THE HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1884.

The Scott Act.

THE Toronto *Evening Canadian*, in its issue of the 29th inst., dedicates an able article to the Scott Act, which it condemns for many reasons, chiefly among them being the reason that, as a means of preventing the use of intoxicating liquors, it is a dead failure. The *Canadian* says it would hail with pleasure the introduction of an Act prohibiting the manufacture or importation of intoxicating liquors, but since such an act is yet in the womb of time, it thinks the Canada Temperance Act a mere trifling with the curse of intemperance. The result up to this, says our contemporary, is drinking from the bottle in out-of-the way places, and the spread of that demoralization which attends it. What the saloon keepers say is this "We shall sell liquor as long as its manufacture is authorized by law; stop its manufacture and we shall stop its sale, and find other means of earning a living." The Summerside *Pioneer* is of altogether a different opinion. Our Island contemporary believes in the efficacy of the Scott Act. The *Pioneer* says that the best proof of the good the Act is doing is the "zeal of the rum sellers in getting up a petition. It is evident that there is a difference of opinion between the two journals, an honest one, we are sure, but still a vast difference. Both would go in for total prohibition, but as that consummation most devoutly to be wished for has not arrived, each looks to the next best thing as a check to drunkenness, one believing in the license system introduced by the General Government, and the other in the Scott Act. For our part we agree with the Toronto paper. The Scott Act has had a fair trial, and it has been found not only useless, but mischievous. We cannot doubt the word of the *Pioneer* when it says there is less drunkenness in Summerside now than there was before the Act. We know it is altogether different in Charlottetown. Under the Scott Act what are known as "dens" have sprung into existence like mushrooms, and if, as the *Pioneer* unthinkingly says, "few but the scum and dregs of society are injured by them," that is quite enough. It is the "scum and dregs of society" that most require a helping hand. The "scum and the dregs" are increased in volume and immorality by the Act, altogether, of course, against the intentions of its framers and supporters. A law similar to that in force at present in this Island, has governed, or tried to govern, many States of the Union, but after an experience of several years, it has been found inefficient, and a high license system substituted with beneficial results. This is especially the case in the great State of Illinois, the difference between which and Prince Edward Island as regards temperance is wide and significant. The arguments advanced by the *Pioneer* that the zeal displayed against the Scott Act by the "rum sellers" is a proof of its usefulness is absurd. Such zeal is merely a proof that hotel keepers, and liquor sellers generally, desire a monopoly of the traffic, a monopoly which we hope they may obtain if it helps to restrict the trade in spirituous liquors, which, under the Scott Act, has became indiscriminate, as well indeed it may, seeing that no license is required for its sale. There are, at present, a great many dens in existence where "the scum and the dregs" obtain all the poison they can pay for, but if the Act be extended for three more years, their number will be doubled at once, and a still lower stratum will be tempted to engage in a traffic on which there is little restriction, and to which there is no license fee attached. There will, of course, be a corresponding spread of demoralization and of crime. Within the past six months there have occurred here in Charlottetown six sudden deaths owing to drunkenness, which we contend is a pretty strong record for half a year, and one that does not speak well for the Act. How many cases there may have been that did not see the light we leave the *Pioneer* to conjecture. It seems to us that the License Act framed by the Dominion Government and now in force, was long and anxiously considered by the best intellects of the country before it passed into the statute books. Why not give it a fair trial? The Scott Act is, we repeat, an inglorious failure. Why, then, not try the high License Act which can be amended year by year, and the license fee increased if necessary? We do not now advance the argument that after all there may be a minority, and a large one, which takes its stimulant in a mild, uninjurious way, for the evil of intemperance is so malign, so destructive, so demoralizing that strong legislation should be enforced for its suppression, even if the few have to suffer that the many may be saved. We would go in heartily and cordially for such a drastic measure as complete prohibition, but, until Canada is prepared for that kind of legislation, we believe the next best thing is the license system introduced by the Dominion Government in May last.

THE eighty-six-year-old Kaizer is a gallant man. He has sent a telegram to King Humbert of Italy lately, saying, "My son kissed the hand of your Queen, and I am seriously jealous of him."

Mr. Laird as a Calumniator.

WITH weak-minded people the temptation to attack the editor of a successful paper instead of the paper itself, its principles or policy is irresistible; and as the editor of the *Patriot* is among the feeblest of mortals it would be nothing short of a miracle if he proved an exception to the general rule. Nor, considering the weak intellect of the man, can we blame him over-much; we might as well censure the cur dogs for sitting on their haunches at night and barking at the moon. The curs realize their own position fully, but they do not understand that of the Queen of Night; they only see a luminous object, they think it has no business to be there, and they bark. When dogs bay the moon they indulge, without knowing it, in the grossest personality; but the Hon. David Laird has not the same excuse. He is not very enlightened to be sure, and his sojourn among the Sioux—kindred spirits that they were—did not add to the natural polish of his character; but he has lived long enough among civilized beings to learn a few of the social amenities of life, at least, if not to conduct himself like a gentleman. That he has not done so, that he is incapable of doing so, is perhaps more a misfortune of his training than a fault of his nature; but then such a consideration should have little weight with those who think it their duty to chastise him, if it did, the criminals in our jails and the lunatics in our asylums would be justified in calling to fair play all round. Ignorance of the law does not save a man's neck from the rope, neither should ignorance of the ethics of journalism save him from merited chastisement for a breach of journalistic etiquette.

