

Hon. Salmon P. Chase, late Secretary of Treasury, has been appointed and confirmed Chief Justice of the United States. Georgia papers report a battle on the 30th, between the Federal General Foster who left the vicinity of Charleston to connect with Sherman, and a Confederate force at a place called Honey Hill. The Confederates made the attack and were repulsed.

Southern papers show a continuance of the fight both in Sherman's front and in South Carolina. An immense number of proclamations have been issued by the Governors and Mayors, calling upon everybody to shoulder a musket and report to the front or in Charleston.

Part of Hood's forces attacked Murfreesboro and were repulsed yesterday—losing many prisoners and six pieces of Artillery. A Nashville despatch of the 6th, says that the Confederates lost at Franklin, Tenn., 10 General Officers. Among those not previously reported are Generals Goran and Quarles. Cheatham escaped capture only by the fleetness of his horse.

A bill introduced into the House of Representatives to prohibit gold gambling was tabled by a vote of 73 against 53.

Sealed proposals were filed yesterday at the Subsistence Department for flour; bids ranged from \$11.70 to \$12.80 per bbl, for cash, and 20 to 25 cents additional payable on certificate.

War news to-day is entirely from rebel sources. They claim a victory at Franklin and predict that Hood will shortly have things about his own way—in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Gen. Hardee under date of Galahessville 2nd, claims that he repulsed Foster on the Kaffroad at that point and also a force of Marines under Admiral Delghezen at Coosa-rachie.

The Richmond Dispatch says it is now believed that Sherman's objective point is Darien, and he has marched there. This is near the mouth of the Attahawa, 50 miles South of Savannah.

The Savannah News says, Sherman continues floundering, afraid to advance and unable to retreat.

Some correspondence is published, in which Lord Wharncliffe applies through the American Minister in London, Mr. Adams, to expend \$17,000 of British gold, contributed by a fair in London for Confederate prisoners, held by the Federals. Secretary Seward refuses the application.

The steamer "Armstrong," 630 tons measurement, with 450 bales of cotton on board, has been captured trying to run the blockade.

A destructive fire occurred in Indiantown, St. John, N. B., last night, by which ninety houses were destroyed, and three hundred persons rendered homeless.

The loss on insurance falls principally on the "Liverpool and London," "Phoenix," "Queen," and "Etna,"—all of them lose heavily.

Local Items.

A strong and widely spread dissatisfaction prevails among Halifax traders, regarding the proposed Federation Scheme. We understand that an organized opposition to the Scheme is in course of preparation. Halifax traders seem aroused to the fact, that their interests are at stake, no less than those of our leading politicians.

On Monday last, a telegram announced that some deserters from St. John, had sought temporary refuge at Annapolis, and early on Tuesday morning, a subaltern of the Royal Artillery left this city (for the apple districts) in charge of an escort.

The ball at Government House, on Tuesday evening, was one of the *cheeriest* entertainments we have witnessed in this Province. Our present Lieutenant-Governor sets an example of sociability, which our wealthier citizens might copy with advantage to themselves and the community at large. We are not, as at present constituted, a people much given to entertainment. We have our own notions of hospitality, as illustrated by tea and small talk, but we do not, as a rule, care to spend money without some tangible result. We are proverbially hospitable, but our ideas of hospitality are somewhat circumscribed.

Much dissatisfaction is expressed regarding the Fish Monopoly. It is urged that the City Council has the right to regulate where, and when, fish may be sold. This is an absurd regulation. A fisherman should be allowed to dispose of his fish as regards their market worth,—not as regards the convenience of the City Council. A fish-trader should be independent. The Council seems in error upon this point, and the existing Monopoly seems to us an unqualified abuse.

