NEWS ITEMS.

The return of Sir John A. Macdonald for Victoria, B. C., is gazetted.

The latest invention reported in Europe is phosphorescent paper, writing or print on which can be read in the dark.

The Glasgow policeman who arrested Mr. Lewis Potter, one of the City of Glasgow Bank directors, had once been his footman.

Spurgeon will be presented by his congregation with $25,000 on the completion of his 25 years' labor as a Baptist minister, December 31.

At the last lunar eclipse, Roho Sabib, a pious Hindoo, weighed himself and gave his weight in silver coins to the poor. Go thou Hindoo and do likewise.

The Ottawa *Citizen* says Sir A. T. Galt has gone to England to confer with the Imperial Government relatives to opening up trade between Canada and the West Indies.

The Russo-Turkish war has added 70,000,000 roubles—the rouble is nearly 75 cents—to the annual interest on the Russian debt, and inflated the currency by 500,000,000 roubles.

The rumoured elevation of Mr. John Walter, of the London *Times*, to the peerage has gained such consistency that his constituents of Berkshire are looking about for a candidate to fill his seat in Parliament.

Mgr. Dupanloup, late Bishop of Orleans, left by will his heart to the parish of Saint Felix, where he was born, his body to the cathedral of Orleans, and $8,000 to his grandson a son of M. du Boys.

The Princess Mary, aged four, daughter and youngest child of the Grand Duke of Hesse Darmsteadt, died on Saturday of diphtheria. The Grand Duke himself and four more of His children have the disease.

The Athens Archæological Society is about to purchase the houses and huts built on the site of the Temple of Delphi, remove the inhabitants to a distance of half a league and begin researches and investigations.

The *Moniteur* of Bucharest publishes the appointment (a telegram says) is regarded as evidence that the decisions of the Congress upon the Jewish question are being taken into account by the Roumanian Government.

Two interesting burglars have been arrested at Adelaide, Australia, who distributed tracts on Sunday in order to become acquainted with the premises they intended to work, and when captured ate up £300 in £20 notes.

Mrs. Tennyson, the wife of the poet, is, and has long been, an invalid. A great part of the time she reclines on a sofa in her drawing-room, where she receives her guests, and delights all by the wit, grace and cleverness of her talk.

There were 108 murders last year in Switzerland, in a population of less than 3,000,000. Capital punishment has been abolished in that country. There were 397 suicides, a greater proportion than obtains in any other European country.

A navvy who hurled a stone at the wife of the Bishop of Sodor and Man and drew a knife on the Bishop, has been sentenced to three days' imprisonment. The Bishop pleaded for his assailant and left a sovereign to be given to him on his release.

Ten years ago over 1,000,000 acres were devoted to potato culture in Ireland; now only about 840,000 acres are thus employed. The decrease is attributed to the great uncertainty attending the cultivation of the crop, and to new methods of foraging cattle.

England is beginning to receive meat from Southern Russia, and a representative of a German house has invaded Sheffield and is offering scissors and such like goods, serviceable and well finished articles, at from 15 to 40 per cent. below the manufacturers' prices.

There are in London 1,928 architects, 971 surveyors, 5,657 builders, 31,699 carpenters and joiners, 17,983 bricklayers, 853 marble masons, 6,029 masons paviors and 27,719 plumbers, painters and glaziers. The plasterers and paper-hangers probably number 8,000 more.

On the fifth day of the great walk in London, Rowell, who had travelled about three hundred and forty five miles, announced his intention of running fifty miles. He did not do so; but made twenty five miles, walked one lap and then ran eleven miles more; a wonderful performance.

A new map of Cyprus, published by one of the most eminent of British geographers, says that the average temperature of the island is 52·8 degrees centigrade in February and 82 in August; in other words, the winter temperature averages 126¼ degrees Fahrenheit and the summer over 179½.

The Michigan Supreme Court has decided that a married woman who has lent money to a firm, of which her husband is a member, is entitled to recover against the firm, even though the indebtedness was contracted by her husband acting in the firm's name and without the knowledge of his partners.

It is stated by the *Whitehall* that the Russians have ordered their four cruisers at New York to remain in American waters until spring. Several vessels belonging to the Pacific squadron, under orders to proceed home, have also received instructions to remain at Vladivostock for the present.

The Memphis *Appeal* lost during the epidemic a book-keeper, 8 compositors, and 10 men from the press-room, while 16 members of the families of its employees died. The *Avalanche* lost its business manager, 2 editors, 5 compositors, 2 press-men, a porter, and 2 carriers, and the *Ledger* 4 compositors.

The English papers are advocating planting the *Eucalyptus*, or blue gum-tree of Australia, in Cyprus in order to drive away malaria. It not only drains the ground, but also attracts the rain. In Algiers, in the Roman Campagna, in South Africa, and in California, it has been used with much success for these two purposes.

