THE CRIMEAN FUND.

It is a favourite charge with Romanists in Ireland and in this city that the Romish soldiers and widows and children did not get their due share of the Crimean Fund. No charge could be more baseless. The *Christian Times* says:—

Dr. Paul Cullen has put forth a long manifesto in defence of the charge he made some time ago against the trustees of the Patriotic Fund, of having been guilty of religious partiality in the distribution of the funds. The reply at the time, by Lord St. Leonards, Chairman of the Finance Committee, was generally felt to be crushing and complete. From the statements of the learned lord it was plain that the religion of the private soldiers whose friends applied for relief was never inquired into; that while Catholic priests were not allowed to administer the funds, neither were Protestant clergymen; that no delay had ever taken place in sending children to Roman Catholic schools except what rose from the schools themselves; and finally, though it was undoubtedly true that the Protestants relieved in the army and navy greatly outnumbered the Roman Catholics, that was only because the latter body, far from constituting the half of the army, as has so often been asserted, only amount to about one-third of the Line, while in the other departments of the army and in the navy they bear scarcely any appreciable proportion. Only one school has been founded by the trustees out of the proceeds of the Patriotic Fund; and there, though the main teaching is Protestant, yet arrangements are made, as in the schools of the army generally, that the religion of Roman Catholic pupils shall not be interfered with. Such was the defence. After a long delay the answer has at last appeared. And how does the prelate deal with these calm statements of the peer? Unable to gainsay the facts, he takes refuge in abuse. A single expression dropped in Lord St. Leonards' letter, that the Roman Catholic subscriptions were small, supplies a peg on which to hang a long tirade against the Protestant Establishment, though how its downfall and the erection of Popery in its room would benefit the Roman Catholic gentry, who must pay their tithes either way, the Archbishop does not inform us. On one point, however, he is explicit enough. The establishment of schools for mixed education does not satisfy him. In them he has no confidence. Anything short of the endowment of a school which shall be handed over to the exclusive management of the priests, is to rob them of their just rights. This declaration, coupled with the recent resignation of the only Roman Catholic Bishop that remained on the Board of Irish National Education, is significant. Belgium is now engaged in a struggle to wrest education out of the hands of the priests. Our ancestors, long ago, won for us that immunity; and Dr. Cullen is grossly mistaken if he expects to persuade us to surrender it.

Malta and its Government.—The appointment of His Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant to the Governorship of Malta (says the *Halifax Chronicle*) has led us to make some inquiry respecting the Civil Government of that important dependency of the empire. In Malta, as in Newfoundland, the majority of the population are Roman Catholics,—the Protestants numbering 5000 in all. Responsible Government was conceded some time ago to the Island, and is now in practical operation.—But mark how it is carried out by Roman Catholics who, in countries where they are in a minority, are never tired prating about toleration, and hounding the people on to agitation and disloyalty, because they fancy the balance of privileges to be against them. How do the Roman Catholics of Malta treat Protestants, where the latter are in a minority? By dividing office with them, and giving them fair play? Protestants might reasonably hope for consideration and justice in a British colony, under a Protestant sovereign, and this is the way they get it in Malta. The Elective Council consists of eight members, and how many do our readers suppose are Protestants? *Not one!* The entire eight members are Romanists, of whom three lately were priests. We are glad, however, to hear that the attention of Lord Palmerston has been called to the subject, and that an order was lately passed excluding priests from sitting in Council. As might be supposed, the Jesuits are very indignant at what they are pleased to term an "invasion of the rights of the people!" But the nation at large highly approve of the conduct of the Premier. Of course the priests, although excluded themselves, will elect Romanists to take their places, thus affording in the future, as in the past, convincing evidence of the intolerance, the rapacity, and the grasping selfishness of Rome wherever she is in the ascendant.

Alleged Enlistment of Foreigners.—The *Nord* and other foreign papers have repeatedly asserted that England was recruiting in various parts of the Continent.—Recently it has been positively announced that a Colonel Hudson has established his head quarters at Strasbourg, and the names of his staff, who are said to be employed in enlisting the Swiss, are all given. It is further stated that bodies of foreigners who have taken service under our flag have arrived at Liverpool (!). We can state on the best authority that the whole of these statements are false and groundless. The English Government has not sanctioned the enlistment of any foreigners. There are no such persons as the pretended colonel and his staff; and no foreign recruits have arrived at Liverpool or at any other port. We have, indeed, received from almost every State in Europe offers of assistance in the shape of men; but, however pleasing this proof of their sympathy, it has been determined from the first—and we are confident that such a determination on the part of Lord Palmerston's Government is but the expression of the firm will of the nation—that the Indian Mutiny should be suppressed by English arms only. It was by English blood we won India, and it is by English blood alone we will keep it.