It is with the Hon. David Laird as a man *pur et simple* as one of the leaders of a party the HERALD has had to do, not as the editor of a newspaper. If Mr. Laird ceases to cut a sorrowful, or any other figure, in politics, and retires behind the obscurity of of his little organ we shall be delighted to let him stay there, and the HERALD will content itself with dealing with the *Patriot* on its merits, what it cannot permit is that he should act in his public capacity to the detriment of the Province and then run behind the *Patriot* as a mischievous child runs behind its grandmother to claim impersonality. The editor of the HERALD is not a public man, when he becomes so—if he ever shall—the *Patriot* may be half excused for malicious and lying inventions concerning him. Not being so, it is hardly fair that he should occupy its space even in defending himself against the *Patriot*, and it he does so it is because, under the circumstances, it is necessary.

The editor of the HERALD, while acting for this journal in Ottawa, was not on the reportorial staff of a Liberal paper; he was not on the staff of any paper, Liberal or Conservative. The editor of the HERALD left the Montreal *Evening Post* and *True Witness*, of which he was chief editor for over three years, much against the wishes of the proprietors. The editor of the HERALD did not involve the Montreal *Post* in heavy expense for libel. In the case to which, we presume, our contemporary alludes, an intelligent jury, after a patient investigation, found a verdict in favor of the *Post*, thereby exonerating that paper from the charge of libel. The *Post* emerged from the contest, therefore, with flying colors, and it is the general opinion that the suit was the turning point in its fortunes. And here it may not be amiss to remind the Hon. David Laird that he should be the last person in the Dominion to stir up forgotten libel suits. He should remember that a former editor of the HERALD caused him to cut a shameful figure in connection with a libel when he, Mr. Laird, was editor of the *Patriot*. His memory must be defective, indeed, if he forgets how, when Mr. E. Reilly initiated an action for libel against him, he went down on bended knees and made so abject an apology that both friend and foe turned away in disgust from such an exhibition of cowardice. We cannot now get at the apology of Mr. Laird, but this is the editorial paragraph from the pen of the late Hon. Edward Whelan on it:

"The proprietor of the HERALD has, it appears, withdrawn his libel suit against the proprietor of the *Patriot*, the latter having retracted the libellous matter complained of and made a very humble apology in the *Patriot* of the 8th inst. (8th Sept., 1866). When we read the apology we thought it was humilating enough to satisfy anybody."

Since then his position in journalism is so painfully like that of a witness convicted of perjury, that strong corroborative evidence is required before anyone can be found to believe him, and in proof of our assertion we quote once more from the Journal of the Legislature, wherein it is stated in black and white as the opinions of his political friends that he had made statements "that were untrue, and without the shadow of foundation." We need hardly say that very cautious language is used in the Journals, but nevertheless the foregoing quotation is remarkably strong. There is little fear of a libel suit against the *Patriot* in future, so long as it is controlled by Mr. Laird, for so accustomed is he to apologise that a retraction is constantly sitting on his lips ready for utterance the moment a stranger approaches the editorial chair with anything resembling an aggressive countenance.

Editorial Notes.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in England for increasing the salary of Judges, which, at present average about $25,000. But what about our Canadian Judges, who actually work harder, are paid the magnificent salary of $4,000, and are expected to be leaders of fashion and give dinners!

DUN WIMAN & Co. have issued the schedule of failures for 1883. Those connected with Canada are as follows:

	No. of Failures.	Liabilities.
Ontario	567	$4,700,000
Quebec	438	6,400,000
New Brunswick	48	747,000
Nova Scotia	89	1,068,000
Newfoundland	5	48,000
P. E. Island	5	40,000
Manitoba	232	2,869,000

Let us be thankful our failures have been so small, even in proportion to population.

THE rumor is revived that it is contemplated to connect Montague with the P. E. Island Railroad at Cardigan Bridge. The Local Government have done all that is in their power in the way of opening up the district, and, as one of our local contemporaries says, the onus is now upon the General Government to give the people of that district a branch connecting Montague with the Island railroad.

THE *Blackstone Valley Acqus.* published in Lonsdale, Rhode Island, says

"We have received from the Colonial Secretary of Prince Edward Island a pamphlet entitled 'Prince Edward Island,' published by authority of the Provincial Government. The little volume is remarkably well filled with information regarding this, the smallest of the Dominion Provinces, and after perusing it we are astonished that we should know so little about a place so near home, so rich in natural resources, and so far advanced in all that go to make a place noted."

