his staff, and he also purchased rather an extensive English wardrobe for himself. He said the European dress was the dress for soldiers, and the Oriental dress for women and priests. When asked by Lork Mayo how he liked the dress of the Highland regiment, he said it was "terrific," but "was it decent?"—*London Ex*

Prohibition principles are carried out in Connecticut as strictly as the most rigid advocate of total abstinence could desire. Recently in Norwich, in that State, two children were poisoned with aconite, and for a long time their lives trembled in the balance because no druggist could be found to sell brandy for an antidote. At length an apothecary was discovered, who, after being promised indemnification for any proceedings that should be taken against him, consented to "take the responsibility." It is well for him that he acted as cautiously as he did, for he has been served with notice of prosecution for his humane act. It is just such conduct which ranges intelligent men against teetotalism and hurts the cause of true temperance.

BIG SCOTCH LOTTERY SCHEME.—A lottery scheme is being framed for the relief of the unfortunate shareholders of the City of Glasgow Bank. It is thought that by offering prizes of the aggregate value of £3,000,-000 the promoters will be able to procure six million subscribers of £1 each, and the £3,-000,000 accruing thereby to the lottery treasury is to be handed over to the liquidators of the bank in reduction of the bank in reduction of the deficit. Dr. Anderson Kirkwood, an eminent Scotch lawyer, is reported to have consented to draw up a scheme which shall not infringe the law.

A plague has appeared among the Cossacks of Astrachan.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

Dominion Grange.

SIR,—The Fifth Annual Session of the Dominion Grange Patrons of Husbandry, was held in Albert Hall, Toronto, beginning on the 17th inst., and lasted four days. Besides the officers there was present about seventy delegates and quite a number of ladies, wives of delegates.

The Secretary reports 47 Division Granges, with 711 Subordinate Granges, against 635 last year, with a membership of 26,000 against 25,240 last year. He reports the interest in the order as materially on the increase, 20 new Granges have been organised in Nova Scotia during the past year.

Committees were appointed, and made reports on the following subjects:—Foreign lations, Insurance, Temperance, Claims and Grievances, Constitution and Bye Laws, Good of the Order, Commercial Relations, Education, Banking and Loaning, House and Home, Social Entertainment, Ladies duties in the Grange, &c. Some of these subjects drew out quite lengthy discussions. The Dominion Grange, as composed, represented an amount of intelligence and ability of which the farmers of Canada might justly be proud. The Order has not made great progress in New Brunswick, but I believe our farmers need only to become better acquainted with its aims and objects to appreciate and adopt it. The financial benefit the members are to receive from the order should be put forward as one of the least. There are objects far higher and more noble which commend it to our favorable consideration, and which vitally affect the present and future interests of ourselves and children and country. But, Mr. Editor, I do not wish to occupy too much of your space at present, but will, with pleasure, give any further information I can, to any who wish it, either by letter, or addressing public meetings, provided a reasonable notice is given me of time and place.

Yours truly,

LEVERETT ESTABROOKS.

Lower Prince William, Dec. 28, 1878.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 4, 1879.

Settlement of the Province

There is a feeling abroad that something must be done more effectual than has yet been done to advance the settlement of the Province. The "Free Grant Acts" have not been the means of accomplishing as much as was expected. It may be said that the Free Grant Acts offer too much yet do too little. They offer the lands on too easy terms, but do not make them available to settlers. It cannot be too often or too plainly stated that persons proposing to be settlers will not now go into the wilderness to live cut off from all social communication as men of a former time and different temper were content to do. The first condition on which they will consent to occupy lots is that these lots shall be made at least reasonably easy of access. The Goverument offer in vain 100 acre lots far in the rear of actual settlements if there are no means of communication between them, and if those actual settlements do not lie on or near the line of a great river, or a railway.

The experience gained in the course of the formation of the Kincardine and Balmoral Settlements has had, or should have, the effect of impressing on the Government the necessity of having, at least, passable waggon roads constructed through their surveyed lots, before they are disposed of to persons desirous of becoming actual settlers.