The Spoils of Delhi.—A private letter from Delhi, dated Sept. 27, says—"For a description of the riches of Delhi my pen is inadequate; Cashmere shawls, inlaid with gold, bodies covered with gold lace, skirts of dresses, watches, bars of gold, beds of silk and down, such as no nobleman's house in England could produce—you would see Sikhs carrying out of Delhi the first day as if they were almost nothing. A shawl which in England would fetch £100, they were selling for four rupees, and you may depend our fellows were not behind them. . . . . It is supposed the Rifles will go to England with upwards of £1,000 each, though General Wilson has issued an order that the prizes shall be all put together and divided. Most of our men are worth upwards of 1000 rupees."

The Sepoys scared by Bagpipes.—A corporal of the 78th Highlanders, writing from Cawnpore to his friends in Glasgow, says that while on the march they met the Sepoys, and had an engagement with them near the Ganges. While the engagement was going on, it fell to be his duty, in company with another soldier, to carry a wounded Highland piper to the rear. They hoisted him shoulder high, and were proceeding on their way, when they saw a Sepoy on horseback coming in their direction, with his sword drawn. The piper, after going through the ordinary manœuvres of loading a gun, lifted the longest shank of his pipes to his shoulder and pointed it to the Sepoy's head. No sooner had he done this, than the Sepoy turned tail, and ran off helter-skelter.

A British Barnum.—An enterprising Briton named Croft, has made a proposition to Lord Palmerston to pay to the Indian Relief Fund £2000 for Nana Sahib, together with his military clothes and sword, to be delivered to him in London. Mr. Croft says that disposing of Nana Sahib in this manner would be much more in accordance with sound economical principles than to shoot him, as was done to the sons of the King of Delhi. The answer of Lord Palmerston, if he ever made any, has not yet transpired. [It is probable Lord Palmerston will wait till the wretch is caught before he provides for his disposal.]

A telegram from Berne announces the appointment of Chevalier Bunsen as Prussian Envoy to Switzerland. It will be borne in mind that this enlightened statesman and erudite christian scholar was cashiered from his embassy in London for thwarting the King of Prussia's sympathy with Russia on the eve of the great war in the Crimea. This is the first inkling of a new policy at Berlin.

Cardinal Wiseman has received up to the present time for his Indian Relief Fund, £1,430. Part of it has been expended as follows:—To seven chaplains before leaving England, £135 1s. 1d.; for portable altars, £79 1s.; for nurses at Calcutta, £300; for chaplains at Calcutta, £300; for the sick and wounded, the widows and orphans of the Catholics in the Indian army, *nil.—English paper.*

Shipment of Irish Girls.—The British Government is shipping Irish girls to the Cape of Good Hope, as a means of preventing its own colonists from relapsing into barbarism. A party of 350 has already sailed, and another company of 250 is soon to be forwarded—all described as healthy and good-looking. They go with the understanding that matrimony is to reward their expatriation.

M. Soyer proposes to dine 100 people in each funnel of the Leviathan immediately after the launch.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE!

The Collins steamer *Adriatic* arrived at New York on Monday morning, having left Liverpool on the afternoon of the 9th inst. By this arrival we have one week later news from India, but little importance was attached to this news in England. Lord Palmerston, in announcing it in Parliament, said he feared it was but a re-echo of previous advices.

Proceedings in the British Parliament have not been of an exciting nature.

In the House, a resolution was offered "that the unlimited liability of shareholders in joint stock banks gives rise to a species of credit injurious to the interests of the public, and that the present law enforcing the adoption of this principle requires alteration." After some debate, in which Government opposed the resolution as being of too positive a nature, the motion was negatived.

The Bank Indemnity Bill was ordered in committee to be reported without amendment, and to be read a third time on the 9th inst.

The London *Post* understands that if the debate on the Bank Charter Committee should not be adjourned, there would be nothing to prevent Parliament from rising for the holidays on the 14th December, as it was believed to be the intention of Ministers not to entertain any business beyond that before the House. When Parliament adjourned, it would be till the period at which it usually meets.

A decision had been rendered in the Chancellor's Court, London, which in effect will invalidate all marriages by British Subjects with a deceased wife's sister, not only in Britian but in all foreign States.

