[illegible] as early as to set at naught the rule [illegible] a party session. If the period of the session were inconvenient it might be changed, but it was the better to have the period fixed by law than to leave it to chance. No one more loudly condemned the conduct of the late ministry in delaying the meeting of Parliament than the gentlemen now on the Treasury Benches.

Mr. Smith, (Sol. Gen.) was surprised to hear the hon. gentleman, for he had just been over to him and in a private conversation had declared himself opposed to the bill.

Mr. McDonald, (Glengary.)—What he had said was that it was only after great hesitation that he could vote for the bill, and that he had advised his hon. friend the mover not to bring it on; but he had not said he was opposed to it, and upon reflection he saw the evil of the present system so strongly that he felt he must vote with the member for Lambton. He thought, however, that private conversations ought not to be alluded to.

Mr. Smith replied that he did not invite the hon gentlemen to say anything, and to the best of his belief that the hon. member was really in his heart opposed to it as he said. He could see no necessity for such a bill if the Government pledge itself to assemble Parliament on a certain day. He did not believe the interests of the country had suffered by the delays.

Mr. Dorion (of Montreal) thought would be very well if Government had not already deceived the House and the country by breaking a pledge solemnly given, since everybody knew that a similar bill introduced in 1852 was only withdrawn upon such a pledge being given. As to the prerogative it was already limited by several laws.

Mr. Dorion, (Drummond,) was in favor of the law and could see nothing to prevent the reports of public institutions, the public accounts &c., being prepared for presentation at the beginning of each session. No doubt all these things would be preserved if it were known that Parliament was to meet on a certain day. As to the spirit of Responsible Government nothing could be more contrary to it than the calling of the House together one year in February, another in June, another in November &c. The consequence of that plan was that all ministerial business was postponed during the recess and nothing was ready for the Session.

Mr. Loranger contended that the Ministry being responsible to the people they should be left to call Parliament together when they pleased. It would be quite out of the question to fix the time for meeting Parliament until the place were determined on so that everything might be ready.

Mr. Sanborn said, the argument that the place was not fixed was as good an argument against Parliament altogether as against this bill, as assemble Parliament at a fixed period had been three times given & broken, and this breaking of promise which tended greatly to destroy the late Ministry. What greater assurance could the present Ministry give? Could they give any assurance that they would remain in their place? But what astonished him was to see opposition to the bill come from gentlemen who had supported the similar bill in 1852, and only have it up, because they were assured the House should be opened in February without it. It was this failure to keep this promise, which made it imperative on the House to determine the question in a more solemn manner.

Mr. McDonald (Kingston,) approved of the elastic system which prevailed in England, better than the fixed rules which governed in the United States. In England there was no law; but still Parliament always assembled about the same time of the year. The truth was that if the time of meeting was fixed the time of ending must be fixed also; and after all unless special sessions were prohibited nothing would be effected by the bill, for as the regular sessions the House would meet only to be prorogued, and special sessions would be held to transact the business. He believed the member for Lambton was once opposed to the measure and there was a question of principle deeply involved in it that it was decided by the Speaker to be opposed to the Union Act, and therefore incapable of being put to the House. He maintained that either this bill was objectionable because it destroyed the authority of the Crown, or else it was just waste paper, would effect nothing. For his own part he did not think because there had been abuses that the constitution should be destroyed, and he was surprised that Messrs. Rolph and Merritt, who were so long in the Ministry did not bring in this measure while they commanded majorities. If there were anything done in this direction it should be by way of address to the Imperial Parliament for the repeal of the law without which nothing could be done. It appeared that when the subject had been before the House before Mr. McDonald of Glengary voted against it, (cries of read the ayes) Mr. McDonald read the ayes among which appeared that of Sir A. McNab.

Mr. J. S. McDonald (Glengary) said that was merely to sustain the Speaker.

Mr. McKenzie believed the British constitution was used as a bug, bear though ours was nothing like it—as for instance in England they had no Attornies General in the Ministry. However, he thought the bill ought to be carried to prevent such breaches of faith as the House laterly seen.

Mr. Papin and Mr. Rankin spoke in favor of the bill and Mr. Drummond against it, after which Mr. Brown replied; reading the division of the appeal from Mr. Morin's decision to reject a former and similar bill on account of its being opposed to the Union Act, and showing that among the ayes in favor of the bill were Messrs. Badgley, Boulton, Cayley, Christie, (Gaspe,) Holmes, Lyon, McNab, Meyers, Prince, Robinson, Sherwood, Smith, (Durham,) and Smith (Frontenac.)

And the House adjourned.

Quebec Colonist.

QUEBEC, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1855.

☞ Extra copies of this day's paper may be had at this office.

Several Editorials and other articles are postponed to make room for the account of the St. Patrick's Dinner.

PARLIAMENTARY.

On Monday night, in reply to a question from Mr. Dorion of Drummond, Mr. Cauchon said Government had not yet decided with respect to the completion of the Bulstrode road.

