Secular Department.

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Irish Sympathisers with Papal tyranny and oppression are still busy—holding public meetings everywhere, and indulging in language of the most violent and vituperative character. Their leaders are somewhat ostentatious in their professions of loyalty to our own beloved Queen; and when it was stated, two or three weeks since, in some of the newspapers, that their meeting at Cork was disgraced by disloyal manifestations, Mr. John Francis Maguire rushed into print to contradict it, and was supported in his denial by several of the most influential of the promoters of the movement in that city. But even Mr. Maguire will be puzzled to explain away what happened last Monday, in the presence of Archbishop Cullen, in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Marlborough-street, Dublin. Upon that occasion Mr. Alderman Reynolds was one of the principal speakers; and when he reminded the meeting of "their allegiance to the Crown of England," he was assailed with general hissing. When he expressed his belief that he was better off in Ireland than under any Government in Europe, he was emphatically contradicted, and hissed again. When he reiterated this conviction, he was told to "go along," and reminded by the meeting that they "had had enough of that;" and when he referred to the men with Milesian patronymics, who had fought in the Crimea and at Waterloo, he was interrupted with a shout of "Ireland for the Pope." In point of fact, every profession of loyalty which emanated from the platform was received with expressions of disapprobation by the meeting; and Dr. Cullen's attempt to anticipate and avert the well-merited indignation of all the loyal subjects of the Queen, by the unfounded and false pretence that the hisses were intended for the *Times*, was the most audacious example of brazen-faced recklessness of assertion it was ever our lot to encounter.—*Liverpool Mail, Jan.* 14.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times.

GREAT EASTERN.—The necessities of the directors of the Great Eastern have compelled them to make a proposition to the Government. They have asked for aid to enable the big ship to make a voyage to Australia as an experiment, and the request has been refused. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in declining, says—"Amongst the reasons are the intention to propose the renewal of the Select Committee on Subsidies, the general duty of the Government to avoid anticipating the judgment or fettering the hands of Parliament in a matter which it has taken under special consideration, the heavy demands from other sources upon the Treasury, and lastly, the as yet incomplete condition, according to documents in the public journals, of the great ship herself."

The last allusion is the severest of all. This rebuff will not improve the position of the company and the directors, who are said to be distracted by opposing councels. The only reliable means at present are the proceeds of the mortgage, amounting to £40,000 or £45,000, which may enable the directors to complete the ship, but will do little more. The meeting of the shareholders takes place on Wednesday next.

Large amounts of gold having been withdrawn from the Bank of England, it was expected that the rate of interest would have been raised to 3 per cent., but the Directors held their usual meeting without making any change. Although the demand for money had a depressing influence on English securities, there was no eagerness manifested to secure accommodation, in anticipation of the increased rate. Consols quoted at 95¼ to ⅛ for money, and 95⅛ to 95⅜ for account. Foreign stocks were quiet.

The Cotton market is reported dull and drooping. Wheat rather firmer. Provisions quiet, except American beef and pork which sell at steady prices. Sugar very firm. Molasses in good inquiry, with little offering, and full prices have been paid for the parcels sold. Coffee, Tea, Rice, and Saltpetre are sustained, and for Spices and Cocoa an advance has been established, but there is a reduction for Spirits.

The contents of the President's Message had given much satisfaction in Britain.

The London *Times* and Mr. Bright are on the very worst terms. The Thunderer declares that the speeches of the member for Birmingham are not worth reporting. Mr. Bright believes that the new Reform Bill will be based upon a £6 franchise in the boroughs and £10 in the counties.

Sir F. H. Goldsmidt has been elected for Reading. His opponent put the question to the electors plainly, whether they would have a man who acknowledges or a man who rejects the Saviour? The constituency, by a majority of 102, decided in favor of the Jew.

A statue has been erected in St. Paul's Cathedral to the memory of Sir Charles James Napier, the pedestal of which bears this inscription:—"A prescient general—a beneficent governor—a just man." Surely this is cold praise when speaking of the greatest soldier this country has produced since the days of Marlborough, with the single exception of the Duke of Wellington. "A prescient general!" But history will do what this inscription does not—it will show that in the person of the dead warrior the highest military genius was united to the finest qualities of a citizen. Monuments, for the most part, sin on the other side—they flatter the virtues of the dead. Sir Charles Napier was every way worthy of this compliment, but the inscription must surely have been the production of some of those magnates with whom he was constantly quarrelling, because he presumed to think that he had a soul of his own.

