houses and the cessation of their ancient relations with their allies the Ashantees. No wonder then, that they should feel such a repugnance in being "protected."

On December 16, 1870, administrator Cussiet said he thought that the Ashantee Monarch "had certain claims over Elmina," and "feared that an unsatisfactory settlement might again involve us in a long and troublesome war with Ashantee." That fear is realized, and the Government, after refusing the Ashantees their ancient rights, now sees a long and totally unnecessary war on hand, which by following the same plan as did the Dutch in the government of their territory, might have been avoided.

With regard to the tribute, it is no doubt the English promised to make king Coffee a yearly payment, as the Dutch had done. But, from the papers, it is clear no such payment was ever made; and that there are arrears still unpaid, due from the Dutch themselves. The matter was never settled. What was forced, took place. Troubles began at once. Twenty days after the transfer of territory, a serious riot broke out in Elmina, in the course of which a Dutch officer was killed. The king sent a last protest to the States-General of the Netherlands against the sale of his nation, absolutely refusing to hoist the English flag. It was disregarded.

Thus Ashantee is plunged into a war with England—a war unjust and unnecessary, which will reflect dishonor and shame upon England, who, instead of washing her hands in innocent blood, should be teaching her victims the arts of peace and civilization, and upholding the great name of which she is so proud, but upon which, alas! she has cast an indelible stain.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MOONS

Full Moon, 3rd d. 1h. 7m. a. m.
Last Quart., 11th d. 5h. 19m. a. m.
New Moon, 18th d. 0h. 48m. a.m.
First Quart., 24th d. 6h. 17m. a. m.

Amherst Gazette.

AMHERST, N. S., MARCH 6, 1874.

English Politics.

Mr. Gladstone could boast at the commencement of the late parliament of a majority of at least 120 in the British House of Commons. He had a party behind him strong enough to bid defiance to his political enemies, hostile to the Irish Church, and enthusiastic for reform. He disestablished the Irish Church, granted tenant rights to Ireland, abolished the Purchase System, passed a stringent License Act, and gave the Ballot to the people.

It would have been thought, only a few years ago, that nothing short of a rebellion could abolish these old usages held sacred by law and tradition. These prescriptive rights had become hindrances to progress, and the advancing spirit of the nation demanded their removal, and, with a bold hand, the late Government reformed them. The conservative spirit of the nation became startled with the alarming innovations, and a reaction set in which was soon felt by the Government, and the Opposition was able to defeat the Government on its Irish University Bill about a year ago.

Although Mr. Gladstone still held power his Government was evidently weakening, and as constituency after constituency sent back Conservatives to fill seats vacated by Liberals, it became evident that the day of his power was [illegible] He, doubtless, felt that a defeat awaited him at the next meeting of parliament, and in the hopes of snatching a victory at the polls he suddenly dissolved parliament. With the large surplus of five millions to dispose of, he made magnificent promises of abolishing the income tax, giving household suffrage in the counties, &c. But the nation would not believe his firm promises. So many interests had been harassed,—the Church had been attacked, rights had been infringed upon, the publicans were arrayed against him,—that the result is the Government is ignominiously defeated, and Disraeli finds himself the leader of a compact party with fifty majority, after giving all the Home Rulers to the Opposition.

Although the Conservatives have been in office several times, yet this is the first and only time they have had power for the past thirty years. They have always been in a minority and allowed to hold office only on sufferance.

The new premier, Hon. Mr. Disraeli, holds a most enviable position as a minister. He has the country undoubtedly at his back. His party is strong enough for all the purposes of Government, and will move, under directions from its leaders, with the precision and firmness of a Grecian Phalanx.

It has been said by some that there will now be the reign of fogyism, of stolid toryism in England. We hold to a different opinion. The *personnel* of the new ministry forbids such an opinion. The first minister is a man of great powers and marvellous tact and ability. He became leader of the Conservative party when it could not claim more than a quarter of the Commons; he has led it through discouragements and defeats which would have crushed any man but Disraeli. Belonging to a despised race he has triumphed over herculean difficulties, and to-day he is the trusted leader of a party more powerful, because more compact, than the numerically stronger one lately led by Gladstone. He carried the last Reform Bill through a hostile parliament. We look upon Disraeli as the greatest living success, not even excepting Bismarck. Then there is Lord Derby, the inheritor of a noble name, who has made politics his study and blue books are his delight, Earl of Carnarvon, the friend of the Colonies, Baron Cairns, Duke of Richmond, Marquis of Salisbury—all men of rare ability and statesmen of the highest order. Their spirit is abreast of the times. They know that a party whose policy is not in accord with the progressive spirit of the age will not retain power even in conservative England. We may look for a policy in home legislation of a practical nature, rather than the embodiment of the views of advanced Liberals. The foreign policy, under the guidance of the able Earl of Derby, will be firmer and more in accord with British honor and the high position she once held, and ought to sustain, among the nations of the earth. Every confidence can be placed in the Earl of Carnarvon, that the administration of the Colonial Office will be liberal and just.