The bill to amend the Act relative, Cap. 49 relating to timber was read a second time and referred.

The second reading of the bill to relieve public employees from Sunday labor, was, deferred till Monday next, and to be then the first order of the day.

The second reading of the bill to abolish the Rectories, was deferred till the 28th instant, and to be then the first order of the day.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Solicitor General Smith, moved for leave to bring in the following Bills,—Bill to determine the correctness of the division or side lands of the lots in certain concessions of the Township of Smith, carried—and second reading fixed for Friday next.

Bill to determine the manner in whith the division or side lines of the lots in the Township of Wolf Island shall be drawn,—carried—second reading fixed for Fridy next.

The Bill to amend the Acts relating to Land Surveyors was read—second reading fixed for Tuesday next.

Mr. Attorney General Drummond's Bill to Reform the Municipal system of Lower Canada was read a second time—yeas 78, nays 8.

The Militia Bill was carried by a large majority in a division which took place about 2 o'clock on Thursday morning.

The debate on Mr. Drummond's motion to fix the seat of government was going on a late hour last night.

The River Line of Steamers for the ensuing season between Montreal and Kingston will consist of the following boats:—*New Era*, Captain Crysler; *Champion*, Captain Milloy; *Baushee* Captain Howard; and the new iron boat, now building by the Hon John Hamilton, of Montreal. The old favorites, *St. Lawrence* and *Ottawa*, to be kept in reserve. Preparations are also being made for the opening of the navigation on the Hudson between New York and Albany. The *Hendrick Hudson* and *Isaac Newton* will leave each city every evening. The *Manhattan* and *Knickerbocker* will leave each city on alternate evenings. There will be a day line also, but it has not yet been definitely arranged.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

We gave a full description of the proceedings on St. Patrick's Day, in Monday's issue. We now publish an account of the festivies on Monday evening, to which day the usual Anniversary Dinner was postponed—the anniversary falling on Saturday, and the Society being fearful of encroaching on the sanctity of the Sabbath by holding the evening festivity on that day.

The room, Russell's Concert Hall, was very tastefully decorated by Mr. Ferguson, the banner of St. Patrick hanging at one end and St. Colombkill at the other, on either side of which were hung the beautiful flags of the Canadian Militia and the "Colors of Old England" were festooned round the room. Mr. Lindenberg's fine Band occupied the Orchestra and during the evening discoursed most eloquent music. Upwards of one hundred members purchased tickets besides numerous guests. Mr. Russell served up the dinner in his best style and attended personally on his guests. C. Alleyn, Esq., M. P. P., President of the Society, occupied the Chair, and Dr. Fitzpatrick, V.P., acted as Croupier. Among the distinguished gentlemen present we noticed the Honorable Mr. Drummond, Attorney-General, Captain Rhodes, M. P. P., John B. Parkin, Esq., C. E. Anderson, Esq., H. Dubord, Esq., and several others whom we cannot now remember. Apologies were received from Sir Allan McNab, the Honbles. Messrs. Spence, Cayley, J. A. McDonald, Lemieux, Cartier, Louis Panet, Sicotte, L. Massue, Messrs. Sol.-General Smith, Ross, Colonel Thornhyre, and the Mayor of Quebec. Due justice having been done to mine host Russell's fare, and the cloth having been removed, the President rose and said,—

Mr. Vice-President and Gentlemen,—The toast I am about to propose will, I am certain, be drank enthusiastically. St. Patrick's Day—is a day honored and celebrated by Irishmen all over the world. In the other end of the earth. In the gold fields of Australia, from whence our countrymen, aye, and our countrywomen, have, with their characteristic generosity, sent upwards of a million and a quarter pounds sterling last year to their relations at home—throughout this extensive continent, both north and south—and in the East, before the walls of Sebastopol, in fighting for the liberties of Europe against a despotic foe, this day will be remembered. Gentlemen, fill your glasses. I give you "The Day and all who honor it,"—nine times nine.

When the rounds of applause with which this toast was received had partially subsided, the tones of the Band were heard playing "St. Patrick's Day," at the conclusion of which loud calls were made for Matthew Ryan, Esq., who stood up and said,

I rather think, Mr. President, that you have done justice neither to yourself, nor to the toast in allowing this call to be made upon me.

The time was when I was somewhat susceptible to such an appeal, but you know they tell us that a few years of official life, however humble, is so apt to set the seal of prudence upon one's lips that no ardent word of patriotism can well be uttered. Be this, however as it may, and unaccustomed and all as I have been to public speaking for some time past, yet, I feel neither unable nor unwilling to speak a few words to the glorious old toast.—"The day and all who honor it." (cheers.)

To be sure, Sir, people have appeared in these latter days who are wiser than all history, and whose new-fangled theories would teach us to renounce the old ways of nationality and to ignore some of the principles which lie deepest in our nature, but I still believe in the old theory of the "spirit of a nation," that spirit which such celebrations as the present are so well calculated to foster. Sydney Smith tells us he was one of the meeting of four or five which was held in the eighth or ninth story or flat in Buccleugh place to establish the Edinburgh Review, and that he proposed as a motto for the Review.