We may add that this pamphlet has done more to advertise the Island than anything written about it since it passed into the hands of the English.

WE are happy to announce that the subscriptions collected by the ladies who have so energetically interested themselves in the City Hospital amount to $1,160.31, a sum unprecedentedly large. We have not words at our disposal eloquent enough to praise the laudable and benevolent efforts of those ladies, and shall only indulge in the hope that the subscriptions will go on increasing so long as there is need for them, in a like ratio. If there is an institution in this Dominion worthy of the support of all creeds, classes and sections it is the City Hospital of Charlottetown.

AFFAIRS in Egypt are growing more serious every day. There is not a gleam of victory from the Soudan to encourage the Khedive, and it seems the sortie of the Bashi Bazouks from Gezieh rah is not the victory it was first reported, but a defeat. England will not engage to conquer the Soudan, but is resolved to hold on to Egypt proper. This, however, does not suit the views of either the Sultan or Khedive, who are now engaged intriguing with France against England. This Egyptian embroglio is as good a cause as any other for the great war prophesied last month by Goldwin Smith.

WE have to make a few corrections in the notes on "Old St. Jean," printed in the New Year's Supplement to the HERALD. The notes, or letters, were originally written by the Count de Pychon, not de Piche, and translated literally not by Miss Pope, but by the author of "Cape Breton and St. Jean." Miss Pope, it is, who was kind enough to transcribe the translation from a rare old book and send it to the HERALD, well knowing that anything relative to the Island or its history would be of interest to our readers. The most casual observer would at once perceive the style, stiff and constrained as it is, could not have emanated from the graceful pen of Miss Pope.

BUT one day of the new year had rolled over when a fearful railroad accident happened in this Canada of ours. Two cars and a dummy engine left the Union Station at Toronto with sixty men, all Grand Trunk Railroad hands, going to work after the New Year. In rounding a curve the train collided with a freight train, and a scene of inconceivable horror at once presented itself. The boilers burst, the cars took fire, and in a few minutes twenty-seven men were burning to death with no one to help them, while numbers of others were so scorched and roasted that they will die, if indeed they are not released from their sufferings ere this. The blame is placed equally on the conductor of the freight train and a telegraph operator.

The Exhibition Meeting.

CONSIDERING that the thermometer registered ten below zero, the meeting in the Market Hall on Monday night last was well attended. Mr. Henry Beer, M. P. P., was called to the chair; Mr. P. McQuaid acted as Secretary.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Charles Palmer, Q. C., seconded by Dr. Jenkins:

Whereas, The Dominion Exhibition, which has been held in all the older Provinces of the Dominion, excepting this Island, contributed largely to the future prosperity of farmers, mechanics and artizans, by stimulating them to greater effort in successful competition.

And Whereas, By holding the Dominion Exhibition, 1884, in Charlottetown, a large amount of money would be spent for building material and in payment of wages to mechanics for putting up suitable buildings and other necessary work pertaining thereto.

And Whereas, Many thousand dollars must be expended in Charlottetown by visitors to the Exhibition, all of which must find its way into the pockets of the merchants, hotel and boarding-house keepers, livery stable proprietors, and citizens generally.

Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the City Council will be justified in giving a liberal sum from the city funds to aid in successfully carrying out the proposed Exhibition, believing that the benefits arising to the citizens from said Exhibition will doubly repay them for any such outlay.

Several speakers addressed the meeting, after which it was agreed that the further discussion of the question under consideration be adjourned until Tuesday, the 15th inst., to which date the meeting stands adjourned, the object of the adjournment being to give the City Council time to submit their annual financial statement to the meeting before taking final action in the matter.

WE regret having to announce the death of Mr. Angus D. McMillan, which sad event took place on New Year's Day at Wood Islands. Mr. McMillan was only forty-six years old. He was Liberal member of the House of Assembly for Belfast

Our Boston Letter.

MINISTER LOWELL AND O'DONNELL—THE INVINCIBLES—THE PANAMA CANAL—UNCLE SAM'S NAVY.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