We hope that the Ministry will devise a scheme of Irish legislation that will take the vigor and life out of this senseless Home Rule agitation. Disraeli has a splendid opportunity, for he has the power to carry remedial legislation without being dependent on Irish support to do it.

There are strong reasons to hope that the Home, Foreign, and Colonial policy of the new Government will be wise, firm, beneficial, and progressive.

F. W. BLIZZARD vs. W. F. CUTTEN. This is a libel suit just tried in St. John. The defendant, in January, 1873, caused to be mailed at Amherst a letter alleged to contain $100, addressed to J. B. Read, Dorchester, which letter, it is stated, did not reach its destination.—In the declaration defendant is charged with having belied plaintiff's character and making the statement that if he had known the notorious postal-car thief, Blizzard, was on the train he would not have sent his money letter by it. The defence contained the following counts:

1st, That the defendant sometime since gave Blizzard a letter addressed J. B. Read, Dorchester, containing $100, which was not delivered, but was detained by the plaintiff, and the contents appropriated to his use; 2nd, That J. M. Hallett, of Sussex, gave the plaintiff a letter addressed to Stephens & Figgures, St. John, which the plaintiff also opened, and appropriated the money, $193; 3rd, H. A. White, Arnold, and other persons, at Sussex, at various times gave Blizzard money letters which never reached their destination; 4th, That Jonathan Wier, of Moncton, on the 2nd of July last, gave Blizzard a letter containing $40, directed to George Carvill, St. John, which was opened, etc.; 5th, That at various other times and various other places, and from various other persons, Blizzard received money letters which he opened and extracted the contents; 6th, That knowing these facts the defendant has had cause to suspect the said Fred. W. Blizzard of breaking open these letters and taking the money; 7th, That the allegations are just and true.

Mr. C. had a large number of witnesses present for the purpose of proving money in Blizzard's hands which has not since been heard of, but the counsel did not think it necessary to call them, deeming that sufficient had been proven by plaintiff's own witnesses, and the case was submitted to the Jury by the respective counsel. After being out about an hour a verdict was brought for plaintiff for five hundred dollars.

The defendant's counsel will apply to the full bench of judges to set aside the verdict on account of the damages being excessive, and there is little doubt that the application will be granted.

A new trial will give an opportunity to adduce all the evidence bearing upon the case, and it would be only fair to the public to have all the evidence obtainable on those frequent post office "irregularities," that they may be properly ventilated.

County Academy.

Average above 75 for month ended February 28:

W. D. F. Ward	97
I. G. Fillan	97
Miss Ida Black	91
H. Logan	86
Miss Layton	81
" Glendenning	78
" McCully	76
A. S. Black	76
General Average of Department	61

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

Miss L. McKay	90
C. N. Dodge	89
Miss C. Howard	79
E. H. H. Lowerison	77
General Average of Department	45

An ox, owned and fattened by Mr. Bradley Etter, Westmorland, was weighed here on Monday and his weight found to be 2320 lbs. He is seven years old and was raised, we believe, at Dorchester.

Reformers' Meeting at Oxford.

