stand his trial the Government guarantees to secure his pardon in case of his conviction.

OTTAWA, April 9.

About an hour was occupied to-day in presenting Prohibitory Law petitions.

A number of bills was introduced, among them one to amend the Incorporation Act of the Confederation Life Insurance Company; one to amend Grand Trunk Arrangements Act; another to regulate the construction and maintenance of submarine electric telegraph.

In reply to DeCosmos, the Premier said he could not tell when the Pacific Railway would be commenced, nor at what point the construction would be commenced.

The annual debate on agriculture took place, and a committee was appointed to consider that interest.

Mr. Domville moved an address to procure the report of the Post Office Inspector, New Brunswick, for the months of November, December and January last.

The Postmaster General replied that he would give such information as could be made public.

Sir John approved of the custom of not making public report of public officers, as when officers were thus protected they would act more efficiently.

The Finance Minister brought down estimates.

After recess Attorney General Clark appeared at the bar of the House and was cross examined. He had been in Manitoba since November, 1870. Riel had then fled to the United States. He first saw Riel at. Archbishop Tache's, when Riel returned on the pretext that he had come home to die. He saw Riel frequently till the warrant was issued, when Riel disappeared. He afterwards reappeared on the French side of the river. He visited Riel in his own house to dissuade him from becoming a candidate, fearing he would cause a disturbance. He afterwards made arrangements respecting the election, which Riel broke.

Cunningham (Marquette) asked a series of questions entirely foreign to the main question.

Bowell objected, as the questions asked referred to events previous to Riel's election, and the issue of the warrants.

The Speaker ruled the questions in order, though in direct opposition to his ruling previously.

Cunningham proceeded, but his questions were so personal and aside from the subject that after repeated objections by Bowell and others the Speaker ruled the question out of order.

Mr. Ouimet continuing the cross-examination, Clarke stated he did not bring about the issue of a warrant. It was issued on the information of Mr. Farmer an employe of the Dominion Government. The warrant was not issued sooner because no information was laid. The witness was once present at a dinner after late session of the House, with Cunningham, Donald A. Smith and other merry gentlemen who drank Riel's health. They would have drunk anybody's health that night. (Laughter.) The witness never received any telegram from Ottawa, which induced him to issue the warrant. Two steps have been taken to outlaw Riel. The final step would be taken in June.

A lengthy discussion occurred on questions tending to show that Clarke was actuated by personal enmity toward Riel. The prosecution contended that Clarke's feelings or opinions had nothing to do with the case.

The Speaker ruled that questions tending to show the animus of the witness were in order.

As the examination proceeds there is an evident determination being made to delay proceedings.

Mr. Ouimet states he intends to show that this whole matter is a conspiracy against Riel.

The Riel Inquiry—Vindication of the Late Government—The Speaker's Rulings—Silence of Blake—Inaction of the Government—Motion for Riel's Expulsion.

OTTAWA, April 10.

Nothing very new was elicited in the close of Clarke's examination, although almost any question was allowed by the Speaker to be put. The questions tend to show that Clarke was acting by direction of the late Ministry in issuing a warrant against Riel, and that the late Ministry tried to get Riel out of the country. These questions were strongly objected to on the ground that they had no bearing on the question of Riel's fitness to occupy a seat, but the Speaker ruled the questions in order! Clarke stated that he never received any instructions from the late Ministry. After completing the judicial machinery in Manitoba the Ministry had never interfered in the judicial affairs of the Province. He never knew of the late Ministry trying to get Riel out of the country.

Mr. Mitchell said that although these questions were entirely aside from the matter before the House, he hoped the fullest information would be elicited upon these points. As a member of the late administration he could state that no such efforts to get Riel out of the country were ever made or thought of.

In answer to a question Clarke said he had received several letters threatening his life if he took further action against Riel.

Cunningham annoyed the house by many very drunken questions.

Two Ottawa policemen were examined to show that they had warrants for Riel's arrest.

Bowell enquired whether, in view of the facts that had been elicited from the witness in reference to the member from Provencher, it was the intention of the Government to take any action with reference to the seat which that man held in the House. The Government were the true custodians of the privileges of the House. He would know whether they had any intention to take any steps in the matter.

Mackenzie said that whatever course the Government were disposed to take they would not take the matter out of Bowell's hands.

Bowell argued that in the Sadlier case, after the facts had been elicited by an independent member of the House, the Solicitor General moved for Sadlier's expulsion; and, in the later case of O'Donovan Rossa, the Premier himself moved for his expulsion. As it was apparent from the answer of the Premier that it was not the intention of the Government to take any action, he gave notice that he would, on Monday next, move for the expulsion of Riel from the House.