The N. C. Officers and Soldiers of the Garrison, have recently appeared before the public in the Spring Garden Theatre. The performances exhibited as much histrionic talent as might fairly have been looked for at their hands, but they made one grand mistake—they selected a play the main characters of which were utterly beyond their powers, whether of conception, or of delineation. When will soldiers have the good sense to abstain from

in persocations, to which they cannot possibly do justice? We desire by every means in our power, to foster and promote among soldiers a taste for dramatic representations, but we cannot conscientiously encourage soldiers if attempting performances utterly, and entirely beyond their reach. Take for example the play of *Othello*, which has recently found favor with our Garrison histrionics. This tragedy is perhaps more legitimately worked up than any of Shakspeare's tragedies; but what study is required, even for a right conception, of the Author's meaning. The part of *Othello*, requires not only intense and prolonged mental study, but great physical power. The mere plot of the tragedy is open to misconception, inasmuch as Dr. Johnson was of opinion that the moral of the play was aimed against imprudent marriages. No man could hope to render effectively the part of *Othello*, unless he was gifted with dignity, pathos, and extreme tenderness. Then, let us take the character of Iago,—a man seeing in every virtue "a daily beauty" which made him, by comparison, feel "ugly";—a man, bent upon assuming that a wrong had been committed against him, but nevertheless constrained to be a mental-dram-drinker, in order to give a "filip" to his dirty ends. Such characters cannot be even comprehended without laborious and diligent study. Let our Garrison Amateurs take the hint in time, and at their next performance attempt something within their reach. Officers, invariably attempt something light, and easy of comprehension,—why should their subordinates go beyond their tether?

THE SOUTH SEA MISSION.—The Rev. Mr. Goddie was greeted with a full house at Temperance Hall, who listened with unflagging interest to the Rev. gentleman's graphic descriptions of the scenes and incidents passing under his own personal observation while engaged in the South Sea. Mr. Goddie, during his sojourn in Halifax, has done much to forward the cause of missions and to draw attention to the claims of the benighted heathen upon the sympathy and assistance of every Christian community.—*Recorder*.

In many parts of the city where crossings have been laid down, a vacancy has been allowed to remain at the junction of the granite with the sidewalk in various localities of greater or less extent. On dark evenings this is exceedingly dangerous, as persons cautiously threading their way along the streets are liable to suddenly find themselves stepping into a deep hole, where they might reasonably expect to find *terra firma*. Several accidents, in which parties have had legs and arms sprained in consequence, have been brought to our notice, and we think the subject is one which should demand a little attention.—*Id*

"CONFEDERATION."—A meeting of influential gentlemen, representing the various important interests in our community, assembled for the purpose of considering the steps that should be taken to secure the most equitable discussion of both sides of the Confederation question. A. M. Uniack, Esq. presided as Chairman, and Geo. R. Anderson, Esq., acted as Secretary. It was unanimously agreed that these present should attend the meeting in Temperance Hall (Friday 9th.), and that after the delegates have concluded their addresses an adjournment, till a fitting occasion next week, probably Friday next, should be moved in order to furnish any opposed to the Confederation scheme an opportunity of propounding their views. Adjournment will be necessitated by the lateness of the hour at which the meeting is to be convened to-morrow as after the Hon. Messrs Henry, McCully, Archibald and Tupper have delivered addresses advocating Confederation the evening will be too far advanced for reply. Mr. Henry is to open the subject, we understand, *very probably*, which makes us very apprehensive about the time he will consume. Mr. McCully is to attack the "anti-confederation" press; Mr. Archibald is entrusted with the financial interpretation of the scheme and Dr. Tupper is to wind up with a high-pressure bounce about everything in general, hyperbolic firework and slow music.—*Citizen*.

POST OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS.—Arrangements are being perfected in this city, by the post Office authorities, for having boxes placed at different points, in which to deposit letters thus remedying the inconvenience so long felt in Halifax, occasioned by being compelled to proceed direct to the office, whether parties having letters to mail reside far from or near to that great repository of intelligence. This is a step in the right direction.—*Reporter*.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The Committee on Streets certainly deserve great credit for the improvements recently effected in Brunswick-street. Credit should always be given where credit is due. And it would be only justice if similar attention was paid to Gottingen-street. For example the side walk on the west side of the latter, extending from Falkland to Cogswell-street, has long been an eyesore to those having occasion to use it. This improvement can scarcely fail to suggest itself to the proper authorities, who would be conferring a real favour by putting the same into shape.—*Reporter*