On Friday last, a meeting of the "Reform Party" was held at Oxford, at which John Bragg, Esq., presided and R. S. Morse, Esq., acted as Secretary, the object of which was, according to the Secretary's report, "to give expression to their sentiments respecting the policy to be pursued in regard to office holders and the measure necessary to check and punish bribery at elections." The following resolutions were spoken to by Messrs. R. Baird, W. B. Huestis, A. Fillmore, A. Purdy, E. Howard, S. O'Donnell, P. McDonald, D. Colter, and others, and passed unanimously:

"*Whereas*, It has been the policy and practice of the party which has enjoyed the official patronage of the County of Cumberland over a period of ten years, to confer place and emolument exclusively upon their own followers, and to remove all persons from office who refused to support them at the elections, and in some instances to dismiss those who declined to vote;"

"*And Whereas*, An election has recently been held in this County, previous to which the employés of the Dominion Government were publicly informed that it was the policy of the said Government that their servants should either vote for the Government candidate, or maintain a strict neutrality, but in no case should any employé act or vote against such candidate;"

"*And Whereas*, Owing to the part taken both in canvassing and voting, by the employés of the existing Government, together with the unlawful expenditure of a large amount of money used in behalf of the Opposition candidate, the election resulted in the return of Dr. Tupper, an avowed opponent of the Administration;"

"*Therefore Resolved*, As the opinion of this meeting, that it is in vain for the Reform Party to further contest the County in the interests of the existing Administration, if the employés holding office under Government, who have supported the Opposition candidate, are permitted one and all to retain office, and unless examples are made by the removal of prominent officials who canvassed and voted against the Government candidate;"

"*And further Resolved*, That stringent measures be immediately adopted by the Reformers of Cumberland to vindicate the purity of election, by instituting proceedings to punish the parties who have been guilty of bribery, and the exercise of other unlawful means to secure the return of the gentleman who now sits for the County."

Kate Stanton's Lecture.

Miss Stanton was greeted by a very large and highly refined audience in Mason Hall, on Tuesday evening, when she delivered her lecture on "The Loves of Great Men." The same lecture has been given in St. John and Halifax, and well received, so far as appearance indicated, by large audiences in both places. In the criticisms of the press, however, there is quite a diversity of opinion as to the merits of the lecture. We should say that while a too indiscriminate praise has been lavished in some cases, unjust criticism has been pronounced in others. We think Miss Stanton is worth listening to if she were a mere reciter, for her tone is clear, enunciation distinct, modulation well governed, and her whole manner easy and natural.—But the lecture also gave evidence of a literary ability of a high order.—Although she stated that many of those whom she put forward as the heroines of her lecture were of base character, one could not help wishing she had selected some of the many women with whose pure affection history has been adorned rather than the personifications of impurity and unchastness. Nor is this modified by the fact that these are women of wealth or high position.

Miss S. has a fine intellect, a finished education which was completed in Europe, and has increased her mental resources by travel and study. She belongs to Providence, R. I., and has it in view to enter the legal profession. She goes to Europe in June, and previous to next winter will prepare a lecture on "Uncrowned Sovereigns."

Items from Parrsboro'.

I. O. G. T.—The members of *Bonavista* Lodge, No. 126, have decided to erect a Temperance Hall this season. The building is to be 50x25 feet.

P. & S. H. R.—On Tuesday, 24th ult., seven of the directors of the Parrsboro' & Spring Hill Railroad, accompanied by the Hon. Wm. Annand, visited Parrsboro' and Diligent River to decide, if possible, where the terminus of the above road should be.

The friends of the Rev. D. McKinnon paid him a donation visit on Thursday, 26th ult. After spending a very pleasant evening, Mr. B. N. Fullerton, in behalf of the visitors, presented the Rev. gentleman with the donations which amounted to over seventy dollars. A few weeks previous, the friends of the Rev. Mr. Scott treated him to the same friendly visit. Although the night was exceedingly stormy, the donation amounted to thirty-seven dollars.

LECTURE.—It will be noticed in our advertising columns that the Literary Club of this place has been fortunate enough to secure the services of the Rev. Mr. Bennett, one of the leading writers and lecturers of St. John. At the conclusion of a lengthy notice of the same lecture, which was given in St. John recently, the *Telegraph* says:—"This most able and masterly lecture was received in a manner suitable to its merits by the audience, who greatly enjoyed it."

Attention is directed to the advertisement of Mr. Parker who intends opening his new store in a few days.

Correspondence.

We usually allow a considerable degree of latitude for the expression of correspondents' opinions on matters of public interest, but do not assume any responsibility for them. To guard against the publication of anything erroneous, all communications must be accompanied by writer's name, in confidence.

For the Amherst Gazette.

The Dominion Controverted Elections' Act of 1873 constitutes the Judges of the Supreme Court in each province the Election Court for the trial of election petitions, "provided the Lieutenant-Governor of such Province shall, by order made with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, have authorized and assigned such Judges to perform the said duties." But "if no such order shall be made in any one of the Provinces, the Governor-General may appoint not less than three nor more than five Barristers of ten years standing to be Judges of the Election Court."

In Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick the orders were promptly made and published in the Canada Gazette, but not so in NovaScotia, and why not? Are not our Judges equally competent and impartial as the Judges of either of the sister provinces? Wholly removed as they are from politics, are they not likely to be a great deal more impartial than three partisan lawyers recommended by the Annand-Vale Government? But an impartial trial is the very last thing desired by these worthies. Their aim was to strike down, if possible, an able opponent such as Dr. Tupper. They would not be the instruments of carrying out a Dominion law—not they—but they could quietly arrange matters with their friends at Ottawa—hence the announcement of the appointment by Mr. Mackenzie's Government of Messrs. Henry, Jones, and Johnston. Of these gentlemen, personally, I wish to say nothing offensive; they have a right to their political opinions and to act upon them, but I do say that their substitution, with the defeated Government candidate for Antigonish at their head, for the Judges of the land, is a burlesque upon justice and a direct insult to the Judicial Bench. This discreditable manœuvre, savoring as it does of persecution of Dr. Tupper, cannot fail to increase public sympathy for him throughout the province and the Dominion at large. Of the merits of the contest between him and Mr. Hibbard I wish to say nothing, except as the result may affect the privileges of the Electors of Cumberland, who will be cheated out of their rights if this plan succeed, for Mr. Hibbard, should he gain the seat, will be the representative not of the majority, but of the minority! Were it a question of a dozen, twenty, or fifty votes there might be some show of reason for this movement, which, with a majority of nearly four hundred, is simply factious, and must, if successful, deprive the majority of their rights. It is just possible there may be two sides as well as two parties to this game, but I am not in the secrets of either party, and conclude by entering my protest against our rights being sacrificed by political schemers at Halifax and Ottawa and by saying that in my humble judgment, persecution will never avail to put down a politician who has the ring of the right metal in him.

CUMBERLAND.

March 4th, 1874.

For the Amherst Gazette.

Our Halifax Letter.

MR. EDITOR.—The principal topic of conversation here now is the recent appointment of the Dominion Government of a committee to try the controverted election cases in this province. A telegram was received here on Friday last bearing the intelligence that the Hon. William A. Henry, Q. C., Alexander James, Esq., Q. C., and James W. Johnson, Esq., Q. C., are appointed as such committee, and Benjamin Russell, Esq., of this city, has been appointed clerk of said committee. As is natural to expect these gentlemen are strong supporters of the present Government and men well able for the duty imposed upon them. But notwithstanding the fact that they are very good men for the position, yet it is thought by a great many that the Government have made a grand mistake in not appointing three of the judges of the Supreme Court instead.

As spring comes on boat racing is again talked of. A meeting of the Halifax Boating Club was held on Thursday evening when it was resolved to forward a challenge to Henry Coulter to make a match with George Brown for a five mile race to be rowed at Pictou in June next for $1000 a side. Negotiations are also going on between the St. John Amateurs and the Ross-Foley crew of this city in reference to having a race during the summer.

The Governor-General's gold medal was played for by the Curlers on Saturday morning and was won by Dr. Thomas R. Fraser who scored 10. A number of other Curling matches have also been played during the past month by the Curlers of this city.

Duncan Campbell, Esq., who wrote the late history of Nova Scotia, has notified the public of his intention of writing a history of the sister Province of New Brunswick. He is now in St. John, N. B., gathering historical facts for his project. To say the least, Mr. Campbell should have the best wishes and hearty support of the people of the other province as he had of this while adding and editing a book which will stand as a leading authority for years and centuries to come.

Recently the sad news has reached here of the deaths of General Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, who acted in the capacity of Lt.-Governor of this province from 1852 to 1857; and of Admiral Frederick Bullock, brother of the Right Rev. Dian Bullock of this city; and Major Henry Ingram, of H. M.'s 2nd Queens, and son-in-law of the Rev. Canon Cochran of this city. Major Ingram came to this Garrison in 1856 and returned to England in 1865. He was loved and respected by all who enjoyed his acquaintance here and elsewhere, and his death is lamented by his many friends.

The last steamer also brought the news that the late Governor of Nova Scotia, Sir C. Hasting Doyle, has been appointed Lt.-General of Portsmouth, one of the most important positions in Great Britain. I think I can venture the assertion that the people of this province will be very pleased to hear of the extended honors paid to their late, honored and highly respected Governor.