Blake was in the House, but remained silent all through, when it was thought that the least he might do was to assist when technical discussions arose.

OTTAWA, April 10.

Among the Prohibition petitions to day was one from London sixty-four feet long, containing five thousand signatures.

Burke, Wood's successor, was introduced, and took his seat.

Domville introduced a petition from the Canada Mutual Marine Insurance Company to amend the incorporation Act.

Several petitions were introduced asking for the incorporation of the Lake Superior and Manitoba Railway Company.

Palmer, seconded by Mitchell, introduced a bill abolishing the Usury Laws. He advocated free trade in money.

Mackenzie introduced a bill placing the construction of the Intercolonial Railway in the hands of the Government.

Dorion introduced a bill explaining the meaning of the words "competent magistrate," as occurring in New Brunswick. It extends to Registrars and others.

The House then went into Committee of Supply—Jones in the chair.

They passed the formal motions.

A debate took place showing the House to be favorable to the North-west Geological Survey.

The House adjourned till Monday.

The Committee on the North-west troubles met to day. The reporters and the public are excluded.

Weekly Tribune.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 14, 1874.

Republican Aristocracy.

"Liberty, Fraternity and Equality" is the motto of Republicanism—personal liberty, an absence of class distinctions, and equality before the law. The American Republic was founded on these ideas, and her writers and orators have been in the habit of boasting that they were carried out. Gradually, however, has Republican simplicity gone out of fashion, and an aping of European class privileges, etc., developed itself. Love of titular distinctions—only equalled by that of Germans in Germany—has become manifest among all classes, and the wealthy ape the liveries and style of the aristocrats of European monarchies. There appears to be great difficulty, in various parts of the country, to settle the social status of different aspirants for precedence, and the decisions of one city often conflict with those of another. In one town, for instance, as in some places in New Brunswick, the wholesale liquor dealers are the *creme de la creme*, and their wives and daughters take precedence of other women just as the Royal Princesses of England take precedence of the female members of the other aristocracy at the Court of St. James. In one place dry goods are at the ducal elevation, in another place they possess only baronial honors, and in some places they are deemed beneath classification altogether. In the South the planters are the first families; in some regions the lumber manufacturers—even though they eat with knives and squirt tobacco juice on the carpet—are the leaders of the *ton*; in other quarters—Washington, for example—those who are not in office are nobodies. In Washington, as the work of social classification goes on, desperate struggles for position are annually disturbing the peace of the "higher circles." The President and family come first, of course, but who follows? The struggle between members of the Cabinet, Judges, Speakers of Congress, Generals and Admirals, is lively each season, and many of the disputes have become chronic. Nothing but the establishment of a Joint High Commission, or something of that kind, for the determination of the cases in dispute, will prevent the disruption of Washington society. And yet another question of privilege has arisen in Congressional circles. The gallery of the House of Representatives, where the sons and daughters of the people have been wont to assemble on equal terms, has been divided, and the best portion set apart as the private property of members and their families—as sacred ground on which the poor plebeian cannot stand. Then the front portion of the best corner of this sacred retreat was made more sacred still by being set apart for the family and friends of the Speaker—the Speaker's private box as it were. One McNulta, a member of the House, is indignant because he was not permitted to take a vacant seat in this sacred corner, has been making a big row about it, and the attention of the whole country has been directed to the growth of the aristocratic system of class privileges at the capital of the country—the heart of the Republic.

Formal Thanks.

The next thing to being thankful is being thanked. To feel thankful or to receive thanks is enough for present happiness: so how much is that man to be envied who enjoys both of these sources of bliss! The happy man is the Mayor, and the blissful occasion was his retirement from the Chair of the Sessions. He thanked the Justices, and was happy. Then they passed a vote of thanks to him, and his cup of happiness overflowed at his eyes Now if this thanking business does any good—if it really affords anybody any innocent gratification in this world—it may be kept up with advantage; but if it is only a form—if it has come to be a mere matter of course that a chairman should be invited to leave his seat while a vote of thanks is accorded him—if the ceremony gives no pleasure to those who pass the vote and him who receives the thanks—then it is about time that sensible men abolished the custom so far as they themselves are concerned.

Noblesse Oblige.

