And still the smoke and heat increased.

'Hark!' suddenly exclaimed Amy, rising. 'Hark! footsteps approach.'

'Help! help!' shouted Jane.

A hand was heard upon the door, its bolts were unfastened, and it burst open.

III.

Man can foresee with certainty the recurrence of a comet, he can tell the hour when Venus will transit the sun's disc for ages and ages to come, but he cannot tell one hour before the other what will be his own fate in this world. He makes a future for himself for years beforehand, and an instant shatters the whole to naught as if it had not been. Barton, Sir Charles Carstone and Hackett, had laid out plans for themselves for many years of coming time, plans of wealth and happiness and power. A breath was about to shatter to atoms every scheme of these three villains.

The flames burst quickly over every part of the front of the building known as the Frog's Hole—so long the theatre of many a plot and crime—and now the prison of Amy and Jane Moss, and of Custaloga and Andrew Carstone.

There was no time to be lost, and Hackett knew this well. His wish was to collect his gold and escape without caring for any one else, quite satisfied that he should be able to find Kate wherever she might be concealed.

The smoke of the fire spread on all sides, and, as we have already said, invaded the cells, little as the conflagration had as yet spread. Amy and Jane began to cry aloud for assistance, and Custaloga raged like a wild beast, though so choked was his voice that he was not recognised by the other listeners.

Andrew Carstone struck the panels of his door violently with the hilt of his sword, and also cried aloud that the place was on fire.

Hackett pursued his way towards his secret treasure without vouchsafing an answer to any of their cries; Barton had disappeared; and Sir Charles Carstone waited, pale and haggard, in the kitchen the progress of events. The party of ruffians who had brought in Amy and Jane were not to be seen. They were outside the Hole, waiting the orders of their employer.

Suddenly Barton entered the place, followed by several of his more decent-looking retainers, rushed through the kitchen, which was also beginning to fill with smoke, and rushed along the passage. He threw open the door of the cell in which the sisters had been placed, caught them both by the hand, and hurried them along, regardless of the piercing cries to save others who were in equal danger with themselves.

'There are plenty to save them—come away or the Indians will be on us,' said Barton sternly.

'Squire Barton!' exclaimed Amy, retreating from him, and pulling her hand away violently as they entered the kitchen.

'You are surprised,' said the squire bitterly; 'you expect it was another. I am allowed no merit—not even that of humble devotion to you and your family.'

'You know best, James Barton,' replied Amy, while Jane examined him with suspicion; 'you know best why I have reason to doubt you.'

'I know,' said Barton humbly; 'I know that you have every right to find fault; but I hope to be forgiven yet.'

'Take me home, squire!' exclaimed Amy coldly; 'take me from this place—to which I have every reason to believe you brought me.'

To be continued.

INTEMPERANCE AND THE CHOLERA.

There are thousands of people who take not the slightest interest in the temperate enterprise, because they do not see that intemperance can affect them since they do not use intoxicating drinks, and there is no danger of inebriates in their families. Should a drunken driver upset a carriage and break the arm of one of these uninterested people, or run over and kill one of his children, he would then see that every man in any community is interested in having that community free from the curse of intemperance.

Our country is threatened with a visit from the Asiatic cholera. How intemperance is related to that dreadful scourge, and how public officials ignore that fact, is well set forth in the last report of the Massachusetts Temperance Alliance. After referring to the fact that the State officials do not refer the vice, crime, pauperism and misery of the commonwealth to the true cause, viz: intemperance, the report states:—

"Even now, when the public mind is agitated about the cholera and its fearful march of death, the ruling minds of cities and large towns are oblivious to the chief fact that marks the history of this scourge, viz: that it seeks out the degraded victims of intemperance, and carries them off by hundreds and thousands, while the temperate and pure are taken only by tens. As if commissioned by the God of heaven to be an eloquent and powerful advocate of temperance, this mighty agent enters palatial halls and subterranean resorts where inebriety reigns, and completes his work of death. He reaps here his periodical harvest of 'wretched humanity.' And yet, the great sanitary arrangements to cheat him out of victims, *is to cleanse the streets, and sprinkle them with salt water!* The dram shops are left untouched, and all these manufactories of vice, squalid, fetid and loathsome, continue in full blast! The lure, of all others, to this transatlantic comer, is permitted to flaunt its invitation in his face!