A correspondent of the *Times* writes in connection with the Glasgow Bank failure:—"Probably one of the reforms in the banking system of the day which will be soonest attempted will be a large reduction in the amount of fixed deposits received by any joint-stock bank, or at least a rule limiting it to some fair proportion of the reserve fund."

Notwithstanding the dullness of trade in England, building is particularly active at present in London. Whole streets and quarters are pulled down and replaced by more expensive buildings. At the same time there are more houses, floors and offices to rent than ever. In some portions of the city fully twenty per cent. of the available space seems to be unoccupied.

London *Truth* says. "looking-glasses, or to use a more comprehensive term, mirrors, are very nice and very useful in their proper place, but to line the enterence to a theatre with them on both sides is, if I may use the term, 'blocking.' It took me quite if not more, than fifteen minutes to get from the theatre to the street the other night, simply because in front of me there were ladies, and on each side mirrors."

The British gunboat *Condor* recently went to Bourgas to investigate an alleged outrage on the British Vice Consul. The St. Petersburgh *Golos* has a strongly worded article on the event, which it says constitutes a clear violation of the neutrality of the Black Sea. "English may cut our sea communications at any moment. Does England wish to measure Russia's forbearance? Who is now seaking war?"

Near the shores of Lake Georgre, the Loch Kathrine of America, I saw an oak and a maple so joined that they seem like one tree. I am reminded by this of the old oak of England with its gnarled and twisted root, and the young shoot of America with glorious promise of the future. May the union of the two trees on one root be always typical of the union of America and England.—*Dean Stanley.*

Mr. Gladstone's ideas on Spiritualism are expressed in the following answer to a letter sent him on the subject:—"I do not share or approve the temper of simple contempt with which so many view the phenomena. It is a question, in the first instance, of evidence; it then follows to explain, as far as we can, such facts as may have been established. My own immediate duties prevent my active intervention; and I remain in what may be called contented reserve, without any fear that imposture will rule or that truth can be mischievous."

THE BRITISH NAVY.

It may be confidently asserted that never since the application of steam propulsion to ships of war has the British navy been relatively so strong as at the present time; and yet there are complaints that it is not more powerful. The former fleets of beautiful wooden screw-ships, like these predecessors of the old sailing line-of-battle ship period, and subsequent paddle-wheel steamers, are fast disappearing from the navy list for either fighting or cruising purposes. Numbers of wooden line-of-battle ships and frigates provided with auxiliary steam power, but whose days were passed mainly under canvas, and others that have never made a cruise—indeed that had become antiquated before they were completed—vessels in whose outlines the beauty of architecture may be said to have culminated, are in the same category. In fact, whole squadrons may be seen in the harbours of Portsmouth, Devonport, and other dockyards, some bearing famous names, and "pierced for" from fifty to one hundred and one guns, which are now as useless for purposes of modern warfare as the old paddle-frigates or the fifty-nine sailing-vessels borne on the British navy list. The effective force of the British navy may now be divided into ships for great naval battles, ships for coast defence, and unarmoured cruising vessels. There are so many different types, that it is quite impossible to classify them according to any former standard. The present collective fleet as presented in the navy list consists of nearly four hundred vessels of all kinds. This includes those building, but does not include one hundred and thirty-four laid up or employed in permanent harbour service, which are never likely to be sent to sea. The total tonnage of these four hundred vessels is about 900,000.

The *Daily News* observes in speaking of the Steel Flotilla:—"Our steel flotilla is being rapidly increased. Preparations is being made for building the Constance, a steel corvette to be cased with wood, at Chatham, and five gunboats of the same metal are also ordered to be commenced forthwith. In the meantime the first of the half-dozen steel corvettes built on the Clyde by Messrs. Elder and Co. has come to Portsmouth to receive her armament and prepare for sea, where the Iris, one of the two steel despatch vessels built at Pembroke, has already been for some months past. The Mercury, a sister to the Iris, is still on the stocks at Pembroke, but all the rest of the steel vessels in the first group have been launched. The Constance is to be the same tonnage and power as the Clyde corvettes—namely, 2,238 tons measurements, with engines of 2,300 horse power, and, like these, is designed for a swift unarmoured cruiser. The steel employed is but a fraction of an inch in thickness, and is not intended, therefore, to give the vessels protection from heavy guns, but simply to afford a strong building material, while at the same time permitting the ships to be constructed with very fine lines. Our steel flotilla will now consist of two fine despatch vessels, seven corvettes, and five gunboats. Of the last-named, two will carry but one heavy gun apiece, and the other three will be supplied with four 64-pounders, a very favourite gun with the navy. The corvettes will be but lightly armed, so that their metal will not diminish their speed, and will carry only two armour-piercing guns each, together with broadsides of 64-pounders. The Iris and the Mercury, although more than half as large again as the corvettes, are still to be more lightly armed, for their main quality is to be swiftness, with just a sufficient armament on board wherewith to defend themselves. They will carry nothing heavier than a 64-pounder, while their engines are of exceeding power, 7,000 horses nominal. It is for this reason that the Iris has proved herself so swift a sailer, being, indeed, the fleetest vessel in the navy, with the exception of torpedo launches, her speed at a recent trial having been above twenty-one miles an hour. Our unarmoured steel flotilla will therefore constitute a marked feature of the British navy in the future."

