The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday December 29.1869.

The Morbid Phase.

Truly may it be said that Fenianism in Ireland has received the most fatal wound in the house of its friends. When Royal clemency was asked, even *demanded* by the Fenians on behalf of their brethren in British bastile confined, nobody was surprised. The act was in perfect harmony with their patriotic professions. But they have gone too far, committed a fatal error in announcing their determination to prevent tenant farmers and others directly interested in agrarian reform holding any more meetings on the subject until the Fenian prisoners are released. In this they virtually assume the government of the country, dictate to the farmers and others what they may and may not do, repress freedom of speech and the liberty of public meetings and discussions, thus seeking to interdict that freedom which they profess to promote. Nor would this declaration of intention appear to be a mere idle threat; as one most diabolical attempt to carry it into effect has been recorded. According to a Dublin telegram, an attempt was made to remove a rail, to throw a train off the line to Havan, which was conveying about seven hundred farmers and five priests to the tenant-rights meeting in that town. This fiendish act was fortunately discovered in time to avert consequences fearful to contemplate. Several other minor acts of terrorism, such as assaulting priests and the like, have also been recorded; and the attempt was made to fasten these cowardly outrages upon the Orangemen; but the trick has utterly failed. It would appear that the Fenians fear that the clergy, who have the good of Ireland at heart, may be content to accept constitutional reforms from the hands of the British Government, and that the disestablishment of a hated alien Church and the pending agrarian reforms may render further riotous proceedings altogether unwarranted, and that thus the occupation of these unprincipled agitators will be gone. It will be strange, indeed, if the new attitude assumed by Fenianism in Ireland does not result in the speedy overthrow of the organization. Such acts as those to which we have just referred cannot fail to create strong prejudice in the public mind against Fenianism. The better part of the community will be completely alienated; indeed, the more respectable element in Fenianism itself—if the term can be properly applied to such an organization—must turn away from such atrocities with disgust. Thus, divided amongst themselves, and with a strong current of public opinion setting in against them, Fenianism in Ireland may be considered as having died by its own hands. Let Gladstone and his Cabinet pursue, with firmness and moderation, the even tenor of their way in Irish reforms, and they will not have to wait very long to see public opinion in that island as much opposed to Fenianism as it is in England. Such a revulsion of public sentiment as is likely to be brought about by these atrocities will not only prove the best cure for the plague which has produced them, but it will greatly tend to facilitate the carrying into effect such measures of reform as will render a recurrence of these distressing conditions impossible.

The Michigan Street Controversy.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—As there appears to be some misunderstanding about how Michigan street was graded, and also about a subscription said to have been collected on the street, let me state the facts: In December, 1862, a subscription was made to build the bridge on the sidewalk opposite Mr Trounce's premises, and in December 1863, another subscription was made by Mr Tiedeman, and he, as Deputy Road Supervisor, made use of the money in improving the road running in front of his house, which road, according to the maps, has never been honored with a name, and though he gave all his time gratis he did not please all parties, for the property-holders then living at the east end of Quebec street were so mortified at his taking away the earth in front of their lots that they refused to contribute what they promised him. The result was that that end of the road remained unfinished for several years, which was a great annoyance to all parties using that road in the winter season. Mr Tiedeman's intention was to make some part of the road still lower in order to carry off the water from Mr Lowenberg's land and thus do away with the necessity for the culverts, bridges and deep ditch adjoining Mr Tiedeman's property and Superior street. In 1867, when the late Mr Pidwell was Road Supervisor for that district, he adopted a very sensible and excellent system of using the road taxes to improve the roads where he collected the money as near as he could do it and if all Supervisors would follow that rule there would not be so much grumbling all over the Island as there is now. According to this rule the road taxes collected on Michigan street were expended in grading that street, though there was not enough to complete it, and it was done improperly without any regular system, and when the defects were shown to Mr Pidwell he promised to rectify them and finish it in the fall, but before that time arrived he unfortunately lost his life and there was an end to our street grading until lately, when some gravel has been put upon the worst part of it; and the reason why it is the worst part is that all the top soil has been taken off down to the sand and the other part of the street would most likely be as bad if served in the same way However, if the road officials will gravel as much every year I suppose we must rest satisfied, though before any more is graveled the grade ought to be changed, or it will be a greater nuisance to some parts of the street than if it had never been meddled with at all.

J. B.

A cantata by Felix Godefroid, performed at the inauguration of a statue to Leopold II. at Namur, is eulogistically spoken of by Belgian musicians. Among its merits are cited certain happy effects of contrast, a fresh and pleasant unaccompanied chorus and a grand finale excellently instrumental.

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Slp Lady Franklin, Pritchard, San Juan.

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Dec 21—Stmr Olympia, Finch, Port Townsend,
Stmr Emma, Ettershank, Nanaimo.

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