Hon. Alonzo J. White, M. P. P. for Cape Breton, recently appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands in place of E. P. Flynn, Esq., resigned, is now in his constituency preparing for the coming election. It is not yet known who is to be his opponent but there will be opposition without a doubt.

His Lordship Bishop Binney held ordination services at St. Luke's Cathedral on Sunday morning. Rev. John D. H. Browne, stationed at Amherst, N. S., was admitted to priests' orders, and Messrs. Bell and Shrieve were admitted to deacons' orders. The latter has been appointed Curate of St. George's Church, in this city, in the place of the Rev. W. Ellis, formerly stationed at River Philip, and who now goes as Curate to Mr. Owen at Lunenburg.

The far-famed lecturer, Miss Kate Stanton, lectured here on Monday evening, her subject was—"The Loves of Great Men." She had a very large and appreciative audience, but whether or not she chose the best characters for examples appears to be an unsettled point. She left town on Tuesday morning.

The weather is beautiful and sleighing excellent. Old heads are prophesying an early spring, from the fact that a number of swallows have made their appearance in the outskirts of the city.

Halifax, March 4th, 1874. S.

For the Amherst Gazette.

AMHERST, Feb. 24th, 1873.

MR. EDITOR,—Having read "Vox's" reply to my comments upon his second article, I must conclude he is pretty well demolished. If it were otherwise he would not have so partially replied. His second article which elicited that reply defended a great number of the important measures of Sir John's Government. Upon every point of the same I took issue with him. Notwithstanding this, he tries with his partial reply to impress his readers that he is right. This reply exhibits his incompetency. And why is this? because his points are poor, his case bad. His article of last week is somewhat ridiculous in one sense, that is, in its attempt to gull his readers by insuring them he has answered all but what is useless. It was useless for Veritas to contradict him, that Mr. Laird was not an able man; that Ontario, not N. S. Representatives, held the balance of power; that a further enquiry into the Pacific Railway affair was not required to prove Mr. Huntington's allegations, but to elicit other and further facts; that the press of Great Britain, Canada, and U. States acknowledged a *prima facie* case was established against the late Government; that the *Standard*, *London Times*, and other leading papers of Great Britain were friends instead of enemies of Colonial connection; besides many other important points asserted by Vox, to all of which Veritas took issue with him, notwithstanding Vox met Veritas' statements by saying they were unworthy of a reply. Verily, Vox, your name should be Fox. Truly, Vox has adopted Paddy's mode of defence by ceding what he could not disprove. I suppose, sir, I must pay Vox's last article the compliment of a reply. He says, because Messrs. Tilley, Tupper, and Mitchell knew nothing of the Pacific Scandal, therefore, it could never have existed. This age is said to be growing weaker and wiser, hence Vox must have discovered a new mode of logic. Sir John with all his recognized ability for evasion and expediency never conceived of this mode of reason for a defense. What an advocate Vox would have been in Parliament for the late Government if that Parliament would have accepted sophistry or simplicity for truth, as Vox would have his readers do. Certainly this style of logic is in advance of the age. No doubt this charter may have been sold without the knowledge of these gentlemen, but this would only prove them to be mere toys in Sir John's Administration; but it would not establish his innocency. But Vox says, assuming John A. sold the charter without the knowledge of his maritime colleagues he was paying a compliment to their integrity and patriotism. So far so good. But what does Vox think of these gentlemen's integrity and patriotism in defending such a transaction and indirectly advocating a proceeding Vox himself has even admitted, and justly too, is so illegal and subversive of all true government. Thus even on Vox's own statement of the case his pet defence falls to the ground. If Sir John, by concealing this Pacific matter from these gentlemen, paid them a compliment for integrity in order to retain this charter, does not Vox honestly think they should have left his Government as soon as it was exposed rather than brand their fair name by defending so corrupt a transaction? Vox actually says the cause of delay in granting Allan the charter was that Sir John wished to eliminate the foreign element from the company. Now when and for what purpose did the pure Sir John do this? Why Vox, only when he was earned and threatened with exposure if the American element was allowed to remain and after he had received from the Americans money to corrupt and bribe the electors. This is the true reason why he wished the foreign element eliminated, and Vox has erred in his statement of the case either through sophistry or simplicity. Another reason of the delay was that Sir George Cartier was opposed to Allan and never would the charter have been promised him only that Cartier discovered Allan had supplanted him in Quebec. When Cartier discovered this he then consented to the sale in order to secure Allan's influence, and Sir John coincided to obtain means to retain Ontario.—What other influence but an implied sale can be gathered from such circumstances? If it were otherwise how can Vox account for a miser like Sir Hugh, who never took part or gave a cent in an election before, spending such an enormous sum for election purposes, and how can he account for Allan's cessation of hostility to Sir George in Quebec, and his sudden conversion to his support? Vox can draw no other inference than I have done except he is deluded into error either through sophistry or simplicity; which, I leave the reader to judge.