THE ROMAN QUESTION.

Now that the idea of a general Congress of the European Powers, for the settlement of the Italian difficulty, appears on all hands to be abandoned, rumour, with her hundred tongues, is at work, preparing a new solution. Amongst the latest may be mentioned a statement which appears to have received some credence in Paris. It is to this effect,—that France and England, with the consent or connivance of Russia and Prussia, will give Savoy and Nice to France, and Central Italy, including the Romagnas, to Sardinia. We are further told that, as the wishes of the Emperor of the French have been so thoroughly thwarted at Rome, he has determined to draw his troops from the Eternal City, and, in anticipation of that event, the Papal Government is busily engaged enlisting German and other troops to maintain its position. But here again the conflicting elements come into play, for a letter in the *Patrie*, from Rome, declares that Sardinia has assured the Holy See that it would consider the enlistment of German volunteers for the Papal army as a violation of the principle of non-intervention, and had threatened, if the enlistments continued, to dispatch Sardinian troops into the Legations.

Can this question be settled without bloodshed? The Pope, deserted by France, and with Central and Northern Italy arrayed against him, has no prospect of recovering his possessions by moral means, and if he were to apply coercion to his refractory subjects, it is clear that no army which he could bring into the field would be strong enough for the purpose. The only Power which could interfere with any chance of success is Austria, and she would unhesitatingly do so, even with Hungary ripe for rebellion, if France had not emphatically declared that she would not permit the outrage.

Human liberty must gain by the process whichever way gradually forming itself into shape on the Continent. The most strange sight of all is the one which we witness at home, and more especially in Ireland, where the Roman Catholic portion of the population, unmindful of the fetters from which they were released by the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel, are now clamouring for the retention in Italy of the civil disabilities to which they were themselves exposed for more than a century and a half. As the great body of the Roman Catholics in former days were ardent Reformers—as O'Connell always contended that liberty of thought, speech, and action was the uncontrolled privilege of every human creature formed in the image of his Maker, whatever his colour, or creed, or clime, we now see his degenerate countrymen sympathising with Continental despots, who rule by the strong hand, and regard free institutions as the direst curse—what used, in the good old days of Torpism, to be blasphemously called "the Divine right of Kings."

One result has followed from the new phase into which the Italian question has passed, which is not unworthy of notice—Louis Napoleon is in a fair way of becoming popular in England. Hitherto, whatever popularity he enjoyed—and it was very small—in these Islands, was to be found in the sister Kingdom, but since the summer of last year, when he drove the Austrians before him in Italy, and especially since the appearance of the Imperial pamphlet for the settlement of the Italian question, his admirers there have become his worst foes, and he is now denounced in terms as extravagant as those with which he was so long assailed in the columns of many of the London journals. He may be all that his assailants paint him, but it will be found, we apprehend, when he has settled his account with this world, that the good will predominate over the evil, and he is entitled, we think, to the support of every friend of freedom in freeing the fairest portion of Italy from that Austrian oppression under which it has groaned so long.

The *Daily News* of yesterday, on which recent events appear to have thrown a new light, says, in connection with the subject to which we are referring, "It is, of course, impossible to discuss Italian affairs and the relations we stand in to them without reference to Louis Napoleon; but it is one thing to do so, and another to degrade them to a mere personal question turning upon the position of the French Emperor. In the same way it was attempted, not without a certain measure of success, to divert from the Italians the natural and just sympathy we felt in their cause during the war. It is argued that the Emperor having been brought over to English views, so as to break with Austria and the Pope, there is no longer any occasion to conceal our spite, and we are free at once to say that, having got into the war without asking us, he may get out of his difficulties as well as he can. And this is what passes for policy. This worse than girlish spite is what goes forth to the ends of the world as the expression of the wisdom and dignity of England. If this great Italian difficulty could be degraded to a personal quarrel; if the Emperor of the French were not in too commanding possession of the field, instead of being in these feigned embarrassments; we should seriously doubt whether the present moment,—when, by the course he has taken on the Roman question, he has ventured to throw away one of his most powerful weapons against us,—is just the time for us to play into the hands of the ultramontanists and Bourbons, who watch over his overthrow." The spirit of this extract is only another proof of the sudden and extraordinary fit of alternate laudation and censure to which the Man of Destiny has been exposed on this side of the Straits of Dover during preceding months and years.