THE BUTTER TRADE IN CANADA.—While Canadian cheese has come up to a high standard, and has got a character as to quality abroad of a valuable kind, our butter is on the whole lamentably otherwise. At this moment, one prominent cause of the business depression in the country is that butter, as to a great extent made and now on hand, is almost unsalable. There must be either a change or ruin, as far as this important interests of the country is concerned. The Morrisburg market system is a good one, and where possible this ought to be adopted. But the indications point strongly in the way of the establishment of butter factories, or creameries as they are called, by which the product will become uniformly of a good character, and be disposed of promptly. There are lots on lots of butter held just now for which there is absolutely, it may be said, no market. Butter costing to or valued at 13c to 16c by holders is really getting down to a market price of, say, 5c to 8c, or 10c at the outside, while for really choice a fair price is obtainable, and such is wanted. The butter trade of Canada is very important, and anything that would improve it would be really for the country's interest largely. Country traders also, as things are, have to meet with special difficulties in this respect. Butter buyers and agents go round the country, picking out in many places from the farmers their choicest butter, and the refuse of stale or inferior is left to pay accounts with the storekeeper. All this wants change, and the country trader here needs real protection.—*Montreal Witness.*

A SINGULAR LIBEL CASE.—The libel case of Prince Borghese *versus* the *Capitale* was tried at Rome and excited much sensation. The court was crowded. The prince, who is very rich and charitable, is head of the committee for managing the great hospital of Santo Spirito. Sisters of mercy or nuns are employed to tend the sick. One of the medical doctors belonging to the hospital aspired to position and induced a young nun to leave the hospital. The *Capitale* newspaper asserted that the nun was carried away from the hospital in Prince Borghese's carriage, and that the prince, and not the doctor, was the real culprit. The nun, according to evidence, was not acquainted even by sight with the prince, and was never inside his carriage. The prince demanded £200 damages, to be given to the hospital funds, and the public prosecutor demanded sentence against the *Capitale* of six months' imprisonment and a fine of £20. Many witnesses were examined to prove what everybody knew, and eloquent harangues were delivered by the lawyers during the two or three days the trial lasted. The prince and the nun were examined, and the doctor would have been examined had he not, very prudently for himself, left Rome. After all the evidence was received the judges took two hours to consider their verdict. They left the prince to seek damages by a civil law suit if he pleased, and condemned the manager of the *Capitale* to a fine of £12 and imprisonment for three months.

And so, the national thanksgiving is waiting for the coming of the new Governor-General. We are to have flunkeyism after all, it appears. Our praises wait for the Marquis and the Princess, so that the religion, or rather the ecclesiastisticism of the Dominion is already paying homage. Throughout the country elaborate preparation is going on for the reception. At Halifax the authorities are quarrelling over it already. Some want to spend a great deal of money, and some are opposed to that; Lieutenant-Governor Archibald invited the illustrious comers to stay at the Government House—but he took the old fashioned method of writing, while Vice-Admiral Sir E. A. Inglefield offered the Admiralty House, by telegraphic message, which last reached the Marquis first, and was accepted. Where the Marquis shall land is another question which those in power find it difficulty to decide; indeed, they cannot decide who is in power in Halifax: At Montreal there will be an address, a general holiday, a torchlight procession, &c. We had better have the day of thanksgiving soon after the arrival of the Princess and her husband, just to remind us that there is a God who feeds the people and Governor Generals.—*Canada Spectator.*

SHERE ALI KEEPS HIMSELF POSTED.—The Ameer of Afghanistan is kept posted in the English movements in India, and arrangements have been made with the Russian Embassy in London for the daily despatch of Indian news to Tashkend. From Tashkend it is telegraphed to Karshi, to which town the Russian military engineers have already carried the wires, and is then conveyed by means of Cabeg or Afghan orderlies to Shere Ali at Cabul. A duplicate is also daily sent to the Czar at Livadia.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 23, 1878.

SETTLEMENT AND RAILWAYS.

There is many a man bound to city life, immersed in business cares, and oppressed by debt who would fain, if he could, rid himself of the thralls by which he tied, and commence life again in the country, on a farm. The wish, perhaps, arises amidst the very thickest press of life, in the noon day glare of the stony city. With most it comes and and vanishes like a dream.

The continued depression of business, with the hopes, long deferred of a revival, sickening into a feeling akin to despair, has a tendency to turn men's thoughts from the uncertainties of the city, to the certainties of the country. The cry is now that every commercial and trading pursuit is overdone, every professional and mechanical calling is overcrowded, that in all branches of manufactures, there is overproduction, but no one says that farming is overdone or that the land is made to yield too much.