What disappointment and discontent, what heartburnings, what discomfort, and what expense would have been saved, if the Government in the first instance had constructed passable roads through the Kincardine and Balmoral Settlements! It is a fact, we believe, that the Government were afterwards compelled to have a road constructed through the Kincardine Settlement, at a cost much greater than they would have been obliged to incur, if they had caused the necessary work to be done before the arrival of the settlers.

But if the Government in any measure for furthering the settlement of the country, carry out the plan that has been repeatedly urged upon them, viz., to make roads through their surveyed blocks, they will probably be compelled to put a value upon the lands, and abandon the policy of giving them away in free grants.

Settlers worth having will willingly pay a moderate price, say $80 for an hundred acre lot upon not too stringent conditions of payment, provided that a passable road is made through the block, that will open on some line of communication with the outside world, with a railway that will bear them from their homes in the woods to the chief towns and cities of the province in the course of a day's travel. Numbers of young men full of energy, for which otherwise, they will be obliged to find scope abroad, would be glad to become actual settlers on such conditions. A class of settlers such as the young men of the country, inured to its climate and ways of living, would be much preferable to the ordinary emigrants who are brought out here at great expense, many of whom probably are town bred and accustomed to sedentary occupations, and who have no conception of the kind of work before them, or little power of adapting themselves thoroughly and heartily to their changed circumstances.

But the question may be asked "where are the best lands for settlement situated." Not certainly in the southwest, in Charlotte, along the line of the St. Andrews railway, where the soil is a by-word for sterility, not in the coal measure region extending from the Grand Lake and along the north shore. Probably all the best lands in King's and Westmoreland and Albert are now taken up. Where then are the desirable lands to be found? In northern Restigouche, on the Bay Chaleurs but principally in York, Carleton, Victoria, and Madawaska. Looking at the valley of the St. John as the most promising field for settlement, which, if New Brunswick is destined to grow, will the chief seat of large populations, and of flourishing cities, towns, and settlements, and knowing that a vast proportion of the best available land is in the hands of the New Brunswick Railway Company one is struck by the want of forethought shown in the legislation which assigned away such immense tracks of country. These blocks cannot always be allowed to stand in the way of settlement. Sooner or later goverment must come to terms with the company, and there is little reason to fear that the company will be unreasonable. They will in all probability be satisfied with a fair price.

This repurchase is a matter that the Government and Legislature will have to face some time or other. When the repurchase is made, it is pretty certain, that the Government will put a value on the lands, and will not dispose of them to intending settlers under a Free Grants Act. They will rather adopt the policy of causing blocks to be surveyed and roads constructed through them, and of imposing a moderate price upon the lots.

The citadel of Quebec is at once to be supplied with Armstrong breech-loading rifled cannon of the largest calibre.

The Afghan War.

The latest news from Afghanistan does not point to an immediate or even early termination of the war. It appears as if only the most favorable reports were allowed to transpire at first. The Ameer, it is now said, fled from Cabul not because he was driven to extremities, but for reasons of strategy, so that he may be able, having still a large force at his command, to make a more effective resistance when the British make an advance in spring. A levy *en masse* on the inhabitants around Candahar to resist the British approach has been made by the Government, and it has been heartily responded to. It does not seem to be known whether Yakoob Kokan who succeeded his father, Shere Ali, in Cabul can be counted upon as an ally of England. In short considerable uncertainity hangs over the situation. The British force carried the two formidable passes with a rush, but, now, that they are at the end of the Kyber Pass, the Alfreedes, a wild hill tribe, are making the pass dangerous, and threatening to interrupt the communication of the British with their base. If the hand of Russia was, or was thought to be, discovered in the events preceding the war, it has not been seen in the movements subsequent to it. At present the tone of the Czar and the cue of the Russian press, (the people do not count,) is pacific and friendly towards England. No one can believe them to be sincere, or that they can have any love for England who has spoiled their victory. Circumstances may force them to assume a friendly tone though they feel it not; and these circumstances may be found in the excessive draught of blood and treasure made by the war against Turkey, and the disturbed internal state of Russia, the symptoms of which are shown by the wide spread of revolutionary doctrines through all ranks, and by the riots of the students of the University of Kieff, and in smaller University Towns, a number of whom have been sent off to that dreadful penal region, Siberia.