"*Tenui musam meditamur avena.*"

"We cultivate literature upon a little oatmeal."

Now, homely as these words would at first sight appear, it cannot be denied that there was an admirable feeling of nationality in the conception, and although as the witty author tells us the motto was too near the truth to be admitted, (laughter,) the spirit which prompted it worked out its main purpose,—the Edinburgh Review was founded as a national work, and much honor has it done to Scotland, and to the Empire at large. (Cheers.) We are here to-night to cultivate nationality upon a rather more exhilirating material, but still to be national, to do honor to the Irish nation, to cherish the recollections of her ancient high dignity, to pledge our best wishes for her future. Let it not be said that these celebrations do not contribute to the spirit of a nation, or that it is not desirable to cultivate at all times, and now perhaps more than ever, that *amor patriæ* which is so essential to the honor and success of a people. Tell me, sir, do you think that the Irishmen now in the Crimea would be rendered less brave in the fierce struggle with the Cossack, by being appealed to in the old words I see before me (pointing to a banner) *Erin-Go-Bragh!* (Rapturous applause.) Will the *Connaught Rangers* in the charge upon Sebastopol be stimulated or otherwise by the sound of the powerful old Celtic words—Fangh-a-Ballagh! (Loud cheers.)

Ah! these are the moments when "the spirit of a nation" can be appealed to with profit, these terrible moments when the destinies of nations tremble in the balance, when to hesitate is indeed to be lost. Let not Irishmen then be deterred by any miserable cry of assumed gentility from devotion to Old Ireland, to her truly martial spirit, to this day and to all who honor it. Knowing something of Ireland's history, I believe in and wish well to her nationality. It is true, that old history, like her old hills, is not a little obscured by clouds, but surely beyond those clouds there is a Sun. Yes, I believe, I must believe there is a prophecy in the beautiful words of Moore:—

The nations have fallen, but thou art still young,
Thy Sun is but rising while others are set,
And though slavery's cloud o'er thy morning hath hung,
The full Noon of freedom *shall* beam round thee yet.

Mr. Ryan sat down amid loud cheers, and the President rose to propose the second toast.

2—Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. Three times three. Band—the national anthem. This toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

3—The President then proposed the health of the head of the Government, a gentleman equally distinguished as a statesman, and as a man of letters. He would give them "His Excellency the Governor General." Band—Rule Britannia.

4—The President called for a Bumper to drink the health of the gallant soldier, our countryman, His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, lately the Administrator of the Government, and who had earned for himself so many golden opinions during his stay in Canada. He would give them our countryman, His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. Band—See the Conquering Hero comes.

5.—Erin the Land of genius and hospitality. Band—Home sweet Home.

