THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1889.

ALL matter for publication in the HERALD should be in this office by noon on Tuesday. Persons wishing their advertisements changed *must* advise us Saturday forenoon.

OUR readers will not forget that we are now located in our new offices in the building occupied as a store by the late Owen Connolly, Esq., where we are prepared to execute with the greatest despatch all kinds of Job Printing. We will be pleased to have our friends call and inspect our new premises.

THE MORIER AFFAIR.

Not a little excitement has of late been created in European Court circles by the statements published in the German newspapers,accusing Sir Robert D. Morier, at present British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, of having, during the Franco-German war, betrayed the secrets of the German movements to Marshal Bazaine and others. Sir Robert promptly gave the accusation the most downright and emphatic denial. But the German newspapers which published the charges against him, not only refused to publish his denial, but continued bringing accusations against the British Minister. The only evidence they brought to sustain their side of the question was a suspicious letter from the most suspicious of men—Marshal Bazaine.

The non-permission to publish Sir Robert's denial in the German press goes a long way towards confirming what had, all along, been suspected: that Prince Bismarck is the author of the accusation against him. This is regarded as the outcome of his hatred of the late Emperor Frederick, whose fast friend Sir Robert Morier was. The inference to be drawn from the whole affair is that Crown Prince Frederick delivered the secrets to Morier, who hastened to hand them over to the French. This is a most contemptuous way, on the part of Bismarck, of attacking the memory and character of the man he hated.

"It is now quite clear," says the London *Standard*, "Bismarck himself was the author of the charges against Sir R. D. Morier." Referring to the fact of the Kaiser choosing openly to associate himself with the Chancellor's tortuous policy, the same paper says: "There is a cold brutality about the whole business which is exceedingly unpleasant. Bismarck has outraged public opinion in a way it has hardly ever been outraged before."

INLAND REVENUE REPORT.

THE annual report of the Department of Inland Revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1888, has come to hand. It is a volume of nearly four hundred pages, and contains an accumulation of facts and figures setting forth the operations of the department in its various branches. The sources of the Dominion's revenue are Customs and Inland Revenue, including Excise Duties, Receipts from Public Works, etc. The total Inland Revenue Receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to $6,504,399 against $6,978,285 for the previous year. The principal decrease was in the Excise revenue, amounting to $455,590. From Excise last year there was received $6,010,561; from public works, $432,953; from culling timber, $15,096; from weights and measures, gas inspection and law stamps, $46,033; other revenues, $56. With the exception of spirits, there was an increased revenue last year in every time of Excise as compared with the revenue of 1886-7. The figures are as follows: Spirits, $3,099,016 against $3,737,339; malt liquor, $6,997 against $7,045; malt, $493,630 against $433,129; cigars, $554,067 against $524,281; tobacco, $1,740,542 against $1,668,005; petroleum, $36,569 against $31,989; manufactures in bond, $53,312 against $50,005; seizures, $13,066 against $2,029; other receipts, $13,962 against $12,231.

Regarding tobacco the report states that the consumption of excised tobacco has considerably increased, notwithstanding the wide difference between the duty levied in Canada and that levied by the Inland Revenue Department of the United States, the former being twenty cents and the latter eight cents per pound. The duty realized from domestic cigars has also been augmented, as will be seen by the next succeeding statement. The department sees in this fact a satisfactory evidence that the system of stamping now carried out in respect of tobacco, cigarettes and cigars, is a sufficient safeguard against smuggling and illicit manufacture. The excise duty accrued from tobacco of all kinds, including snuff, cigarettes and cigars, was as follows: Tobacco, snuff and cigarettes, $1,738,454; cigars, $544,729; license fees, $11,424, an increase over the previous year of $102,324.

THE REAL "MURCHISON."

THERE is no longer any doubt as to the identity of the author of the "Murchison" letter to Lord Sackville. His name is George Osgoodby; his father, who is a native of Rochester, N. Y., is still living at Pomona, California. George's mother's name was Murchison. The author of the letter is said to be a comparatively young man, married, frail and sickly in appearance and a craven coward. It appears he was for a time a school teacher, but latterly he has been engaged in fruit raising. He kept copies of all the letters he sent to the prominent British and Canadian statesmen, and immediately made known to the Republican "workers" the contents of the only reply out of which any capital could be made. These facts effectually dispose of the pretence that he wrote the decoy letters "merely for a joke."

We would not likely have heard of this individual at this time, were it not for the publication in the Los Angeles *Times* of a letter to President-elect Harrison, signed G. H. Otis, editor of that paper, and W. E. Fitzgerald, declaring that Osgoodby is the *bona fide* author of the "Murchison" letter and is therefore entitled to Mr. Harrison's gratitude. The letter of these gentlemen to Mr. Harrison is a striking proof of the morality which pervades the political system of our Republican neighbors. It is couched in the following terms:

"At the request of the true and only author of that letter, and in accordance with our own united judgement, we now give you his real name, which is George Osgoodby.