The leviathan of the metropolitan press, yesterday, in a leading article on the rumour that Count Walewski, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, had resigned—a statement which is now confirmed,—is at issue with the journal we have quoted as to the policy which this country ought to pursue in the present continental crisis, or more properly speaking, dead lock. It turns the "cold shoulder" to our French ally, and its reasoning may be summed up in a sentence—"You are in a precious mess; get out of it as best you can." As the same organ of opinion, though cold to day, may be very warm to-morrow in the opposite direction, we will make free to quote a line or two from its latest views with reference to the great Roman question, which involves not merely Italian but European liberty:—"Napoleon the Third," says the Oracle, "is now in the difficulty which commonly besets clever people who play a double game—he has only a choice of two evils. He must break his engagements with Austria, and protect Italy against foreign interference, or he must drop his engagements with Austria, abandon Italy to her fate, and confess before the world that his 'idea' was a delusion, and Magenta and Solferino but hideous blunders. If he adopt the first alternative, he risks a collision with all the Catholic powers of Europe; if he adopt the latter, he becomes ridiculous in the eyes of a nation which can better endure a grinding tyranny than a stinging epigram." There is one drawback to this view of the question, and it is rather a formidable one—that its refutation may be found in any number of leading articles in the same columns during the last four months. It was always maintained there that sympathy with oppressed nationalities was an instinct of Englishmen, and that every country in that unhappy position might count on at least our *moral* support. From England Louis Napoleon seeks no more, and he seeks it because we have been so loud and obstreperous in the tender. Inconsistency, if a vice in the Emperor, cannot be a virtue in the journalists.—*European Times, Dec.* 7.

THE ITALIAN COMPLICATION.

Lord Cowley has returned to his official duties at Paris, and some of the London papers declare that his visit has produced no change in the policy of the British Government. Our Ministers, it is asserted, have conveyed to the Continental Courts the expression of their belief that the annexation of Central Italy to Sardinia would be the readiest way of smoothing the present difficulties, but it is added that between France and England there will be no treaty or protocol for the settlement of the question.

A telegram from Paris, in the middle of the present week, excited some interest and a good deal of comment. It was to the effect that the English Cabinet had proposed to France, as far back as August last, the desirability of coming to an understanding relative to the affairs of Central Italy, but that Count Walewski stood in the way, and the negociations between the two Powers were resumed on the occasion of the French Minister's dismissal. Hence the journey of Lord Cowley to London. The telegram, in fact, professed to give a history of a diplomatic negociation formerly commenced, and resumed the moment Count Walewski was displaced. The leading organ of Lord Palmerston, commenting on the telegram, states its belief that "it is rather a fiction founded on fact than an account of transactions which would be accepted by both parties," and the return of our ambassador to the French capital, without any corresponding change in the policy of the British Government, would seem to confirm this view of the question. In Paris, many persons are disinclined to believe that there has been any misunderstanding at all between Louis Napoleon and his Minister for Foreign Affairs. The latter is described as the mere creature of the Emperor, who has been loaded with honors by his Imperial master since his so-called expulsion, and the whole business is regarded in the light of a *ruse* to serve the Emperor's purpose.