Sir John Macdonald, as a matter of course, is as anxious as the Premier to shirk the Riel question. His followers are divided on the policy that should be adopted in reference to that great criminal, and, as the honor of the country is not in his keeping, and the leadership of the House is in other hands, he very naturally declines to do anything about it. *Noblesse oblige.* The Cabinet should accept the responsibilities as well as the honors of office. It is for Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues to choose between the honor of bringing a murderer to justice and the infamy of enabling him to escape punishment—to choose between the loss of a few French supporters in Parliament and the approbation of the great mass of the people of Canada.

Brevities.

Connolly, of Portland, who was sent to the Lunatic Asylum a short time ago, after setting fire to his house, has been taken from the institution by his friends.

Two fires occurred in Fredericton Friday night by which Golding's stables and Miss Kate McMichael's saloon were burned. What would the M. P. P.'s have done for oysters if Kate had been burned out a month ago?

Dr. Dow of Fredericton was struck with paralysis on Friday morning.

A horse belonging to Mr. John Rielly took suddenly ill on Saturday near Lovitt's wharf. The illness is said to be a spinal disease that has killed a large number of horses in the United States within the past few months.

The Rev. J. T. Parsons baptized eight persons at Lower Cove Sunday morning.

The special services of the Germain street Wesleyan Church will continue during the week. A large number have already found peace in believing since the commencement of these services.

T. B. Barker, Esq., was slightly injured while driving home Saturday night. He was thrown from his seat by the runner of his sleigh breaking.

Governor Perham, after his address in the Academy of Music Wednesday evening, will leave for Fredericton to visit Governor Tilley. A good deal of interest attaches to the announcement of his address, the temperance revival being so general at the present time.

Rev. Dr. Clarke Writes:

While I was under the process of Erysipelas the Hon. Dr. —— called upon me; I told him how much of the Hypo. I had used. He said "Fellows' Hypophosphites is a good medicine, an excellent medicine, an excellent tonic, and no doubt had drawn the acidity that was in my blood to the surface, and had thus prevented it from attacking some important organ of my system."

I have conversed with many who have used it, and all say they were benefitted by it.

For myself, I have much pleasure in saying *it improved my general health amazingly.* It gives a clear skin and healthy countenance, but to know its virtues it must be used, and were it within the reach of all classes, I believe it would be universally; yes, by the well, to renew their age, and by the sick, to make them well.

It makes an old person look ten years younger. "This witness is true." Would that I could more widely make it known for its many virtues. Long may its inventor live to see the happy fruits of his invention. ALEXANDER CLARKE, M. D., Amherst, N. S.

The Sessions.

In the sessions, Saturday afternoon, the parish of Lancaster, for highway purposes, was divided into three districts. The special presentment of the Grand Jury was discussed at length. Justice Keans called attention to an error in the amount asked for by the Grand Jury on contingent account, and on his motion the amount was altered from $16,811 to $8,733. The question of publishing defaulters' names was referred to the Common Council, Portland Council, and special committee of Justices.

Previous to adjournment His Worship Mayor Reed remarked that it would be the last time he would have the honor to preside over the body, and took occasion to thank the Justices for the courtesy and consideration he had received at their hands. He was then called upon to vacate the chair, and Justice Keans took his place. Justice Marshall moved, and Justice Matthews seconded,

That the thanks of the Board be given to His Worship the Mayor for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of Chief Magistrate for the City and County of St. John, and also for the urbanity and impartiality with which he has, during the past four years, presided over the Court of Quarter Sessions.

His Worship briefly returned thanks.

Habit, if not necessity, makes a Hair Dressing indispensable to many. The new "Vigor," which Dr. Ayer's laboratory issues, is one of the most delightful we have ever used. It restores not only the color, but gloss and luxuriance to faded and grey hair.

A Sad Suicide.

The San Francisco *Alta* narrates the sad circumstances attending the recent suicide in that city of William Fredericks, a young and promising artist from the East, who took up his residence in that city a short time since. Fredericks for some time previous to the tragedy had great depression of spirits, owing, it is said, to a depreciation of his pictures. He had taken a studio and tried to support himself by his brush, but his pictures met with harsh criticism, and in a short time he found it necessary to pawn his watch and clothing to enable him to get bread. Discouraged and heart-broken he went to his room and attempted to poison himself, but he was discovered in time to save his life, and kind friends took pity on him and put him under the care of a keeper, who tried to cheer him up. It soon became evident, however, that disappointment had done its work. He would constantly assume tragic attitudes, and talk in an exceedingly excited manner. He would clasp his hands to his forehead and exclaim, "Ye gods, must I endure all this?" He declared that the critics and artists had combined against him, and that he was weary of life. He would quote Shakespeare's soliloquy of "To be, or not to be," and relate the deaths of Cato, Brutus, and other great suicides in glowing style. He declared that the greatest thing a man could do was to heroically die by his own hand. Finally one moonlit evening Fredericks asked his attendant to take him out for a walk. Upon reaching the beach he gave his companion a push and said he did not want to talk any more. He then struck an attitude, looked out toward the ocean, and then, drawing a pistol, he shot himself in the breast, causing instant death.