One of the parties implicated in the recent robbery in London of a trunk containing jewelry, &c., belonging to Lady Ellesmere, had made a confession The trunk was boldly taken from the top of a stage as it was passing along the streets, and its contents, valued at about £15,000, disposed of for a few pounds, amongst receivers of stolen goods.

The marriage of the Princess Royal of England and Prince Fredrick William of Prussia is set down for the 26th of January.

The work of launching the Leviathan was progressing slowly but surely. She was moved a few feet forward every day. Operations were suspended on the 8th inst., by a dense fog.

Speaking of the Leviathan, the Liverpool *Telegraph* of the 9th says "it is confidently expected that the result of yesterday's work will put the vessel in such a position as that she may safely be left to the influence of the next spring tides.

The City of Glasgow Bank shows a large surplus, and will resume business.

Both houses of Parliament had voted unanimously a pension of one thousand pounds a year to Gen. Havelock.

The steamer *Arabia* arrived at Liverpool on the 6th inst.

The Austrialian mails, with Melbourne advices to the 10th of October had reached England, but there was no additional news of interest.

INDIA.

The news from India is a week later. Gen. Havelock was hemmed in at Lucknow, and Sir Colin Campbell was marching to his relief.

The India news was not brought by regular mail, but by a casual steamer, which arrived at Suez.

Calcutta dates are of Nov. 1. Two convoys of provisions had arrived at Lucknow, where there had been some severe fighting, and Gen. Outram is reported wounded.

LATEST.

The *Persia* arrived at New York on the morning of the 25th, bringing Liverpool dates to the 12th. The following items have been telegraphed from Boston to the News Room here.

Later dates from India state that about 60,000 mutineers were before Lucknow and that there had been some severe fighting. General Outram had been wounded. No communication had been obtained with Luknow for a month, but it was believed it would hold out. Gen. Greathead with 5,000 men was only three miles from Lucknow, and Sir Colin Campbell with 5,000 more was en route thither. There had been no further outbreaks, and troops were arriving at the rate of 2,000 a week. In China preparations were making for the assault of Canton. In England the Commons had appointed a special Committee to investigate and report on the Bank Charter.—

The demand for money in London was diminishing and the rates of discount out of doors lower than at the Banks. The Wolverhampton Bank had resumed, and gold was flowing freely in the Bank of England, Breadstuffs had advanced slightly. Wheat advanced 1d. to 2d.—Consols for account 91¾.

UNITED STATES.

A Scene in the New Senate.—The new Hall of Representatives at Washington is finished; on the 13th the Rev. Dr. Cummins preached in the new hall a dedicatory sermon to a congregation, filling the floor and nearly the whole of the vast galleries. His text was Deut., chap. xxxiii. v. 19. He spoke in glowing terms of Moses, leading his host of fugitives from slavery into the wilderness, cordially praised the Puritan forefathers of New England, cited the abolitionist, Wilberforce, as the model of a Christian statesman, and declared with great fervor that this continent was destined by Providence for freedom, not for slavery. It was an eminently national and patriotic discourse. Most of the Senators and Representatives were present. Dr. Cummins is an Episcopalian, and a native of Virginia. The scene was very beautiful and impressive. The sombre attire of the men who composed the majority of the congregation, was agreeably relieved by the gay and glittering colors of the hall and of the desks and chairs. As the solemn response of the service of the Church of England were repeated from the galleries, every word was distinctly audible without the slightest echo or reverberation. The lowest tones of the preacher's voice could also be heard throughout. The new hall is certainly a complete success.

Catholicity in the United States.—If there is any one thing more than another of which the American people have reason to be proud, it is their admirable system of Free Schools. The State provides for the education of the child, and no parent, however humble his position or circumscribed his means, is shut out from the benefits of a system which embraces the whole community.

The Roman Catholic Priests alone, are opposed to what they are pleased to term "State Schoolism," simply because education free from the control of the Priesthood, is fatal to the Romish system. The Free Schools of the United States have probably done more to produce the results recorded in the subjoined paragraph than all other causes put together:

The *Banner of the Cross* says:—

We lately noticed a sermon preached in Dublin, by the Romish Bishop of Pittsburgh, in which he deplored the vast "falling away from the faith" of the children of their Church in this country, and said, "Beyond doubt our losses in this respect are not to be estimated by thousands, but by tens, nay, by hundreds of thousands." The *Tablet*, a leading Romish paper, in an article on the probable future of their Church in the United States, gives a no less gloomy picture, and says, "Few insurance companies, we venture to assert, would take a risk on the national life of a creed which puts five hundred daily into the grave for one it wins over to its communion. And yet this is what Catholicity is doing in the States while we write."