All the accounts from Rome speak of the "scene" between the French Commander, General Goyon, and the Pope, on New Year's Day, when the former waited upon his Holiness to offer him the congratulations of the season. The reply of Pio Nono is said to have been sarcastic, and even bitter. He alluded to the now famous pamphlet, which he affected not to believe to have proceeded from the Emperor of the French, and he characterised the pamphlet as a proposal to plunder the patrimony of St. Peter, with other strong expressions of a similar nature. The Paris papers were warned not to publish this reply, but one of them, the *Univers*, did, nevertheless, publish it, which drew a rejoinder from the *Moniteur*, to the effect that the Pope would not have made such a speech if he had been in possession of a letter which the Emperor had transmitted to him. The letter was accordingly given, and it states, in substance, that the recovery of the Romagna is impossible, but that if those provinces which have been a source of trouble to the Holy See during the last half century, are abandoned, the European Powers will guarantee to the Pope the remainder of the States of the Church. Yesterday the leading morning paper contained a long letter from Mr. Bowyer, the Roman Catholic member for Dundalk, dated from Rome, in which the French pamphlet is furiously assailed, and the paper in which it appears declares that the writer is the mouthpiece of the Pope, and that it is expressing his sentiments. The only feature in the letter which is at all remarkable, is the assertion that the Romagnols are warmly attached to the Holy See, but they cannot give expression to their feelings, in consequence of the terror inspired by the secret societies and the revolutionary juntas. It is now declared that the recruiting for the Papal army was determined upon before the present troubles commenced, and that it was arranged between France and the Pope that the army should be raised to 20,000 effective men. This statement, if true, disposes of the charge that the object of the recruiting was to recover the Legations. Another solution of Lord Cowley's visit will be found under the head of "Latest Telegraphic Despatches.—*European Times, Jan.* 14.

LORD COWLEY'S MISSION EXPLAINED.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—The object of Lord Cowley's mission to London was to resume the negociations between England and France which were initiated by the former Power, but interrupted by the opposition of Count Walewski. The basis of these negociations was the principle of non-intervention with regard to the affairs of Central Italy. France, now adopting the same basis, is desirous that the whole of Europe should give its formal adhesion to that principle. With this view Lord Cowley was solicited to sound the feelings of the British Cabinet as to the advisability of addressing collective notes to the European Cabinets. In the note an infraction of the principle of non-intervention was to be treated as a *casus belli*. The British Cabinet, whilst expressing its readiness to support the principle of non-intervention, either at the Congress or in its communications with Foreign Powers, pointed out the impossibility of the Government pledging itself without the consent of Parliament to a course of policy which might possibly involve the British nation in hostilities. The feeling of the Northern Courts gave rise to some fear that Europe would not tacitly submit to so threatening an intimation, and which also implied the adoption of principles opposite to the independence of every state which possesses the right of forming such alliances as it may think proper and at its own risk and peril. The British Cabinet having thus declined the propositions to enter into engagements having such an important bearing, the question of an early meeting of the Congress is again revived.

FRANCE.

The *Times* Paris correspondent says that reports were current in Paris, and generally believed, that an arrangement had been concluded between the British and French Governments, by which English iron and coal will be admitted into France on payment of a moderate duty, and that French wines will be received in England on moderate terms.

Rumors are rife as to the probability of the Pope changing his attitude, and that the language of his Holiness has already become more moderate. It is believed, says the *Times* correspondent, that Cardinal Antonelli will retire.

M. Ollivier's trial is again adjourned till Wednesday, but it is probable that he will appeal to the Court of Cassation.

THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.

In a pamphlet which has just been published at Brussels the writer insists particularly on the necessity of the Belgian Government taking part in the Anglo French Expedition to China.

The *Constitutionnel*, after dwelling on the military operations, remarks—A pacific arrangement may very probably intervene long before siege can be laid to Pekin, and then the question of war indemnities and guarantees to the expeditionary powers would have to be discussed. But as an indemnity is not a guarantee it is probable that France and England will each take possession of a portion of Chinese territory or an island off the coast. The island of Chusan would probably fall to the English, while the French would seize on some point favorably situated to become a kind of second Hong Kong, and Belgium would take possession of one of the islands at the mouth of the Yang-Tse-Kiang, one of the finest rivers in the world. It is the high road of the internal commerce of China, which is immense.

British and For. American News.

United States.

RAVAGES OF THE SMALL POX IN THE VICINITY OF BOSTON.—The small Pox still continues its ravages in the vicinity of Boston, though the number of deaths are few in comparison with the number of cases. Hardly a town is free from the infection. In Newton, a large number have contracted the disorder, and in one case a man upwards of eighty years of age is now convalescent from a severe attack. In Watertown many are suffering from either small pox or varioloid. In Needham there are a number sick, in one case an infant taking the infection who has been in no way exposed to the disorder, which is apparently carried about unconsciously from house to house in the clothes of visitors.—*Traveller*.

New Brunswick.