BOSTON, Jan. 3, 1884.—The State Department has just published, at the demand of Congress, the correspondence relating to the execution of O'Donnell, in whose behalf this Government fruitlessly appealed to that of Great Britain for a stay of proceedings. In spite of the wild talk of some hot-headed people, it is evident that the Cabinet exerted its utmost influence to secure a reconsideration of the unfortunate man's case, and did all that any government could do, consistent with its dignity, to save the life of one of its citizens. In its efforts it was not warmly supported by Minister Lowell, but that is a surprise to nobody. It is quite likely that Mr Lowell's term of office will not last very much longer, as Americans who do not at all sympathize with Irish-American ideas, are yet very much dissatisfied with the peculiar conduct of our misrepresentative at the Court of St. James. His acceptance of an office, that of Lord Rector of a Scotch University, though a purely honorary one, is not in keeping with American traditions, and the title "lord," rather sticks in the crops of self-respecting Yankees. One cannot easily imagine honest Ben Franklin or sturdy Andrew Jackson wearing any such cheap title, especially while in the service of their country. We have travelled some distance, it is true, from the time when an artist proudly painted Franklin at the Court of Versailles, conspicuous in the grand simplicity of his citizen's costume, the central figure among the tinselled and jewelled fops of the court. But the departure is more apparent than real, and the sentiment is just as strong as ever against any American's debasing himself to wear the livery of royalty, or accept title, decoration or gift from any foreign power. Strictly speaking, of course, the Lord Rectorship is not a title of rank, any more than that of Lord Mayor; for Mr. Lowell has too much Yankee thrift to risk the loss of his office and $17,500 a year by accepting it if it were. Besides the Constitution expressly forbids him doing so. In O'Donnell's case Mr. Lowell no doubt obeyed the exact letter of his instructions, by presenting the request of his government, and no doubt he did not exceed the letter of his instructions by a hair's breadth; for zeal in such a cause is not apt to be his weakness. A Minister of greater sturdiness might have secured a different result, and, then, he might not. In any case, the Government of the United States did its duty, and only the reckless "Invincibles", think of criticising it. Some of them, I see, threaten, by way of reprisal, to kidnap the Governor-General of Canada and what They do not say what. They merely threaten to carry him off somewhere; but as they do not threaten to kill him, and cannot mean to hold him for ransom since that would be mere criminality, the question what to do with him, not to mention where to hide him, becomes a serious one. Rather, it would become serious if those invincible "Invincibles" had any notion of doing it. They have not, of course. They just delight in loading up an itemless reporter with such stuff, knowing that it will be telegraphed all over the country and gravely cabled, with the usual "padding," to England, where it will make a nine days' sensation. Look out for the customary blood-congealing telegrams from Halifax in a day or two, stating that a Fenian war-balloon has been sighted off Sable Island, and that the garrison of Arichat has been instructed to double its sentries until further orders. It threatened men live as long as they are proverbially said to do, Lord Lansdowne need not prepare for any less rigorous climate than that of Canada for many a year.

There is little doubt that the next administration, whatever its political complexion, will give more attention than has lately been given to our foreign affairs. The re-opening of negotiations concerning the old Clayton-Bulwer treaty by the State Department indicates an awakening to the fact that American interests have been neglected on the Isthmus. The matter of colonizing the Isthmus is the chief affair, the item of British Honduras being but a peg on which to hang graver matters. That colonization, though old in date, has never been sanctioned by treaty, but, on the contrary, is in violation of many treaties, the Clayton-Bulwer one being the latest. It is M. DeLesseps' canal that is the present consideration, in spite of sufficient warnings, the energetic Frenchman has gone on with his work, feeling confident that the European maritime powers will protect his rights. In fact they will, as against the only power that of the republic of New Granada which might be at all likely to interfere with his property rights. Whatever happens, it is not likely that that government or any other is going to confiscate the fruits of his labor and enterprise. As I have said, New Granada is the only one which might, with any pretence of law, attempt doing so. But the political position of the canal is quite another matter. The history of the Suez canal shows how political advantages may be obtained in a work of that kind, without any infringement of property rights. It is not the intention of this government to let any European power gain such advantages on this continent. Any power in the world but this, if similarly situated, would have assumed possession of such a key long ago, without even the pretence of a right. Uncle Sam contents himself with seeing that nobody else squats on a piece of land which he denies himself the luxury of grabbing. Still, there is no telling how far the foolish lust for glory may carry a country, military-mad as is the present French republic. A dazzling success in Tonquin, on top of the doubtful triumphs in Madagascar, Tunis and elsewhere, may turn the head of the grand nation and lead it to think that the tri-color would make a pretty ornament "on a lone peak of Darien." Even Bismarck might take it into his head to alleviate popular discontent at home by sacrificing a few thousand fighting-machines abroad, as is the royal fashion of curing all the ills of state. Or, if he is not likely to do anything so silly, he might persuade his new Spanish friends to pull a few chestnuts out of the fire for him, in the name of the old Spanish supremacy in America. All sorts of absurdities are possible in the game of politics, and Jingoism is a card that takes almost everywhere, surpassing Malthus as a population-reducer.