If the pressure of hard times continues to be felt here as elsewhere, many will turn to the land for relief. There is much land in this Province fit and waiting for settlement but it will lie wild however hard the times, if it is not made easy of access. Men will not go now, like the pioneers and founders of the Province into the wilderness with a bundle on their back and an axe in their hand, and hew themselves out a home, content and happy in their solitude and sustained by their purpose. Modern settlers must have good roads and railways and easy means of communication with the nearest town, they must feel that they are "in the world and of it."

A great tract of fine settling land lies to the east of Fredericton, but there is little hope of its being settled unless it is made easily accessible. The proposed railway to run from Fredericton across the country to intersect the Intercolonial would do much to open up this fine track. The sooner it is constructed the better it will be for the county of York, Sunbury and Northumberland.

We, last week, stated that the directors of the Miramichi Valley and Central Railways, met in Fredericton to discuss their several projects, and to find a way if possible of harmonizing their plans. We are pleased to hear that they will, in all probability, come to an agreement, to amalgamate their interests in one line.

A railway from Fredericton to New Castle by the Valley of the Miramichi, would run across a fine country all the way, through lands fit for lumbering and settlement. A line by the other, (the central) route, starting from Fredericton, would cross to the coal fields of the Grand Lake, and extend over to Welford on the Intercolonial, and make a detour from the Grand Lake to St. John. There is said to be much poor land in the country between Grand Lake and Welford.

Whatever route the amalgamated companies decide on, it is to be hoped that it will secure the interests of the Province, and aid in opening up much fine land for settlement, and in developing the resources of the country.

THE HOULTON BRANCHES.

The project to build a branch railway from Brancroft on the E. and N. A. Railway to Houlton, with a connection between Houlton by way of the Meduxneug stream and Aroostook and the New Brunswick Railway is still kept in view. We learn from the Woodstook *Times*, that a meeting of the bondholders of the E. and N. A. Railway was held in Bangor recently, at which the following resolution was passed:—

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of the holders of the Land Grant bonds present at this meeting, of the highest importance to all the holders of said bonds, that a Railroad be made as soon as practicable from some point on the E. & N. A. Road near Brancroft or Danforth to connect at Houlton with the New Brunswick road when extended there from Woodstock.

It is said that the contemplated Bancroft branch will pass through Amity and Hodgdon—length of line about thirty miles—that the Company will organise under the charter of the Aroostook Railroad, and that, the Maine Central and Eastern Railway Companies will aid in the enterprise. The *Times* is informed that a contractor has already offered to build and grade the road ready for the rails for $300,000.

PAYMENT OF THE FISHERIES AWARD.—On Thursday, 21st, Minister Welch, according to the press despatch of that date, paid over to the British Government, the Fisheries Award by a draft of $5,500,000. Nothing was said of a protest from Mr. Evarts accompanying it, and it is to be hoped there was none, and will be none, for surely he has pecotested too much already. It is a great pity that any doubt was ever raised that the United States government would refuse to pay the award until the questions involved in the Newfoundland difficulty were settled to their satisfaction. Having consented to leave the valuation of the fishery privileges to arbitration, they should have abided, without a word, by the award of the commission, though they might think the amount excessive as being the paying parties it was to be expected they would. If the mass of the people of a nation ever reflect on the acts of their public men and the language of their publicists, and if they feel as bad over a public false step as individually they do over a private mistake—then the people of the United States must feel somewhat ashamed of Mr. Evart's dispatches and the comments of their press. It is stated that nine million dollars of the Geneva award are still in the United States Treasury after all claims have been paid. If the United States in settling the Fishery award have only paid back part of the surplus they received from England. It can't be said they have done that with a good grace: "like the old Sir Jack Falstaff," they hate that paying back.

The civic elections are already being canvassed, probably because there is nothing else of public interest to talk about. Some say that there will be no opposition to Mr. Gregory, others that Mr. Fenety may be induced to come out again; the temperance party it is said will bring out a candidate, and Mr. A. F. Randolph is the man of their choice. Ald. Dykeman, it is reported entertains an ambition to fill the civic chair, and lastly Mr. Philip Mulligan is accused, but most unjustly, of intending to run for Mayor; if he did enter the race he is perfectly satisfied that he would win, but he has no ambition that way. We shall know something certain in a week or two.

Mr. Stuart Rogers, as will be seen by advertisement, on Tuesday evening, December gives a novel entertainment in the City Hall. As a dramatic elocutionist he has few equals. Assuming, for a few moments, the dress, manners, and facial expressions of the character he represents, he is enabled to bring out and individualize each character with the greatest possible force.

MR. ESTABROOKS EXPLAINS.