To be Concluded.

The Liquor Traffic.

The liquor traffic has fallen upon troublous times. What with the praying women at the west, and Gov. Dingley hauling the Sheriffs over the coals at the East for not enforcing the laws; with the corporation of Trinity Church, New York, clearing out all liquor sellers from its buildings in that city, and the Methodist Episcopal Church pursuing a similar policy with its property; with the State Constables harrassing the dealers in Massachusetts as they have never done before, and with the general awakening interest all over the country in the contest for the suppression of intemperance, it seems as the traffic must by all these combined assaults, be driven into closer quarters than ever before. That the contest will be a long and desperate one, no person can doubt, and that the cause of temperance will win lasting victories in it only so far as public sentiment is brought to sustain it, is equally clear. The most encouraging aspect of the contest at the present time is the fact that whole communities are arraying themselves against the evil, making a public opinion before which the keepers of liquor saloons and groceries abandoned the traffic and what is equally important, strengthening those who have been the victims of intemperance in their efforts to reform. Out of all these indications the friends of temperance may gather faith to believe that they are to see the great evil against which they war very much circumscribed and in many places, we hope, entirely abolished.—*Boston Journal.*

Shipbuilding at Advccate.

Messrs. John E. Suthergreen & Son have the frame of a bark of 500 tons nearly moulded and hauled out. Her dimensions will be 128 ft. keel, 32 ft. beam, 17 ft. hold. Mr. William Morris and others are preparing timber for a brigantine of 330 tons, to be of the following dimensions: 115 ft. keel, 31 ft. beam, and 13 ft. hold. These parties have also in frame a schooner of 90 tons. Captain William Knowlton and others are moulding timber for a schooner of about 250 tons. She will be 90 ft. keel, 28 ft. beam, and 14 ft. hold. Messrs. Reid Bros. have nearly completed preparations for the building of a bark of 575 tons. It is expected that all the above vessels will be ready for launching in the fall. Messrs. Reilly & Morris are preparing timber for a schooner of about 200 tons; and Messrs. Knowlton, Weaver, Turple & Co., are completing arrangements for the construction of a brigantine of 330 tons. The total tonnage which will be put in course of construction in a few days amounts to 2300 tons, being nearly double as much as was ever building at this place at any one time heretofore. Great difficulty has been experienced in hauling the timber out of the woods owing to the rainy weather and the lack of snow.—*Citizen.*

The Music Trade.

This department of business has taken a very decided step in advance since Messrs. E. Peiler & Bro. opened their establishment here in the spring of 1869. Not only that these gentlemen brought with them a thorough knowledge of business, but they introduced instruments of a very high character, and undoubted standing in the musical world such as had formerly been purchased only by people of wealth and taste who were compelled to purchase in New York and Boston. The courage with which they undertook to offer not only undoubtedly good, and for that reason more expensive and therefore less saleable instruments, has been rewarded, and their business has increased from year to year. During the years 1873-4 Messrs. Peiler have imported over 100 pianos, made principally by Steinway & Sons and Chickering & Sons, the two most renowned makers in the world. Although the organ trade has not been pushed by them with the same vigor, they being intent upon developing one branch of their business to its full extent ere turning their full attention to another, they nevertheless imported far over one hundred instruments of that description during the year. They have just undertaken the representation of perhaps the best manufacturers in that line, Messrs. George Woods & Co., whose organs surpass all that have ever come under our observation. We need not speak more particularly of their business in music and general requisites of art, and only state that in this branch their business has nearly quadrupled since their beginning. Other houses are also doing well; we cannot, however, make a better selection for marking the progress of this department of business than the establishment of Messrs. E. Peiler & Bro., the pioneers, in the true sense, of the music business in St. John, in its totality and as an art business.—*Maritime Trade Review.*

BETTER STILL.—By a letter received from Captain Fulton, of the barque *Osceo*, it appears that her trip from St. John to the time of making land in Great Britain only occupied fifteen days. She was two days later leaving St. John than was supposed.