"He is a *bona fide*, reputable citizen of Pomona, in this county, where he has lived a number of years, being a man of family, a fruit farmer, and a property owner to the amount of $20,000. He is of Scotch-English parentage, but was born in the United States. He is not a politician, office holder, nor an office seeker. But he has small love for the English Government. He is a modest man, of intelligence and thought and has been a teacher. We know him, and have confidence in his manhood, honor and patriotism.

"Further, we are satisfied that George Osgoodby himself conceived the idea of opening correspondence with Lord Sackville as well as with other British statesmen, and that he himself wrote the letter dated Pomona, Cal., Sept. 4, 1888, and signed Charles E. Murchison, which evoked the famous reply that startled the country, convulsed the Continent politically, and went its way around the civilized globe. . . . George Osgoodby's object was to ascertain in this way, through the agency of an unofficial letter, direct from the British Minister, the real attitude of the British Goverement towards the two great political parties in the United States; to elicit a response which, when made public, should authoritatively settle the disputed question as to where the sympathy of that Government and people lay in the great electoral conflict then ending. . . . The real name of the author of the "Murchison" letter has never yet been divulged to the public, out of consideration for the wishes of George Osgoodby. Knowing intimately all the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, and the persons concerned therewith, we feel justified in saying to you that all persons whatever, save Osgoodby alone, who have claimed or who are claiming or who may claim the authorship of that letter, thereby practice a fraud upon him, upon the Republican, party and upon you, sir, if they come to you asking recognition because of such alleged service, and whoever lays claim to the authorship without sufficient foundation for such claim practices a fraud upon the truth. It is believed by our party that such claims are being made, and that impels us to speak thus early and plainly upon the subject.

"The author himself, after doing an act transcendent in its political effects, and one that has made him justly famous, natutally objects to being robbed of whatever credit may be fairly due him for his remarkable achievement. We have deemed it right as well as a duty to acquaint you with the indisputable facts, and we ask only that you consider them upon their merits."

We trust our readers will carefully peruse this letter and take into consideration that it was addressed to a man who, in a few weeks, is to assume the chief magistracy of a nation that considers itself in the van of enlightenment and civilization. We feel sure that any prominent man in Canada who would untertake to recommend to the kind consideration of the Governor General a scoundrel who, by fraud and forgery, had succeeded in playing a dirty trick on a representative of the United States, would be execrated by every person in the land, and that the cry of "shame" would be heard from one end of the country to the other. But in the United States the wretch capable of committing such a scurvy trick as the one here referred to is held in such high esteem that he has to defend his title to the *honor* of his achievement. The writers of the letter here quoted are pleased to say that Osgoodby has done "an act transcendent in its political effects and one that has made him justly famous." Had they put the words "justly infamous" they would be near the truth. Those capable of such frands as these, and of publicly praising them when committed, are the men to whose tender mercies some of our politicians would like to commit us.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DOMINION four per cents advanced three points in London last week. Other Canadian securities also improved.

THE exports for December aggregated $5,300,000. Imports $6,800,000, of which two million were free goods. Duties collected, $1,500,000.

IT is understood that a movement is on foot to induce the Imperial Government to make the proposed China and Japan mail service from Vancouver fortnightly instead of monthly.

DETROIT Customs Officers recently told a Windsor, Ont., music teacher that he would have to pay duty on his music every time he entered the city, as under the foreign labor law it was regarded as workman's tools.

IN the parliamentary election in Govan division, Lancashire, on the 18th inst., Wilson, Gladstonian, received 4,420 votes; Pender, Unionist, 3,349. In the last contest, Pearce, Conservative, received 3,574, and Dickson, Gladstonian, 3212.

IN answer to a question in the Quebec Legislature, the Government said that Hon. H. Langelier has received $3,000 for three days watching the interests of Quebec while the Red River crossing case was before the Supreme Court at Ottawa. It will be remembered that Langelier said he had nothing to say when invited to speak by Sir William Ritchie.

THE Appraiser's department of the New York Custom House has been proved to be rotten throughout its entire ramifications. Millions of dollars have been lost to the Federal exchequer in consequence of officials' praticipating in and conniving at fraudulent acts. An investigation is in progress. In certain official circles across the boundary line the principle acted upon is: "Grab all you can, as the opposite party may come into power at the next election." —*Ottawa Citizen.*

SIR JOHN MACDONALD must feel very confident of the support of the people of Canada, or with his half century of experience of political tactics he would not rashly give a great advantage to his opponents. All the Opposition journals are sure that he is going to surprise them with a general election immediately after the coming session. It is certainly strange that he should plan a surprise, and then communicate his intention to every Grit, Rouge and Castor newspaper in the land.—*Empire.*

IN the last 25 years the farming population of the state of Massachusetts has actually decreased 37,000. That is, it is 37,000 less now than it was in 1860. Here are the official figures:

1860,	farming population	698,261
1870,	" "	677,802
1880,	" "	675,478
1885,	" "	661,556

Yet all this time the farmers of Massachusetts had "free access to the markets of 60 million of people right at their doors." We do not believe there is a county in Canada, where a similar decrease in farming population can be shown. Here is a fact that we take the liberty of dedicating to Mr. Erastus Wiman of "helpless and hopeless" notoriety.—*Exchange.*

MISCELLANIES.