Mr. Leverett Estabrooks is very desirous of placing himself right before the constituency of York. The week before last we briefly referred to his speech in the Court House on Nomination Day, in explanation of the causes that influenced him to retire at the general election. He said that he canvassed the county with the purest motives, and with an honest desire to use his abilities in serving the public. Several influences were brought to bear to cause him to retire; false reports were carried to him of the sentiments of the people in the various parishes towards him, with the view to discourage him; a number of prominent men who had encouraged him failed to give him the support they promised; Messrs. Thompson and Colter with whom he had canvassed the County, dropped him after Nomination Day, and made their arrangements without a word of explanation, which to his mind "savoured strongly to a ticket." He further said that he was in possession of facts in connection therewith which he was not then at liberty to divulge, but of which he would speak at some future time. Being himself of opinion that under the circumstances he would get but a small vote he consented to retire. We now leave Mr. Estabrooks to speak for himself.

I have given an explanation of the causes that led me to retire. I accept the responsibility of the act upon my own shoulders, and will answer to the public for whatever wrong I have done, and hope, considering the influences against me and being my first canvass, they will not judge me too severely but look upon the matter as a mistake of the judgment and not an intentional wrong.

In reference to the reports that I had been bought, I have already stated that I did not receive any consideration, and I now stand here to-day and solemnly affirm that I never did by myself or anyone on my behalf, either directly or indirectly, ever receive one dollar for retiring, and I challenge any man to say truthfully that I did. I will offer an inducement. I will give any man one thousand dollars who will give only reasonable proof that I did. And I will also give the same amount to any truthful man who will say that I even offered to retire for a consideration.

The lesson that I have learned and the scourging that I have received will do me good, and if I live and have health, I purpose canvassing this County again, and will give the public an opportunity to condemn me if they wish to. I would like to-day to have the privilege of thanking every man who spoke favorably of me, and who purposed voting for me, and there is a large number of them in the County. I shall always remember them with gratitude, and will take this opportunity of tendering them my hearty thanks.

HALIFAX "RECEPTION."

The one public subject that is engaging the minds of the people of the Dominion, is the coming of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise. The *Sarmatian* may arrive at the mouth of the harbor of Halifax to-day. If it has had at all a favorable passage, it will appear on Sunday at latest; in that case the landing of the Vice-regal pair will take place on Monday.

The authorities and the citizens are making great preparations for the reception, in the way of adorning the streets and public buildings with arches and decorations. The "little city" as a Londoner writing to the Halifax *Reporter* calls, will be as spruce as evergreens can make it, through its streets will pour the living tides: there will be processions by daylight and torchlight for the many and brilliant receptions for the official and fashionable few.

There is one thing troubling, not the civic authorities, but the citizens generally. In the centre of the city there is a delapitated square miscalled "the Grand Parade." The civic authorities and those of Dalhousie College have a dispute over the ownership of it. By all accounts it is a disgrace to the city, "a filth hole," a receptacle for dead dogs and cats, "rats and mice and such small deer," a place of physical and moral pollution. Scores of letters from indignant citizens are written to the Halifax papers, the editors thereof write sarcastic leaders concerning it. It is proposed to cover it up, to plant spruce trees around it, so that it shall not offend the Vice-regal eyes, and put to shame the loyal citizens of Halifax. One correspondent suggests that all the young men in the city, volunteers, members of base-ball, cricketing and rowing clubs, all who have any muscle or any sense of civic decorum should turn out with spades and all necessary implements, and level and fill up, and enclose the said "Grand Parade." Of course, nothing worth speaking about will be done.

It is strange, but that Grand Parade has been an eyesore for years. Yet it has only been loudly denounced as a nuisance, since the commencement of the preparations for the reception. Then the pride of the citizens took alarm, they feel ashamed that such a plague spot should mar the appearance of the city, and destroy in its route the effect of the decorations.

Should not the citizens of Fredericton take a lesson in time. There is something like a "grand parade" in the midst of the city, we do not mean to say that it is so bad as the grand parade of Halifax is said to be. A commencement of the clearing away of the nuisance has been made, by the removal of the broken advertising board, of the old buildings near the stone barracks; there is much yet to be done near that locality, and old lower wharf. The Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise will probably make the tour of the Maritime Provinces next summer, they will visit the capital of New Brunswick, and its citizens and dwellers will be anxious about its appearance on that conspicious occasion. The effect that its great natural beauties will have on the distinguished pair should not be marred by any evidence of neglect or decay. If taken in hand in time a great deal could be done to beautify the city at little cost and not great trouble.

A FIND IN THE WOODS.—Six weeks ago, it does not matter about the exact date, Mr. Bradford Winslow of the Board of Works Department, with gun and dog and a young companion, went into the woods in rear of the farm of Captain Charles Rainsford, Kingsclear, to have a day's sport. No drumming disturbed the stillness of the woods, the partridges were close and shy. Tired with making his way over windfalls and through the entanglements of boughs, he and his young friend sat down beneath a large yellow birch. Soon after a large insect came buzzing about their ears, and after gyrating above their heads disappeared among the boughs. Mr. W. supposing it was a hornet, and that there was a nest somewhere up there; commenced shieing stones, presently, at this rude assailment of their "byke" some "angry bees" flew out with fyke," and one of them stung his companion. Satisfied that there was a swarm in the birch and as the bees are busy insects, and improve every shining hour, that they would have something to show for their labor, he marked the tree, and on reaching the farm made known his discovery. Last week the old yellow birch was felled to the ground, and seven feet up the trunk, a wild bees nest was found in a large cavity. Four pail-full of honey, sweet as that of Hybla, were extracted from it. It was not after all a bad day's sport.