A Bold Mail Robber Caught.—On Monday last the public were much surprised at the announcement that William S. Tuckerman, the defaulting treasurer of the Eastern Railroad, has been arrested at New Haven, charged with robbing the mails, and that he had confessed his guilt. If the telegraphic report be correct, he had carried on his operations with great boldness, and it is supposed that he has made great hauls. Tuckerman, it will be remembered, was charged with embezzling $225,000 from the Eastern Railroad corporation; he was tried in April last, found guilty of embezzling $5,000. and took exceptions of the ruling Judge Nash. The case was argued before Supreme Court in this city, the week before last, but the case was not reached. Tuckerman was out on bail in the sum of $20,000 to await the decision of the Supreme Court. For six weeks, mails have been stolen from the route, and it is supposed that he has stolen large amounts both of money and drafts. Tuckerman has been employed as a book-keeper in New York for some months, and has been in the habit of taking the Sunday night train for Boston, where his business in the courts called him often. He carried with him a large trunk, empty, with the exception of a carpet bag filled with clock weights, to make it appear heavy. During the temporary absence of the baggage man from his car, he would steal a mail bag and put it in his trunk. Tuckerman was brought before U. S. Commissioner Ingersoll at New Haven, and held in $20,000 for examination, which is expected to commence shortly. It is said that he admitted his guilt, but this is hardly credible. It is also said that $800 worth of postage stamps were found upon him. and $500 on the Lee (Mass.) Bank.—*Boston Journal.*

Destruction in New York.—Those who do not visit our police stations at night know but little of the vast amount of suffering now existing in the city. At every one of the twenty-two police stations may be found nightly, from twenty to forty wretches, who are profoundly thankful for the privilege of being allowed to sleep on a bench or on the stone floor of the lodger's cells. They are frequently crowded so much that there is not room for them to lie down at full length; and when the places are thus filled to their utmost capacity, the homeless creatures may be seen on any night crying when refused shelter and thus forced to sleep in the open air. Many of them would starve but for the loaves given them nightly at nearly every station-house to those in extreme need. The persons thus suffering are not usually drunken vagabonds, but are, in hundreds of cases, mechanics, who would work at any kind of labor for a mere subsistence.—*N. Y. Sun.*

A noble example of judicious charity is being set by the Messrs. Hecker, flour merchants in New York, who are distributing daily an average of 3000 pounds of the best bread to the poor. "The undertaking occupies much of their time and that of their people, visiting the applicants and searching out objects; but they continue their work of mercy without stint or faltering, and the hungry multitudes are thus bountifully furnished with their daily bread." Such princely, or—which is a higher epithet—such truly christian benevolence deserves to be mentioned the wide world over; and we trust it may here and everywhere and, in spirit if not in measure, many imitators.

United States' Congress.—On Tuesday last, President Buchanan delivered his first annual Message before both branches of Congress. Previous to the delivery of the Message, the House of Representatives elected Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, Speaker. The Message is a lengthy document.

In the United States Senate on Saturday, after a prolonged debate, the bill passed authorizing the issue of $20,000,000 of Treasury notes by a vote of thirty one to eighteen of the democrats. Senators Davis and Fugh voted against the bill. The operation of the act is limited to one year, and notes of a less denomination than one hundred dollars are prohibited.

Destruction of "Iranistan."—The beautiful residence of P. T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, Ct., was totally destroyed by fire on Thursday night. The building cost $100,000, and contained furniture valued at about $4000,—only partially insured. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

CALIFORNIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

New Orleans, Dec. 12.—The steamship *Empire City*, from New York 2d inst., via Havana, is ashore at the Belize, but will probably be got off to-night. She connected at Havana with the steamship *Star of the West*, from Aspinwall with the California mails, and about two and-a-quarter millions in treasure for New York.

Walker, who it will be remembered took his departure from Mobile bay on the 13th ult. in the steamship *Fashion*, landed at Punta Arenas, in Nicaragua, on the 25th, with one hundred and fifty men. Not the slightest attempt was made to prevent the landing, and in fact the purpose of the expedition appeared to have not been even guessed.

Commodore Paulding of the U. S. frigate *Wabash*, attempted to seize her at Aspinwall, but on examination of her papers found them correct, and consequently could take no further steps against her.

The British and American naval forces had sailed from Aspinwall for San Juan, and would very probably take part in the scenes in that vicinity, or at least prevent the landing of any more fillibusters. It was supposed that the difficulties between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, alluded to in previous accounts, would be settled without a resort to hostile measures.