The President called upon Mr. John Hearn to respond to this toast. Mr. Hearn rose and said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen.—I am thankful to you, for the compliment you pay me, in desiring me to respond to the toast which has been just drank. But though I am thankful, I cannot but regret, that you did not call on one of the many I see around me, who would be able to meet the expectations, which, I think, you, Mr. President have created one whose abilities would enable him to respond in a manner that would be just to the toast and interesting to you. Fortunately, however, it requires neither the gift of eloquence or the power of argument, to make those who are here to-night look upon Ireland as as a land of genuis and hospitality, (cheers.) The feelings which made you drain your glasses dry in drinking the toast, added to your intelligence and impartiality, render it unnecessary for me to say many words. History tells us that the world, particularly Europe and America, owe much to the gennis of Irishmen, (cheers.) Peter the Great, himself a great genuis, and I might say the creator of a great nation, and many of his successors acknowledged it, by appointing Irishmen to posts of the greatest honor and importance in their service. Spain acknowledges it for centuries; she has kept Irishmen in her councils, and to this very day, her people look with pride and hope upon O'Donnell and recognize in him the genuis, that four hundred years ago distinguished his ancestors in the castle of Tirconnell. (great applause.) France acknowledges it; she holds grateful remembrance of the four hundred and fifty thousand of Ireland's sons who died in her service; she points with joy and gratitude to the glory reflected on her by the genuis and heroism of Sarsfield. (cheers.) Dillon, MacDonald, MacCarthy, Fitzgerald, O'Neill, (cheers.) MacGeoghan and many more illustrious Irishmen. England acknowledges it, and well she may: her Pulpits her Bar, her Senate, her Army, her Navy, her hardest won battles. (Loud cheers,) all bear testimony to the genius of Irishmen. She honors the name of of Burke and Grattan, Sheridan and Moore, Flood and Curran, Shiel and O'Connell. (cheers.) She boasts of Waterloo, (load cheers,) and well she may. On that red field as on thousands of others, Irish genius proved itself second to none. She exults in the penetrating genius that so often led her armies to victory and that conquerred on his own soil the greatest conqueror the world ever saw. (great cheers.) What would England not give now if death would give her back her old Irish General? Who can doubt that if it had pleased Providedce to leave her her Wellington until now, that Sebastopol would before this have shared the fate of Cuidad Rodrigo, Badajos, or Toulouse. (cheers.) Happy will it be for her, and beneficial will it be, to the peace and liberties of Europe, when poor Ireland gives her another like him. But I need not go so far in search of Irish genius. Here on this continent it has long ago shown itself. Our republican neighbours notwithstanding the present Know-Nothing tendencies of many of them, recognize it in the Carrolls, the Montgomes, the Jacksons and the Hughes, (cheers) and the future Historian of these Provinces will bear testimony to it, when he pens his account of what Baldwin, Hincks and another honorable gentleman, whose presence here delicacy forbids me to name, have done for Canada. (The applause here lasted for several minutes.) A word now upon Irish Hospitality. In the days of Ireirnd's greatness; those days wherein had her academies for the study of all that tended to dignify and enoble man, when her colleges were visited by the pious and the learned of the world, when Europe looked upon her and styled her an Island of Saints, when as her own Poet expresses it "Tara's harp in Tara's Hall the soul of music shed"—In those happy days hospitality was not confined to individuals in Ireland. It was the general taste of the whole nation, for Ireland was then a nation. (Great cheers.) By order of the Government public institutions for hospitable purposes were established all over the island, lands were assigned for their support, lords were placed over them and an abundance of all that was calculated to make the stranger feel at home, and the traveller unweary, was continually kept in them. Besides this we are told by Keating and other writers that in those days the mansions of private lords were like public Inns, the doors of the peasants' cots were never locked, and the greater the misery and suffering of those who sought relief, the greater was always their welcome. (Cheers.) Such was Irish hospitality in those days. They are gone, but Irish hospitality yet lives. Let a stranger go now into any Irish settlement in Canada, and if he be in want he will be received by the Irish bushman, who in many cases may not have enough for his own little ones, with as warm "A Cead Mille Faltha" as if he had gold in his purse. Let a traveller go into St. Sylveste, St. Agathe, Jacques Cartier, or any of the Irish settlements on either side of the St. Lawrence, and I will promise him if he ever heard the song of "*an Irishman*" by Samuel Neilson, he will soon be reminded of the verse,

If strange or poor for you he'll pay,
And guide to where you safe may be;
If you're his guest, while e're you stay,
His cottage holds a jubilee
His inmost soul he will unlock,
And if he should your secrets sean,
Your confidence he scorns to mock,
For faithful is an Irishman.—(Cheers)

Ireland as a prosperous and contended Nation is dead, but her hospitality is not, and what we have seen to-night I think, will go far to satisfy us that while Irishmen live hospitality will not die. Ireland's children have now to seek for bread in lands far away from their own but still as ever she

"Green Island's gates open wide to the poor and the stranger,
There smiles hospitality hearty and free
Her friendship is seen in the moment of danger
And the wanderer is welcome with *Cush la ma chree*

Mr. Hearn sat down amid great and prolonged cheering.

6.—Canada the Home of our adoption. Band—*A La Claire Fontaine.*

Mr. Neville having been called upon to respond said. I do not know any reason why I should be asked to speak to this toast, for there is little of the Canadian about me, except that from my thin meagre emaciated looking countenance you may imagine that a Canadian Sun has burned all the Irish fire out of me. But though there is nothing either French or Canadian in me, Sir, I have been instrumental in bringing into the world seven young Canadians. It is said that he is a benefactor of his country who causes a blade of grass to grow where none grew before. Now as I look upon children, who will all yet I hope become men and women, as more valuable than blades of grass, I suppose I may with true Irish modesty call myself a benefactor of Canada. This is all I can say about the toast I am so unexpectedly asked to speak to, but I may be excused in remarking upon how terribly disappointed those who form their opinions of Irish men from the English newspapers published in Quebec, would be if they dropped in upon us and learned that the fine Company they see here were the Irish rowdies spoken of so glibly.

7—The Ministry of Canada. Band—the Canadian Boat Song.

This toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, the whole company joining in the chorus, 'For they are right good fellows," with more zeal and earnestness than in strict harmony to a critical ear. After the applause had subsided the Honorable Mr. Attorney-General Drummond rose and said,