WAR.—War with Afghanistan has come sooner than was anticipated. The committee in Afghan affairs presided over by Lord Lawrence failed to procure a favorable answer to their request for an early meeting of Parliament and a full discussion of the question before war measures were decided on. Sheere Ali who has grimly preserved his scornful silence, and has rejected the last message from the Imperial government, and the opportunity of conciliation and the adjustment of all difficulties has now to face an invasion. The 20th being like last day of grave to the circler, the British troops crossed the frontier the day after. The British invading force is said to number 35,000 with a large proportion of guns, it is divided into three columns under the command of Gen. Haines.

The dispatches of 21st say that when the advance of the British column from Shul crossed the frontier, the Afghans hastily evacuated Fort Kapion or Kapyanga, and hurridly retired. The cold is said to be intense, and there is much sickness in the regiments. But first dispatches from the seat of war shouldd be received with an allowance; they will likely be meagre as well as unreliable. if the military authorities, as it is stated they have done, stop all telegrams detailing the movements or disposition of troops.

THE WEATHER.—The weather must considerably non plus the weather prophets. Venor is at a discount; he prophesied the setting in of winter early in November, with much snow, and great cold from the commencement, but here we are at the end of the second last week of November, with air mild enough for spring and soft enough for summer. We suppose we are now having that uncertain season called Indian summer, but a fittle more sun and less rain and mud, would enable us to realize it better.

In anticipation of the early closing of the river, which last week appeared likely, all the wood craft have disappeared, and the regular steamers have ceased running. The "May Queen," and "Soulanges" made their final up river trip to Fredericton for the season last Saturday, arriving here on Sunday, and are now laid up in St. John. Prematurely as it has turned out and inconveniently for the merchants of the city, as there is still much freight to be brought here, and taken from hence. The "Star" of the Washademoak route, is now plying between St. John and Fredericton.

According to the latest despatches, a British force penetrated the Kyber Pass and attacked Eort Ali Musjed, and were received by a brisk fire from the defenders. 300 of the British are reported "hors du combat."

BLIND TOM.

The lovers of music, that is, everyone (for he that hath no music in his soul is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils), and there is none such in this community, have a great treat in store for them. Blind Tom, that musical prodigy (as will be seen by the advertisement,) will give some of his famous entertainments in the City Hall, next Wednesday. Everyone who was present, some years ago, in the Temperance Hall, will remember, with delight, the masterly performances of "the Messia and unpolished giant who has opened up a new road in art by the force of his character."

Blind Tom is the futher of American piano playing, many eminent players, List, Dohler, DeMeyer, &c. in Europe, Gottschalk and others in America have acquired fame by following the great Shadrey, but Blind Tom "brought the method of nature from the pristine plantation and established his own school. The secret of Blind Tom's success, as a public performer is his unmistakable force, his varied powers, which charm the most scientific amateurs, and all those whose chief delight in music is the tinngling of the nerves and the awakening of the fancy it excites. Blind Tom writes the science of the most accomplished artist with the "nerve" swing, rollicking humor of a bunjoist and "Christie" Minstrel. We are sure that he will draw crowded audiences.

READINGS.—It will be seen by the advertisement in another column, that Mr. W. E. Easty of London, England, will give a series of Readings in the City Hall, next week. Mr. E. has read before crowded and delighted audiences in the principal cities of the United States and the Dominion. The delineation of Dickens is his specialty,—in that role he is unsurpassed. The press everywhere, where he has read, speak in the highest praise of his pathos, humor and versatility. We hope that the City Hall will be crowded next Monday and Tuesday evenings to hear this accomplished reader.

REMEMBER TO-NIGHT.—To-night Miss Cayyan and Miss Wiley give their long expected entertainment in the City Hall. If the charms of reading, and music, and of reader and musician will not attract a crowded audience, then Fredericton is a hopeless field for art and beauty.

Saturday's *Official Gazette* contained the appointments of Capt. John Stewart and Lieut. F. F. E. Gaudeau as officers of a new cavalry troop to be known as the Dragoon Guards. The principal duties of the crops will be to form an escort on all state occasions, and for that purpose Capt. Stewart, in making up his roll, was very careful to select men fit, in every way, for the position. All the men selected are good horsemen, some have served in the Northwest Mounted Police, others have been in the best troops of the Dominion, while a number have distinguished themselves by carrying off some of the best cups offered in our local steeplechase races. Sergeant Maguire, late of the 13th Hussars, has been appointed Drill Instructor, and the annual drill will be entered upon in a few days. It is to be expected that the corps starting under such favorable auspices, and with such experienced officers at its head, will soon attain a rank that will make it a credit to the Dominion.