Election in Orgeon.—*Orgeon* has joined the band of the free. She demands admission to the Union as an Anti-Slavery State. For the first time in the history of the country, the people of a Territory about to assume the dignity of an independent State have voted directly upon the question whether they would tolerate Slavery, and the response is an emphatic "No!"

The election was held on the 9th inst., and our dates from Portland are to the 12th. We have heard from only seven counties, which contain not more than one fourth of the whole population; but so far the vote is five to one against Slavery.

RAILWAY PROGRESS.

Tenders were received last week by the Railway Commissioners for the construction of twenty-four miles of Railway, from Groom's Bridge, near Hampton Ferry, to Sussex Vale; and for seventeen miles of railway from the Bend towards St. John. The portion from Groom's Bridge to the Valley, is divided into three sections of eight miles each; the first of these, from Groom's Bridge to Norton, has been taken by Messrs Blackie & Henderson of Nova Scotia, contractors on the Halifax and Windsor railway. The next section of eight miles, in Norton and Studholm and Sussex, has been taken by Mr. Thomas King, of the well known firm King & Brothers, mail contractors.

At the other end of the line, the first ten miles from the Bend to Nixon's, have been taken by Messrs. McBean & McDonald of Nova Scotia, late contractors of the Halifax and Windsor line;—the next section of seven miles, from Nixon's along the Peticodiac into Salisbury, has been taken by Messrs. Thomas and Charles Walker of Quebec, who at present are executing portions of the railway at either end.

The sections of railway now let, are to be completed by the several contractors in September 1859, at which time, if the work is faithfully performed, we may expect to visit the beautiful vale of Sussex by railway from this city. The only part of the whole line from St. John to Shediac, not yet under contract, is from Sussex Vale (at or near Sheck's) to Salisbury, a distance of about thirty miles, which if all goes well, may be put under contract next year. Then to meet the railway through Nova Scotia from Halifax a section of twenty six miles only will be required from Shediac to the boundary at Baie Verte. If Nova Scotia makes equal railway progress with New Brunswick in the next two years, we may expect to pass by railway from this City to Halifax in 1860.

Turning our attention Westwardly, we find that a section of railway, thirteen miles from Bangor toward Calais, is now open for traffic; and that another section of twenty-two miles from Calais to Lewys' Island, on the route towards Bangor, is also completed and now in operation. The gap between these two sections does not much exceed fifty miles; and when that is filled up, there will be uninterupted railway communication from Calais to all parts of the United States and Canada,—the railways already stretching far beyond the Mississippi and being pushed on rapidly towards the Rocky Mountains.

Viewing the vast net-work of railways to the Westward of this Province, and taking into consideration also, that a section of eighty miles from St. John to Calais, will in a short time be all that is needed to bring New Brunswick and Nova Scotia into connexion with the great railway system of North America, it is not too much to expect that in five years from this time, a traveller may depart from Halifax by railway, and continue his journey, without break or interruption, by railway only, to Fond-du-Lac, at the extreme Western end of Lake Superior, and perhaps even much further to the Westward.

A NEW GOVERNOR IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Official information was received at Halifax by last mail, that Sir Gaspard Le Marchant has been appointed Civil Governor of Malta, the salary of which office is £7000 sterling per annum, and that the Right Honorable the Earl of Mulgrave has been appointed to succeed him in the government of Nova Scotia. It is said that Earl Mulgrave will be at Halifax during next month; and that immediately on his arrival, Sir Gaspard will leave for Malta.

The Earl of Mulgrave is the only child of the Marquis of Normanby, and was born 23d July, 1819; he was married in 1844 to Laura Russell, niece of the Dowager Duchess of Cleveland, by whom he has four sons and three daughters. His Lordship entered the army in 1838, by obtaining a commission in the Scots Fusilier Guards. In 1851 he became Controller of the Queen's household, and was then appointed a member of the Privy Council. In 1852, he was appointed Treasurer of the Household. Since 1847, his Lordship has represented Scarborough in Parliament. In politics he is a Liberal, but voted against the ballot in 1853.

The Marquis of Normanby (father of the Earl of Mulgrave) was Governor General of Jamaica from 1832 to 1834; Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1835 to 1839, when he became Secretary of State for the Colonies for a short time; after which he was Sec'y of State for the Home Department. In 1846, he was accredited as Minister to the Court of France, and is now Envoy at the Court of Tuscany.

The *Provincial Wesleyan* gives an elaborate notice of the dedication of a Wesleyan place of worship, in Newfoundland. The building is described as substantial and elegant, and as affording accommodation for nine hundred persons. The Governor of the Island was present at the commencing service.