In the last inaugural of the Mayor of Boston, there is another illustration of this subject. His honor has discovered that a large number of degraded human beings huddle together in single tenements, thereby breeding disease and multiplying deaths. As a remedial measure, he proposes that the legislature enact a law to compel these creatures to adopt a more decent mode of domestic life—all of which is well enough in its place. But who does not know that intemperance is the principal cause of this crowded state of tenements in certain parts of Boston? Intemperance first beggars and brutalizes this class, and then herds them together, like so many cattle, as the sure way for them to maintain a foothold upon the earth, and one more thrust downwards, and their career is ended in the drunkard's grave.—Brooklyn (N. Y.) *Irish Advocate.*

INTEMPERANCE AND DISEASE.—It is beyond dispute, says Dr. Hall, that always and everywhere those who drink most of liquors in any shape—beer, brandy, whiskey or rum—soonest give out, soonest get sick, and are the slowest to recover. An eminent physician has lately communicated the fact that out of one thousand members of the sick clubs of Preston, England, who merely used, but did not abuse spirituous liquors, twenty-three were laid aside by sickness every year for an average of fifty-three days; while of an equal number who never touched liquor, there were only thirteen averaging but twenty-three days; the number of sick, the rapidity of recovery, the time lost and expense all being more than one half or fifty per cent. in favor of those who never used ardent spirits.

☞ An ultra-Fenian organ, published in the United States, has the following in one of its late issues: "Will the Fenians permit their comrades lately convicted to go into penal servitude? Could not the brethren in New York despatch a swift craft to intercept the vessel that will convey the poor fellows into slavery? This would be an enterprise worthy of brave men. Let the Fenian Congress now in session see to this, and carry forward an expedition for the purpose of rescuing Luby, O'Leary, O'Donovan and the rest." How like a Fenian!

The Toronto *Globe*, after announcing the Anti-Confederate victory in Lunenburg "with regret," says: "It would be in vain to deny that the present opponents of the Quebec plan in Nova Scotia are numerous and influential." How angry some of our neighbours will be with the *Globe* for showing so clearly that it does not believe them!—Hx. *Cit.*

Two French Canadian contemporaries agree in suspecting that a general election is approaching in Canada, because M. Cartier, the Attorney General East, went to church the other morning!—*Ib.*

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR,—In my last week's letter I made particular allusion to the advantages derived by farmers who are in the yearly habit of expending labour and cash in the manuring of their farms with either Mussel Mud or Lime, and as I conceive that to a large majority of your readers this subject is of the greatest importance, I will, with your permission, pursue the question a little farther. My deductions will be drawn from experience and observation. I will suppose two ordinary farms of 100 acres each, with say 50 acres each clear of stumps, enclosed and under the plough. The owner of Farm No. 1 contents himself (with just what manure comes from his stables, and the possible addition of a cow pen. No. 2, in addition to what his stables produce, expends some £10 a-year in procuring Mussel Mud or Lime. He has done so for several years past, and intends to continue until every acre of his clear land has had a good coat of either one or the other of these substances. We will now estimate the yearly product of each, commencing with

FARM NO. 1.

15 acres oats, 30 bush. per acre, at 2s.	£45	0	0
15 do hay, half ton per acre, at 60s.	22	10	0
15 do pasture,	0	0	0
2½ do four-rowed barley, 30 bush. per acre, at 3s. 6d.,	13	2	6
2½ do potatoes, 200 bush per acre, at 1s.,	25	0	0
	£105	12	6

FARM NO. 2.

15 acres oats, 40 bush. per acre, at 2s.,	£60	0	0
15 do hay, 1¼ ton per acre, at 60s.,	67	10	0
10 do pasture,	0	0	0
5 do two-rowed barley, 40 bush. per acre, at 4s.,	40	0	0
2 do turnips, 400 bush. per acre, at 9d.,	30	0	0
2½ do potatoes, 200 bush. per acre, at 1s.,	30	0	0
	£227	10	0

It will be observed that I have left wheat out of the question, for just now, until we get rid of the "midge," it is but little cultivated.

