

FROM THE STATES.

Boston, Dec. 2d. A plot to burn Government stores at Memphis worth two million dollars has been discovered, and several of the leaders arrested.

Investigation shows that the late attempt to fire New York Hotels and spread general conflagration, was a carefully arranged rebel demonstration, intended to apply to all Northern cities; it failed from bad management.

The examination of parties arrested is progressing secretly before a military commission.

China arrived here this evening. Dates to 19th and 20th. Political news unimportant.

Ship Great Western was still detained at Liverpool on allegations of being concerned in conveying recruits for Federal army.

Congress 91 a 3/4 for money. Breadstuffs quiet and steady. Provisions inactive. Produce quiet.

Cotton 24 a 3d higher. Gold 228.

Dec. 3. Steamer to day for Europe takes over one million in gold.

London papers state that over one hundred thousand persons gathered to witness the execution of Muller, and that scenes enacted around the scaffold were of the most outrageous character. Muller confessed his guilt.

The Richmond papers of Thursday announce that Gen. Sherman is making for Fort Royal, at which point they say the naval fleet is waiting for them.

The Sentinel says that a slight attack was made on Macon, which was repulsed.

The Examiner says that Millen, the great railroad junction, has been occupied by Sherman, and that he is moving on Savannah.

Gold 226.

Dec. 5. The steamship North Star arrived yesterday. She was detained towing her convoy, the Augusta, which was disabled. She brings information of the capture of several rebels at Panama, who had taken passage in steamer Salvador, for San Francisco, intending to seize her.

A quantity of arms, ammunition, &c., were also seized.

Nothing new from Nashville. Hood's army was retreating about four miles South-West of the city.

Charleston (S. C.) papers speak of unusual activity by the Federal fleet and land forces on the coast and say strong expedition is ready to co-operate with Sherman.

Abel idea now seems to be that Sherman is aiming for Savannah.

Semmes, late of the pirate Alabama, arrived at Matamoros Nov. 10, en route for Richmond through Texas.

Gold 227.

Dec. 6. About 60 Southerners were arrested in New York yesterday, by order of Gen. Dix.

Several of them were subsequently discharged, others held for examination.

Richmond Enquirer editorially says, referring to late incendiary attempts in New York: "We are very glad to see that all our Southern refugees are required to register their names. If Gen. Dix will hang them he will do service to our cause. A set of cowardly sneaks who deserted their country are not above burning hotels. We hope Gen. Dix will hang every mother's son of them."

There is no later war news this morning. Gold 230.

HEALTH OF THE SETTLEMENTS.—Last winter and spring the town of Newcastle and vicinity suffered severely from that insidious disease Diphtheria; and many homes were made desolate by the removal of the younger branches of families. Chatham suffered but lightly. Now the scene is changed—we refer to late incendiary attempts in New York: "We are very glad to see that all our Southern refugees are required to register their names. If Gen. Dix will hang them he will do service to our cause. A set of cowardly sneaks who deserted their country are not above burning hotels. We hope Gen. Dix will hang every mother's son of them."

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A large shark was found in the seine and drawn in and laid on the thwart of the boat. The next instant a heavy squall struck the boat, when she filled with water and sunk. Mr. Snow was drowned—the other man (Swaine) was rescued by a boat, just as he was sinking.—[Yarmouth Herald.]

Communication.

CONFEDERATION.

To the Editor of the Standard. Sir.—It appears to me, that there is a degree of apathy and indifference manifested by the people of this County, upon the all-engrossing topic—the confederation of the Colonies. A subject of such grave importance, and which will affect the future of the Province, demands their serious consideration, as the day is approaching, when by their votes at the polls, they will elect Representatives upon that question.

The benefits which would arise from such a Union, have been ably, and to my mind, truthfully and patriotically pourtrayed by the Provincial Secretary, Mr. Tilley, whose facts and figures have not, and I think can not be successfully refuted, by your contemporary of the "Freeman," nor by Albert J. Smith, Esq., member for Westmorland. I have read attentively, the former's articles, and the latter's address to his constituents, but intended for Provincial eyes. With all due deference to those writers, I opine they will not attain their object, which is sufficiently transparent to be seen through by the merest political tyro. They must produce something more convincing before they can ride into power.