Arrival of Bishops.—We learn from the Journal that the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, his Lady and family, returned in the Canada last week from England, in good health. Bishop Cronyn, lately consecrated in England, to the new Diocese of Huron in Canada, came in the same steamer, on his way to his home. We lately saw a statement which goes to shew, that this reverend gentleman's elevation has not elevated his salary. As Rector of London, U. C., he had £1206 a year, with a House—as Bishop he has a little over £500, and no house. This speaks well for his disinterestedness.

Sir Allan MacNab, the old and steadfast patriot, and lover of British institutions, has taken his departure from Canada for England.—Few men have occupied a more prominent position in the affairs of any Country than Sir Allan has in those of Upper Canada, and his noble conduct and meritorious services in times of peril, will long be remembered in connection with the history of that Province. It is said that he intends to spend the remainder of his days in Great Britain.

The Halifax *Chronicle* says—Large quantities of Poultry were shipped hence to the Newfoundland market during the past week. This occasioned prices to rule high.

The Protector & Christian Witness

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1858.

UNION PRAYER-MEETING.

Seldom has the Temperance Hall been filled with a larger or more apparently reverent assemblage, than were gathered within its walls on Friday last, to inaugurate the commencement of another year, by united prayer to Him from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift. It is not in man's power to read the individual motive which impelled so many to meet together with one accord in one place; and therefore, in the exercise of that love which "hopeth all things," we do gladly endorse the sentiment which fell from the Chair "that it was a hopeful sign for the City, to see so many willing to give up the comforts of home at this festive season;" as also that of another speaker, who said "he doubted not that angels were looking down with joy on such a meeting." We further recognize in this *visible* manifestation of the unity which really exists amongst the different branches of the Protestant Church, another proof of the increasing desire now felt throughout Christendom to draw closer together the bonds of common brotherhood, which join as one, all of every name and place "who call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." But when we speak of *unity*, let us be careful to avoid the too common error of confounding it with *uniformity*,—the one inward, the other outward,—the one directly of God, the other of man,—the one essential, the other not so. True unity of spirit, and a multiplicity of organizations, seem to be all that is attainable whilst man remains as he is—a unity of faith, amid a variety of modes for proclaiming it;—not an artificial, compulsory uniformity of ecclesiastical and doctrinal forms; but a union of hearts, filled with love to God and bound together with the golden chain of love, which emanates from, and centres in Him, and which rejoices to hold communion on earth with those in whose company they hope to dwell forever in heaven. We are not surprised that the Roman Catholic, who has given up his birth-right, liberty of thought, as well as freedom of action, to his spiritual ruler; and who sees not below the surface, should confound the uniformity of outward organization with the unity of the Spirit, and suppose that in attaining the first, they possess the other. But it is to be deplored that any calling themselves Protestants should be equally blind, and, enclosing themselves within their narrow sectarian cells, look upon all outside as Samaritans, and actively oppose the efforts of the wise and good to cease from strife and "to provoke one another only to love and good works."

That this meeting may produce its proper results, let each one who took part in it look on himself as morally bound to go forth and strive that his intercourse with the brethren of every denomination be in accordance with their prayers then and there offered—remembering that whilst work without prayer for sustaining grace is presumption; it is, on the other hand, mocking God to pray and cease to strive in dependence on Him for the attainment of those things we have asked for. Let us "watch unto prayer," lest, like the unmerciful servant (Matt. xviii), we rise from our prayers for mercy and forgiveness, and show no compassion for the failings, infirmities, or even the offences of our brethren. Let us all remember that we are pledged to the endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace." We ask no man to give up the smallest iota of what he may consider the truth, nor to cease his efforts to promulgate it; but to speak the truth in love, and "whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule—let us mind the same things," to "speak evil of no man;"—then will the God of love and peace be with us, and we shall experience as a community how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity; and thus shall we hasten the fulfilment of our Lord's sublime prayer, "That they all may be one, as thou Father art in me, and I in thee; that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

The following Petition is published by the authority of the Committee of the Protestant Combination. They solicit all the friends of christianity and of India, both in town and country, who approve of their object, to forward or leave their names at the office of the *Protector* without delay. It is intended also to memorialize the British Government in similar terms:—

To the Honorable the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of Inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, British North America.