There are exceptions to all general rules, and I am aware that some farmers, who use nothing but stable manure, can and do grow crops of greater value than that above indicated; but it is equally true that vast numbers do not produce as much. It is possible that some of those, who are in the constant habit of using mussel mud or lime, do not grow crops of the value I have set down; but I well know that many of them far exceed my estimate. Some of the farmers on the West River sell hay from their farms to the value of from £100 to £150 a-year, besides large quantities of other produce. These have the greater part of their farms manured with mussel mud, which, as I have said before, I believe to be better than lime. And I am satisfied that upon investigation it will be found—as a rule—that the farmer who has gone to the trouble and expense of manuring the greater part of his clearance, with either mud or lime, grows yearly crops of double the value to that of his neighbor who depends on the product of his stable alone; and yet how little comparatively is said or thought on this most important subject. However, it is pleasing to observe that the number of our farmers who are determined to improve their circumstances, by paying attention to this subject, is yearly increasing. Providentially there are to be found immense quantities of this valuable mud in many parts of the Island. It is of great importance that those who reside on the inland farms should have the opportunity of purchasing from others as much as they require. To this end allow me to suggest the formation of companies in the vicinity of the principal mud deposits, to get it up on a larger scale for the purpose of retailing it out to others who have not the facilities of taking it up themselves; and for this purpose I should suggest that small steam engines would be the most effectual and economical. I had sketched out a scheme and made a calculation for the working of such companies, which, I believe, could easily be carried out with immense profit to all concerned, especially to a company that would work through the summer, but shall defer (at least for the present) publishing it. I would just now invite the attention of our farmers and their sons to the calculation relative to the products of the two farms, many of whom can testify both from "experience and observation" as to whether or not the picture is overdrawn.

Your obed't servt.,

GEORGE BEER.

Ch'town, Jan. 21, 1866.

The Herald.

Wednesday, January 31, 1866.

THE SENTENCES.

"And earthly power doth then show likest God's,
When mercy seasons justice."——
—*Merchant of Venice.*

MANY of our readers who have learned the nature of the offence of which Doucette, Gallant and Dickieson have been convicted by a jury of their country, will be astonished at the severity of the punishment meted out to these men. Nothing more serious than a common assault against sundry officers of the law, whose antecedents were well calculated to create turmoil and strife, has been proved against them, and yet they have been condemned to imprisonment in a loathsome jail for a period which is seldom apportioned to the most hardened criminal or the most infamous malefactor. Gallant has been condemned to imprisonment in the common jail of this county for twelve calendar months, and to pay a fine of £20. Dickieson has received a punishment of eighteen months imprisonment, in addition to a fine of £50, and Doucette two years and a fine of £20. The case of Doucette, which claims the sympathy of the community, and the mercy of Her Majesty's Representative, is a peculiarly hard one. As we listened to his simple and pathetic defence when asked why sentence should not be passed upon him, we imagined his punishment would be light. When he stated that he believed he had a right to defend himself in his own house, and that when his wife and children in alarm announced to him that the dread Curtis had arrived, perhaps to shoot him, the instinct to defend his life was the one which alone took possession of him, and under which he acted, those who know the simple habits of the Frech Acadians, as well as the fame which Curtis and his assistants have acquired throughout the country for roughness of conduct, will readily believe the statement of poor Doucette. His expressions of regret for what had occurred, and his appeal for mercy—not simply on his own account, but in behalf of his aged parents, his helpless wife and children, two of whom are cripples,—excited the strongest emotions of sympathy from his hearers, and as he had already received the heavy sentence of twelve month's imprisonment and a fine of £20, for participating in the assault at Curtisdale, it was hoped that his second offence—that at his own house, in refusing to allow himself to be taken by the Sheriff—would be lightly dealt with. The plea of *Portia* to the usurious Jew who insisted on having JUSTICE—how appropriately thought we, would it become the Court in this instance and how gladly would its adoption be looked upon by the parties interested and the community at large:

"No ceremony that to great ones 'longs,
Not the King's crown nor the deputed sword,
The marshal's truncheon, *nor the judge's robe,*
Become them with one-half so good a grace
As *mercy* does."——

But alas! mercy prevailed not, and the stern sentence of another year's dreary imprisonment, in addition to the first, struck down the hopes which compassion had momentarily raised. Poor Doucette!—Unless some higher power than the judical shorten or remit his captivity, his sooty forge shall never again, perhaps, resound with the music of the hammer and the anvil. These harmonious sounds will never more, in all likelihood, gladden the wife's heart; and the helpless family, within whose circle peace and plenty once reigned, will be cast upon the cold charity of the world,—and all for what? A common assault—partly the result of accident and of ignorance, and for the commission of which there were many mitigating circumstances. The supremacy of the law must, of course, be maintained, and by rigorous means, if necessary; but there are times and cases when the judicious exercise of mercy, tempered by justice, more truly serves the interests of society than excessive severity. This, in our opinion, is one; and we sincerely hope that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will direct his serious attention to it, and by the merciful exercise of the prerogative entrusted to him by his Sovereign, release these men within a reasonable time, remit their fines, and restore them to their sorrowing families. It is not likely they will repeat the offence for which they have been so heavily punished, nor will others be inclined to follow in their footsteps, so that the claims of justice will have been sufficiently vindicated, while helpless women and children, who innocently suffer for the errors of their natural protectors, will be saved from inevitable misery and want, which otherwise will beset them if left to their own resources. Petitions in their behalf will, we trust, be prepared, numerously signed, and presented to the Lieutenant Governor, who, we have no doubt, will accede as far as possible to the request of the petitioners.

We would scarcely be doing justice to Judge Peters were we to omit remarking that whilst violated law, in his opinion, demanded severity, his remarks to the prisoners were not wanting in feeling of expression for their position, nor devoid of tact and elegance of diction. Indeed, his addresses in the several cases gave evidence of marked ability of the forensic order, and gave us a much higher opinion of the Judge's mental powers than we had ever before entertained. When passing sentence on the juvenile offender, Charlton, Judge Peters paid a well-merited compliment to Bishop McIntyre for his laudable efforts to afford instruction to the poor children of Charlottetown in such admirable schools as the St. Joseph's. By such institutions, it might reasonably be hoped that the children of even the poorest in the community would grow up in those correct principles imparted by a good moral and secular education, which is the most effectual safeguard of society and the best preventive of crime. It is satisfactory to find the Bishop's successful labors appreciated in such high quarters, and the truth of Judge Peters' views will be more decisively made manifest as time increases this class of schools both for males and females, and develops the effects of their training. Already their fruits in the improved conduct, intelligence, and very appearance of the females attending St. Joseph's School, and the various Convent Schools of the city,—are so gratifyingly visible, that the accommodations are too small for the number now claiming admission. This is a most hopeful state of things, and should urge the Catholic community to renewed exertions in seconding the Bishop to provide new schools, wherein their children can secure the blessings of a thorough education, based upon moral principles, without which the secular course, however extensive in its range or polished it may be, is and must be defective.

INTER-COLONIAL FREE TRADE.