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I rise to return thanks on behalf of the Ministry, of which I am a member, for the very flattering compliment paid to them by drinking their health so enthusiastically as you have done. At the same time I have to apologise that I am the only one of them who is here to-night to assist at the celebration of our national festival. I am charged by them individually and collectively to convey to you their great regret that their attendance in Parliament deprives them of what would have been so great a pleasure. But you are doubtless aware there are among the legislators of this country many who are too wise to attend celebrations of this kind, some who would not allow us, as they say, to spend the people's money going to festivals, even of a national character like this. We remember how, some days ago, when an adjournment was proposed to enable us members of Parliament, to attend an exhibition, which was designed for the purpose of giving importance in Europe to the products of this country—how some people raised their eyes in holy horror to heaven to protest against so shameful a proposition, so scandalous a waste of public money. These gentlemen would not hear of an adjournment for a St. Patrick's Dinner. If we dared to propose an adjournment of the House this evening, I would have the happiness of being now surrounded by all my colleagues, respecting whom I should not here say much in eulogy, but I will say that I am quite certain they feel as much determination to watch over and advance the interests of the Irish portion of the population of Canada as of any other part of it. And there is certainly a good reason why they should have such an inclination, for there is a large sprinkling of Irishmen among the members of the government. There is one circumstance worthy of notice, and which has, I think, not been noticed as much as it ought to have been—that Irishmen have taken a large share in the work of establishing free institutions in this country, (loud cheers.) History will record, and they ought to be proud of it, that it was an Irishman who first obtained for Canada Responsible Government. It is an Irishman known by the honorable and proud name of honest Robert Baldwin, who is the father of our present system of government, (loud chers.) He it was who first conceived the plan of governing a Colony according to the wishes and for the advantage of the people. His sagacious mind was pondering over the establishment of the system which was to come when others only sought to overthrow the then existing state of affairs. And speaking of the number of Irishmen who occupy seats in the Cabinet, there are now three of our countrymen in the Ministry, a fair proportion considering the different nationalities of which our society is composed, but to shew how large a part Irishmen had in the management of the affairs of this country, from the first time the people's representatives have been entrusted with executive authority, the first administration in which I had the honor to hold a seat numbered no less than five Irishmen out of the ten members composing it. In the present Cabinet is one Irishman in particular of whose honesty and talent we must be all proud. He is but new as a public man, yet he has already earned for himself a great name in the councils of his country. I need not mention the name of the Honorable Mr. Spence. I regret exceedingly he is not here to-night, and I have been specially requested by him to express the pain it gives him that he is unable to be present here with his countrymen in celebrating their national festival. I may be permitted to say that you, gentlemen, have cause also for regret at his absence, as he is a genuine Irishman, and whenever he speaks it is in such a manner as to find a response in the hearts of Irishmen. When I speak of the Ministry being desirous to do full justice to Irishmen, I do not intend, nor do you expect that I should intend, that we should do so to the prejudice of other origins. I believe, Mr. President, that one of the reasons why Irishmen have most reason to be proud of the large share they took in the government of this country, was that it enabled them to shew to Canadians generally that they only sought to enjoy equal privileges with their fellow countrymen of other origins, and to teach the people of Canada that we knew how to appreciate all the advantages of free institutions—that we do not stand here merely as Irishmen, although we are proud of the country from which we spring, but as men ready to support and stand up for our adopted country, (cheers.) I believe there is a bright future opening in this country, and that Irishmen will participate largely in it. They will afford yet many other instances of what can be done by their industry, energy and perseverance. It is well for Irishmen to remember the past and to meet occasionally to rejoice over it, but we should after all live more in hope than in memory. One of the dreams that I had long before the Grand Trunk was spoken of, was the construction of a great road from Halifax to the Pacific, which would be built by Irish labor and skill, and along which Irishmen might settle down and prosper in the full enjoyment of that liberty which they sought for. A portion of that dream had already been realized, mainly through the skill and energy of another Irishman, and I may yet live to see it fulfilled, (cheers) (great applause.) I believe that Canada will yet become the refuge—the prosperous resting place of all those who could not enjoy freedom in Europe, but had to seek liberty and contentment in the new world. And when I see an attempt made in an adjoining Republic to ostracise the descendants of those men who shed their blood to secure the independance of that country, because of their religion, I feel proud to live in a country, the Government of which is especially instructed never to give his sanction to any measure interfering with the free exercise of the religion of any man, (cheers.) Canada enjoys under our present form of government more real liberty than any country in the world. We are equally free from the sway of the despotic monarchs and despotic mob. I feel satisfied that the gentlemen whose healths you have drunk so enthusiastically are fully impressed, as I am myself, with the necessity of carrying out the liberal views in the government of this country, which must contribute to its greatness and to the happiness of the people of all classes, and once more for them and for myself, I tender you my thanks. (Loud cheers.)

8.—The Mayor and Corporation of Quebec. Band—"For they are jolly good fellows."

Loud calls were made for Mr. L. Stafford, to respond to this toast.

Mr. Stafford said he could not say anything either in favor or otherwise of the Corporation, as he was not long a member of it. Generally speaking the people had not even a good word for the Corporation. The result of their labors was popularly supposed to be taxation of the citizens, impeded thoroughfares, bad gas, deep ditches at people's doors and many other ills now not necessary to mention, (laughter.) He had a right to expect that some of the older members of the Corporation would have stood up here and accounted for all these things. He believed he was the youngest member of the Corporation present, but he hoped on some future occasion to be able to give a good account, at all events some account, of the Corporation to the St. Patrick's Society and their guests.