The gibes of the press about our navy would lead one to fancy that it consisted, as one wit said, of "officers and water;" but we have some pretty handy-looking ships afloat, and first-class material manning them. The *Shenandoah*, a second-rate, sailed from this port to-day, under orders for the Pacific, and expecting further orders to proceed to China and look after American interests there, in case of serious hostilities between that country and France. The *Shenandoah* carries nine heavy guns, and has a complement of over three hundred men and twenty or more officers. The men are as fine looking a body of sailors as I ever saw, most of them being veterans, and many serving their fourth or fifth term of enlistment. The Asiatic is a favorite station with the service, especially among the unmarried officers. Those with wives and families do not like it so well. As for the sailors, they have little preference. Like those of every navy, they take what comes, but surprisingly few of them desert from an American vessel to join one of another nationality, generally when Jack goes on a spree and deserts it is because he happens to have drawn a little pay, ahead or back, as the case may be. When he sobers he enlists in a new vessel, under a new name. I saw one such in the "glory-hole" of the *Shenandoah*, a few days ago. He had deserted from the *Yantic*, in Brooklyn, had a glorious spree, and come on to Boston and enlisted here. As ill luck would have it, an officer of the *Yantic* had just been transferred to the *Shenandoah* and recognized the prodigal, who was at once put in irons and the "glory-hole," aforesaid. He was an Englishman, and solaced the weary hours of confinement by chanting in a dismal "come-all-ye" strain:

"O would that Hi might see
My hown true love agayne!"

He won't, though; at least not until he has served three years in the prison-ship.

All nationalities are represented on a man-o'-war, Irish predominating among the foreigners, and next to them Germans and English. The master-at-arms, the policeman of the forecastle came along as Jack was singing his sad lay, and I heard:

"Here, ye dom coon, luck where ye're going (to a newly enlisted colored man and brother.) Don't spet on the dack like that. Take a swab and clane it up now. Go an, I tell ye. An' don't ye luck at me like that, or I'll keck the stuffin' out o' ye."

The accents of old "Derry" were then lost in a Babel of French and Scandinavian brogue. The quarter-deck speaks only United States; but when it comes to fighting they all understand each other, and make themselves intelligible to the enemy as well.

B.

Letter from Myles O'Regan.

Mr. Editor:

About that winter communication question. It is really a difficult question to be solved. I have been studying the matter deeply and can arrive at no other solution than what I offered in a former letter. But then Mr. Laird is not willing; that is the great trouble, and I don't know if any other man would answer the purpose half as well. But couldn't we make him carry the mails? Couldn't we expropriate him as we do the lands of unwilling proprietors in order to widen the streets? If not, we must build a bridge, say for instance, a bridge of asses; and here again the hero of Keewatin would come in handy as one of them. Truly Mr. Laird should be thankful to your humble correspondent for showing him to what a number of various and useful purposes he could be applied. For my part, I am willing that you utilize him for anything almost, but don't, pray don't, ever again make of him a member of Parliament. Anything but that. Parliament is the rock against which he splits, and, though splitting may be play to that celebrated individual, it is ruin to his constituents. If the bridge will not answer you must try a tunnel. I am well posted in tunnels, but will not bore you to any extent with them at present.

I see the Scott Act is demanding a new lease of life in Prince County. The Scott Act is a fraud, Mr. Editor. Once upon a time a man could obtain a decent glass of something to drink in a decent hotel in this County, but now he has to drink fixed bayonets. If the Act prevented drunkenness I would vote for it, but it doesn't, and the so-called temperance advocates know it. They know that the consumption of poison has increased one hundred per cent. within the past three years, and the crimes consequent thereupon, two hundred; but they will persist in riding their hobbies. Some people can only obtain notoriety by riding hobby horses. This is how I view the matter. I would, if I could, seize all the liquor in the world and pour it into the Atlantic Ocean, and would then pass an act prohibiting the manufacture of any more. The degradation liquor has brought upon mankind is something awful, but it is not little bits of Scott Act here and there will stop it. The law regulating the liquor traffic is a screaming farce, and, although the last act passed by the Dominion Government is an improvement, it might be further improved. See the way they punish a man for getting drunk and starving his family—two dollars fine or a week's imprisonment! Then the man emerges with all the millions of cells in his stomach fiercely athirst for more poison. Why not give him a year, and try to reform him during that time. If he is a drunkard his family will suffer none the more because he is in durance vile. Then again, the temperance people should be more temperate in their language. They overdo the thing in their zeal. When I was young and airy I boarded in the same house with a temperance lecturer. He was a fearful bore. He used tell us at breakfast and dinner and supper every day that even a moderate use of stimulants was injurious to the human system, as proven by the testimony of thousand of the most eminent physicians in Europe.

"Observe!" he would exclaim, "if you put a drop of brandy, no matter how pure, in your eye, how terrible will be the scorching effect."

"But," said I one day, exhausted with his fanaticism, "as a general rule, brandy is not manufactured for the eye, and, besides, if you put a loaf of bread in your eye, or a barrel of water, or a quarter of beef, how sat will be the result? And yet bread, and water, and beef, are excellent things in their place, as you will confess."

He was silent but not convinced; I may add that my lucid illustrations staggered the lecturer. At all events he gave us a rest at the table, and the boarders presented me with a gold watch and a suitable inscription. I hav'n't got the watch now, I am sorry to say. I left both watch and inscription with an uncle of mine for safe-keeping, and he sold it at auction a year later. It was a great wash.