Many besides myself were pleased to notice in your brief but pithy leader of the 23d ult., your suggestion "that the honorable Messrs. Tilley and Gray would do a service to the Province by addressing the people in each County, and explaining to them the details of the scheme, and show the advantages of confederation." I am, and always have been conservative in my principles, and for that reason, was much gratified to find that the talented Messrs. Tilley and Gray were ably advocating a Union of the Colonies. I am a Briton, and sincerely desire to perpetuate British connection; in what way can I more effectually do so, than by aiding Federation; for it is a fact that the Province is fast drifting into Republicanism, and in danger of being swallowed up by the Northern States. The Union Constitution, if I may so term it, avoids the very rocks upon which the late American Federation have split; and is assimilated as closely as circumstances would permit to our world-renowned British Constitution. Mr. Tilley and Mr. Gray have shown financially and politically, the great advantages our own little Province would derive from the contemplated Union. But there are some well disposed people who cannot see that benefits are likely to arise from a federal union. If they will only read, and study the subject, it is likely they will be convinced that without a union we are mere cyphers, but with it, we shall be part and parcel of a great nation.

I notice that Mr. Tilley has stated that the question must be submitted to the people for their decision, and I feel sanguine there will be a majority to approve of it. I may say for you grant me a space in the Standard, endeavor to show that with reference to "taxation and representation," our delegates have acted justly to the Province. The old motto of "United we stand, divided we fall," is pertinent to the great question. I hope that some able pens, than mine, will be enlisted to carry out this grand project.

Yours, F. C.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

Commissions Signed by His Excellency the Commander in Chief:—

Second Battalion Charlotte County Militia. Lieutenant James Bogue to be Captain, vice Smith, promoted, 30th November 1864.

Ensign James O'Brien to be Captain, vice Wetmore, promoted, 1st December 1864.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief has been pleased to permit the under mentioned Officer to retire, retaining his present rank:—

Fourth Battalion Charlotte County Militia. Major Thomas B. Abbott.

By Command. THOS. ANDERSON. Lt Col., Adj. Gen.

CANADA NOT IN DANGER.—In answer to the statements made here and in Great Britain as to the indefensible position of Canada, we are enabled to state that the Imperial officers deputed to examine our own and the American frontier, and to report on a system of defence, have not only reported that Canada can be effectually defended by a moderate force against aggression, but have also devised a scheme of defence which has been approved by the military authorities at home, and is about to be carried out as far as permanent works are required.

CLERICAL INGENUITY.—The "Colonial Presbyterian" calls attention to a very ingenious contrivance, due to the mechanical genius of the Rev. Neil Mackay, pastor of St. David's Church, for "making the deaf to hear"—quite an angelical piece of mechanism. To two different pews the sound of the preacher's voice is conveyed by a tube, and thence to the hearers by a gutta percha pipe. The arrangement works most admirably, enabling persons who have not done so for many years, to hear the preacher's voice, and to join in the religious exercises of the Christian sanctuary.

This scheme, we understand, is based upon the principle of communication by means of a tube, and is not new.

On the 19th ult., the banks of Baltimore were victimized to the amount of over \$60,000, by means of forged checks purporting to be signed by leading New York brokers and bankers, and for sums varying from \$4000 to \$7000. Chas. H. Osmer, of New York, a young man respectably connected, was arrested on Thursday, and has been identified as the man who obtained the money for the forged paper.

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A Washington despatch says the success of General Sherman's expedition is undoubted.

No new developments have taken place before Nashville. Hood is entreaching about three miles southwest of the city, and his troops are plainly to be seen from high points in the suburbs.