We announce with deep regret the sudden and awful death of Thomas Pickard, Jun Esq., of Prince William, late representative for this County in the House of Assembly. The facts of the case will be found in the following verdict of the jury empanelled by Judah Hammond, Esq., the Coroner of that district:—

"That the deceased, Thomas Pickard, Junr., Esq., was on the 25th inst., crushed to death instantaneously, in consequence of his clothes being caught by a revolving wheel of his mill while he was in the act of oiling a part of the Machinery."—*Fredericton Reporter*.

Nova Scotia.

LEGISLATIVE:—On Friday 3rd inst. Hon. Mr. Young moved a direct vote of want of confidence in the Government, to the following effect: "That the first paragraph of the Address in answer to the Governor's speech be as follows: We (the House), thank your Excellency for the speech with which your Excellency has been pleased to open this present Parliament, and to invite our attention to various matters largely affecting the public interests; but before proceeding to their consideration, we deem it due to your Excellency and to the people whom we represent to declare that her Majesty's Executive Council, as now constituted, do not possess the confidence of this House." In amendment to this the Hon. Attorney General moved that the House adjourn to Tuesday next, which was rejected by a majority of 28 to 26. Hon Mr. Young's motion was then put and carried by the same majority.—The Attorney General, and Provincial Secretary again asked for an adjournment until Tuesday. But the majority refused to permit so long a time to intervene before putting the House in communication with the Lieutenant Governor, and officially acquainting him with the position occupied by his Executive Council. Whereupon the question of adjournment was negatived by the opposition passing the following paragraph to the reply to the Governor's speech, 28 to 26: Under these circumstances, we respectfully assure your Excellency that at the earliest possible opportunity, and so soon as the official papers are communicated to us, we will give our best attention to the various topics embraced in your Excellency's speech." Hon. Mr. Young then moved an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in the usual terms, to accompany the foregoing resolution, which being carried by the same majority, the leader of the Opposition signified his willingness to adjourn over to Tuesday. But the Attorney General refused to renew his motion, and the House adjourned until 2 P. M. on Saturday.

The House met at the usual hour on Saturday, and on motion a Committee of three, comprising Hon. Mr. Young, Hon. Mr Howe and Adams Archibald, Esq., was appointed 27 to 3, to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor for the purpose of inquiring when it would be convenient for him to receive the Address in answer to the Speech at the opening of the Session. His Excellency was pleased to name this day (Monday) at 12 o'clock, for receiving the same. The Committee then withdrew, returned to the Province Building, and informed the House of the fact. There was no further business transacted.—*Ex Journal*.

Agents for the "Protestant."

The following persons have kindly consented to act as Agents for the "Protestant" in their respective localities:—

Rev. Henry Crawford, St. Peter's
Rev. Robert S. Patterson, Bedeque.
Mr. Aitken, Georgetown
D. C. Ramsay, Port Hill
William Rogerson, Crapaud
James Bearisto, Esq., Princetown
Rev. Neil McKay, Murray Harbor
Daniel Fraser, Esq., Belfast
George McKay, Esq., Campbellton N.L.
Charles A. Crosby, Park Corner
Patrick Brown, Summerside
John McMillan, Esq., Woodville.

The Protestant.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1860.

Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute.

On Thursday evening last, the subject of Railways in Prince Edward Island was again brought before the Association. Mr. Heard opened the discussion by giving a *resume* of the lecture which he delivered last week. Several other speakers followed, some maintaining with Mr. Heard that a Railway on the Island would prove a paying speculation, and others as strenuously opposing this view. The discussion was kept up with considerable spirit until the hour of adjournment.

The subject of an Island Railway no doubt forms a very good topic for discussion; but here, we think, the matter ends. It may be some obtuseness on our part, but we confess that the advocates of a railway failed to convince us that our small Island, almost entirely cut off from communication with the rest of the world about five months in the year, destitute of mineral resources, and possessing numerous harbors and conveniences for shipping agricultural produce, stands so much in need of a railway as to warrant the Government, or a company, to incur the expense of its construction.

On Thursday evening, the 16th instant, Charles Palmer, Esquire, will deliver a lecture before the Association on "The British Constitution."

[For the Protestant.]

EDUCATION IN P. E. ISLAND.

No. VI.