AUTOGRAPH ALBUMS.—An album may appear to be one of the elegancies of life which modern fashion has introduced; but the first notice of albums in England may be traced as far back as the time of Isaac Walton. In his life of Sir Henry Walton he relates that on his first going as ambassador to Italy Sir Henry passed through Germany, and meeting with some friends "he passed an evening in merriments, and was requested by Christopher Flesmore to write some sentence in his Albo. Sir Henry, consenting to the motion, took an occasion from some accidental discourse of the present company to write a pleasant definition of an ambassador in these words: 'An ambassador is an honest man, set to lie abroad for the good of his country.'"

In the library of the British Museum, among the Harlein MSS. is prescribed one of those identical German Albo's, which is thus described by Wanley in his catalogue: "A paper book in 800, bound longwise, being one of those which the German's call Albums, and which are much used by the young travellers of that nation, who commonly ask a new acquaintance (even at the first meeting) to write some sentence therein, with a compliment to the owner's learning, good sense, etc. The names so gotten are laid before the next new face; and the young man upon all occasions, especially at his return, by these hands demonstrates what good company he has kept."

Among the Sloane MSS. are six albums. The earliest was formed in 1579, as appears by part of the original binding. It commences with the motto and signature of the Duc d' Elencon. The book appears to have been quite filled in the course of a year or two, principally by Frenchmen, many of whom contributed songs.

It has been well said that "next to a portrait, the autograph of a great man is the most valuable notice of him." Accordingly, many persons have made it their business, or amusement, to form collections of autographs. Mr. Nichols notices many such collectors, with some details as to the nature of their collections, and says that "It has been a matter of astonishment to perceive the high prices which documents of very trifling interest in their contents have produced from being regarded as autographs."

It is only in comparatively recent times that specimens have been multiplied by engraving fac-similes. In most of our volumes of correspondence or biography, autographs are now given. We may now see the handwriting of celebrated persons whose names are familiar to all, and not their signatures merely but often whole letters written by them and preserved in libraries, which but for this exercise of the engraver's art, could have been known only to a few.

We can even purchase albums at present, containing the autographs of the most celebrated persons, with blanks for those of an intimate friend. Hence we are frequently requested to write our names between those of Shakespeare and Milton or Pope and Carlyle.

Lavater, the physiognomist, held that the character of a person can be inferred not only from his countenance but even from his handwriting. This notion, however, does not seem to have originated with Lavater, for long before his time Shenstone said: "I want to see Mrs. Jago's handwriting, that I may judge of her temper."

In one of his pleasant essays Disraeli thus refers to the subject: "Assuredly nature would prompt every individual to have a distinct sort of writing as she has given a countenance, a voice and a manner. The flexibility of the muscles differs with every individual, and the hand will follow the direction of the thoughts, and the emotions and habits of the writers. The phlegmatic will portray his words, while the playful haste of the volatile will scarcely sketch them; the slovenly will blot and efface and scrawl, while the neat and orderly minded will view themselves in the paper before their eyes. * * * The vital principle must be true that handwriting bears an analogy to the character as all voluntary actions are characteristic of the individual. But many causes operate to counteract or obstruct this result.

MELLISSA.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS' VOTES.

Monday, the 14th inst., was the day for counting the Presidential Electors' votes in each State of the Union. As our readers are aware, the people of the United States do not vote directly for President and Vice-President, but for Presidential Electors, chosen by the respective political and other parties, to the number to which each State is allowed representation in the Electoral College. For instance, New York has thirty-six Presidential Electors; Ohio, twenty-three; Pennsylvania, thirty; Illinois, twenty-two; Massachusetts, fourteen—the total number of Presidential Electors being 401. The numerical representation of each State in the Electoral College is the same as its representation in the two Houses of Congress. The law under which the counting of the Presidential Electors' votes took place on the 14th was passed in 1887, and was the outcome of a movement to prevent possible difficulties and a possible national crisis. It is entitled "An Act to fix the day for the meeting of the electors of President and Vice-President and to provide for and regulate the counting of the votes and the decisions of the questions rising thereon." The Act requires the Presidential Electors to meet on the second Monday in January—before the Act was passed the first Wednesday in December was the day fixed—at the State Capitol and there vote for President and Vice-President. The determination of the State authorities promulgated within six days after the meeting of the electors is to be regarded as conclusive as to the counting of the electoral vote and the ascertainment of the electors appointed by each State. It is declared to be the duty of the State Executive of each State to communicate, under the seal of the Secretary of State, a certificate of the electors appointed, giving their names and the canvass of the vote cast for each person, and to deliver to the Presidential Electors a like certificate, in triplicate, which is forwarded to the Secretary of State of the United States, who is required to publish the certificates and to furnish copies to each House of Congress. On the second Wednesday in February, the vote will be counted in joint session of both Houses in the manner prescribed by the Act.