THAT the learned editor of the *Islander* sometimes gets beyond his depth, is evident from the fact that even in matters of general information he perpetrates blunders which would be laughed at in a school-boy. For example, in an editorial article published in that paper a few weeks ago, which contained as many ingredients as the witches' pot in Macbeth, by a few magical strokes of his pen, the learned editor tunnelled the English Channel—a work which the wealth and science of Europe have not been able to accomplish up to the present time. In the *Islander* of Friday last this same learned member of the Board of Education undertakes to instruct British America in its *true* trade policy; and the secret, after a great deal of verbiage, consists in the Provinces maintaining their own *dignity*, and in "stretching their hands to each other, and establishing, by union, a free trade among themselves." This is at once an ample substitute for the loss of the Reciprocity Treaty, and a "plea for Inter-Colonial Union." The tatterdemalion, whose knees peep through his ragged breeches, might just as appropriately assume the airs of a gentleman, as a few thinly-settled Provinces, such as the British North American, to adopt a defiant attitude towards their rich and powerful neighbor. With respect to Inter-Colonial free trade—which seems to be imperatively called for under existing circumstances, whatever may be its advantages—we can see no "plea" therein for a political union of the Provinces, nor do we distinguish the connection necessarily existing between the two. If, indeed, political union is essential to free trade, then these Provinces should have joined the United States long ago, and England ought to be politically allied to France and Austria, because she has entered into free trade relations with those countries. Is the learned editor of the *Islander* prepared to pursue the argument thus far? To this conclusion does his reasoning inevitably lead, but, like all his Confederate *confreres*, when the telling of the whole truth is likely to retard the Grand Scheme, he very dishonestly stops short about mid-way in his course, leaving to be inferred the reverse of the correct deduction. The learned editor appears to be as much in the dark with regard to the operations of Inter-Colonial free trade and foreign trade as to the imaginary tunnel under the English Channel. Had he read the Report of the Boston Board of Trade, or studied Secretary McCullough's Report, he would entertain different views about "Inter-Colonial union" from those he now holds; and common sense ought to teach him that, so far from Inter-Colonial free trade building up "a large foreign trade," as we infer from his remarks, it would have the very contrary effect. Here is what the editor says:—

"To join on the Americans as we have been doing, cannot be a wise policy. The Colonies are alike subjected to the British Crown, why cannot they see eye to eye on these matters? Why should any barriers shut out their trade from each other, as if each belonged to a separate foreign power? The answer, of course, is, we must have a revenue; and so limited is our foreign trade, that the revenue derivable from it alone would not suffice from our necessary expenditure. Here, then, is the plea for Inter-Colonial union. A large country, with a large foreign trade, or a confederation of States with an extensive foreign commerce, can afford to throw down those walls which surround a small state or colony, if it is to maintain its existence. A small, weak State has, in commerce, the disadvantage of a poor man, with little credit, entering on business."

If this means anything, it is the interpretation we have put upon it above; but the merest tyro knows that, with the high tariff of twenty per cent. which union must impose if *direct taxation* is to be avoided, *domestic* trade will be most effectually protected, fostered and expanded at the expense of *foreign* trade. Now, is the editor of the *Islander* prepared to advocate direct taxation and protective duties? Let the country have a plain answer—a little common sense on the subject, for if he be not himself mystefied with regard to the matter in hand, the article under consideration is calculated to mystefy others. We know that in looking for information and sound reasoning from the advocates of Confederation, we look in vain; for, while unable to comply with such a request, they have not the manliness to admit the truth—that their own ambition or hopes of gain, and not the good of the people, are the real motives which exercise their zeal in favor of "Inter-Colonial union;" but our object in noticing the Government organ is to keep fresh in the public mind the fact we have here stated. Oracular nods and a mere waste of high sounding words are not sufficient to convince any intelligent mind of the utility or the necessity of an Inter-Colonial union, and such wretched mysticism as that which constitutes the leading article in last week's *Islander*, simply proves that its author either knows not what he writes about, or is attempting to deceive his readers. If Inter-Colonial free trade be essential to the prosperity of the Provinces, and if a political union of the Provinces be essential to free trade, surely the proposition can be demonstrated clearly and satisfactorily, without whole columns of unmeaning verbiage. Let the attempt be made, and if the editor of the *Islander* succeeds, he might, like Pythagoras, whenever he discovered anything new in Geometry, sacrifice an ox to the muses. We shall be happy to join with him in paeans to Confederation. In the meantime, however, while the public are awaiting the result, we may express our conviction that the attempt will not be made, or if it does, the learned editor will find his own proposition to be what blockheads find the fifth proposition of the first book of Euclid—a *pons asinorum.*

"The only two Confederation journals in Prince Edward Island, being, of course, the organs of the two delegates to the Quebec Conference, have been publishing communications arguing in favor of Confederation because it would lead to Annexation, without uttering a single editorial syllable of disapproval or dissent. Their complacent silence looks very like consent to the disloyal doctrines they so readily promulgate—but even if they do not go so far, their conduct shows an indifference to the idea of British connection highly reprehensible. The publisher of one of these Confederation papers holds the commission of Her Majesty's Printer for the Colony—which makes the unrebuked appearance of seditious sentiments in his paper indecent, for his own sake, and insulting to the patriotic feelings of our fellow-colonists.