I am sorry to see that some of your contemporaries speak irreverently of my letters. The *Patriot* called them "drivel" last week, at which I was so much hurt, that I would have sat down and wept only that the only chair in my room is a broken stool, and there is no pleasure in crying standing up. But I know the reason the *Patriot* is mad. The *Patriot* is always joking (comic, you know, and it fancies it sees in me a rival. But that is a mistake, I am a philosopher, and always in dead earnest.

Yours, &c.,

MYLES O'REGAN.

Alberton Notes.

Winter has fairly set in and Alberton folks have settled down to devise ways and means to pass away the long evening hours. Scarcely a week passes but we hear of a social gathering.

On Christmas evening the Wesleyans had a supper, followed by an entertainment. Owing to the almost impassable state of the roads, the attendance was not as large as it otherwise would have been, but those who had the good fortune to be present expressed themselves as highly pleased. The supper was prepared as Alberton ladies only know how. The musical part of the programme was under the direction of Mr. Matthew Leard, the popular leader of the Wesleyan choir of this village. The readings and recitations were fairly rendered, the performers fully sustaining their previous reputation.

The ladies of St. Peter's (Episcopal) sewing circle, had, on New Year's evening, a Bazaar and Tea, in aid of their church. The attendance was large, and the articles for sale were quickly disposed of. The tea table was also well patronized. The handsome sum of $220 was realized. The ladies of the circle deserve great credit for their exertions in thus obtaining so large an amount for improving their church property.

Our literary tastes have not been neglected during this festive season. On Friday evening, Jan. 4th, the school children under the direction of Miss Mary Hunter, assistant teacher of the Alberton school, gave an entertainment consisting of songs, choruses, readings and recitations. Their performances are highly spoken of, and much credit is due to Miss Hunter for the labor she evidently must have bestowed in training her pupils to appear before a public assembly to to such advantage. Several ladies and gentlemen of Alberton assisted in the entertainment, and performed their parts admirably. Miss Rogers' recitation was especially well rendered, and would reflect credit on a professional.

During the past season the Catholics have greatly improved their church property in this village. The chapel tower has been capped with a handsome spire. Mr. Joseph McDonald (Captain) performing the joiner work, and Mr. John Rotchford the painting and gilding. Competent judges pronounce the work well done; other necessary improvements have been made in the interior of the chapel. The Catholics of this village are to be commended for the zeal exhibited in pushing forward any work of general benefit to the Parish. No doubt this is owing to the spirit infused by their genial and popular Parish Priest, who not only directs, but also bears a large proportion of the labor necessary in carrying on the good work to completion.

There is a rumor, and it is fast obtaining credence, that our Postmaster will, on Thursday evenings, require additional assistance, owing to the increased and increasing amount of newspaper matter that comes by that day's mail. Should he petition the P. O. Inspector for more help, the HERALD will, no doubt, be found advocating his claims.

Alberton, January 7, 1884. F.

Voyage Round the World.

El Mehidi is marching upon Egypt proper.

A French paper says the Invincibles will burn London.

Dewey, the forger, is trying to settle with his Boston victims.

Two thousand stokers and sailors are on strike at Marseilles.

Halifax schools are estimated to cost $78,000 for next year.

A great many failures are reported in the English mining trade.

Montreal is threatened with floods by a rapid rise in the river.

Henry Brayden, Iron master, England, has failed for £720,000.

Inspector-General Bruce, of the Irish Constabulary, is about to resign.

Minister Lowell will resign the Lord Rectorship of Glasgow University.

The thermometer was 22 below zero in Toronto Sunday. In Dakota it was 48.

Nominations for York will take place on the 22nd, polling on the 29th January.

Governor Robinson was inducted into office in Massachusetts on the 2nd inst.

Garfa, the most notorious gambler in Europe, has entered a Trappist convent.

Cumberland County, N. S., exported nearly $200,000 worth of cattle last year.

Iowa is discussing the propriety of prohibiting railroads from issuing free passes.

All importations to France of hog meats will be absolutely prohibited after January 20th.

On Saturday there was a general re-opening of all the gambling dens in New York City.

England will have nothing to do with the Soudan, and Egypt is negotiating with France.

The chances of Mr. Temple, Conservative candidate for York, N. B., are considered excellent.

Sarah Bernhardt intends to write a book entitled "Marie Colombier," by Sarah Barnum?

A conviction is growing in England that Mr. Gladstone's Egyptian policy has proved a failure.

It is reported that Lord Dufferin will be sent to Egypt to remain as long as existing difficulties continue.

The newspapers continue to print rumors that the Khedive of Egypt contemplates abdicating his crown.

Two million bushels of potatoes were raised in Kings Co., N. S., last year, for which there is no market.

A monument to the memory of Mozart is about to be erected at Vienna, a century after the maestro's death.

It is said that since the New York *Herald's* reduction to two cents its circulation has largely decreased.