N. S. NOMINATIONS.—Guysboro'—C. M. Franceville, C. Whitman; Hants—T. B. Smith, N. Spencer; Richmond—C. Boudrot, J. Freehill.

The Rev. Dr. Clarke intends to hold service in Amherst next sabbath morning.

From the Maritime Sentinel.

Reform Banquet at Oxford.

On Friday last, as previously noticed a complimentary dinner was given to George Hibbard, Esq. Representatives were present from Amherst, Maccan, Pugwash, Wallace, Gulf Shore, Wentworth, and almost every other section of the county.

On the arrival of the St. John train, the gentlemen from the westward, including Mr. Hibbard and Hon. W. Annand, were met at the Station by a large party of friends and conveyed to Oxford with a turnout of 15 or 16 double and single teams. They were met here by those from Pugwash and the eastward and all proceeded to the scene of operations.

The festivities were conducted at the residence of W. Oxley, Esq. The dining-room was handsomely festooned with evergreens, and the walls bore appropriate mottoes.

While dinner was being put on the tables the majority of the company assembled up-stairs and passed several resolutions, which we will notice elsewhere, touching the political questions of the day, after which Mr. Hibbard was escorted to the head of the table with Hon. Mr. Annand on his right hand, and ninety of those present sat down to a repast which did credit to those who conducted it.

After the different courses were disposed of, John Bragg, Esq., was called to the chair and a number of toasts were drank in *clear cold water* or given by the chair and responded to.

[We will give an outline of the speeches in our next.]

At Petrolia, Ont., the Western Canada Oil Company has shut down fifty of its wells. Cause, depressed state of oil.

Mr. Robert McLellan, Bloomfield, raised the past season, on three acres of land, 1,070 lbs. of superior Northern clover seed.—*Carleton Sentinel.*

The first Pullman sleeping car has been introduced into England. God save Britannia! She is to be fleeced at the rate of $2 a night for a crickety bed as well as Miss Columbia!

A boy of fourteen is the leader of a great religious revival in DeKalb county, Illinois. He is a fluent exhorter, and his efforts are very successful in winning converts.

The oyster beds of Virginia cover an area equal to six hundred and forty thousand acres, and those great mines of submarine wealth are estimated to yield an annual money value of ten millions of dollars.

The Acclimation Society of Cincinnati have procured three thousand dollars worth of birds from Germany, among them many varieties entirely new to this country, which they intend to let loose in the spring.

A sheep was found in Maine the other day under a snow drift in a hole seven or eight feet deep, where it had been for at least twelve days without food. It was alive, and when pulled out ran briskly to the barn, apparently all right.

In Kansas City, if you call for a plate of Indian cakes, the waiter puts his hand to the side of his mouth and sings out, "Modocs for one." We can beat that in Chicago, for at a certain fashionable lunch room the ancient and honorable name of "pork and beans" is translated into "stars and stripes:" and the postical *chef* regales the ears of his customers with "Sam Handwiches" for two.—*Inter-Ocean*

The earliest importations point towards a return to positive colors. This will be very welcome, as bright clear shades are much more becoming than subdued hues. It is predicted "mahogany brown" will be the leading color of the season, and will entirely displace the favorite navy blue. Imported fabrics show this color in nineteen different shades every tint of the wood is represented, from the darkest hue up to the pale ecru buff.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—A little daughter of Mr. Samuel Condon, of Brooksville, Me., aged 11 years, died a few days ago from a singular accident. She was passing from one room to another with her knitting work in her hand, when she stumbled and fell, and one of the needles entered her face with such force that it penetrated the skull and passed into the brain. It was extracted, but the wound produced inflamation of the brain, from which she died about a week after.—*St. John News.*

There has been a strike of the brakesmen on the Erie Railway caused by orders to conductors to discharge one brakesman from each train. Next day the brakesmen struck, demanded the restoration of the removed men, and an increase of wages to $2 per day. Ten large freight trains were detained by the strike next day at Hornellsville, but the passenger trains were allowed to come through till the afternoon, since when the strikers have stopped them, smashing the breaks, and thus rendering the cars useless owing to the steep grades.