The action of these Island organs confirms the universally prevalent impression that Confederation is simply a preliminary step to separation from Great Britain and annexation to the United States. The Government organ of the Island having declared that a large proportion of its people is tinctured with annexation sentiments, may possibly think it the best means of promoting Confederation to open its columns to a Confederation Annexationist—and spread his pernicious and un-British doctrines broadcast through the Colony. But those who resist the temtper in disguise, will like him less when he shows the cloven foot; and from the spirited and indignant rebukes these two Confederation delegates' organs have received from the rest of the Island press, we have the utmost confidence in the loyal determination of the intelligent population of the beautiful Island to resist Confederation and its twin-brother Annexation stoutly—and to frown down all insidious artifices to unsettle British rule in their country.—Hx. *Cit.*

OUR Halifax contemporary is quite right in the view he takes of the Annexation proclivities of our Island Confederationists—scarce though they be—and it was only a few days ago that nearly one half the intelligence of Summerside, which is known to be a "hot-bed" of Confederation, voted in favor of Annexation when the question was openly discussed before the Literary Society of that town.

The Summerside Bank, too, recently gone into operation, gives evidence of this feeling, for on its notes is to be seen the "Star-spangled Banner" floating from the mainmast of a steamer which is one of the illustrations of the note.

NOMINATION AT GEORGETOWN.—The nomination of candidates for the First Electoral District of King's County came off at Georgetown on Wednesday last, when the Hon. Emanuel McEachen was proposed by Chas. McEachen, Esq., and seconded by Mr. James McLaughlan, and Benj. Davies, Esq., by Daniel Flynn, Esq., seconded by Lawrence Peters, Esq. Mr. Davies and the Hons. George Coles and Rodk. McAuley were, we learn, the only speakers—Mr. McEachen having retired for home immediately after his nomination. The election takes place to-day, but it is not likely that we will ascertain with what result until the latter end of the week.

SHROVE TUESDAY.—The Charlottetown Dramatic Club—organised this winter under a competent director—intend giving two performances in St. Andrew's Hall on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, the 12th and 13th February. Full particulars will be given in a few days.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Veritas" will perceive that we have taken up the matter against which his censures are directed, so that there is no necessity to publish his letter. Besides, the language is so severe in parts that its publication might neutralise the efforts which will be made to obtain a mitigation of the sentences.

"J. McCormack," Georgetown, "M. Hessian," do., and "Jos. O. Arsenaux," Egmont Bay, have been received with remittances.

WE were visited with one of the old-fashioned snow storms on Friday and Saturday last, which has established more new *banks* than the Local Legislature or the wealth of the colony has during all its previous history. The country is completely blocked up and travelling suspended, and will so continue for some time, unless a thaw sets in.

☞ The Union Bank notes of this Island pass freely in New Brunswick at the face.

[FROM THE EXAMINER.]

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. D. F. McDONALD, OF SOURIS.

THE following Address, accompanied by a beautiful Sleigh and Set of Furs, was recently presented to the Rev. D. F. McDonald, P. P. of Souris. One of the most interesting features connected with the address is that it embraces the names of all the leading Protestant gentlemen of Souris:—

REV. D. F. MCDONALD;—

Rev. and Dear Sir;—We, a few of your parishoners, and other friends about Souris and its immediate vicinity, feeling thankful for your religious instructions towards your parishoners, and for your gentlemanly and kind deportment toward others, beg leave most respectfully to present you with a Sleigh and Furs as a New Year's Gift, trusting you will accept of it as a small token of our good will and respect towards you; and wishing you many happy returns of the season, we are Rev. and dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully,
A. CAMPION,
M. MCCORMICK,
A. LESLIE, J. P.
J. KNIGHT, J. P.
E. B. MUTTART, M. D.
W. S. MCGOWAN, J. P.
JOHN MCGOWAN, J. P.
B. MCEACHEN,
A. PACQUET,
And others.

January, 1866.

[REPLY.]