1887. The system is a cumbersome one, and dissatisfaction with it is steadily growing throughout the States. The original idea of adopting this system of electing the President and the Vice-President was that from each State a body composed of first-class representative men should be chosen and upon them would devolve the duty and rest the responsibility of making the selection; but, as everybody knows, the Presidential Electors are the mere tools of the caucuses which nominate them and they vote according to the choice made by their party. While there is nothing to prevent a Presidential Elector from voting for whom he pleases, a case has never been reported, as far as we are aware, in which a Presidential Elector betrayed the trust reposed in him by his political friends. —*Ottawa Citizen.*

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

PARNELL COMMISSION.

The Parnell Commission resumed its sittings in London on the 15th inst.

Sir Charles Russell, counsel for the Parnellites, applied for an order against the Worcester *Times* for certain comments made upon the Commission.

Presiding Justice Hannen said he regretted the repeated application of this character, which he declared caused more distress to the court than the prosecution of the inquiry itself. He appealed to counsel to use their influence to prevent such statements as it was charged the Worcester *Times* had published. The judge said he would decide Sir Charles' application later.

Wm. O'Brien appeared before the Commission under citation. He stated that he accepted responsibility for the article in *United Ireland*, for which he was summoned, but denied that he intended any disrespect to the court, and disclaimed imputing that the judges were not doing their duty. O'Brien said he did not assume to question their lordship's rulings, but urged that he was entitled to comment upon the scandalous evidence being given before the Commission. He said we are most anxious to meet the charges made against us. Month after month we are incurring frightful expenses, yet the *Times* has not touched the one allegation in its columns which, if proved, will render all this matter entirely superfluous. We do not criticise the court, but the conduct of the *Times*. We desire to come to the point. That is the object of our Scotch action.

The court reserved judgment in the matter.

The counsel for Broderick, warden of Merton College, Oxford, summoned to appear before the Commission for making a speech in which he compared Davitt and Dillon to the Whitechapel murderer, repudiated the construction placed upon the speech, and denied that Broderick had intended any contempt of court.

Justice Hannen said that after the assurance of counsel, it was unnecessary for the court to take any further steps in the matter.

Attorney-General Webster said he had carefully considered the question of shortening the inquiry, and proposed to produce neutral statistics from blue books and the reports which the Irish Under-Secretary's Solicitor had ordered to compile from the police outrage book. It would, however, be necessary to call a few more land agents and deal with the speeches; but this would not take long. He hoped to produce evidence relating to the forged letters next week, and would then take up the subject of the League's American connection.

The taking of evidence was then resumed, and testimony was introduced relative to evictions in Tipperary.

Upon resumption of the session of the Commission on the 16th, presiding Justice Hannen said William O'Brien's article in *United Ireland*, for which he was summoned, to appear before the court, exceeded fair discussion of the case under investigation; but he admitted there was some force in O'Brien's argument regarding the continued circulation of the *Times* pamphlet. He said he believed no disrespect was intended to be shown towards the court by the article, and therefore he would not punish O'Brien. He added, however, that in future cases of a similar nature would be more severely treated.

Patrick Delaney, a convict in Marlborough prison, testified that he belonged to the Fenians until September, 1882. The principal leaders of the organization were Egan, Brennan, Dr. McAllister, John Lavey and John Doran. About 1879 a number of delegates, including John O'Connor, John Devoy and General Miller, came from America. The witness attended a meeting in Forrester's Hall, in Dublin, at which John Devoy represented the American Council. General Miller inspected the military organization, and it was arranged arms be provided and expenses paid. At another meeting Davitt, Parnell, Egan, Biggar, Dillon and Harris attended. Curley attacked Davitt for not adhering to the principles of the organization. After the meeting the witness was told the circles were not opposed to the League, which would organize the Fenians in the country and supply them with arms. The witness said the principal part of the invincibles' oaths was to assassinate the Viceroy and the whole Executive of Ireland. The invincibles received money from the League. Egan, Byrne and Tynan paid some to Daniel Delaney, Mullett and Brady. The witness was deputed to watch the movements of Mr. Forster, at that time Chief Secretary for Ireland. Joseph Brady and Timothy Kelly were delegated to shoot Forster. The witness intercepted persons crossing Queen Street Bridge, while Brady and Kelly endeavored to carry out their purpose. The witness took no part in the Phœnix Park murders. Mrs. Byrne brought over two knives used in committing those murders. At a meeting of the committee of invincibles held after the Phœnix Park murders, a quantity of gold and bank notes was laid upon the table. Afterward more revolvers, daggers and money came. Delaney further spoke of an attempt to hire a house on Castle Hill, from which the officials of the castle could be shot with rifles. Carey failed to get the house. On cross-examination the witness said that when seventeen years old he was sentenced to penal servitude for five years for highway robbery. He enrolled himself with the Fenians the night he left prison. When accused of the Phœnix Park murders he gave the authorities all the information in his possession. The witness was sentenced to death for complicity in the Phœnix Park murders, but his sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

