

PASSING EVENTS.

WAR and religious persecution are the two greatest evils with which man has contrived to afflict his fellow-man, and for a few days past there appeared to be some reason to fear that this country was about to be afflicted by the former. To a slight extent the taste of its bitterness has been felt, and it is greatly to be regretted that the lives of some of our volunteer soldiers have to be mourned; but the triumph which has just been achieved, could not be expected without casualties. It is impossible to judge of the strength or purpose of the Fenian invaders, but in the position they are now placed, they have to do something immediately, or retire into utter insignificance in the future. They have broken the laws and defied the power of the United States Government, by attacking a neighboring colony of peace-love and unoffending people, who never had anything to do with the affairs of Ireland; and in making the territory of the United States the base of their operations, they have treated that country with contempt by disregarding its interests, and the consequences of their acts, which might involve it in a foreign war; and they are now between two fires, outlaws before all civilized nations, representing no country nor nationality, and no shade of justice or patriotism.

Mercantile transactions have been restricted by the great excitement which has existed the past week.

The European news by the last steamers reports Continental affairs unchanged. They are in that uncertain condition where a change must result in open hostility or peaceful negotiation. Judging from the limited information at hand, appearances look more on the side of peace. As regards the belligerent attitude of Italy, it amounts to not much, if all the other powers be for peace.

The state of the London money market shows no improvement. The failure of the Bank of London has further added to the derangement. This was a very important institution, next, in extent, to the Bank of Westminster. The accounts kept in it were chiefly those of merchants, and were heavier than those of Westminster Bank. The suspension must produce serious consequences in the business circles of London. The financial condition of Europe is affecting the market for breadstuffs and other produce, as well as general merchandise and cotton goods. Gold in New York is advancing rapidly, and the general appearance of business affairs in all quarters is quite unfavorable. Happily, the effect cannot extend to Canada in a degree to be seriously felt; and if the Fenian drama had ended, trade would assume a more vigorous tone.

There is an old saying, that a man has to go from home to hear the news of his locality. The New York and Boston papers state that the Grand Trunk Railway Company have purchased all the steamers of Messrs. Allan's line, and they comment on the good reasons for the operation with apparent authority. This is like a great deal of other information. A very large discount has to be taken off the general news of the world, and one feels at times very like using the expression of Burchell, in the Vicar of Wakefield, in reading most of the news of the day.

THE ELECTION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE election now going on in New Brunswick will probably decide the success or failure of Confederation for the present. A great change appears to have taken place in the sentiments of the people of this Province on the subject of a union of the Colonies since the election in the beginning of 1865. The Hon. Mr. Johnson, Attorney-General in Mr. Tilley's Government, and a delegate to the Quebec Conference, defeated in 1865, is now returned for Northumberland by a large majority over Mr. Hutchison, a gentleman possessing great local influence, who displaced Mr. Johnson in 1865 and entered Mr. Smith's Government. Mr. Fisher, another of the Quebec delegates, has been elected for York, winning back his seat, made vacant by the appointment of Mr. Allen to the office of judge.

The result of the York elections, as far as heard from, show the return of four Confederate candidates by very large majorities. Messrs. Fisher, Dow, Thompson and Beckwith are elected by majorities nearly two to one over their opponents, Messrs. Frazer and Meahan. Mr. Hathway and Mr. Brown retiring before the wave of popular feeling in favor of Confederation. Thus it appears New Brunswick may be counted as pretty certain for Confederation.

The following table, in juxtaposition, will show the

results of the last general election, and the present as far as gone:—

(a stands for anti-confederate, and c for confederate in the subjoined lists; del for delegate to Quebec conference.)

1865	1866
John C. Allen, a	Fisher, c, del
Geo. L. Hathway, a	Dow, c
John J. Fraser, a	Thompson, c
Wm. H. Needham, a	Beckwith, c
St. John (Co.)	
John W. Cudlip, a	
Robert D. Wilmut, a	
Joseph Coram, a	
Timothy W. Anglin, a	
St. John (City).	
Andrew R. Wetmore, a	
Jacob V. Troop, a	
Westmoreland.	
Albert J. Smith, a	
Amand Lindsay, a	
Bliss Rotsford, a	
Wm. J. Gilbert, a	
Kent.	
William S. Cate, a	
Leetock P. W. Desbrisay, a	
Glooucester.	
John Meahan, a	
Robert Young, a	
King's.	
Edward A. Vail, a	
Walter B. Scovill, a	
George Oddy, a	
Charlotte.	
George F. Hill, a	
James Boyd, a	
Arthur H. Gilmour, Jr., a	
Robert Thompson, a	
Sunderbury.	
John Glasier, c	
William A. Perley, c	
Northumberland.	
Edward Williston, c	Hon. E. Williston, c
Richard Hutchison, a	George Kerr, c
George Kerr, c	Richard Sutton, c
Richard Sutton, c	Hon. J. M. Johnson, c, del
Queen's.	
Joseph B. Perkins, a	
Gideon D. Bailey, a	
Restigouche.	
John McMillan, c	J. McMillan, c
Alexander C. Desbrisay, c	A. C. Desbrisay, c
Albert.	
A. R. McClellan, c	McClellan, c
John Lewis, c	Lewis, c
Carleton.	
William Lindsay, c	Lindsay, c
Charles Connell, c	Connell, c
Victoria.	
John Costigan, a	
Benjamin Beveridge, c	

The above returns show the standing of the Parliament at the end of the elections for 1865 to be 29 Anties and 12 Confederates.