The uniform will be that of the 6th Dragoon Guards, viz.: silver helmet, (white plume), blue uniform, (white facings), white gauntlets, white cross belts, long boots and swan neck spurs.

It is understood that an escort will be in readiness for the arrival of His Excellency the Governor General, and on that occasion, as the helmets, &c., will not have been received from England, they will wear the 13th Hussar busbies. Dr. Arthur O. F. Coleman has been appointed Veterinary Surgeon of the corps, and is now busy inspecting the horses. Dr. Coleman's connection with the troop will be a guarantee that the horses will be up to the standard required for troop service. Captain Stewart has received application from over eighty men for admission to the corps, and from this number could select fully sixty men owning their own horses and suitable for troop service.

GOOD FOR MCKENZIE.—David was taken from following the eyes to shepherd a kingdom. Cincinnatus was drawn from the plough to save Rome. Sandy MacKenzie came down from the roof of a house to reform and regenerate Canadan politics. It is not known whether he went back to finish the chimney he was building when invited to address a political meeting on one of the burning questions of 1861. Probably he did; as he did not stay to remove his apron, but tucked it round him, in workman fashion while he spoke. Later on, it may be, he made a solemn holocaust of square and level, of plum-bob and trowel. However, this may have been, it is clear from his after career that he never forgot how to climb a ladder. In the glory of free municipal institutions that they form a training school for statesmen. The town-council leads up to the county-council, and that to the Local Legislature, and that to the Federal Parliament. With his foot on the lower rounds, Mackenzie never stopped till he reached the top.

THE CLASSICAL CHAIR.—The Senate of the University will meet on Tuesday, in order to appoint a Classical Professor. We understand that several applications have been sent in, not only from natives of the Province, resident and non-resident, graduates of the University of New Brunswick, but from gentlemen outside the Province who have taken their degrees in Oxford or Trinity College, Dublin. It is to be hoped, that the Senate will make a good and fit choice, and will not be swayed by local or sectarian claims, in appointing the occupant of the soon to be vacated classical chair; that the gentleman chosen will be of ripe scholarship, who will be able to devote all his energies to his classes, and who is likely to become a permanent resident. It is important, in the interests of the University, that a good appointment should be made to the classical chair. There are now fifty matriculated students on its rolls, the largest number regularly entered since the institution on the hill was a College or University. It would improve the standing of the University if a gentleman of a high and acknowledged classical attainments was chosen.

DECLARATION DAY.—Last Monday was Declaration Day, though few in Fredericton appeared to be aware of the fact. Sheriff Temple read the returns from the several parishes, the totals are as follows:—

Blair 1643, Thompson 1483, Dow 256, Hanson 30.

The members elect returned thanks for the honor conferred on them. The members non elect did not put in an appearance. A vote of thanks was given to the Sheriff, and so ended this ruffle, on the face of local politics.

TELEPHONING.—Mr. Byrne, of the Western Union Telegraph, has a neat telephone fixed up in his operating office from which a wire extends to a similar instrument in Government House. By striking an alarm on one or other of the instruments, attention can be called in the telegraph office or in Government House, and a conversation can be carried on by the parties speaking through the mouthpieces and by their disjoining the very delicate acoustic machine affixed to the telephones and holding them up to their ears, messages are very distinctly heard.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.—We hear that Mrs. Thomas Segee, an elderly lady, whose place of dwelling is a house in the upper part of King Street, left her house Friday evening 15th inst, and has not since been seen or heard of. Search has been made by her friends (who naturally feel very anxious) in the city and up the country, but they have found no clue to put them in the way of discovering where she is hidden or what has become of her.

THE MODEL WAREHOUSE.—Intending purchasers of Four, Meal, Fish, Molasses, Tea &c, would do well to pay a visit the Model Warehouse, where they will find one of the largest importations of the above goods to be found in the city, As Mr. Hodge imports direct and in large quantities, his prices will be found to be as low as any other house in the Province, Read his advertisements.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Last Thursday, the 21st, set apart as "Thanksgiving Day," for the bounteous harvest, and all the mercies vouchsafed the land during the last year, was duely observed. There were services in the churches; most of the stores were closed, but no incident marked the day.

SOCIAL CLUB.—Last Tuesday evening there was a very pleasant and successful social meeting in the Temperance Hall. There were over fifty couples on the floor, and everything went "trippingly" to the harmonous impulse given by the band of the 71st Battalion.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.—A grand musical entertainment under the auspices of the St. Dunstan Temperance Society will be given next Friday evening in St. Dunstan's Hall. We have no doubt but that it will be well patronised.

We are requested to announce that there will be a meeting of the Reform Club Ministrel Troupe on Tuesday evening next 26th inst., at the Band Room of the Club.

STORM.—There was a very heavy rain storm last night. At Halifax great damage was done to reception decorations which are yet in an incomplete state.

The gas still continues bad and many of our merchants are using lamps in their stores.