The Commission met on the 18th. R. T. Reid, M. P., counsel for the Parnellites, called the attention of the court to the placard issued by the Sheffield *Telegraph*, on which are printed the words "The League Murder Ring." Confessions in Open Court." Presiding Justice Hannen requested that the matter be embodied in an affidavit, and submitted to the court. The taking of evidence was resumed. Captain Plunkett, Chief of the Cork Police, testified as to the perpetration of outrages. He said he knew of no support given to the tenants in their non-payment of rent and resistance to eviction except that given by the Land and National Leagues. Matters had improved since the passage of the Coercion Act. Capt. Plunkett created a sensation by stating that he heard Father O'Connor, parish priest of Fires, denounce at a cattle sale a farmer named Curtin, and a week later the farmer was murdered. The witness admitted he had met secretly in Cork in 1883 the Irish-American McDermott. He declined to say whether or not he knew McDermott as the paid agent of the police. French was head of the detective force. He also met McDermott. The witness did not know French paid McDermott money to concoct dynamite plots.

SUPREME COURT.

ON Saturday last the attention of the Court was engaged with the case of the Queen on the prosecution of A. C. Fredericks vs. William F. Callaghan. At the trial on the second indictment for forgery, the jury brought in a verdict of "Guilty."

John H. McIsaac vs. Peter Bradley. Tried Trinity Term, 1887. Verdict for plaintiff, $300. A rule absolute for a new trial was granted last Trinity Term, and the cause docketed for this term. On motion of Mr. Davies for defendant, and consent of Mr. Hodgson for plaintiff, the cause was duly settled by the defendant paying to the plaintiff the sum of $50, each party paying their own costs.

On Monday the case of the Queen on the prosecution of Donald McKay vs. John Fleming, indictment for housebreaking and larceny, was tried. The Attorney-General and C. B. McNeill, Esq., appeared for the prosecution. The prisoner pleaded his own case. The evidence in the case was concluded about noon yesterday, when the prisoner addressed the jury. The Attorney-General did not reply. Judge Hensley then charged the jury, and in about two hours' time the jury brought in a verdict of "Not Guilty."

THE attendance at the market yesterday was very small.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

WITH this number we commence an excellent serial story entitled "Patricia." This is a most opportune time for new subscribers to commence.

THE *Stanley* left Georgetown this morning and will probably return this afternoon; we will consequently have a double mail delivered in the city this evening.

OWING to the storm on Monday the *Stanley* did not return to Georgetown until Tuesday morning. The foreign mail arrived here about 1 o'lock p.m. yesterday.

AT a fair recently held in aid of the Mission Church, Boston, there was a contest for a gold-headed cane valued at $100. The cane was won by Mr. John Gorman, formerly of Mount Stewart, in this Island.

DUGGAN sold on Saturday from schooner *Corsair*, P. E. I. potatoes at 33c. and oats at 40 and 45c. He also disposed of a quantity of western counties potatoes at 35c. per bushel.—*Halifax Herald, 21st inst.*

THIS is election day in Charlottetown for five City Councillors. On Wednesday last (nomination day), Mayor Haviland and Water Commissioner Kelly, having no opposition, were declared elected by acclamation.

A VERY successful entertainment, under the auspices of the Charlottetown branch of the League of the Cross, took place in St. Patrick's Hall on Wednesday evening last. The entertainment was made up of songs, readings and addresses.

REV. P. DOYLE, of Summerside, celebrates, to-morrow, his Silver Jubilee of the Priesthood. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to extend to the Rev. gentleman our hearty congratulations on the attainment of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination, and we hope he may be spared to celebrate his Golden Jubilee.

THE body of a half-breed woman who died seventeen years ago, near Lake Winnipeg, was exhumed recently, and found to be petrified and as perfect as when buried, weighing seven hundred pounds. An offer of $5,000, made by an American musuem manager, for the body has been refused. It was discovered that an alkali spring flowed through the grave.—*Halifax Herald.*

DRIVER Herbert Trites, of the Intercolonial, had a narrow escape from death near Newcastle a few days ago. The side rod in the engine broke and came crashing through the cab, rendering it impossible for the driver to blow the whistle. Trites climbed out over the cab and gave the signal, and the brakemen brought the train to a standstill. He afterwards brought the engine a distance of 18 miles to Newcastle.