A convention of Southern railroad officials, Mayors, Board of Trade presidents and others, is to be held at Atlanta on Tuesday, May 5th, proximo, to take into consideration the question of direct trade with Europe through what is to be known as the "Liverpool, Savannah and Great Western Transportation Line."

To be a prize-fighter does not necessarily imply courage. For a fellow of this bazar sort, named Clough, in New York, Tuesday night, was brave enough to dare another rough to fight; and, when the latter made signs of accepting the kind invitation, Clough just took out a revolver and let daylight into Harris through three openings. Now wasn't that mean?

ÆMMA AND EGINHARD.

Home from her convent to the palace came
The lovely Princess Emma, whose sweet name,
Whispered by seneschal or sung by bard,
Had often touched the soul of Eginhard.
He saw her from his window, as in state
She came, by knights attended through the gate;
He saw her at the banquet of that day,
Fresh as the morn, and beautiful as May;
He saw her in the garden, as she strayed
Among the flowers of Summer with her maid,
And said to him, "O Eginhard, disclose
The meaning and the mystery of the rose;"
And trembling he made answer: "In good sooth
Its mystery is love, its meaning youth!"

How can I tell the signals and the signs
By which one heart another heart divines?
How can I tell the many thousand ways
By which it keeps the secret it betrays?

O mystery of love! O strange romance!
Among the Peers and Paladins of France,
Shining in steel, and prancing on gay steeds,
Noble by birth, yet nobler by great deeds,
The Princess Emma had no words nor looks,
But for this clerk, this man of thought and books.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Inflation is less to be dreaded in California than elsewhere, for the very river banks rest on a specie basis.

A Maine woman has hair seven feet and five inches long—too long to be available for use in butter.

A mutual protection society has been organized in Boston against mothers-in-law. Truly, the millennium must be at hand.

Peace is preserved in a household in Elkader, Iowa, by a long withy raw-hide hung up in the bedroom of the juvenile portion of the family, bearing upon its handle the legend, "Boys, please be kind to your mother."

In Rochester so intense is the indignation at the gas monopolists that kerosene is becoming the general illuminator. The Coroner remarks, with sly originality, that he has "struck oil" at last; and in nearly every family the mother-in-law and the man who will not sign the pledge are sent to bed with a kerosene lamp.

An exchange states that at a recent evening session of the National House of Representatives the only members present were the one the chair, two at their desks writing letters, and one who was anxious to deliver a grand speech, and obliged to be satisfied with an audience composed of six members of his own family in the gallery.

We don't recollect (if we ever knew) what the difficulty was between Aristides Bienvienu and T. B. Phillips, of Montgomery Station, Miss., but it's all over now as far as Aristides was concerned, he having been shot dead in his tracks at forty paces by an amiable understanding 'twixt him and Phillips. The dignity of the code was maintained with double barrelled shot guns.—*Louisville Commercial.*

A check on crockery crackers at last. For behaving in a strange and violent manner—the long and short of it was that she broke things—two physicians have at last been found ready to certify to the insanity of a handmaiden employed in domestic service, and she is now in close confinement. We hope this awful example may not be lost on others of her erring sisters, and that they may all escape that asylum which is the inevitable doom of smashers.

We are under many obligations to Ben. Butler for a copy of his speech on "The abuse of the franking privilege by newspapers." How we have existed heretofore without his speech in pamphlet form is beyond question one of mystery, and that no fellow can find out. The speech shall be framed and hung up; and it is exceedingly to be regretted that there is not an opportunity to treat its distinguished author with equal consideration.—*Rochester Democrat.*

There was a great stir, says *Punch*, in our garden the other day. The Potatoes were ready to jump out of their skins. The Beat turned red to its very roots. The Celery lost their heads, and the Cabbages their hearts. The Peas split their pods with excitement. The Asparagus could with difficulty be kept in its bed. The Parsley curled itself up in a corner. The Cucumber alone maintained its habitual coolness. The cause of all this commotion was the presence of a noted vegetarian. The Potatoes never took their eyes off him.