Mr Editor;

In introducing the subject of a Provincial College to the notice of the public, and especially of the Government, I would state, as a primary and unquestionable truth, that it is the duty of man to develop, train and regulate all his powers physical, mental and moral in the highest degree, and to acquire to the fullest extent possible, an accurate knowledge of the external world, material, social, political and moral, and of the means and agencies which conserve and regulate the same. In the accomplishment of this task, in the complete development of the human endowments, and in the acquisition of abstruse and extensive knowledge lie the elevation of our race, the proper discharge of the multitudinous duties of social and public life, and the general amelioration of the woes of earth. In this grand work, in which the noblest philanthropy may find the most ample scope, the services of the skilful and thoroughly informed teacher, are absolutely indispensable.

To train the physical frame aright, on which depend health and vigor and symmetry and beauty, a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and the laws of health, and some acquaintance with human infirmities are required. Nature indeed, has a voice in which it protests against attempted wrongs, but through ignorance that voice is often either misunderstood or disregarded. Science will teach us to admire nature's lines of beauty and of force, and to give a willing ear and prompt obedience to its warning voice. For the true cultivation of the intellectual powers, we demand the ability keenly to perceive their respective duties, the just estimation of the grasp, force or, range of each, and the fine tact which can remove obstructions, and draw forth into lightsome and vigorous exercise, all the latent energies of one or all. The regulation of the moral faculty is the most difficult and by far the most important. Our conception of the human soul must exclude all idea of division or compartment. The mind is a unity. Yet the existence of various powers is universally manifest. Among these powers the moral faculty holds the first rank, the intellect, the will and the emotions being placed by nature in subjection to it, and by a peculiar absorbent property—a property common in a less degree to all the faculties—it appropriates to itself the whole force of the soul, stimulating and directing all its powers, and holds in its grasp the eternal weal or woe of the immortal being. To brighten the eye, and purify the feeling, and nerve the arm of this governing faculty is now *the* work of fallen man. Any education that ignores this special task, is utterly unworthy of the name. To this point every branch of science physical or moral, material or intellectual, should be made to look while passing through the hands of the professor.

Hence the educator of the conscience should possess a clear understanding and hearty appreciation of the principles of morality as they are unfolded in the only infallible standard, the word of God, a right apprehension of the actual disposition of man's moral nature towards these principles, and a firm confidence in the only efficient instrumentality by which his inherent inclination to evil may be supplanted oy a fixed tendency to rectitude.

How shall the external world unfold its stores of knowledge for our inspection? Can the matured yet unaided and uncultivated intellect unlock its treasures? We fear not. A few men of superior natural abilities and force of character by close observation and the perusal of scientific works, without the aid of a College education, have been able to read some of its most difficult lessons. But in these cases the mind was neither unaided nor wholly uncultivated. And if the instrument as it comes from the forge can be so effective how much more so when subjected to the sharpening and polishing of the grindstone? Minds of the first quality are like stars of the first magnitude, rare lights in our firmament. Our illumination must, therefore, depend upon the multiplication and brilliancy of inferior lights. But were superior intellects more numerous than they are, the want of early and thorough culture could only be compensated even in their case, by a great expenditure of time at a most precious season of life. To thread one's own way through the forest, however bold and enterprising, is a very different matter from following an able and experienced guide. Indeed those men who have forced their way up to eminence despite the want of a superior education, have ever been the first to express their regret at their misfortune in this respect, as resulting in not a few misconceptions and blunders, involving the loss of much valuable time when most needed, increasing the difficulties of every situation, and depriving them often of a right arm in the day of battle. One or two illustrations may not be out of place. The ability to state an argument or refute a sophism, on scientific principles, is of the first importance. It may be demanded of us, at any hour in private or public life. Strong common sense may convince us that the argument is true or false, but from want of the clear light of the syllogism, and its infallible certainty, we may be unable to establish our conviction. The relations of men, both social and political, not to speak of moral, are marred and weakened by errors and deceptions, and he who would ascertain their true condition and promote reform, must be furnished with a keen-edged instrument to unmask sophistry and to exhibit in the light of an irresistible demonstration, the accessity and the wisdom of proposed amendments.