Since writing the above on the situation in Afghanistan, the following despatch, dated London, Jan. 1, has been received:—

The Viceroy of India reports that Major Cavagnari has received a friendly letter from Syad Mahomed, chief of the Kunar Valley, announcing his intentions of coming in. The *Times*, in its article on the military situation, says:—"This may be heralded as the forerunner of intelligence already hinted at the districts of Chitral, Swat and Kunar will be incorporated into the Indian Empire. By the occupation of this tract of country an easy and direct road will be opened up from the Punjaub to Yarkand and Kashgar, presenting far fewer difficulties than that now followed by the Central Asian Trading Association, which traverses the high mountain ranges of Cashmere and Ladak, crosses the Karakaram Pass at an altitude of nearly 19-000 feet, and then crossing another range over 16,000 feet in height, decends to Yarkand, which is barely 4,000 feet above the sea level."

The Beet Root Sugar Question.

The Beet Root Sugar question appears really to have taken hold on the minds of some of the farmers of the Province. Some have already volunteered to cultivate a certain quantity of roots. Mr. S. L. Peters of Otonabog, one of our most enterprising agriculturists, and Secretory of the Provincial Farmers' League, writes to the *Daily Telegraph* (Jan. 2nd,) and in course of his letter says:—

"I have grown the sugar beets to a limited extent, and found them very easily cultivated; and I know of no more suitable soil for their cultivation in this Province than the alluvial deposits in the valley of the St. John. Should the enterprise be fairly started, you will find the parishes of Sheffield and Maugerville carrying off the palm. In order that the matter may prove a success a complete understanding should be had and concert of action secured, and to secure this, allow me to propose that the matter be discussed at the annual meeting of the Provincial Farmers League of New Brunswick, which will meet in Central Queens, on Wednesday the 5th day of February next. As this association is composed of leading farmers from the various counties of the Province, who meet for the especial object of discussing all matters relating to the agricultural interests of the country, it would seem a fitting place to decide what could be done in the matter."

There is nothing to prevent the farmers of New Brunswick, from growing a sufficient quantity of sugar beets to keep a factory in continual work. The experiment has been fairly successful in Maine—it only failed being a complete success owing to the short supply of the necessary roots, a want, now that the attention of farmers in Maine have been drawn to the matter, will probably be remedied. If the experiment of establishing a Beet Root Sugar Factory can be successfully carried out there, there is no reason why it should not be equally successful in New Brunswick, for the chief condition, a soil favorable to the culture of the sugar beet, is the same.

Santa Claus.

There was a merry time in the large room of the Reform Club last Saturday night. The children of the Ladies' School assembled between six and seven, all eager expectation for what was coming, every eye was fixed on a large Christmas tree, and it was rumoured that old Santa Claus was going to visit them in person and distribute his gifts among them. After a preliminary exhibition of songs from the whole school, and recitations of pieces in poetry and prose by several of the girls and boys, the tapers on the tree were lighted. Soon after old Santa Claus looking frosty but very joval, clad in a white flannel hunting frock and hood, and bearing a big bag on his shoulders tumbled in. The appearance of their strange but kindly visitant, with his gruff voice and asthmatic cough, was hailed with peals of laughter. The old fellow made them a characteristic temperance speech, and then proceeded to distribute his gifts; the bag was soon emptied and the tree soon unladen. The older visitors present appeared to enjoy the scene almost as well as the young people, and these latter will remember last Saturday as long they retain their pledge, or the printed pledge neatly framed, which each received as one of their Christmas gifts.