The Bishop of Lincoln has struck hard blows at the evil of simony, or buying and selling church livings, which seems, he says, to be increasing in the English establishment. Sometimes the advertisements of livings for sale are set forth with strange recommendations, such as the allurements of green houses, gardens, coaches, and stables, trout streams and watering places, and hints of the lightness of the work, the smallness of the congregation, and the old age of the incumbent. The bishop says: "We have shut up the slave market of Zanzibar, but we have opened the slave market of souls in London."

The Superb, the latest monster vessel of the British navy, is an iron built broadside ship, having a load displacement of 9,800 tons, and engines capable of working up to 8,000 horse power. Her estimated first cost is £418,000. The Fury, which will likely be launched in October next, has a load displacement of nearly 11,000 tons, and is to be a turret-ship, with only four guns. Her engines are to work up to 8,000 horse power, and her cost exceeds that of the Superb, being as much as £457,000. Her four guns will be "Woolwich Infants," so that in fighting power she will equal the Devastation. The Temeraire is another embryo monster, designed as a broadside ship to carry eight guns.

If a tallow candle be placed in a gun, and shot at a door, it will go through without sustaining any injury; and if a musket ball be fired into water, it will not only rebound, but be flattened as if fired against solid substance. A musket ball may be fired through a pane of glass, making a hole the size of the ball, without cracking the glass; if the glass be suspended by a thread, it will make no difference and the thread will not even vibrate. In the arctic regions when the thermometer is below zero, persons can converse more than a mile distant. Dr. Jamieson asserts that he heard every word of a sermon at the distance of two miles. A mother has been distinctly heard talking to her child on a still day across water a mile wide.

To those who are going to move we would say, if you have to get up and change your local habitations, just go off without cleaning house, and leave it, if possible, in a nastier condition than when you first went in. Throw all the broken old bones, shoes, hoop skirts, and broken lamp chimneys just where they can be raked on a pile—but don't do any raking. The incoming family won't know what it is to make garden. If a door or gate is nearly off its hinges give it a kick and help it go; it pleases the proprietor to fix such things up about this time of the year. Tell your oldest hopeful to throw the old dead cat into the well, because it imparts a delicious taste to the water, and you know the doctors can't always be idle. If you have a surfeit of rusty stove pipe, broken bottles, and cabbage in the cellar, leave it. It shows a neighborly spirit.

Extensive preparations are being made at Creedmoor, N. Y., for the forthcoming international rifle match, for the championship of the world.

The immediate cause of the resignation of Mr. Brydges is reported to have been a proposal from England to deprive him of the position of Director of the Company.

Henri Rochefort and his companions, it seems, got away from their prison on the plea of going a fishing. They wanted to catch a fish called freedom, and they had more than the traditional fisherman's luck.

A whole generation of parents already occupies this mundane sphere who cannot describe to inquiring childhood a warming pan, a foot-stove, a tinder-box, a brick oven, a crane or a candle mould.

Blood doesn't always tell. Kate Field describes the ex-Queen of Spain as a great, stout, ungainly female, who needs but a dozen children and a wash-tub to be a counterfeit presentment of the typical Biddy.

A Zanzibar letter says that Dr. Livingstone's remains were exposed to the sun for a month to dry, and then packed in a hollowed tree, wrapped round with cloth, and the natives carrying it supposed it a bale of cloth, or kaniki.

A cockney tourist met with a Scotch lassie going barefoot toward Glasgow. Lassie, said he, I should like to know if all the people in this part go barefooted? Part of 'em do, and the rest of them mind their own business, was the reply.

There are in England and Wales two churches with only two members each, one with three, three with five, eight with ten, and 160 numbering from eleven to twenty each. One church of ten boasts of nine lay preachers.

"Well, neighbor, what is the most Christian news this morning?" said a gentleman to a friend. "I have just bought a barrel of flour for a poor woman." "Just like you! Who is it that you have made happy with your charity this time?" "My wife."

When Mr. Disraeli was asked what he thought of Mr. Jenkins' speech at Dundee, he remarked that he himself had said as hard things when he was young. The Gladstonian writers have been more severe on Mr. Jenkins than the Conservatives.

A bell-boy at a hotel in Montreal was on Monday evening thrashed by a gentleman staying at the house for some impertinence, and, when released, he fired three shots at his chastiser from a revolver. Fortunately no one was hurt, and the irrepressible youth was given into custody.

At Oakland Park, San Francisco, April 9, the California mare Lady Mac made what is said to be the best time on record in a five mile trotting race. She trotted against Jerome and Omaha. She sold in the pools at $2, against their $20 and $60, respectively, and won the race in thirteen minutes.