Recent intelligence from Scotland announces the death of Mr. J. R. McCulloch, well known as the author of a "Dictionary of Commerce and Commercial Navigation," and a "Dictionary of Geography." He was seventy-five years old, had been a professor of political economy in the new University of London from 1828 to 1832, then filled a lucrative government office, and later, enjoyed a pension of £200 granted by Sir Robert Peel.

SLATING RINKS.—From present appearances it seems that the skaters in this vicinity will have ample opportunities for enjoying themselves during the winter. Capt. James has made a pond at Flora Spring, on his farm, of seventy-five yards in length and thirty-five in width. It is only about a mile and a half distant from town, is pleasantly situated, surrounded by woods on each side and by bushes at the ends; a good road has been made to the rink; a sheltered spot cleared for horses and sleighs, and a bush camp erected.

A subscription has been raised for the purpose of repairing the sea wall at the first marsh, lower end of Prince of Wales street, at Indian Point, and converting it into a large skating rink. These two aims with the pond on the Barrack Hill, will offer abundant facilities for those fond of the healthy and exhilarating exercise of skating. In addition to these places the Chumcock lakes will no doubt, be visited by excursionists during fine moonlight nights.

Frank Muller was executed at Newgate Gaol on the 14th inst. Up to the time of being placed upon the drop he denied the murder, but just before being executed, he confessed that he had murdered Mr. Briggs.

Mr. Grant has at his Saloon, some well executed photograph views of the Scotch Church and the new Baptist and Methodist Churches, which are sold at low prices.—These pictures will have a ready sale as they are just the size to send to friends at a distance in letters.

FEDERATION.

The following is a portion of a leading article on Federation, in the "Eastern Advocate," and meets its opponents with arguments that they cannot gainsay:—

It is confidently asserted by many persons as a most conclusive argument, "that the Province of New Brunswick is well enough as it is!" "Let well enough alone," we have been told by a quiet old gentleman of three score years and ten, or thereabouts, who, surrounded by hundreds of acres of dyked marsh, and farms innumerable of richest fertility to give to each of his sons, sits quietly from day to day smoking his pipe of peace and enjoying the riches which beneficent Providence has blessed his labors and his fortunate position, and whose only fear is the big bear taxation. "Let well enough alone," says the Hon. A. J. Smith, who owns lands by the thousands of acres in several Counties of the Province—who has money enough to buy an election from the ignorant French electors of Westmorland, independent of all political questions; and who while yet a young man, has made a fortune by his practice.

But what says the fathers—not having broad acres of marsh to give a farm to each of their sons, nor money to educate them for lawyers, so that they may devour and grow rich upon the hard earnings of the poor and unfortunate—who see their sons wanderers over the sea in search of employment which New Brunswick could not give them; soldiers, it may be, in the Federal army, shedding blood in an ignoble strife; or the respected, enterprising citizens of American cities—as many of them are—an honor but a loss to New Brunswick.

"Well enough off," are we? What says the New Brunswick mother when she sees her daughters growing up to fair and lovely womanhood, and reflects that the young men are all gone to seek fortunes and wives in foreign lands. "Well enough off," are we? With no manufactures; no capital to develop a single mine; no employment except the cultivation of the soil, the richest portions of which have been "gobbled up" by speculators like the Hon. A. J. Smith; and no markets or access to markets where can be sold the scanty produce of the farmers, or to the fishermen's toil. And to be told "we are well enough off!"

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woman of New Brunswick burn with shame and indignation to be told that they are such cravens as to be satisfied with such a condition?

THE STANDARD.

ST. ANDREWS, DEC. 7, 1864.

