

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, Nov. 12, 1867.

The elections which for the past few weeks have filled men's minds to the exclusion of every thing else, have passed over comparatively quiet, and the result shows a large Democratic gain. This will doubtless have some effect upon President Johnson's course of action, though what he has not yet given even an inkling of. The immense majorities gained by the Democrats, in nearly all parts of the Union, is significant. The Constitution declares all men equal. The proclamation of Lincoln abolishing slavery throughout the Union, paved the way for the perfect carrying out of that enlightened principle. That proclamation, and the consequent action of Congress in extending the franchise to the Negro, was at first hailed with paeans of joy and self gratulation. It was the spontaneous outburst of a nation (which for years had recognized that a great wrong, which they tolerated, existed in their midst) on entering the path of right and virtue. But, the first outburst over, old prejudices reassert their sway. According to the new *regime* the negro has a vote which counts as much at the ballot box as the whiteman's, and the negro may aspire to any office, to a seat in Congress, even to the Presidential chair. What! is the reflection which, too, finds utterance in very plain language, shall we have the negro rule over us! The idea is distasteful not alone to the ardent Democrat, but to a large proportion of the Republican party. Hence the recent heavy gains by the former. Alas for women's rights! While Mrs. Cady Stanton, and a few of her most ardent followers were stumping the South in favor of women suffrage, the men of New York substantially declared that the negro should not vote.

The violent Democrat, whose opinions are gaining ground, appears to have but two guiding principles. The supremacy of the white race, and the superiority of the United States Government over all others in the world, coupled with their right to rule alone over the whole American continent. Such opinions point but to one conclusion. Whenever the Democrats are sufficiently strong, they will urge the annexation of Canada, and I look forward, at no distant day, to see that question made a plank in the Democratic platform. Then will, probably, be tested the stuff of which Canadian Volunteers are made, the sincerity of the Canadians in wishing to maintain their connexion with England, and that of England in her promise to uphold the connexion.

The *Herald* has completely changed its tactics lately in regard to the Fenian question. From being an ardent supporter, ever ready to snatch up the most trivial circumstance and magnify it into a *casus belli*, from writing inflammatory and laudatory articles it now never refers to the question but in

tones of ridicule. Scarcely a day passes without an editorial sarcasm on the Fenians in its columns. But James Gordon Bennett is noted for his inconsistency, and it has grown into a proverb here, that the *Herald* never opposes any thing but that thing is sure to succeed. The Fenians, however, are steadily working and actively prepared for a descent upon Canada. Many of them are, though, opposed to such a movement at present. They say "keep the organization alive, so that we shall be ready at any moment, and whenever England gets into any difficulty we can swoop down upon them." On Saturday the irons said to have been worn by Kelly, who escaped from the police in England, were exhibited at one of the lodges. At the same time a call of five dollars per member was made. Such a call as that will amount to a large sum in the aggregate and cannot be required for expenses here. What is the money for? The coming winter may show. I am credibly informed, by the way, that Kelly is still in England, and the Fenians here loudly boast that they have many good and ardent friends in the police and detective force of both England and Canada. To a casual observer, to one who gains his information from the columns of the daily newspapers, or to one who waits for important events to open his eyes to the present state of affairs, or the movements contemplated by others, the Fenian organization would appear to be "played out." But any one who watches the signs of the times, and notes the apparently trivial matters, will see much that leads to the conclusion that something will soon be attempted. The Fenians are daily drilling, receiving and shipping arms, ammunition, &c., while large supplies of money are being called for and received. That the old hatred of England is as strong as ever, is clearly evinced by the hisses with which the flag, said to have been taken from the "Queen's Own," is greeted whenever brought out, by the eagerness with which all news respecting England and Canada are swallowed, by the feeling which the exhibition of the irons worn by Kelly excited, by the well known fact that the Fenians, as a body, will vote and work against Fernando Wood, who will run this year for Mayor of New York, on account of his activity in providing for the reception and entertainment of the Prince of Wales, who visited New York during Wood's last term of office; and, though last not least, by the bitter hatred felt and expressed towards such noble hearted Irishmen as Bishop Lynch, D'Arcy McGee and others, who have worked incessantly and strenuously in the preservation of peace and order. By the way, I have heard, on good authority, that D'Arcy McGee is constantly watched and as constantly, though perhaps not so faithfully, reported at head quarters. It is boldly said by them that he will yet meet his death at Fenian hands, and could he hear the bitterness with which he is denounced as a "traitor to his country," he might quako if he were at all

inclined to be a Quaker, which is not probable as according to his countrymen he is not much of a "friend."

L. E.

## BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM HAMILTON.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The 13th Battalion met for its usual monthly drill on Thursday, the 7th instant, when there was a good attendance of the men, but a much better attendance of civilians who came partly for the purpose of seeing the drill, but more especially to hear the band, which has attained quite a reputation since it was organized about ten months ago. It is a great source of annoyance to the Volunteers that so many should stand as onlookers who have as little, (and many of them far less) to prevent them from being members of the force, as the majority of those now belonging to it, although some of those who are so looked upon are no doubt prevented from joining by those who should use their influence in the other direction, viz: their employers, whose true interests should make them more patriotic than they at present are; however, the Volunteers of Hamilton are in hopes that the new Militia Act will work a change for the better.

The Battalion matches of the 13th Battalion are to come off some time this month, and in addition to other prizes to be competed for Col. Skinner has offered a Snider rifle, to be given to the best shot in the Battalion. In preparation for these matches the various companies have been practising during the past two weeks with the Snider rifles, now in their possession, at the ranges of the Victoria Rifle Association, and the new rifle gives universal satisfaction, the average scores made being greater than any made with the old rifles, notwithstanding the high winds which have prevailed nearly all the time since the practice began.

Capt. Bridgewater having been requested by the officers of the Hamilton Volunteer Force, to pay a second visit to the city for the purpose of delivering his very interesting lecture, did so on the evening of Monday the 11th inst., but he must have been sadly disappointed on seeing the smallness of his audience, for notwithstanding the efforts of the officers and some of the men of the 13th, the attendance was disgracefully small, for which but one reasonable excuse can be offered and that scarcely adequate to the case, namely, that the place of meeting—the drill shed—was so cold that it was impossible to sit there any length of time with comfort. It is certainly to be hoped that the Captain may always in the future be blessed with a better audience than that he addressed for so short a time on Monday evening. I say so short a time, because just when his hearers had become interested in the lecture, an alarm was started, and in consequence of there having been ten fires within three