The Ottawa *Free Press* states that it is rumoured that an arrangement is being made between the Imperial and the Canadian Governments for H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh to succeed the Earl of Dufferin as Her Majesty's representative in Canada, and that the Dominion is to be elevated to the *status* of a vice-royalty.

The Provisional Government for San Domingo have declared the convention with the Samana Bay Company, composed of American speculators, null and void. The Company demand arbitration and have called upon the United States Government for protection. They assert that the action of the San Domingo authorities has been instigated by the British Consul-General.

Reports from the India famine-stricken district show continued improvement in the general situation. The authorities are now in condition to hope that the difficulties are over, except in the north-easter portion of Tirhoot, where more than 300,000 persons are yet dependent upon the government for food. The spring crop has yielded well except in Tirhoot.

"Hans," said his grandfather one day, "take this jug and go out and get me some beer." "All right, give me the money." "Oh! it is easy enough to get the beer with money; the thing is to get it without money." Hans goes out and soon returns with the jug. His grandfather, after trying in vain to get a drink, says, "Hans, this jug is empty." "So much the better," replied the urchin, "it is easy enough to drink beer when the jug is full; the thing is to get it when the jug is empty."

Despatches from Port au Prince state that upon the official announcement of the death of Senator Sumner flags on the President's palace, forts and public buildings were placed at half mast; that a badge of mourning was worn from the 21st to the 26th of March, when impressive and solemn funeral services took place at the Cathedral, attended by the President, Cabinet and Diplomatic Corps and all officers of Government. During the service the minute gun was fired from the fortifications around the city and the military were under arms.

Tuesday night, about ten, the stage carrying the mail and twelve passengers, of whom three were ladies, was stopped about twenty-three miles from Austin, Texas, by three armed men, who took the front horse from the traces, and took all the passengers' money and jewelry, and gutted the mail bags, taking off one of them. Among the passengers were Bishop Gregg and Mr. Breckinridge, President of the National Bank of San Antonio, from whom they took $1,000. They secured about $3,000 from the passengers.

One of the five boilers used for compressing air for the use of drills being worked in the Jugtown tunnel at Pattenburg, N. J., exploded on Tuesday night, totally destroying the other four, killing Thomas Irving, master mechanic, John Bowen, fireman, Jacob McGeraghaty, coal pesser, and Thomas Gaunhan, fireman, and injuring several others. The building in which the boiler was located was blown to atoms. One fragment of the boiler weighing two tons was carried one hundred yards. Another was thrown thirty yards, and landed in the house of Mr. Sannis. The latter's wife was driving near the scene of the explosion, and her conveyance sprang out of the carriage when the horses became frightened, leaving her to her fate. She was thrown out, run over, and badly injured. The iron sheeting of the boilers was warped and twisted like leaden plate, and thrown in every direction. Several persons living in adjoining shanties were hit by the debris but were not seriously injured.

There are said to be 123 Masons in the British Parliament—56 in the House of Lords, and 77 in the Commons.

Mr. R. T. Murray is to go as a delegate from the Halifax Typographical Union to the International Union which meets in the United States in June next.

The wife of Mr. Michael Divinity, of Brooklyn, in this county, gave birth to twins a short time ago, and the combined weight of the two was only 5¼ lbs.—*Bridgetown Monitor.*

On Tuesday evening, "Moore Lodge," No. 17, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Vale Colliery by G. M. Taylor, with five charter members, and twelve initiated.

The Halifax Boating Club have decided to accept for Brown the challenges of both Coulter and Scharff. The races will be arranged as soon as possible.

A brutal assault was committed at Montreal, Tuesday, by the proprietor of a keno saloon, who, after a man who had been gambling won back a quantity of money he had lost, set upon the unfortunate individual and cruelly beat him over the head with the butt of a revolver. The ruffian is in the hands of the police, and his victim has been received in the hospital. In one of the upper rooms a young girl was found locked up.

The Legislature of North Carolina has passed an act entitled "for the better security of human life." It provides that any person who manufactures, sells or deals in spirituous liquors as a drink-containing foreign properties or ingredients poisonous to the system, shall be punished with five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. The certificate of a competent chemist shall be *prima facie* evidence against the offender.

A recent return to Parliament gives us an idea of what the English will be called upon to pay for conquering the King of the Ashantees and burning Coomassie. The whole amount asked is $4,500,000. Of this $1,285,000 is needed for the army, $1,805,000 for the navy, and $1,620,000 for contingencies. For provisions and forage, $500,000 was required, and $150,000 for clothing. Ashantee is a cheaper job than Abyssinia and seems to have been a more brilliant exploit.