9.—Our Sister Societies united in the common bonds of charity. Band—The Roast Beef of Old England.—Auld Lang Syne.—Vive La Canadienne.

10.—The Allied Armies and Navies. Three times three. Band—Rule Britannia.—British Grenadiers.—Partant pour la Syrie.

This toast was responded to by Captain Rhodes, M. P. P., in a very telling speech, which was received with great applause.

Captain Rhodes spoke as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.—I feel much pleasure in the honor which the St. Patrick's Society have conferred upon me to night in inviting me to this assemblage of Irishmen, as in addition to the pleasure I have received from being present, I have also an opportunity of returning thanks for the gallant soldiers and sailors who are fighting for the liberties & freedom of civilization. (cheers.) Mr. Chairman, I formerly belonged to one portion of the British service, and I consider it my duty to state that British officers and men have never misunderstood the true nature of Irishmen, (cheers)—we have had opportunities of visiting you in your homes, both in Canada and in Old Ireland, of partaking of your hospitality, of joining in your sports, dancing with your daughters and fighting with your sons in periods of danger, (loud cheers,) and from my own personal knowledge I must say that amongst the peasantry of Ireland many of the moral and social virtues have attained a degree of perfection which other nations might advantageously copy and which no nation has hitherto surpassed. (Vociferous cheering.) What soldiers admire in Irishmen is that you do not pretend to be better than your neighbours. You are generally a servicable people, full of good humour and attached to all you hold dear, and as the only complaint I ever hear against you is that you have got too much fight in you, (great chearing,) you will understand that as cowardice is the greatest vice in a soldier, so courage is the greatest virtue, and consequently no soldier in the present emergency of the Empire, when fighting men are so much in request at Inkerman and before Sebastopol, would reproach you for possessing those qualities which are now held in such high estimation. (Cheers.) For my part I have lived all my life surrounded by Irishmen, and I know more of your nationality than I do of that of my own country, and I must say so far as my experience goes, I have never had any difficulties with Irishmen. I have never misunderstood the true nature of Irishmen, and I am sure I am only doing my duty to the gallant fellows before Sebastopol, when I take this opportunity of publicly stating that the officers and men of one portion of the Allied army will never be backward in acknowledging the favourable opinion they entertain of their Irish fellow citizens, and when I next write to my old comrades at the seat of war, I will not fail to tell them of the lively interest all classes in Canada feel in their success, and I am sure they will approve of the course I am now following in praising a nationality which make our best soldiers in war and our most industrious citizens in peace. (Great applause.) You will be glad to hear the latest private accounts from the Crimea speak very favourably of the progress of the war, and I have no doubt the Allied army and navy will be able to accomplish all that is expected of it. (Cheers.) I beg to thank you again for the honor you have done me to-night, and I am glad of the opportunity I have had of giving you the result of my experience of Irishmen,

Captain Rhodes sat down amid rounds of applause which lasted for some time.

11.—The Heroes, Poets and Orators of our native land. Band—The Harp that once through Tara's Halls. Song by C. E. Anderson, Esq. "In the Isles where the bones of our fathers repose," received with great applause.

Mr. Bean being called upon to respond to this toast said,

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—It is no doubt a high honor, on an occasion like the present and in a company so very numerous and respectable, to be called upon to respond to the toast you have just pledged with such creditable enthusiasm—but I confess I am no advocate for impromptu responses, least of all in my own proper person. It is unfair alike to the individual and to the toast. But for an Irishman to hesitate in speaking to a sentiment like this, were almost to ignore his nationality, for it is of all others the subject upon which an Irishman may dwell with the greatest pride, and materials are abundantly at hand, from which the slightest preparation might constrict a pyramid of fame, a host of memories—alike honorable to our country and gratifying to ourselves; for though the wicked policy of the past destroyed the records of our country's intellectual pre-eminence, it ever living genius has stamped itself indelibly upon all ages, and at all times, even to the present moment, triumphs in new birth, and glories in existence. No country in the world supplies more splendid illustrations of those three great national characteristics—the Poet, the Statesman and the Warrior. You are all aware that I might occupy your time for hours in the enumeration of illustrious names, still leave enough untold to do the work of fame, and amply vindicate the land's renown. Why, scarcely has the time passed from us, when death within a few short years, has gathered into his narrow house, three mighty types of national capacity, three glorious illustrations of our toast. The world in its obituary of a century cannot produce three names surpassing those of our departed countrymen—O'Connell, Moore, and Wellington. Their fame is our inheritance; their names are history. Enough! the noble genius of our country sits enthroned upon the lofty pyramids of her own creation; the light, the inspiration, and the glory of her sons.

12.—Our Chaplain and the Clergy of Canada. Band—The Coulin.