IN another column will be found a notice of the "Dominion Illustrated," Canada's great artistic paper. By special arrangements with the publishers we are enabled to supply anyone in this Province, who will send us $4, with the "Dominion Illustrated" and the HERALD for one year. This is but the price of the "Dominion Illustrated" alone, when ordered from the publishers direct. All who wish to obtain a first-class illustrated paper should take advantage of this liberal offer.

JUDGE WURTELE, of Montreal, recently dismissed the case of Boudreau vs. the City of Montreal, for $1,000 damages. The plaintiff's daughter was vaccinated by Doctor Bessey, corporation vaccinator, in May, 1885, and it was alleged that the vaccine was bad and that the girl's health was injured in consequence. The Judge held that the authorities were justified in entering the house and vaccinating the inmates when the public interest and public health required it. Dr. Bessey had acted according to the rules of the act, and the vaccine had been shown to be good.

THE Truro *Guardian* says:—A peculiar, and what might have been a serious accident, occurred at Lanark lime quarries one day recently. The customary method for thawing dynamite is in hot water. The water, after being used, is thrown just outside the door, thus causing a quantity of ice to accumulate. One day one of the men took a shovelful of hot ashes from the forge and threw it upon the ice for the purpose of preventing slipping, when a terrific explosion resulted. The frost had apparently separated the nitro glycerine from the water, leaving it in the proper condition for an explosion. No great damage was done, although we are informed that a similar accident occurred in the same way and at the same place a year or more ago, which blew the sill from under the building.

FAMINE IN DAKOTA.

The following despatches taken from New York papers speak for themselves:—

"FARGO, Dak., January 6.—A letter from Rev. C. W. Riches, of Park River, Dakota, conveys the first authentic information of the extreme suffering and privation among the Norwegian settlers in Western Walsh County. Men with a relief party, report that they found about seventy families in about as destitute circumstances as it is possible for human beings to be and still exist. Many were found with hardly enough clothing to cover their nakedness, and that of the thinnest material. Shoes were almost unknown. These farmers have lived on their little capital until nothing remained. Most of them have been living on a kind of porridge, made by cooking frozen green wheat and oats, stuff not fit to feed a hog. The people had not seen any flour for six weeks. The people have been dividing with each other their potatoes until they are gone too."

"FARGO, Dak., January 12.—Interest in Walsh County sufferers is again revived by the receipt of a letter from the Rev. G. A. Omland, of Walsh County, to the Rev. Mr. Brum of this city, in which the statements made by the Rev. Mr. Riches are strongly corroborated, and which shows that destitution of the most appalling nature does exist in Western Walsh County, the denial of the Park River Board of Trade and County Commissioners to the contrary notwithstanding. The Rev. Mr. Omland states that the need west of Park River is so great that there is danger of starvation among the most recently arrived Scandinavians. There is absolutely nothing in the community upon which to subsist, except frosted wheat. Fargo and Moorhead will again have a chance to contribute to the unfortunates. A movement is already started, and it is thought by Monday or Tuesday another carload of provisions and goods will be shipped to the Rev. Mr. Omland for distribution."

If this famine were in any part of the Canadian Northwest what a time the Grit special liars in Canada, and the tail-twisting newspapers across the line would have over it! As it is the Grit journals in Canada are eloquently silent on the subject. It would of course never do to let their readers know that there was a food famine in Dakota, while the Canadian Northwest was exporting millions of bushels of the finest wheat in the world.—*Halifax Herald.*

WINNIPEG, Jan. 21.—Governor Schultz was thrown from a conveyance this a. m., and had his left arm broken. The Governor is in a low condition physically, and it is feared the accident may result seriously.

ILLINOIS FARMERS.

The following statement is from the Chicago *Times*, and is a specimen of many such paragraphs that have appeared in papers published in various States recently:

"It may be said that farming land in Illinois is increasing in value and that farmers are constantly erecting new and much better buildings, and for these reasons we are justified in raising money on bond and mortgage. But every one conversant with affairs in the country knows that such is not the case. Farms are decreasing in value in almost every county in the State where land has not a speculative value on account of its nearness to a manufacturing town. A gentleman in this city, who represents a large amount of money loaned to farmers, estimates the decline in the value of Illinois farming land to be 20 to 30 per cent. since 1880. That comparatively few buildings have been erected on farms in Illinois during the last eight years is a matter of general observation. Country carpenters, lumber and hardware merchants all state that such is the case. In the 'flush times' that followed the war Illinois farmers erected fine houses and large barns, but now the sound of the hammer is not heard on farms unless it is used to repair an old building."

Those journals which occasionally engage in the work of crying down Canada seldom favor their readers by placing such facts as the above before them. It is more congenial work to run down their own country, and to puff up the neighboring foreign nation, making Canada appear to the worst possible advantage. As one of the Professors in the Ontario Government's Agricultural Farm at Guelph pointed out some time ago in a letter published in the Toronto press, the Ontario farmer's position is one of which he has no cause to complain when compared with that of the farmers of many of the States of the Union.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

THE GOLD MINING BOOM.