GENTLEMEN,

I have to say that I find myself inadequate to give expression to what I really feel on receipt of your kind address and valuable gift. The address, which is, I think, too flattering and your generous gift, a sleigh and furs, I accept with heartfelt thanks, as it shows that my humble efforts as a Missionary Priest have been appreciated by you. I do not consider that I, who have been but one short year amongst you, merit such a testimonial of your gratitude and kindness. Whatever I have done, (and I only wish I were capable of doing more) is mainly owing to your generous disposition and sense of duty. My grateful heart, gentlemen, shall be as a tablet upon which your kind wishes and handsome gift shall be inscribed, and by which pleasing recollection of this day's transaction shall be called forth to my last hour.

It will be always a pleasing duty to me to perform the offices of religion for my parishoners, whilst endeavoring to show kindness and sympathy to all, as long as it will please a kind Providence to leave me in this part of His vineyard.

I will now, with your permission, thank you for your handsome present, and wish you in return the compliments of the season.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obliged humble servant,
D. F. McDONALD, P. P.

To Messrs. A. Campion, M. McCormick, A. Leslie, J. Knight, E. B. Muttart, W. S. WeGowan, J. McGowan, B. McEachen, A. Pacquet, and others.

RAILROAD MEETING.—In conformity with a numerously signed requisition from the inhabitants of Summerside and vicinity presented to Harry C. Green, Esq., the senior J.P., a large and influential meeting of the inhabitants took place in Brown's Hall, on Saturday evening, the 20th inst., for the purpose of considering the necessity and prudence of building railroads on this Island. Many able speeches were delivered on both sides of the question, and after several hours debate it was resolved, and carried by a majority of about two hundred, "that the time has arrived for the Government to take definite action on the important subject of building railroads on this Island." The meeting then adjourned until Thursday evening next, then to meet at the same place, to give the matter further consideration, and to decide on the means of bringing it to the consideration of the Government.

RICHARD HUNT, Sec'y.

Summerside, Jan. 22, 1866.

CHARLOTTETOWN, Jan. 23.

By advices from Cape Tormentine, to-day, per mail, it is feared the Submarine Cable has broken, as the indications there agree with those on this side. Strong "earth currents" from Cable. The operator at Cape Tormentine, reports a heavy body of ice came down from westward, Sunday. p. m.

C. A. HYNDMAN.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Friday evening last, Mr. Daniel McAlduff, of Cascumpec, while hauling poles on the ice in company with his two sons, fell off the load and died instantly. He was about 47 years of age, and leaves a wife and family.—*S. J.*

A petition is now being signed requesting the Government to grant funds for the purchase of a public square in Summerside.—*Ib*

☞ The Mutual Fire Insurance Company is in a very flourishing condition,—as its capital is steadily increasing, and its losses very small. During the past year it met with no losses.

☞ A purse containing $220, with an address, has been presented to the Rev. Maurice Swabey, on his appointment to the Rectory of St. Jude's, Carleton, N. B., by the people among whom he has labored for several years, as assistant to the Rev. Geo. M. Armstrong, Rector of St. Mark's Parish, St. John, N. B.—

News by Telegraph.

FROM THE STATES.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19, p.m.—Mexican despatches report the arrival of the new French admiral to consult with Marshal Bazaine, on the relations between the United States, France, and the Mexican Emperor. Rumor has it that the Admiral is to be followed immediately by a large fleet of naval vessels, but at the same time, while some say these vessels are to be used in a manner hostile to the United States Government, others say they will prove only transports to convey the French troops from Mexico to other parts of this continent.

Jamaica dates to the 7th inst. represent the Island quiet. The Christmas holidays passed off without trouble. The special commission to try political prisoners lately confined at Morant Bay, had commenced its sittings.

A Toronto despatch says that General Sweeney's promise of hostages for Fenians convicted in Ireland has created fears of another Canadian invasion, and stirred up the Provincials to renewed excitement and wrath.

Gold 138¾.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, p.m.—A Washington despatch says that Sheridan disavows all knowledge on his part of the fillibustering attack on Bagdad, and states that his orders to subordinate officers have been to preserve strict neutrality. He disbelieves the published accounts of the affair, and considers it a sensational story.

Gold 138¾.