If late telegraphic despatches were correcct, Moncusi, who attempted to assassinate the King of Spain, was executed at Madrid this morning. The King, it was said, was reluctant to sign the death warrant, but would not interfere with the final decision of his responsible ministers, who would not yield to the great intercessions made by the wife of Moncassi, strengthened by a petition signed by two thousand persons. But is it not a King's prerogatiue to extend pardon, and in this case, it would have been an act of right regal mercy in King Alphonso to have exercised it. Merry, Shakespeare says, "becomes the monarch better than his crown."

FATHER CHINIQUY.—The famous Father Chiniquy is now at the antipodes, and has created quite a furore. He spoke at Sydney, Australia, and a local paper says:—

Long before seven o'clock a tremendous crowd had collected round the iron entrance gates, and when these were at last thrown open the great multitude surged into the building, filling the body of the Hall and the galleries in a moment. There were over two thousand in the Hall; but thousands more went away, as they could not obtain either sitting or standing room.

Hon. Mr. Tilley and Temperance.

The reception that Hon. Mr. Tilley met with from the temperance people of Ottawa, of all shades of political opinion, on his return from England, was most complimentary and cordial. In the address presented to the honorable gentleman, the following passage occurred:—

Your efforts at legislation in the cause of temperance, your eloquent public addresses and above all your noble and lofty example while occupying the honorable and exalted position of Lieutenant-Governor of your native Province have been admired and approved by all who have from time to time been interested in our common cause throughout the world. We rejoice to know that at Fredericton, where the salutary influence of Government House has more immediately been felt, your course has been signally endorsed, inasmuch as that city is the first municipality in which the Temperance Act of 1878 has been adopted For this wise and excellent enactment are we indebted to the late Government, whose courtesy and zeal in the preparation and energy and tact in so successfully carrying it through Parliament, demand from the temperance community a lasting and grateful remembrance.

The address proceeded to forshadow an agitation for prohibition.

In the course of his verbal reply Mr. Tilley answered the passage quoted above.

With reference to the legislation in his native Province mentioned in the address, he performed merely a duty that he owed to his country. He then referred to the Prohibition bill which was introduced in the New Brunswick Legislature in 1855 and the part he had taken in it, and said he was compelled here to admit that the Government had then legislated in advance of public sentiment, and instead of advancing the cause it had in a measure impeded it. He counselled the temperance people in whatever they did, not to act precipitately but in accordance with public opinion, to first ascertain that they had the sympathy of the people, and then they would be enabled to carry out the legislation. Referring to the act passed last session, he said he would have given his support to the measure introduced by Hon. Mr. Scott, for that act recognized the necessity of first submitting the question to the people, and before putting it in operation. And having secured their moral support, the cause would go on progressing step by step to final triumph. (Applause.) In submitting the present act they should select localities whose public sentiment was ripe for it, and in this way the cause would be benefitted and not retarded. (Hear, hear.) Respecting the reference made to the course, he had pursued all Government House, New Brunswick, in the administration of social affairs he had seen a frank recognition of his action in all parts of the country. (Applause.) Had he taken any other course after having been a pledged abstainer for years he asked if he could have expected the esteem of either his friends or his opponents. (General applause.) But outside of personal benefits he decided to act on principle, and no matter who the man was, if he acted on principle he would command a general respect. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Tilley though an ardent and a most honored and distinguished temperance man, is still a cool and experienced politician, and Finance Minister to boot. He possibly thinks that having carried the Permissive Bill, his friends should wait and see how extensively, and how well, it will work throughout the Dominion, before passing a much more stringent measure which would, if carried, affect the revenue most materially and disarrange the finances of the Dominion.

In his "Notes of a Tour in America," Mr. Hussey Vivian, M. P., says:—"So far as I am able to judge, America promises every principal mineral except tin, in great abundance. Her coal fields are gigantic. The quality appeared to me to be excellent, and the price at which it is sold to the Pittsburg works proves that it is cheaply got. There are in fact few parts of England where coal of a like quality can be procured at this moment at so cheap a rate. The cost and quality of coal is the basis of almost every manufacturing industry, and I cannot see, therefore, what is to prevent America from becoming not only entirely self-supporting in all branches of manufacture, but also a largely exporting country, if only frail men will leave nature's laws to have their free sway. America possesses iron ores of the finest steel making qualities and in vast abundance. That she will ever again depend on England for iron or steel seems to me impossible."