EARL DUFFERIN'S ORATIONS.—The New York *World* says, a collection of Lord Dufferin's Canadian Speeches carefully and intelligently made, would be a popular book on both sides of the Atlantic. Mr. George Stewart Jr.'s book on "The Earl of Dufferin's Administration in Canada," published by the Rose-Belford Publishing Company, Toronto, will have a full collection, carefully revised by Lord Dufferin himself. The book will be issued very soon after His Excellency's departure, and will contain his farewell address. A few first class Agents wanted.

THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.—Mr. T. Normand, Secretary to Colonel McLeod of the North-West Mounted Police, is in the city. He had a tedious trip from Fort Walsh. It took him thirty-two days to make the journey. He passed through "Sitting Bull's" camp about three week ago and reports everything peaceful and the very best of feeling existing between the old man and the Mounted Police. He says "Sitting Bull's" braves are less troublesome than any other tribe now in Canadian territories. Colonel McLeod will arrive at the Capital in the course of a few days, and will remain until the spring, when it is likely he will take about one hundred recruits with him.

AFGHANISTAN.—The correspondent of an Indian paper says:—"The condition of a campaign in Afghanistan would vary considerably according to the point at which operations were aimed. Cabul is 6,400 feet, Ghazni 7,800 feet, Candahar 3,500 feet, and Herat 2,500 feet above the sea level. Cabul is bitterly cold from December to March, and the country around covered with snow, so as an advance against Cabul itself would hardly be made, at all events beyond Jellalabad, before this spring. The Khoorum rout for some distance is fairly well known to us, and an advance for some distance might be made under the same conditions as an advance from Peshawur by the Khyber. From the end of February or March to December the climate of the northern part of Afghanistan is perfect: the sun is hot, but always tempered by a cool breeze, and the nights are cold. In the southern and western parts of the country the climate is much hotter, and from May to August the heat in great. Very little rain falls. A house built by our political agent at Quettah in 1841, of sundried kacha bricks was still standing roofless, in October, 1876, with only a foot or two washed off from the top of the wall. In spite of the heat, however, campaigning may be undertaken at any time of the year. The principle difficulties would be commissariat and carriage. The country is very poor, sparsely inhabited, and sparsely cultivated. Very little more food is grown than the inhabitants require. Little or no grass for forage would be procurable; all the horses of the country are fed on barley and bhoosa, with occasionally a little dry lucerne, and the cattle on bhoosa only. What our artillery and English cavalry horses would make of bhoosa can only be guessed, but they certainly would not thrive on it. The horses of the Sind Horse and the 4th Punjaub Cavalry fell off greatly in condition after some months of feeding in Beloochistan."

NEW RIVER MURDER.

The trial of Thomas Dowd and Mrs. Ward for the murder of Thomas Ward that was held in St. Andrews, came to a close last Tuesday. The prisoners had no counsel, and the evidence against them was altogether circumstantial, but the facts elecited in the course of the cross examination of the witnesses appeared to the jury to fasten the crime so closely upon them, that after twenty minutes retirement in their room they brought in an unanimous verdict of *guilty* into court. Judge Weldon passed sentence of death on the unhappy criminals who were terribly affected, and who protested their innocence. The execution of the sentence will be carried out on Tuesday, 14th day of January.

If the prisoners had an able counsel to defend them, the trial would have been prolonged, but the result would have been the same. The murder of Ward by Thomas Dowd, the paramour of the old man's faithless wife, Eliza Ward, is a worse crime in the circumstances that long proceeded it than the murder of McCarthy, but it has not seized hold on the public mind like the latter case. The crime was committed in a secluded part of the country, its perpetrators and their victims, were obscure, there was nothing sensational in the manner of the murder or in the testimony. The facts brought out at the trial, disclosed a very bad and miserable state of affairs in old Thomas Ward's household, which comprised his wife, a comparatively young woman and not bearing a good character, two daughters, one of them grown up, and two boarders, Thomas Dowd and one McCarthy. The house they lived in was an old hostelry fallen into decay, and the demons of lust, jealousy and discord had possession. There was bitter bad blood between Ward and Dowd, on account of Mrs. Ward. The old man in his wrath turned his daughter and her seducer, McCarthy, out of doors. Two days after, that is on September 9th, he rose early and visited a neighbour named Mulherrin, on his return he did not stay long in the house, but taking a scythe with him, went to mow on a meadow a mile distant. He was never seen alive again. On the 21st of September, his body much decayed and partially devoured by wild animals, but recognisable, was found in a gully at some distance from the meadow. His skull was broken in two places. The blows that broke the skull, it was found, had been inflicted by an axe with a square pole. Dowd had just such an axe, which he tried to dispose of after the 9th, "a grey hair still stuck to the head" of Dowd's axe when taken, of the same color as the hair of the murdered man, and spots of blood were discovered on Dowd's trowsers. There was proved to be a close understanding between Mrs. Ward and Dowd. The fact that she took no steps to search for her missing husband, and that she told a number of inconsistent stories to account for his disappearance or absence betrayed a guilty knowledge of his fate. Such is the gist of