Lord Rossmore of the First Life Guards, while riding his horse Harlequin in the race for the Guards' Challenge Cup at Windsor, England, on March 20, was seriously injured by his horse falling and rolling over him. While in the act of taking a fence the horse put his foot in a hole and stumbled. Queen Victoria, who saw the accident, has expressed much sympathy, and has from time to time since the occurrence sent special messages to the Spital Cavalry barracks, where the sufferer now lies.

The six largest steamers in the world are the Great Eastern, owned by the International Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, 678 feet long, 77 feet broad; the City of Pekin (Pacific Mail Steamship Company), 6,000 tons, 423 feet long, 48 feet broad; the Liguria (Pacific Steam Navigation Company) 4,820 tons, 460 feet long, 45 broad; the Brittanic (White Star) 4,700 tons, 455 feet long, 45 broad; the City of Richmond (Inman) 4,600 tons, 453 feet long, 43 beam; and the Bothnia (Cunard), 4,500 tons, 425 feet long, 42½ broad.

According to information from Panama to March 22, in Honduras the Provisional Government in Comayagua, under the Presidency of Don Poncram Leiva, continued in existence. A decree was issued instructing all Governors to see that the elections for next President were carried on with full liberty and no interference. It is reported that when Senor Arias capitulated to the forces of Salvador and Guatemala it was stipulated in the conditions that the ex-President, with all his officers, should have their liberty, but that President Gonzalez of Salvador failed to keep his word, and that they are still held prisoners.

A sailor from Portland, Me., employed on American vessels for more than thirty years, had contributed annually something toward supporting a hospital for sailors at Portland, the sum aggregating not less than $1000. On his last voyage he shipped for home in a Danish vessel, but before reaching his destination was laid up with inflammatory rheumatism. On applying for admission to the hospital he had helped to support for so many years he was told that having been taken sick on a foreign vessel he could not be admitted. The sailor is now homeless and very likely to die from the want of proper care. So much for red tape.

A singular tragedy of the late war has been brought to light by the return of Thomas Clark to his family in Jacksonville, Renselaer county. Clark was a doctor, and deserted his family about the opening of the rebellion. He entered the army and was reported to have been shot for desertion. His tomb, marked by a pine board, had been seen near Union Mills, Va., by a Johnsonville man. After thirteen years absence Clark has reappeared in his native town. He is surgeon of a Liverpool steamer. He says that the night before the execution he changed clothes with a comrade, and escaped. The comrade, less lucky, was shot in Clark's place.

The question of cremation has gone no short distance on its way to acceptance when a public meeting is called to discuss it. But it has gone further in Switzerland and Germany. At Zurich, where burial ground is growing contracted, 2,000 persons have subscribed toward an Association founded in favor of burning the dead. At Basle the movement has received the public approval of orthodox clergymen—also on the ground of promotion of health in the community. In Germany the newspapers are talking about the subject a great deal, while one firm in Berlin has advertised the invention of a new furnace in which to perform the operation And, last, a church-warden of a Jewish synagogue in the same city has proposed to establish in a new burial ground, lately acquired, one of these furnaces.

The practice of wearing armour is supposed to have gone out of fashion in modern warfare. Captain Burton makes a statement on this point which will surprise many. He says: "During the last Franco-Prussian war several of my friends escaped severe wounds by wearing in action a strip of hard leather, with a rib or angle to the fore. It must be large enough to cover heart, lungs, and stomach pit, and it should be sewn inside the blouse or tunic: of course, the looser the better." He does not give this information without a practical object in view, for he immediately adds, "Such a defence will be especially valuable for those who must often expose themselves in the bush to Anglo-Ashantee trade guns loaded with pebbles and bits of iron." In the case of any war in which the sabre was likely to play a part, Captain Burton would recommend curb-chains worn across the cap, along the shoulders, and down the arms and legs.

Senator Sumner's pictures at his house in Washington have been catalogued. There are 90 oil paintings, valued at $25,000, and more than 3,000 engravings, photographs, etchings, etc., worth about as much more.

Charlotte Cushman writes a letter, suggesting house visitation as a much more proper way of aiding the poor than calling upon artists to give gratuitous and other entertainments.

The venerable ex-minister, M. Guizot, has paid $8,000 into the French National Treasury, having learned recently for the first time that his son had solicited and received a gift of that amount from Napoleon III.

The Khedive of Egypt is collecting for a library which he has founded at Cairo the valuable Arabic manuscript preserved in mosques and monasteries throughout his dominions. He has already secured 30 copies of the Koran, one of which is 1,150 years old.