A respected correspondent C. F. has sent us a letter upon the Federal Union of the Colonies, and promises more on the subject. We trust that others will follow his example, and give the public the benefit of their opinions. Almost every one, whether in favor of or opposed to Federation, view the question from a different stand point, and it is so easy a matter to divest the feelings of prejudice, or an indisposition to change the beaten track for a more advantageous one: There appears to exist on the part of some a dread of taxation, and of their local interests being disregarded,—others lay great stress upon the small representation allotted 66 New Brunswick in the Federal Legislature. The Provincial Secretary in one of his speeches clears up these objections. He said:—

"Concerning the representation, that by population was the only one that could be adopted. The question had, for a long time, been agitated in Canada. Upper Canada, with a population of nearly 400,000 more than Lower Canada, had only the same number of representatives. On the question of Representation by population, there was but one opinion, and that was, that it was the correct principle. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, with a population of 700,000, have the same representation in the Upper House as Upper or Lower Canada, one with 1,600,000 and the other with 1,200,000. Concerning the disregard of Lower Provincial interests in a House composed so largely of Canadians, he would ask if in our own local Legislatures two members representing the smaller Counties of this Province ever complains that injustice is done their County, because they only represent one twentieth of the whole, certainly not, they always have their fair share of influence, and so will it be with New Brunswick and the Maritime Provinces in the proposed Federation."

This should be a sufficient reply, but some will never be satisfied. What country ever succeeded in developing its resources without taxation? and what country is so lightly taxed as this Province? If taxes are required for these purposes here, no true patriot will object to them. As we stand at present, the Province is scarcely known beyond its limits, except as a part of Canada, by even many of our republican neighbors. When, however, we form a portion of the great British American Nation, we will be known and respected—our statesmen will hold positions as ministers to foreign courts with equal dignity and ability as those of any other country—our rich mines will be opened and worked—our trade and manufactures increased, and we shall be able to compete with the Northern States.

LATEST NEWS.

From Boston papers of Monday, kindly furnished by Mr. Alexander, of Turners Express, we glean the following:—

The missing steamer North Star, arrived at New York yesterday. She brings intelligence of a plot, very nearly successful, to seize one of the California steamers. The conspiracy was discovered, and those concerned in it were arrested.

Gen. Foster went up the river from Port Royal, a few days ago and captured the Pocahontas bridge, in the Charleston and Savannah railroad, thus cutting the railroad communication between the two cities.

The steamers from New York for Europe on Saturday took over one million dollars in specie.

Late advices from Gen Sherman, through Southern sources, report of his main army of on the 24th ult., 13 miles east of Sandersville or about 130 miles west of Savannah. It is asserted in Washington dispatches that Sherman has received positive information that Sherman captured Millen, 79 miles from Savannah, on the 29th ult. Richmond papers of Thursday report the capture of the same. How many of the Federal prisoners were released, and how many have been liberated, is not known.

On the 19th ult., the banks of Baltimore were victimized to the amount of over \$60,000, by means of forged checks purporting to be signed by leading New York brokers and bankers, and for sums varying from \$4000 to \$7000. Chas. H. Osmer, of New York, a young man respectably connected, was arrested on Thursday, and has been identified as the man who obtained the money for the forged paper.

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A subscription has been raised for the purpose of repairing the sea wall at the first marsh, lower end of Prince of Wales street, at Indian Point, and converting it into a large skating rink. These two aims with the pond on the Barrack Hill, will offer abundant facilities for those fond of the healthy and exhilarating exercise of skating. In addition to these places the Chumcock lakes will no doubt, be visited by excursionists during fine moonlight nights.

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Mr. Grant has at his Saloon, some well executed photograph views of the Scotch Church and the new Baptist and Methodist Churches, which are sold at low prices.—These pictures will have a ready sale as they are just the size to send to friends at a distance in letters.

FEDERATION.

The following is a portion of a leading article on Federation, in the "Eastern Advocate," and meets its opponents with arguments that they cannot gainsay:—

It is confidently asserted by many persons as a most conclusive argument, "that the Province of New Brunswick is well enough as it is!" "Let well enough alone," we have been told by a quiet old gentleman of three score years and ten, or thereabouts, who, surrounded by hundreds of acres of dyked marsh, and farms innumerable of richest fertility to give to each of his sons, sits quietly from day to day smoking his pipe of peace and enjoying the riches which beneficent Providence has blessed his labors and