Dr. Fitzpatrick, Vice-President of the Society, having been called on to respond to this toast, said,

Mr. President and Gentlemen.—In rising to respond of this toast I must express my regret that it did not devolve upon some of the many gentlemen I see aroqnd me who are much more capable of doing justice to the subject. Nevertheless it is a matter of congratulation to me that the opportunity occurs in which I can observe that the exalted character, zealous piety, and edifying lives of these venerated men speak more forcibly in their favour than the most eloquent eulogium. (applause.) When we look back to the early part of Canada we shall find that from their first arrival here, burning with religious zeal, they penetrate the gloomy forests, dared every danger, and braved death in every shape to plant the standard of the cross, to civilize the savage Indian, and to cultivate the blessings of peace amongst them. Whilst others of their members anxious for the welfare of coming generations immediately set about establishing places of education, amongst many others of which I am proud to name the Seminary of Quebec (now raised into a university) where our children and children's children may acquire both learning and writing; and which furnishes to the different professions so many talented and enlightened men, who shed a lustre upon our adopted country. To descend to modern times, and within the memory of all here present, I have only to recall the fatal year of 47, remarkable for the large amount of emigration, when each ship brought its freight of disease and pestilence to these shores; to bring to every mind how these venerable men forgetting every thing but the call of charity and duty, nobly volunteered from College and Seminary flew to the scene of death to impart consolation to the suffering, and administer the last rites of religion to the dying; (applause,) and when the dark curtain closed over so many countless thousands, were still ready to soothe the widows griefs, and dry the orphans tears (cheers.) Even during the periodical visits of cholera, we have witnessed like instances of their worth, zeal and fidelity in their sacred calling; they make a continual self sacrifice of their lives for our well being. it is but just that we should, in return, feel towards them the deepest gratitude, respect, and love, and allow me also to add, that even those who differ from us in religions belief, must agree with us in even regarding them as the best guarantee for the preservation of law order, and morality. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. President and gentlemen, I am really astonished that I above all others should have been called upon to respond to this toast,—to speak on behalf and to enlogize the virtues and beauty of the ladies, when I have the misfortune to be what is called an old Bachelor, a description of a person usually supported to be woman haters. (Great laughter.) But though I dont like many of these I see around me, enjoy the happiness of a married life, I am not by any means a woman hater kind of old Bachelor, and those who imagine I know nothing of the gentle sex are very much mistaken. (Renewed applause.) I have seen a great deal of happiness among those recently married, and among these married for a long time. Not long ago I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of a Canadian like myself, with a daughter of Erin. At such moments as these I sometimes have an idea, (great laughter) and though I am not Irish myself, I may some day find the better half of me Irish.

14—Our Guests. Three times three.

This was the last of the regular toasts and was neatly spoken to by J. B. Parkin, Esq.

Mr. Parkin said it was some years since he and the President had first sat down beside one another at a St. Patrick's Dinner. It was longer perhaps than either of them might desire to remember. The moments he had spent in occasions of this kind around the festive board of the St. Patrick's Society were among the pleasantest in his recollection, though some few years had elapsed since he had last the honor of dining with them. This he was bound to say, was not his fault, for the Society had for a few years resorted to another mode of celebrating their annual anniversary. He was happy to see they had returned to the old practice and he hoped that he would, on many succeeding occasions, be found as he now was, among the guests of the St. Patrick's Society. For himself and the other guests he offered his best thanks for the hospitality they had received and the warm manner in which their health was drank.

The President shortly after vacated the Chair and E. J. Charlton, Esq., was called to take his place. Mr. Charlton proposed the health of the late Chairman, the worthy President of the Society, which, as might be expected, was drank with all the honors. The health of C. E. Anderson, Esq., was also proposed, and that gentleman's reply was received with much applause. The health of the "Preacher of the Day," and "Success to the *Colonist*," were also drank as volunteer toasts. Several very excellent songs from Mr. Lane, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Donohoe, and others, added much to the hilarity and general enjoyment. The final toast, "success to our merry meeting," was proposed and drank by those who remained till the last, with an earnestness which testified that every one of them would be glad to meet again on St. Patrick's Day 1856. Three cheers were then given for Old Ireland. Thus ended the best and most creditable national festival of the kind ever held in Quebec.

Mr. Drummond's General Savings' Bank Bill is intended to place the Savings' Bank laws on a different footing than heretofore. The most prominent feature of the bill is to provide that no Savings, Bank shall be established with a less capital stock than £100,000, in shares of not less than £100 each. Deposits are to be limited to £500, and the Governor in Council to fix the rate of interest to be allowed to depositors. The moneys received in deposit by any Savings' Bank only to be invested in debentures, which might, under the banking laws be received by the Receiver General in deposit for registered bank notes. Savings, Bank moneys may also be deposited in any of the chartered banks at call. A further clause provides that the Receiver General may issue special, and not transferable depentures to any Savings' Bank for money arising from its deposits; the debentures bearing interest payable half-yearly, at a rate exceeding by two per cent that fixed by order in Council to be allowed to depositors. The debentures not to be in sums less than £50 each. The machinery of the bill provides for the most stringent check on the directors and books of account, also for a Government inspector (or inspectors) of Savings' Banks, who shall have all the power of Commissioners.