It is stated it is the intention of Jules Ferry to revise the French Constitution and introduce the *Scrutin de liste*.

At Fresno, Cal., the other day, a couple were married for the third time. They are 87 and 73 years old respectively.

The Brooklyn corporation has consented to the erection of elevated railways on some of the principal thoroughfares.

The train dispatcher Clark, whose negligence caused a recent collision on the G. T. R., at Montreal, is to be arrested.

Last fall potatoes brought $2 a barrel at the shipping points in Aroostook, Maine. This year the ruling price is only $1.

The German Government has ordered the demolition of the vast Danish works of defence at Duppel, as they are no longer useful.

A violent storm prevailed in Buffalo on Thursday. The wind blew at the rate of 50 miles an hour, and considerable damage was done.

Leon Cronson, a drummer in the employ of Goldsmith & Kulm, N. Y. diamond merchants, has absconded with $30,000 worth of diamonds.

Bodies of Lt. Commander DeLong and others of the *Jeanette* expedition who perished in the north of Siberia, are on their way to America.

Francis Bernard, the old Indian Chief, and his wife, died recently at North Sydney, there being only a few days between the death of both.

There were 3,766 deaths in Montreal last year, an increase of 40 as compared with 1882. Typhoid fever carried off 106, and diphtheria 155.

For the month of December the duty collected in Ottawa on imports was $22,115.35, being an increase of $2,871.98 over the same period last year.

Mrs. Emma Hopkins of Spring Lake, Mich., thinks she has Ethan Allen's sword and wants the Vermont Legislature to pay her $1000 for it.

There is a prospect that retaliatory measures will be adopted by the United States Congress in the matter of the pork prohibition by France.

The legislature of South Carolina has appropriated $10,000 for a display of the resources of the state at the coming World's Cotton Exposition at New Orleans.

The average price of locomotives is $9,000 dining cars $10,500, first-class passenger coaches $5,250, baggage and mail cars $2,200, freight cars $520.

Chinese fishermen or pirates frequently break telegraphic communication between China and Europe by cutting the cables for the purpose of selling the copper and steel wires.

Railroad freight from New York to San Francisco is $1.50 per 100 pounds. From New York to Denver, one half the distance the same amount of goods must pay $4 freight.

The exports of cattle from Montreal have increased from 2,880 head in 1876 to 50,365 in 1883, while during the same period the exports of sheep have risen from 2,686 head to 102,835.

It is said that Tennyson is a shrewd financier, who jumps quickly at a paying investment and holds out to the last for his pound of flesh. He is worth $1,000,000 to $1,500,000.

The Canadian Government are communicating with Earl Granville in respect to arranging the basis for the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty with the United States Government including a settlement of the Canadian fisheries question.

Several citizens of Mitchellville, Iowa, were recently taken strangely ill, swollen eyes, rough skin, and dry-coated mouth being the principal symptoms. It has been discovered that ginseng weed ground with buckwheat flour was the cause of it.

A summary of losses in the Gloucester fisheries for the last year has been printed. The record shows 17 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,119, valued at $91,300, were lost. Insurance upon the same, $76,972. Two hundred and nine fishermen lost their lives, forty of whom are known to have left widows and a number of fatherless children.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

PARIS, Jan. 3.

A telegram from Saigon confirms the report that the Black Flags massacred the prisoners captured before Sontay. Admiral Canrobert, has decided to take active measures for redress. M. Tricoch has arrived at Hule, and Dr. Harmond has arrived at Saigon. The latter will proceed on his way to France by next mail boat. It is rumored that M. Chamfeaux, French President at Hue, has resigned, owing to a disagreement with Dr. Harmond.

DUBLIN, Jan. 3.

Despite the proclamation of the lord lieutenant, prohibiting a gathering of the Nationalists at Cootehill, County Cavan, Cavan, Hon. C. Biggar and members of the organizing commitee of the Irish National League, arrived at the depot there and were enthusiastically received by a large crowd. The magistrates and a force of police were also present at the depot. The magistrates handed Biggar a copy of the proclamation prohibiting the meeting, but Biggar mounted a car and drove off, followed by his friends and the police, the latter preventing any assembly of the crowd in mass meeting as was expected.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.

This has been the coldest day of the winter, the thermometer standing at 14 degrees below zero at 1 p.m. At Omaha it is 17 below; at Dubuque 26 below, and at Minneapolis it was 30 below at noon, the lowest in 25 years. All trains arriving at Chicago are greatly delayed. Eleven miles southwest of the stock yards on the Wabash road, stands a train of 25 cars of live stock. The train was snowed under on Tuesday night, since which time the animals have been without food or water. Although several engines were sent down, the train could not be reached, and the party returned, several of them being badly frost-bitten. It is believed that the stock perished to-day.

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.

A collision occurred last evening on the Canada Pacific Railway, between this city and Montreal, by which four residents of Montreal and three officials have been injured.