Gold mining is fast becoming one of the prominent features of Nova Scotia. The mines at Mount Uniacke in this county says the Windsor *Tribune*, were for a time abandoned, but within a few years past new companies have commenced operations. This was followed by discoveries in Upper Rawdon and later the "Northrup" Mine, owned by C. H. Dimock and others has surprised many by its prolific returns. The Rawdon leads have lately been traced over the Ardoise Hills, and now we understand prospectors are taking up a large number of areas on the Ellershouse estate. There is quite an excitement at Ellershouse over the glowing accounts of prospectors, and we understand that evidences of gold are very encouraging. Some few years ago a magnificent nugget, probably the finest ever found in Nova Scotia was picked out of the Big Bog brook which runs out of the Ellerhouse estate and it is to be hoped that the vein or lead from which the nugget was washed has now been found. The New Glasgow *Enterprise* publishes an article on the approaching sale of the Salmon River gold mine, and expresses the hope that it will be purchased by a Nova Scotia syndicate. The *Gold Hunter* announces that the Philadelphia gold mining company are operating a valuable area eight miles from Caledonia Corner. Fifty men are at work on this property.—*Halifax Herald.*

SOURIS WEST NOTES.

We have had rather extraordinary weather here lately, and were it not for our calculations on the calendar, the open water, the sandy shore, the uncovered ground and the fine days and humid atmosphere lately would make us believe we had not yet entered winter.

Our young folks are in the full enjoyment of the finest skating we have had for a long time, and lose no opportunity of an innocent amusement invigorating mentally as well as physically.

Our "shcoolmar'm" is blessed every day with a "full house," and we trust she is able to attend to their intellectual wants; though indeed we must say our patrons of education do not not make use of all the advantages afforded them by the Education Department. By a little extra expenditure on their part the Government would likely undertake to pay another teacher for them, and we have no doubt but that with increased facilities for working, the amount of education acquired by the young generation would be great in comparison with the price of obtaining it.—COM.

Souris West, Jan. 18, 1889.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

BELFAST, Ireland, Jan. 19.—The new White Star Steamship, *Teutonic*, was launched this morning from Queen's Island Yard. The companion Steamship, *Majestic*, of the same size is still on the stocks, but will be launched and completed, it is expected, in time for use the coming summer. The length of these ships is 582 feet each, which makes them the largest vessels afloat. The breath 57 feet 6 inches, depth 30 feet 4 inches, with a gross tonnage of 10,000 each. Additional rigidity and strength greatly increased the security of the ships in the event of collision. These vessels are intended to carry 300 saloon passengers, who will all dine at one time. There will also be accommodation for 150 second cabin passengers and about 750 steerage passengers.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—The steamer *Alameda* arrived on Saturday from Samoa. A correspondent writing from Apia, Samoa, Jan. 5, says: "A most serious state of affairs exists in Samoa. On the night of Dec. 18 sailors from the German men-of-war Adler, Osla and Aber attacked Mataafas soldiers, under the direction of the German consul and Capt. Fritz, the senior German naval officer in port. Some twenty-two German soldiers were killed and thirty-two wounded. Since then the German warships burned American houses and flags, tore down United States flags, seized American citizens in the neutral water of Apia harbor, and took them prisoners, on board the German men-of-war. A boat's crew from a German vessel in command of an officer shot at the Capt. and Lieut. of an English man-of-war.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—A copy of the above despatch from San Francisco was shown Secretary Bayard. He said the disturbance was undoubtedly the same as was briefly described by Consul Blacklock in a cable message of the 9th inst. The consul's account was not so sensational as the one just received, but contained later information as it told that the Americans seized, had been released immediately afterward. The department is in constant communication with Samoa. The latest information is to the effect, that affairs are quiet, and that no serious trouble has occurred since the 5th inst.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Jan. 20.—At 4 p. m., the United States man-of-war, *Fandalia*, left Mare Island Navy Yard, bound for the Samoan Islands.

OTTAWA, Jan. 20.—It is understood that the Jesuits' Estates Bill of Quebec has been allowed by the Federal Government, it being considered a measure wholly within the powers of the Local Legislature.

From a corrected account of a recent interview between labor representatives and Sir John Macdonald, it seems that the premier made no declaration regarding manhood suffrage one way or the other; but simply asked the deputation, smilingly, how they would like woman suffrage. The proposed amendments to the Act will not extend the franchise.

Ahearn & Soper, electricians, of this city, have received the contract for the construction of a line connecting the Mackay-Bennett cable at Canso, with the Canadian-Pacific system at St. John. The connection will be completed next August.