The rude savage, from a volcanic peak of his island home in the South Pacific, and the astronomer, from his observatory at Greenwich, may each gaze upon the blazing comet; but how different their reflections! The one imagines he beholds a deity, or the approaching vengeance of an unseen God; the other calmly, yet wonderingly examines a periodical visitant, whose approach, velocity, gravity, distance and departure he had ascertained, or accurately calculated long before it came within the range of man's unaided visual organ. But even in lands where light from heaven has dispelled the gloom of superstition, how few really apprehend, in any considerable degree, the wonders of that vast empire, whose portals are thrown open to the gaze of man. The Astronomical Discourses of a world-renowned Christian Philosopher reveal the vast field for lofty contemplation that lies here. Such gorgeous and glowing descriptions may arrest, enchain, and enravish the reader as he is led higher and higher in the sublime flight of a powerful but well-regulated imagination; but he only can correctly survey the celestial luminaries, and fully estimate their majestic, rapid, noiseless, complicated, yet admirably-ordered movements, who has ascended step by step the ladder of spherical trigonometry, and aided by the masters who have gone before him, takes his stand upon the summit of its solved, abstruse problems, and guides the movements of his telescope.

If we walk forth to admire the beauties of the garden, or duty call us to traverse the unbroken forest, we may be arrested by the colours of a flower, or stop to admire a towering pine or sturdy birch; but how limited must be our information of either, unless by close familiarity with trees and flowers, we are able to assign to each its place and functions in the vegetable world. There is an order, an adaptation, a beauty in vegetation totally concealed from the casual observer. Every leaf of a tree or plant is numbered, and each one has its own place. Every branch of a vegetable, from the fern to the cedar, is attached to the parent stock at an appropriate and distinguishing angle. The adaptation of root and leaf, of bark and internal tissue to soil and climate, is peculiar and remarkable. Shall the discovery of these details of wisdom, order, and beauty in which lie concealed the surpassing glory of the vegetable world, be left to the unaided, individual explorer? Or is the simple assistance of a manual on Botany alone sufficient to explain all the intricate complications? Let the attempt be made. The very nomenclature, couched, very absurdly, in long terms of dead languages, which might with perfect ease be expressed in good, homely, well-understood Saxon, presents at the outset a very formidable and repulsive barrier. This serious obstacle, once removed, the pleasant fields of botany would remain no longer to many a *terra incognita*. But yet, the living voice of the enthusiastic lecturer, the actual specimen in hand, the ready explanation, the minute details of the master thoroughly at home in his subject, must constitute the real introduction to this rich and attractive field of knowledge. These remarks apply, in great part, to Geology, Mineralogy, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy. No satisfactory progress can be made within a reasonable time without the aid of the experienced guide or professor. And in this enlightened age, men of cultivated and well-informed minds are alone entitled to occupy the place of leaders, directors or guardians in all social, political or religious matters. Shall Prince Edward Island have a seminary in which her sons may be fitted by a thorough education to fill any post in society, no matter how elevated? This is a question which the coming Legislature should take up, and dispose of in a manner which shall enable our Island to hold up her head without reproach in the midst of her sister Provinces. What the college should be in our present circumstances, shall merit consideration in my next.

Yours, &c.,
G. SUTHERLAND.

Charlottetown, Feb. 3d, 1860.

NOVA SCOTIA POLITICS.

In another column, it will be seen that Hon. William Young moved a direct vote of want of confidence in the Romo-Johnston government on Friday the 3d instant. Notwithstanding this motion was carried by a majority of two, so tenacious were Johnston and his friends of office that they did not resign until the following Tuesday. For further intelligence, we refer our readers to the subjoined Telegram:—

HALIFAX, Friday, Feb. 10—4 p. m.

Canada coming up harbor. New Government gazetted to-day. Young, President Executive Council; Archibald, Attorney General; McCully, Solicitor General and Chairman Railway Board; Howe, Provincial Secretary; Annand, Financial Secretary; John H. Anderson, Receiver General, with Seat in Legislative Council; Locke, in Council.

Legislature adjourned until 12th March.

An English Mail arrived in town on Saturday evening last. The news is not very important. The contemplated European Congress seems to have been all squashed by the Pamphlet which lately appeared in Paris, supposed to have been written by the Emperor.

To CORRESPONDENTS. — Several communications have been crowded out this week. We will endeavor to make room for them in our next.

Princetown Mechanics' Institute.

