

MASON HALL.—It seems somewhat strange that in a community which boasts of order—sobriety—and a general discouragement of rational public entertainments, so curious, we might say so disgraceful, a scene should be presented as that which occurred in the Mason Hall on Monday last. The demand, in such cases, causes the supply. If Barrack Street and Water Street want entertainment we suppose that they must have it. But that the hustling and jostling of an old public servant, who by reason of his years has lost that sense of propriety, which we may suppose he once possessed, should attract a rowdy lot to the Mason Hall is as distasteful to the proprietors of that building, as it must be distasteful to all right-minded citizens of Halifax. However pitiable it may be to witness the puerile vagaries of a semi-educated dotard, it is yet more pitiable to see a concourse of people resolutely striving to befoul a gray haired man to the top of his bent. That Mr. Craig will continue to exhibit himself in public, so long as he can obtain an audience is highly probable, but that an audience can derive pleasure from a spectacle so pitiable is not creditable to the Haligonian public.

THE BLOCKADE RUNNING FLEET.—The well known steamship *Old Dominion* which so frequently visited this port seems to have a charmed life. In addition to the many hair-breadth escapes which this steamer has passed through, a crowning piece of good fortune has lately saved her from certain capture. Five steamers had been already captured in the Cape Fear river. Five more vessels about to sail from Bermuda would most surely have shared their fate had not the *Orel* most fortunately attempted to enter the river by the south entrance instead of the New Inlet. Receiving the news of the fall of Fort Fisher this vessel returned to Bermuda in time to warn the blockade runners there assembled of the state of affairs at Wilmington. Amongst the steamers there assembled was the *Old Dominion* but we regret to learn that the *Charlotte* with Capt. Cocker in command had left for Wilmington and been captured before the arrival of the *Orel*. The blockade running business will now probably cease to exist, or if it does continue will be confined to porten the Gulf coast. Halifax has probably now seen the last of blockade running, direct from this port to the Confederacy.

FEDERATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—It will cheer those who are anxious for delay in the consummation of our bargain with Canada to learn that the New Brunswick parliament has been dissolved. Dissensions amongst the members of the ministry of that province have been held forth by some journals as the most probable cause for such a step. Others would have us believe that as the time of the present parliament expires after its next session it is advisable that a legislature which shall have the opportunity of introducing and completing the Union scheme should be summoned at once. Should the former view be correct the New Brunswickers are singularly fortunate. The opposition party was always opposed to Federation, and it would now seem that the Government itself is divided in opinion as to its expediency.

A HINT TO THE CITY FATHERS.—In Canada, where four or five feet of snow fall during the course of every winter, *No snow* is allowed to remain upon the pavements of the principal cities. In Halifax, where a few inches of snow fall annually, some is allowed to remain upon the pavement. In Canada, a little snow would only at worst wet un-moccasined feet. In Halifax, half an inch of snow on the pavement causes, owing to those cheering changes of our climate, with which we are all of us familiar, a hundred falls per diem, some serious, others only provocative of mental and unexpressed bad language.

TREATING A GREAT QUESTION SOBERLY.—It is truly painful to observe that a two-penny half-penny meeting at Antigonish, can call forth such telegrams as the following. One must be false, yet our press is always commenting with horror upon the lying telegrams from the Northern States.

Utrum horum major accipit.

ANTIGONISH, 25th Jan. 1865.

Anti-Union meeting to-day, ended in opponents leaving before meeting over.

Mr. McDonald spoke; then the Attorney General—one hour limited. Miller, for nearly two hours.

Attorney General rose to reply, when the others skeddaddled, and resolution favorable to Union unanimously adopted.—*Col.*

ANTIGONISH, Jan. 25th, 1865.

Immense Federation meeting here to-day.

Hugh McDonald, Esq., Hon. W. Henry, and Wm. Miller, M. P. P., made speeches.

The Anti-Confederates carried all before them.

Messrs. McDonald and Miller were enthusiastically supported.

LAUCHLIN CAMERON, J. P.
Secretary.—*Chron.*

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week

The iron-clad monitor *Patapasco* was sunk off Charleston on the night of the 17th by a torpedo. From 40 to 50 of the crew were drowned.