In the District of Columbia investigation last week it was testified that $25,000 in cash and $72,000 in notes (a large part of which were subsequently paid) were given to a lobbyist for procuring the wood-pavement contract.

A merchant of St. Joseph, Mo., has got the Post-office Department and its subordinates by the ears, by writing on a postal card to a Chicago merchant, "Our postmaster says your postmaster is an ass." He has also been arrested for using "scurrilous language" on a postal card.

In the U. S. House of Representatives the Committee of Ways and Means have reported a bill abolishing the payment of moieties to informers and United States officers. The latter are only to receive extra compensation for seizures in smuggling cases, the former may be rewarded for aid against any fraud on the revenue, but neither can receive anything without special order from the Secretary of the Treasury.

An English traveler whose conscience would not allow him to swear, found that at the hotel in France, where he was staying, the waiters were so accustomed to hear the Englishmen use strong language, that they considered him a milk-sop, and neglected him accordingly. He therefore hit upon this expedient to secure a proper amount of attention. Whenever he gave an order he rolled out in sonorous tones the words—"Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham." The effect was marvelous. He was henceforth waited upon with the greatest alacrity and assiduity.

Large crowds, sometimes boisterous but not abusive, followed the women's praying band in Pittsburg, Pa., Wednesday. At one hotel while they were present some female members of a circus entered and called for drinks, but the bar-keeper refused until the prayers were over and the crusaders had left. The press reporters acted as protectors of the ladies. A despatch says that the Mayor is instructed by the Police Commissioners to arrest any women crusading against saloons, together with persons following them, on account of their interference with business and disturbing the public peace.

The power of prime movers is measured by horse power. Watt found that the strongest London draft horses were capable of doing work equivalent to raising 33,000 pounds one foot high per minute, and he took this as the unit of power for the steam engine. The horse is not usually capable of doing so great a quantity of work. Rankine gave 26,000 pounds as the figure for a mean of several experiments, and it is probable that 25,000 pounds is a fair minute's average work for a good animal. It would require five or six men to do the work of a strong horse. Watt's estimate has become, by general consent among engineers, the standard of power measurement for all purposes.

The savings banks' statistics of Great Britain show either that the working classes are thrifty and prosperous, or that capitalists are using those institutions, as do capitalists here, as safe places of deposit, yielding small but sure interest. Of the $300,000,000 deposited in the savings banks of England, Scotland, and Ireland, $100,000,000 has been put there within twelve years and $20,000,000 last year. The workingmen's friendly and benevolent societies have about 4,000,000 members and a capital amounting to nearly $100,000,000. There is nothing the British workman so much dreads as that refuge of the country squire's worn-out laborers, the poor house. A friendly society secures him a support in his declining years and a decent funeral.

The richest man in Australia, Mr. William John Turner Clark, died at his residence, Resemeath. Essendon, on Jan. 13th, in the 73rd year of his age. Mr. Clark was born in Summersetshire, in England, and Emigrated to Tasmania in 1829. After living there some years he removed to Victoria, and gradually grew to be a very wealthy man. He owned land in almost every one of the Australian colonies. His freehold property in Victoria alone amounted to over 60,000 acres. His real and personal estate at the time of his death was worth from $10,000,000 to $15,000,000.

A despatch from Austin, Nevada, gives the particulars of a horrible tragedy in Smoky Valley in that State. It appears that Christopher Reckstein had been for a long time jealous of his wife in consequence of attentions paid to her by a young man named Norton, and they had frequent quarrels about him. A man named Osterhaus went to Reckstein's house, and, receiving no response to his demands for admission, broke open the door. On the floor lay the naked body of Mrs. Reckstein cut into pieces and the head split open. At her feet were the bodies of their two little girls, their heads nearly severed from the bodies and near by were the dead bodies of Reckstein and young Norton, grappled as in a death struggle. Reckstein grasped in his right hand a large bowie knife covered with blood, and in Norton's right hand was a dragoon pistol two chambers of which were discharged. There is no living witness to the terrible affair.

We desire to call the attention of underwriters to a new material used for martingale rings, knife-handles, combs, etc., which we are informed bears the name of "Celluloid." It is to all appearance as hard as iron, and, when cold, possesses great strength and tenacity; but it is as inflammable as tinder, and it burns more rapidly than pitch. A flash of a match will set off a box of this material, made up in any form, and produce a conflagration so utterly at variance with the apparent solidity of the article that it seems like magic. A new class of "extra hazardous" must be made by all of our fire