On Monday evening last, the 30th ult., Mr. Wm. Keir delivered a lecture before this Institute on "Geology."—Thomas McNutt, Esq., in the Chair. Before commencing the lecture proper, he clearly explained by a diagram the position and nature of the different layers in the crust of the earth. He divided it into parts corresponding to the days of creation. The learned lecturer then proceeded to afford his audience a brief glance at some of the more prominent revelations of Geology. He stated what he had been led to regard, both from the principles of physical development and the revelations of Geology, as the correct theory of the earth's formation. He then adduced facts in support of his theory. Supposing an imaginary hole made in the crust of the earth, to the depth of ten miles, he invited his audience, in thought, to descend it along with him, and survey the different strata as they passed downwards. Having in this manner described the different formations and the principal materials of which they are composed, he began his ascent, noticing in graphic description a few of the most interesting fossil remains which have been discovered in some of the layers. A few pertinent remarks of a practical nature concluded the lecture. It was an able, interesting, and instructive production. The Hall was very well filled; and for the space of two hours, close attention was paid by the audience to the wonderful revelations of Geology. At the close of the lecture an opportunity was afforded for asking questions relating to the subject discussed. The offer was accepted, and several questions were asked, which elicited full explanations from the lecturer. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded him for his instructive lecture.

The Annual Meeting of the Literary Society was then held—the President in the Chair. The accounts for the past year were submitted by the Treasurer, showing a balance due Society to the date of £2 3s. 11d. These having been found correct, and other business connected with the affairs of the Institute satisfactorily arranged, the following gentlemen were re-elected office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz:—

Mr. William Keir, President.
Thomas Macnutt, Esq., First Vice President.
Benjamin Bearisto, Esq., Second Vice President.
James Bearisto, Sec'y and Treasurer.
Committee—Francis L. Macnutt, Neil McDougald, Neil McGougan, Archibald Sinclair, Henry S. Macnutt, Neil Ramsay and Peter Macnutt.—*Com.*

Temperance Reunion at Georgetown.

On Tuesday, the 17th ult., a Public Tea was held in this thriving little town, under the auspices of Diamond of the Desert Division Sons of Temperance. The Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion. About 140 persons sat down to tables provided with tea and cake rich and abundant, and attended by waiters amiable and fair, making the *tout ensemble* just what a Reunion, got up by Sons of Temperance, ought to be. The intellectual entertainment of the evening was presided over by P. G. W. P. Bro. Sanderson, whose exertions as Chairman of Committee on this Demonstration, have been indefatigable. Songs and addresses followed each other in rapid order. Temperance, politics, and crinoline, each had their say, until the Chairman announced the speech of the evening, —calling on Master W. McKeown, a young Son of Temperance, to come forward, who delivered an animated address,—denouncing the liquor traffic; and calling upon his auditors, if weak, to join the Sons of Temperance and be strengthened; if strong, to join them, and by precept and example succor and support the weak. On resuming his seat, the young Brother was enthusiastically cheered. A sale of surplus cake then took place—realizing between £2 and £3. At its conclusion, order being called, the Chairman addressed the meeting in a short but pertinent speech. The company then sang "Good night, Good night," to the favorite tune "Auld Lang Syne," when the Chairman called for three cheers for the Queen, which was responded to again, again and again; the same for the Diamond of the Desert Sons of Temperance, and long may they keep up these festivities; and lastly, the same for Georgetown. The company then parted, all well pleased with each other, very happy to meet, happy to part, and will be happy to meet again on a like occasion.

The Committee desire to return thanks to the three ladies in Georgetown not connected with the Division or its members, who kindly presented the Committee with cake, viz: Miss Ann Macdonald, Mrs. Finley McNeill and Mrs. W. B Aitken; and to the lady visitors, and other ladies connected with the members of the Division, for their kind assistance and co-operation in all things pertaining to this Reunion.—*Com.*

CUSTOM HOUSE, Port of Malpeque,
December 31, 1859.

	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Oatmeal.
To England,	7,079			
Nova Scotia,	1,954		745	25 bags.
New Brunswick,	5,300	2,000	500	121 do.
Newfoundland,	823		256	
United States,	47,209	2,030	3,770	56 do.
	62,125	4,030	5,171	202 bags.

Total Bushels, 71,816

BENJAMIN BEARISTO, Controller.