MR. EASTTY'S READINGS.—Mr. Eastty who is an accomplished and pleasing reader, gave a select entertainment in the Queen Hotel parlour, on New Year's Eve, at which were present, Chief Justice Allen, Judge and Mrs. Wetmore, Col. Saunders, Byron Winslow, Esq. and lady, F. H. H. Straton, Esq. and lady, J. H. Phair and lady, A. F. Street, A. G. Blair, T. O'Connor, H. R. Devereaux, Esquires, and a number of other ladies and gentlemen. The readings comprised selections from Dickens, Tennyson, Mark Twain and other popular authors, and were received with a great deal of quiet enthusiasm. Mr Eastty, though suffering at the time from neulargic pains, acquitted himself admirably. He leaves for Woodstock next week, and will return the week following to Fredericton in order to fill engagements with one or two local societies. We hope that when he re-appears here again he will be met by a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Eastty leaves on the 27th Jan. for New York where he has an engagement.

CONTEMPLATED PURCHASE OF PALESTINE BY THE JEWS.—The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* states as a fact "that a syndicate has been formed which has for its sole object the purchase of Palestine from the Turkish Government, and its restoraation to the Jews in some form. He gives no names but vouches for the confidence with which the secretary, who is a well-known man, but not a member of the Jewish race or religion, regards the future success of the scheme; and his experience of the world and knowledge of men are too immense to be ignored." This is but a revival of the rumor that was floated two or three years ago, and all that can be said is, that it is not impossible that the Jews may be restored to their long lost land by purchase, but if the restoration is brought about in that way, the scriptures will be fulfilled in an extraordinary manner.

Statistics of the amount of forest land in Europe have recently been collected. The proportion of land covered with forests is 29 per cent., of which Russia and Sweden furnish the greatest proportion. Russia has 40 per cent. of her territory covered with woods and forests. Of this, some 200,000,-000 acres are said to be covered with pines and other cone-bearing trees atone, without counting oaks, maples, beech, poplar and hornbean, none of which is scarce below the latitude of 52 deg., and birch, which grows still further north. Sweden and Norway come next with 34 per cent. of forest land, principally birch, maple, pine, fir and willow; Austria has 20 per cent., Hungary being remarkable for its fine oaks: Germany has 26 per cent. and France 17. Far below these in proportion of forest land comes Spain; with its cork woods and evergreen oak forests, covering 7 per cent. of the land, and Holland and Belgium, with the same proportion of territory covered with trees more familiar to us in England. Portugal comes next with 5 per cent.; and Great Britain treads close upon its heels with 4 per cent.; inverness, Aberdeen, Berks, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Fermanagh being the best wooded localities; and Denmark closes the list with 3 per cent., chiefly covered with birch; ash, alder and oak also exists in some quantity, but pine and fir are scarce.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

Sport by the Electric Light.

Last year a good deal was said about the electric light. Many experiments were made as to its illuminating power. Games of foot ball and base ball were played at night which was made as clear as day by its so potent power. Billingsgate Market, London, when evening set in, was turned by it, into a brilliant scene, only, unfortunately, the shadows fell on the fish stalls where light was most needed. But the strangest use of the electric light was made on a Lancashire moor one night. where a party of sportmen met to shoot the grouse. The unusal light frightened the birds, and they fell an easy prey to the guns of the sportsmen. The sport turned to slaughter, and degenerated into ruthless butchery. It is to be hoped that such a scene as is described in the following extract from an English paper will never occur again:

The other day a novel application of the electric light was made by a Bradford gentleman, who has a well-stocked meor on the border of Lancashire. He invited a number of friends to witness the experiment, and amongst these was a local wealthy gentleman, who has a penchant for scientific inquiry. This gentlemen took with him a peculiar-looking apparatus, in shape something like a barrel-organ, but in reality it was the celebrated Gramme machine, with the Jabiochkoff system in lighting in metallic combination. The party proceeded to their destination by rail, and the apparatus having been transferred to a laudau, the other gentlemen took their seats in carriages, and the moor was reached at about five o'clock in the evening. A portable steam engine of eight horse power, which belonged to a neighboring farmer, and had done duty during the day in connection with a thrashing machine, had been brought up and placed near the gamekeeper's cottage. Before darkness set in a number of beaters had been despatched to the extremeties of the moore, with instructions to converge towards the light on the firing of a gun. The Gramme machine was connection with the steam engine, and the effect was singularly beautiful. The night being fine and clear, the soft, hazy, penetrating light seemed to extend for miles. The party, numbering nine guns, grouped themselves round the Gramme, which had been placed on an elevated platform on a waggon, with the steam engine below. After some delay the signal was given. The party awaited the result with some degree of mistrust, in spite of the confident expression of the leading spirit of the evening, but in fifteen or twenty minutes the success of the experiment showed itself in a most marvellous manner. The grouse, disturbed and aroused by the beaters in the farthest recesses of the moor, made direct for the bright light. The beaters declared that it appeared like complete day, with the remarkable effect, however, that when their eyes had dwelt upon the light for a moment and they looked backwards from the glare, there appeared to be a thick wall behind them, while the verying hues of the moor, in the line of light, were brought out vividly. As the beaters closed in, and the birds flew screaming toward the light, the sporting party found plenty of employment. It was a complete batteu, with the difference that the grouse, although fired at again and again, still returned, as rooks do when they are being decimated by sportsmen, and flew round the light like moths round a candle. Scores of birds had fallen to the guns, but still they came banging up, when one of the party, too impatient to load his gun, seized a stick to give the *coup de grace* to several birds which had dropped on the moor, exhausted but unhurt. The idea was caught up by the others. Each gentleman got a stick, and a most striking spectacle presented itself of nine gentleman and two keepers beating the ground, which appeared to be alive with birds. The beaters, converging to a centre, at last came up, and assisted in killing the birds that had not succumbed to the guns and sticks. The bag amounted to 232 brace of grouse, eleven snipes and partridges, two unfortunate owls, and a large number of smaller birds. This novel utilization of modern science is intended to be produced by other sportsman in the neighbourhood, the scientific owner of the Gramme being pestered by invitations to take the light on to other moors.

The "Mail" on Dickens.

The editor of the Toronto *Mail* grew sentimental last Saturday when recalling the merry Christmas times a quarter of a century ago, and bewailed the "one thing missing" that to many gave a charm to the season and filled them with delight. That one thing missing is "the appearance of a new Christmas story by Charles Dickens." The hair is thin on the top of the head of the writer evidently; he begins to find he is growing old, for instead of looking forward, and taking pleasure in the fiction of the present, he casts retrospective glances to the years of his youth, and to the books which used to delight him; he praises the dead genius and speaks lightly of living authors. He is right about Dickens, though; and some of our readers may be able to sympathise with him, and wish that the Christmas of the present were as jolly as those when the Christmas Carol, the Chimes, "the cricket on the Hearth" appeared, and they were young.

Our literary friends try to make us laugh. But, Oh! my friends, who can laugh, as we used to laugh when the Fat Sister got caught in the corner and that ring was forced on her finger; as we used to laugh when that boy came round the corner with the Christmas turkey—"he never could have stood upon his legs, that bird; they would have snapped off like sticks of sealing-wax" as we used to laugh when Old Fezziwig came dancing down the middle with his bulbous head all rosy with delight, and when he "winked, yes, actually winked, with his "calves!" There is nothing now that we can laugh at as we used to laugh at them. Our friends may try to make us soft and gentle and move us to tears; but, either it is the sophistication of years and work, or some failure of the power of appreciation; there seems to be no pathos now. What could move us now as we used to be moved, when the blind old father was made to believe that he lived in affluence and ease because his daughter was an angel and he had no eyes for the poverty which her pious and pardonable artifice concealed; as we used to be moved when Tiny Tim came home from church with his angelic note of "God bless us every one!"