As it now stands, there are 24 anti members and 17 Confederate—reducing the majority from 17 to 7. If, therefore, four more changes are secured by the Confederates, they will have a majority of one.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

WAS engaged on the 18th of May in discussing the Reciprocity question. The matter was brought up by Mr. Watkins, who is well known in Canada, and who complained strongly against the British Government for the course they had pursued. He charged against them that it was through their negligence or want of effort that a new Treaty had not been negotiated; that Lord John Russell, the Foreign Secretary, had laid despatches *ad infinitum* about Danish and German affairs before Parliament, but scarcely a word about this very important question; and, in conclusion expressed his fears that the sending of the iron-clad "Dunderberg," and other vessels to the fishing grounds afforded evidence that the peace of the two nations was endangered, and all from the negligence of the Government in not securing the adoption of a new Reciprocity Treaty. This was the substance of Mr. Watkins' attack, but we must say that it was not very effective. Mr. Layard replied satisfactorily, showing that the British Government had done all that was judicious or proper to induce the American Government to continue a treaty which had produced such happy results to the trade of both countries. In fact, there can be little doubt in the mind of any well-informed Canadian that if we erred on our side, it was in appearing too anxious rather than in doing too little. Nothing did more to doom the treaty in Congress than the belief that Canada could not prosper without it, and the great anxiety manifested by portions of the press and the community generally gave color to this belief. This led many Americans to believe that the abolition of Reciprocity would lead to

annexation; and had the British Government pestered Mr. Seward or Congress to renew the treaty after Mr. Watkins' method, it would only have confirmed the American view and made the failure more conspicuous. The evil results which were expected to follow the termination of the treaty have not been realized so far as British America is concerned. Whatever the future may bring forth, we have not suffered up to the present time. Canada is probably more interested in Reciprocity than any other of the colonies, and we are quite content to wait for new commercial regulations until our American cousins are ready. By their recent action in abolishing Reciprocity, they have done themselves more injury than us. A people so shrewd will not be long in finding this fact out, and it will not be long thereafter until Congress will be willing to enter into new arrangements which will be fair and beneficial to both countries.

The Growing Crops.

From personal observation and otherwise, the writer is able to speak of the present state of the Upper Canada crops with some certainty. The first reports, that a considerable part of the Fall Wheat had been winter-killed, have proved too true. In some localities, the loss from this source will be severe; in others it will not be much felt. In the newer Townships the winter has not done much damage. Reports from those districts indicate that the growing crops present a luxuriant appearance—in fact, they look about as well as they did last season. The recent heavy rains throughout Upper Canada have done incalculable good. In districts where the ravages of the winter frosts had been greatest, the rain has almost put a new face on matters. The appearance of the wheat fields has greatly improved, although it must not be forgotten that no circumstance, however favorable, will completely make up the loss from winter-killing. The Clover has suffered more from the frost than even the Wheat, and during the cold, dry weather we had during April and first part of May, the meadows were almost bare. Since the rains, they have commenced to look well, and hopes of an average Hay crop are beginning to revive. Of Spring crops a large breadth of Barley has been sown, the certainty of the crop and the favorable prices obtained during the last few years, causing the farmers to sow more of it than usual. The other productions of the farm now growing, call for no special comment, either as regards their appearance or the quantity sown. The orchards seldom ever put forth such a profusion of blossoms as this spring. Many are predicting a large fruit crop, and if not injured by the cold nights, these predictions may be realized. Last year the fruit was poor, and fruit-growers generally calculate on a good yield every second year. The present appearance of the growing crops, taking all sections of Upper Canada, is not unfavorable; and if the midge and other insects do not prove more destructive than heretofore, we may yet reap an average crop.

About Wool.

The farmers of Canada are now busy clipping their sheep, and the wool season will be at its height by the middle of next week. In some localities new wool has already been brought into market, and the shearing is pretty generally over. But the farmers in these districts seem in no hurry to rush their wool into market. The prices offered by dealers up to the present period have not been very high; and there is a very general belief among farmers that present rates will be improved upon as the season advances. Whether these hopes will be realized or not, depends very much upon circumstances. At present, the season is not sufficiently forward to speak with much certainty, and mere predictions are unsafe. Previous experience, however, has been such as would indicate some advance on the opening prices, and we dare say the present year will not prove an exception, although we think no great rise may be looked for. The prospect is, that the wool crop this year will be unusually large. In consequence of the good prices obtained of late years, farmers have been increasing the number of their sheep, and the clip of 1866, therefore, promises to be the largest we have ever sheared. Had it not been for the American duties, it is quite likely we would have got higher prices from the Americans this season than ever before for our long wools. As matters are, we have no reason to alter the opinion we expressed in an article some time ago, that the United States demand for our long wools is such that good prices will still be realized by our wool-growers.