Humbly Sheweth—

That your Petitioners form an integral part of the great British Empire; that as loyal subjects, they feel the deepest interest in the stability, perpetuity and glory of that empire; that they have lately been called upon by their Lieut. Governor to humble themselves before Almighty God because of the chastisements with which he has been pleased to visit our empire in the East—indisputably for sins committed there as elsewhere—with which request they have cheerfully complied; that as sincere attempts to reform are essential to christian repentance, they deem it both just and reasonable that their voice should be heard in rectifying the misdeeds for the punishment of which they have been called to humble themselves; that entertaining such opinions, they trust that it shall not be deemed a presumption on their part to lay the following considerations before the representatives of the people of Great Britain, with whom lies the power to reform abuses.

1. That from the immense extent, importance and necessities of India, your petitioners are persuaded that a mercantile company are incapable of thoroughly and efficiently directing its affairs; and therefore pray that the entire Government of India may be transferred to the Crown of England, to be governned as an integral portion of the Empire.

2. That as any countenance or support granted to pagan or mahomedan superstitions by a christian nation is highly provoking in the eyes of God, your petitioners pray that all such may be immediately withdrawn.

3. That as the Indian opium trade with China has been found pernicious in a high degree, and utterly unworthy of a great and enlightened nation, your petitioners pray that the trade in that article may be placed under necessary restraints and limitations.

4. That regarding christianity as alone divine and fitted to save the immortal soul, your petitioners pray that all proper encouragement be given to the natives of India, from the highest official to the meanest subject, to embrace this religion; and that a system of education, based on such principles, be granted as soon as circumstances will admit to the whole empire. Thus the righteousness which exalts a nation shall be ours,—and God, even our God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

TEMPERANCE HALL COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the Shareholders in the Temperance Hall Company was held on Monday last. The Report of the Directors recommended the payment of a dividend of five per cent. for the past year, and the issuing of Scrip, for facilitating the transfer of Shares. The Report was adopted by the meeting, and the dividend ordered to be paid on the 1st March next. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President—John Orlebar, Esq., re-elected; Secretary and Treasurer—J. W. Morrison, re-elected.

Directors—John Orlebar, Esq., R.N., re-elected.
J. W. Morrison, do
George Beer, sen., do
William Mackay,
Peter Desbrisay, do
John Rider, do
Benjamin Chappell, do

TEMPERANCE SOIREE.

After a lapse of four or five years,—during which period the Order of Sons of Temperance in this Island had dwindled to such an extent as gave some force to the oft-reiterated assertion that the entire body had ceased to exist,—we find the Order again brought prominently before the public. The fact,—at a time like the present, when the evils of the Liquor Traffic, like a gigantic incubus, bears with crushing effect on the highest and holiest interests of the whole community, and when every vestige of shelter to the weak and erring (save the sanctuary, which is seldom if ever visited by the drunkard) had apparently become annihilated; at such a time, we repeat, the existence of an organization based on principles so ennobling as are those which characterise the Sons of Temperance, cannot fail to gratify every heart which sympathises with human woe and aims at its removal. Under such circumstances, then, what wonder that the public evidenced such an outburst of feeling as characterised the proceedings at Temperance Hall on Wednesday evening last!—when the community rose *en masse* to aid the efforts of those who have more particularly devoted their energies to the great Temperance Reform. But we digress. On the above evening, at 6½ o'clock, the doors were thrown open for the admission of the public; and the continuous stream of warm hearts and happy faces poured in, without intermission, until the hall was filled, when—the tables being surrounded by all for whom seats could be procured,—the assemblage joined in a hymn of praise, and the repast commenced. The second sitting consisted chiefly of gentlemen, many of whom had, with gallant courtesy, yielded their seats at the first sitting to the ladies. These in their turn having feasted, the tables were promptly removed, and the ladies who had so gracefully presided, together with the gentlemen who supplied from the anteroom the respective tables, retired to the Lower Hall and regaled themselves. It was a subject of general remark, that the viands—which, it is but fair to state, were voluntarily prepared for the occasion by a few whole-souled ladies—were unexceptionable; while the arrangements were such as to elicit universal admiration. The "Sons" having retired during the removal of the tables, now appeared clothed in the regalia of the Order. They walked in double file, preceded by two brothers as marshals, to the head of the spacious hall, when the whole column halted, faced inwards, and the officers and members of Grand Division passed through to seats reserved for their accommodation,—brothers of Subordinate Divisions seating themselves promiscuously through the hall. This was the largest muster of "Sons" that has taken place in Charlottetown for some years, and their judiciously arranged *entree* produced a brilliant effect. G.W.P. John P. Tanton having taken the chair, he rose and remarked most happily on the objects of Temperance associations; he instanced the vast assemblage before him as an evidence that the principles of such organizations had taken deep root in all classes of the community and urged upon his audience energetic co-operation for the general diffusion of principles so conducive to the common weal. The Rev. George Sutherland then proposed the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That in consideration of the awful results arising from the use of alcohol, as a beverage, it is the duty of all who take an interest in the welfare of the human family to exercise their influence in suppressing this growing evil.