Vote on the Permissive Bill.

The vote on the Permissive Bill taken in the County of York on Saturday, shows in an aggregate from the 30 polling places, of 1269 for, and 214 against. The largest vote cast for it was in Canterbury, where there are four polling districts. The largest vote against it in Lower Kingsclear. In four polling districts, viz: St. Mary's No. 1 and 3, Dumfries No. 2 and Cantorbury No. 1, no dissenting vote was cast. In Stanley No. 2, and Manners Sutton No. 2, only one dissenting vote in each was thrown. Stanley next to Canterbury cast the largest affirmative vote 141 against 21. This fact suggests a reflection—how will the acceptance of the Permissive Bill affect the Stanley Show? The show itself will probably be improved, but the festive element may be decreased in spirit. Those who have been in Stanley during the Fair,—and the day after the Fair—will conclude that that is no misfortune.

Mr. Leverett Estabrooks gives, in another column, a short review of the proceedings at the late meeting of the Dominion Grange in Toronto, to which he was a delegate. If our farmer friends wish to hear Mr. E.'s views of the purport of the Dominion Grange, and of the advantages to be derived from belonging to it, let them call on him, and ask him to name time and place of meeting. We are certain that he would be delighted to gratify them.

The Legislative Council

There appears to be a rising opinion in Nova Scotia against the continued existence of the Legi-lative Council. The liberal conservative party now in power, have made the extinction of the upper House a plank of their platform. They vote it an expensive and useless Machine, that costs the country $20,000 which might be more profitably spent in schools, on roads and bridge services. The government is supposed to be in accord with the sentiments of the party, and disposed to bring in a measure to give the policy of extinction effect. But the composition of the Upper House rather stands in the way. There are thirteen members in it opposed to the government, who would stand by their house and order against seven supporters and it is suggested that the government increase the total number of members from 20 to 24, which would make the parties stand, 13 to 11. It is thought on a question of the abolishment of the Legislative Council, if the country at large manifested any desire that it should be carried into effect, two or three members would secede from the opposition and join the government ranks. If the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia is abolished, it is not likely that the similar body in New Brunswick would enjoy a prolonged existence.

Socials have been the order of the evening since the beginning of the New Year. Socials among young people whose idea of the perfection of amusement is poetic motion the measured quadrille and rapid whirl of the waltz and galop, to the exhilarating notes of the silver bugles and cornets and trombones; and socials among people of all ages, of more staid character whose notion of enjoyment is a well spread table, and song recitations, and amusing speeches afterwards. The latter sort of social, an "old fashioned tea meeting," was held in the basement of the Methodist Chapel on Thursday night. Judging by the way several speakers jocosely alluded to the bounteous repast provided by the ladies of the church, and their unutterably full and unspeakably happy frame of body and mind, the tea was of the highest order of "high teas." The songs and recitations were of so good an order as to suggest the idea (having remembrance also of the Exhibition and Reform Band Concerts) that Fredericton has so much musical taste, and dramatic talent within itself, and which only wants more frequent opportunities for display, that were the Mendelshon troupe and Barnaby and the wandering stars and minstrels, who occasionally appear in its midst to appear no more, there need not be a lark of fine entertainments. Your clergyman so solemn and earnest in the pulpit unbends wonderfully on a social platform, he is generally full of anecdote, and enjoys a joke and a sly hit at his cloth; and his comfortable appearance is by no means indicative of a sojourner in a vale of tears, a worker in a world of sin and sorrow. But clergymen wisely act on the old Horatian rule, "dulce est despire in loco," and find it good and pleasant to unbend on occasion.

Brother McLeod brother Todd, and brother Johnston, were happy in their deliverances. Brother Brewer made