MONTREAL, Jan. 20.—Sometime in December, A. W. Biokin, Grand Ranger of the Illinois Catholic Order of Foresters, arrived here, and has since been organizing lodges in the city. Quite a sensation was caused to-day when Father Dowd, of St. Patrick's Church, acting upon orders from the administrator of the diocese, absolutely forbade the faithful joining the organization.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 20.—The Nova Scotia Steel Works have application for $80,000 worth of stock, for the $25,000 offered to the public. The gold leads in Rawdon district have been traced over the Ardoise Hill to Ellershouse, and prospectors are taking up a large amount of areas on the Ellershouse estate. The extraordinary spell of mild weather continued until last night, when there was the first snow of the season. To-day the thermometer was down to five degrees below zero.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—It is stated on trustworthy authority that the British Government has decided to uphold the treaty by the terms of which European powers are precluded from obtaining or attempting to obtain in Samoa. The Government Dominance have been fully informed of and shares in the United States' views on the subject. It is agreed that the action of the German agents in Samoa is opposed to the letter and spirit of the treaty, that it violates diplomatic etiquette and endangers the good relations so necessary for European peans to preserve when dealing with semi-barbarous nations. Despatches to this effect have been sent to Berlin, and Salisbury's latest news from Apia is threatening. The British fleet in the Pacific will be increased immediately by at least two powerful vessels.

AUCKLAND, N. Z., Jan. 21.—The German warship *Eyershich* left Samoa on the 13th, and arrived to-day. Her officers denounce the reports sent from Apia by way of San Francisco, and declare that the statements regarding the alleged tearing down of American flags, the burning of houses of Americans, and the firing on British officers are totally unfounded.

OTTAWA, Jan. 21.—The injudicious action of Collector Ross in permitting the transhipment of the fare of the fishing vessel *Batson*, has been found of so grievous a character, and is so likely to cause diplomatic complications in future cases, that his resignation has been called for. It is rumored here tonight that he has anticipated the demand by tendering his resignation.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 21.—A blizzard struck Halifax to-day, and the furious snowstorm which raged all day turned to rain and slush to-night. The gale was so great in Digby Basin that it caught up one of the spans of the new iron bridge being erected over Bear River and blew it into the water. The span was 127 feet long. The bridge is being built by the King Bridge Co. of Ohio for the Local Government, and the span was only completed on Saturday. The loss is five thousand dollars.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

Says the Halifax *Chronicle*: There is a Frenchman who evidently believes that America was discovered at least a century before the historical Christopher was born. The following translation of a letter received by Governor McLelan from the writer, was read at a recent meeting of the Historical Society, and created considerable amusement and comment:

TARASCON, December 10, 1888.

To His Excellency the Governor of the Island of Cape Breton, British America.

MONSIEUR LE GOUVERNEUR—

Your excellency is not ignorant that several committees have been formed to celebrate with eclat on the 12th of October, 1889, the anniversary of the pretended discovery of America, and the 12th of October, 1892, the fourth centenary of this discovery, attributed to the Genoese, Christopher Columbus.

Now, you know, better than anybody, that a hundred years before the birth of Christopher Columbus, Basque seamen had planted the English flag on the territory which you are administering.

That these same seamen had given to the localities and streets of the island of Cape Breton names resembling those of their natal country, then subjected to the British crown, names which exist to the present day, to Carabus, Lajus, Lilet, Gorestarra, Toulouse, etc.

That these same seamen, having arrived in these polar regions, in pursuit of the whales that had left the Gulf of Gascony and the North Sea, fell in with the cod, with which they dowered Europe;

And took possession of the American continent itself, of various important stations, necessary for their fisheries and salting;

That, consequently, Christopher Columbus, who only directed his three barques in accordance with the directions of the fishermen of Bayonne, Hedayo, San Sebastian and Cape Breton, in Gascony, no more deserves to be considered as the discoverer of the American continent than his famous successor, Amerigo Vespucci.

I have taken it into my head, Monsieur le Gouverneur, to establish the usurpation of this Genoese, and to restore to your flag the honor that belongs to it.

If France, at present suzerian of the Basque country, profits from the honor of discovery, I suppose your excelleney will not see any objection in sharing this honor with her.

It is with these sentiments that I beg you, Monsieur le Gouverneur, to be kind enough to supply me with all the information in your power to certify me of the date of taking possession of the island of Cape Breton, and the date of the taking possession of its annexes on the main land.

With all the details which your excellency shall think it useful to add to the resume of the official documents.

When the English governor quitted Bayonne in the 15th century, he took away the chart which I am looking for, and of which two copies have been made.

The one classed and catalogued among the documents of the tower of London.

But not to be found!

The other which ought to be among your archives.

I hope you will receive my request favorably and be willing to aid me in an act of reparation which concerns your glory as much as that of France.

Besides, truth has no flag.

I am, with respect,

Monsieur Le Gouverneur,

Your Excellency's very respectful servant,

A. LA LAUZE.

Markets.

BOSTON PRICES,