The Toronto city council has voted $2,000 in aid of the bereaved families of those killed by the Humber Railway disaster. The Governor-General has forwarded a cheque for $250 for the same object.

The *Canadian Illustrated News* has ceased to exist, after thirteen years of public service.

CAIRO, Jan. 3.

It is reported that El Mahdi's brother-in-law, after occupying Kaws and Duem, within 30 miles of Khartoum. The governor of Khartoum telegraphs that he is prepared to receive the enemy. Much difficulty has arisen from French opposition to the English policy.

LONDON, Jan, 3.

The *Standard's* Cairo correspondent says there is a general cry for Ismail Pasha or English annexation. It is stated that the French consul general has informed the Khedive that if England is unwilling or unable to defend Egypt against El Mahdi, France is willing and able to defend her. Meanwhile, it is significant that daily cabinet councils are being held in London.

The Cabinet to-day considered the programme to be adopted at the coming session of Parliament.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes the results of an inquiry addressed by that journal to Liberal members of the House of Commons, in regard to the programme of business at the next session of Parliament. Of 170 members who replied to the interrogations of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, 100 expressed themselves as opposed to the dissolution of Parliament in the event of the House of Lords rejecting the franchise bill. Eighty-five per cent. of these are in favor of taking up the franchise question as the first measure on consideration. Only three out of 100 replies on the subject object to giving Ireland the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by England.

The Nationalists announce a meeting to be held at Black Lion Hotel, in Cavan, on Wednesday, 16th inst., at which Davitt, O'Brien, M. P., Sexton, M. P., and Biggar, M. P., are requested to deliver addresses. A similar meeting of Nationalists is announced to be held at Boyle, County Roscommon, on Sunday, 20th inst. The Orangemen announced that they will oppose the holding of both meetings.

TORONTO, Jan. 2.

This morning at five minutes to seven o'clock the suburban train on the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk Railway was run into by a special freight from the west about 150 yards west of High Park station. The result is not less than twenty-seven men killed and from twenty to forty, more or less, badly mangled, scalded and burned.

OTTAWA, Jan. 7.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has decided upon presenting a handsome silver watch to Capt. McKenzie, a handsome binocular glass to Capt. McLeod, and $50 to each of the boats crew, who so gallantly went to the rescue of the shipwrecked mariners on the wreck of the *Marco Polo*, wrecked of Cavendish Sand Hills, P. E. Island.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Jan. 6.

The convent fire at Belleville, Illinois, turns out to have been more destructive than was at first supposed. Up to this twenty two are missing. Among the dead are Miss Mary Campbell, teacher. Eleven bodies have been found in the debris. Among those injured are Daisy Eberman, Agnes Scheider, Lou Matt, Fannie Rankin, Sister Raphael, Sister Stylites, and Sister Mannasses. Sister Mary Jerome and 15 of the smaller pupils are missing, and searching parties are out in quest of them.

A still later report says there are five Sisters burned to death and 22 pupils.

The Markets.

HALIFAX MARKETS.

HALIFAX, Jan. 5.—Eggs per dozen, 25 to 27 cts.; butter, good dairy (small tubs,) 23 to 25 cts.; butter from country stores, 20 to 22 cts.; new factory cheese, 11 to 12 cts. per lb.; beef per quarter, per lb., 5 to 8 cts.; mutton, 5 to 7 cts.; pork (carcass,) 7 to 8 cts. per lb.; potatoes, 25 to 35 cts.; turnips per bl., 75 to 90 cts.; hay per ton, $12 to $14; pork, mess, $15.00 to $15.50; P. E. I. mess, $17.00 to $17.50; P. E. I. thin mess, $17.00 to $18.00; P. E. I. prime mess, $15.00 to $15.50; lard, tubs and pails, 13 to 14 cts. per lb.

BOSTON MARKETS.

BOSTON, Jan. 4.—Pork is in moderate demand and the sales have been small; we quote prime pork at $13.50 to $14.00; mess at $16.00 to $16.50; and clear and backs at $17.50 to $19.00 per bbl.

There is no change in butter and the demand has been moderate; the sales of western and northern creameries have been at 33 to 35 for choice, and 24 to 30 for fair and good; New York and Vermont dairies at 24 to 30 for choice, and 18 to 22 for fair and good; western dairy at 20 to 21; and western ladle packed at 15 to 17 per lb.

Cheese is steady and the sales have been small; we quote choice at 12½ to 13½; fair and good at 11 to 12; and common at 6 to 9 per lb.

Eggs have been in demand at 32 to 33 for eastern; 30 to 31 for New York and Vermont; 28 to 30 for Nova Scotia and P. E. Island; and 27 to 29 per doz. for western.

The market is well supplied with potatoes and the demand has been moderate; we quote houlton and aroostook, rose, at 48 to 50 cts; eastern rose at 48 to 50; northern rose at 45 to 48; prolifics at 50 to 52; and burbanks seedling at 45 to 47 per bushel