The rev. gentleman opened up in good style the general subject, and then passed on to an elaborate disquisition as to the most prominent causes of intemperance; he classified these causes under five distinct heads, elucidating each in turn, amply illustrating his positions, and then, briefly summing up, promulgated what he considered the only effectual correctives of these leading incentives to misery and degradation. Mr. Sutherland's speech was listened to with marked attention throughout, and at its conclusion was greatly applauded.

Rev. Mr. Barker seconded the Resolution. His speech was lucid in style, and embraced every part of the Resolution, which he thoroughly discussed. The pleasing manner in which Mr. Barker treated his subject warrants the opinion generally expressed, that he is one of the most popular Temperance platform orators in the colony.

Rev. D. Fitz Gerald spoke briefly, and concluded by moving the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That an organization, to be called the "Temperance League," be now instituted; that it embrace all classes, having branches throughout the length and breadth of the Island; so that, by means of lectures, the distribution of tracts and other temperance publications, temperance principles may be generally diffused.

This Resolution was seconded by Rev. Mr. Duncan. He went on to explain the principle of the new organization, as particularly suited to the views and circumstances of a large portion of the community. "In this society," said the rev. gentleman, "is to be no useless forms,—no intricate constitution,—no gaudy paraphernalia; a simple, yet explict form of pledge, to the effect that he or she who becomes a member shall abstain from all intoxicating beverage, and discountenance as far as possible their use by others; it is broad enough to embrace all classes; you may take your pledge to the representative of royalty, and state, in plain terms, the blessings attending the adoption of abstinence principles; solicit that the influence of such an exalted position be exerted as a blessing, and not as a curse; and, by simply subscribing to this pledge, he attains to all the privileges the Society can bestow. Take the same pledge to the poorest man who walks your streets; get his name, and, in this point, at least, you place him on a level with the most exalted, and make him indeed, as in name, a man."

John Arbuckle, Esq., moved a complimentary Resolution to the ladies who had contributed in any way to the pleasure of the occasion. As an apology, we presume, for the absence of many who have in years gone by occupied the highest positions in the Order, he stated that, on account of the vigorous efforts of the saplings, the countenance of those who had formerly taken the lead were no longer necessary,—a stroke of policy on the part of the *veterans* which we consider very far from judicious. He admitted their success on this occasion—which was too plain to admit of denial—and congratulated those whose efforts had secured it. Mr. J. J. Rice seconded the Resolution; he eulogised the spirit with which the ladies had come forward on the present occasion to aid the Managing Committee, and their invariable co-operation in Temperance efforts.

The Hall was neatly decorated for the occasion. By the kindness of a few amateurs, under the direction of Mr Ross, suitable vocal music was furnished. It was announced that the election of the League Officers would take place at an early day.

The meeting was then closed,—Mr. Lobban's Band performing the National Anthem. Thus ended the most satisfactory Temperance Soiree in which we ever had the pleasure of participating in this colony.—*Com.*

CALAMITOUS FIRE.

The large house at Brudenel Point, Three Rivers, formerly the residence of Dr. Kaye, lately occupied by Mr. Baker, his daughter and son-in-law, with a family of five young children, was burnt to the ground early on the morning of Tuesday, the 29th December, the inmates miraculously escaping with their lives, having saved nothing but their night-clothes. The old man, Mr. Baker, was the first to discover the fire; but he was so bewildered by the flames all around him, that he scarcely could find his way out of the bed-room; his cries, however, awakened his son-in-law, who slept up stairs. Springing out of bed, he rushed below and discovered that all the back part of the house was on fire, and was just communicating itself to the staircase. In an instant he was up stairs, caught up two of his children, and carried them safely out at the front door. Again he returned and brought two more; and his wife with her infant in her arms attempted to follow him, but before she could get to the foot of the stairs, the flames swept up into her face, and she fell forward on the floor. The husband, hearing her cries, placed himself flat on the floor and crawled under the devouring element to where the mother lay, still clinging to her child, and grasping her, with very great exertions he succeeded in saving them from a dreadful and untimely death, not without they having been much burned. The roof and chimney fell immediately after.