Maine Law.—The number of petitions presented to the Provincial Legislature, in favor of a prohibitory Liquor Law up to the 18th December last, was 257, containing 40,152 signatures. Of these petitions, 82 were from the Divisions of the Sons of Temperance; 6 were from Municipalities, and 5 from other bodies. Exactly so, and three-foths of the signatres were those of Sunday and Common School children. Strong expression of public opinion.—Very!

THE NUNS IN SCUTARI HOSPITAL.

The *Catholic Standard* says a packet of letters from Scutari—including some from the nuns themselves—has just arrived. They bring down the account of the state of the things to the hospitals to January 28th. We have been fortunate enough to hear read one of them, from the pen of the Rev. the Superiors of the Convent of Kinsale, who went out as superior of the last party of religious which sailed for the East. The writer is full of thankful cheerfulness and good spirits. She mentions indeed, the difficulties and disappointments which the good religious had suffered from the medical officers who, for a considerable period positively refused (as we had mentioned in a former number) to allow more than ten of their number in all to enter the Hospital, which (as present number in the East is in all 29) would have deprived half the religious of any opportunity of assisting in the good work which took them out. However, it is no easy matter to foil nuns, and so the doctors seem to have discovered. They sat to work to contend against the medical officers with their own appropriate weapons, and the gained the victory. Finding the hospitals in a great measure closed against them, they betook themselves to prayer, and the object so senselessly raised has been removed. The whole 29 are now hard and happily at work in the hospitals. Of the 15 who went out last five are employed at the general hospital at Scutarin, in the company with those who were before them; the remainder (ten, including the the Superioress) are in the new hospital at Kulalee, which is to accommodate 1,500 patients. They arrived there on the 27th and found full employment. The *St. Petersburg Journal* of the 12th and 25th of January, bears the following testimony:—"We have great satisfaction in informing the public that the wounded Russians who have been taken to Constantinople have been most carefully attended in the French hospitals by the Sisters of Charity. Faithful to their holy vocation, the nuns came to the aid of suffering humanity with a truly Christian solicitude, making no distinction between the sufferers, either on account of the country or religion. We know also, that in their beneficence they have purchased for their prisoners both food and necessary clothing. They have behaved most admirably in attending to our poor wounded with as much care as to their own countrymen. May the homage of sincerest gratitude, reach to the ears of these worthy religious, whom God alone can reward as they deserve, for the mission of charity which they fulfil here below in so exalted a manner

FATHER MATHEW'S HEALTH.

The following are extracts from Father Mathew's last letter, dated Funchal, Madera, 22nd January, 1855

"As I flatter myself it will afford you pleasure, I inform you that, under the influence of this genial climate, my paralysed limbs are much improved. I still suffer from lameness, which prevents me from exercising on foot, the streets being so steep. I lament this, as we have no vehicles except cars drawn by oxen, on the hill, by which the little city of Funchal is encompassed. I am almost prevented from taking the air, as the charge for the oxcars is too expensive—two shillings and three pence the hour. There are vehicles called palanquins, and others named hamucks, carried by two men, which are more expensive than the ox-cars. I have never suffered myself to be carried in those laxy palanquins and effeminate hammucks. I do not deem myself feeble enough (thank God) to be carried by my fellow-creatures. These vehicles are generally used by delicate ladies and gentlemen in deep consumption. It is frightful to meet in the narrow streets these awful vehicles, in which the miserable sick are extended at full length.

"We enjoy in Maderia a perpetual spring, in which the thermometer never falls in the shade, lower than 64, but oftener rises to 74. It is to be feared that on my return to Ireland I shall suffer severely from cold.

"The removal of the Liverpool packet from the Madera station, for the conveyance of our troops to the seat of war, has occasioned great inconvenience to the invalids from England—at Madera they are very numerous—over 7 hundred. In consequence of their number, board and lodging are excessively dear. I could not get board and lodging in a very *plain* family for less than £12 a month. I most anxiously hope that on my return next June (God permitting), your exertions on my behalf will be compensated by finding me greatly improved in health.

"As for myself, the only wish I have for improved health is that it may enable me to resume my labours, for the few remaining years of my life, in the sacred cause of temperance. Should it be the merciful will of the great God not to restore my health, I fervently pray that the Almighty may, in His goodness call me to Himself, that I may not be a burthen to my friends, and particularly to you, dearest Dr. Hayden, my great and only benefactor. It is you alone who rescued me from wretchedness and almost despair, and bid me hope once more. Your exertions have been indefatigable to extricate me from inexpressible agony of mind.

"With kindest remembrance to your most respected lady, and affectionate compliments to your beloved son, I am, as ever, dearest Dr. Hayden, your most greatful friend.

"Theobald Matthew.

"Doctor Hayden,
"Harcourt street, Dublin."

One of the Men.—*The Rockingham Register* thus describes a citizen of Pendleton County, Va., Frederick Keister by name.

"He is now in