A party of 800 laborers leave Annapolis, Maryland, to-day for Savannah, to repair all the railroads taken, and to be hereafter taken by Gen. Sherman.

In a debate in the Confederate House of Representatives, a Mr. Marshall said he would take every man in the Confederate States by the nape of the neck and force them into the army if he had his way.

The Federal steamer *Venango* was recently captured on the Mississippi, together with 60,000 dollars in greenbacks, by guerrillas.

Advices from Wilmington, state rebels have evacuated and blown up Fort Caswell and other minor defences to the entrance of Cape Fear River.

The five blockade-runners, who, not knowing that Fort Fisher had been taken, ran in Jan 18th., and were captured by Porter's fleet, are the *Banshee*, General Whiting, Mary & Ella, Etie, and Flamingo. They all had valuable cargoes.

The Federal General Grierson, in his late raid into Mississippi, marched 400 miles, lost less than 100 men, captured 600 prisoners, and brought in 1000 contrabands, together with 1000 horses, besides destroying 100 miles of railroad.

A despatch from Quebec says the report that the British Government had sent a fleet of gun-boats to the Lakes, is a canard.

The Confederates have destroyed several large vessels in the Cape Fear River, including the *Tallahassee* and *Chickamauga*. Sherman's movements are not allowed publicity by the Department.

Gold is quoted in R. Bond at 3500 per cent. premium.

It is rumoured that Mr. Seward will be appointed Minister to London after 4th March next.

Information from James River says five Confederate iron-clads came down the river yesterday morning, at 2 o'clock, to make an attack on City Point. A battle quickly ensued between the Confederates and our nearest batteries, in which one Confederate iron-clad was blown up and instantly destroyed, and two others so badly damaged as to cause them to seek safety by flight, followed by the remaining two.

In the Canadian Parliament yesterday, the Finance Minister included in the estimate for the current year, the sum of \$50,000 in gold, to make good the late robbery at St. Alban's by Confederate refugees.

The case of the Confederate Burleigh, sought to be released by Habeas Corpus has not yet been decided.

The Smithsonian Institute at Washington, was nearly destroyed by fire yesterday.

Several valuable buildings were burned in Buffalo yesterday including the American Hotel, loss over half a million dollars.

A very fast Iron Steamer named the *Colonel Lamb*, left Havana 21st inst., supposed intended for a Rebel Privateer. She had 140 men on board registered as passengers, and cannon in her hold.

Advices from New Orleans of the 4th., say that a Federal Expedition of fifteen thousand men was preparing to advance on Pascagoula.

The Rebels have a rumor that the Federal Post of Fort Smith, Ark., has been captured with its garrison of troops, a thousand men.

Richmond papers of the 22nd subsequently confirm the evacuation of Wilmington, and that Gen. Terry is in possession of the city.

The Augusta, Ga., Constitutionalist (Rebel) says that the city is filled with fugitives from South Carolina. It would appear that a panic had seized upon the people of that State on the approach of the Union army, and that they are ready to leave everything to save their lives.

Two blockade runners, the *Stag* and *Charlotte*, ran into Cape Fear River on the 19th, not knowing the place was occupied by Federals, and were captured.

The sales of gold in this city are estimated at two millions closing at the Night Exchange at 209.

Some details are given of the attempt of the Confederate Flotilla to pass the Federal batteries on James River. Three iron-clads, mounting two guns each, and four wooden vessels two guns each, made an attempt, during the storm and darkness of Tuesday night last, to pass; the *Fredericksburg* with full steam, succeeded in breaking through the obstructions near Dutch Gap Canal, and the *Richmond* in attempting to follow, got aground. This delayed the expedition until daylight, when the Federal batteries opened upon them. The iron-clad *Drury* was blown up by a shell entering the magazine, and her consort was compelled to retire. Had the flotilla got cut it is probable the entire fleet of Federal transports, with all the works of Gen. Grant at City Point, would have been destroyed.

It is stated that the entire Confederate Cabinet, with one exception, has resigned.