

## LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

Rev. Dr. GRANT has entered upon the pastoral charge of Georgetown and Charlottetown.

His Honor THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has been well, but we are happy to say, is much better.

The skating rink at Kensington has been opened for the season, and is affording lots of amusement to the residents.

Dr. WALL, of County Line, left on Monday afternoon for New York, on a business trip. He will be absent for a few weeks.

We understand that Mr. James C. Daley has received the appointment of Yardmaster at the Charlottetown Railway Station. We congratulate our friend upon his well earned promotion.

SIXTEEN HOWLERS, accompanied by Mrs. Howland, left for Ottawa on Friday afternoon last. A number of the Senators' friends accompanied them to the Railway Station and gave them a hearty "send off."

We are indebted to Mr. James J. McDonald, of Brockton, Mass., formerly of this island, for a very handsome illuminated calendar for 1886, issued by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., a concern with which he is connected.

The Halifax Chronicle says: L. C. Hayden, of P. E. Island, was arrested a few days ago on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences from a Miss Dickie, of Base River. He was taken to Great Village for examination, and was committed for trial by Justice McKim and Fountain.

Two boys are still allowed to skate on the sidewalks, much to the annoyance of the pedestrians. Last week we observed half a dozen of them playing hockey in front of the Brown Block, and some of these days the merchants in that row will be wondering how their window glass was broken.

The Yarmouth Telegram says:—The schooner *Edith*, Capt. Crowell Smith, master, sailed from Charlottetown on the 17th inst. for Baltimore, with a cargo of potatoes and called at Halifax on the 18th. Subsequently a telegram was received at Yarmouth stating that she had been passed at sea, abandoned.

The following is a summary of the number of patients treated in the Charlottetown Hospital during the past year: Total number admitted, 137; cured, 78; improved, 21; unimproved, 8; incurable, 17; died, 8; remaining, 8; number of outdoor patients treated, and prescribed for, from the Hospital Dispensary, 265.

Two Roller Races between Art Newson and M. E. Treloar of the Herald, came off at the rink last Friday evening. The course was for three miles, Treloar getting a start of half a lap. Great interest was manifested in the race, and both contestants had numbers of friends. Treloar, at the close, having scored a win, was declared the winner. Score against the Herald.

At a recent meeting of the Benevolent Irish Society, steps were taken for the formation of a Branch Association throughout the island, to be affiliated with the main institution in this city. Circulars are being forwarded to residents of the various Irish settlements and we hope, ere long, to see branches of this ancient and honorable Society in many parts of the island.

The members of the Benevolent Irish Society have organized a Literary and Shooting Club. This is an excellent move, and will, we trust, have its beneficial effects. The first meeting was held last night in the Society's Hall when the question of the practicability of the Club was discussed at considerable length. Further debate upon the question was postponed until next Wednesday evening.

To-day is Nomination Day for Mayor and five Councillors. For Mayor, candidates are Messrs. J. H. McLean, J. H. McLean, and J. H. McLean. In Ward 3, Councillor Day will be opposed by Mr. Angus A. McLean, and in Ward 4 Councillor McLean will be opposed by Mr. John Lewis.

We trust our friends in these wards will rally to the assistance of Messrs. McLean and Lewis, and give a hearty support to the party of progress.

At the annual meeting of the Catholic Literary Union, held in their Rooms, Prince Street, on Friday evening last, the following officers were elected: Spiritual Director, Rev. Father McIntyre; President, Henry Fitzgerald; Vice-President, Simon Bolger; Treasurer, Stephen Whitty; Secretary, John C. Kelly; Assistant Secretary, John T. Clarke; Executive Committee, Wm. Murray, J. H. Oswald Hornsby, Simon Grant, John P. McCarron and John J. Traister.

An announcement in last Wednesday's *Examiner* informs us that Mr. P. McQuaid has severed his connection with that paper. From an acquaintance of several years, socially and officially, with Mr. McQuaid, we must bear testimony to his efficiency as a newspaper reporter, and to the untiring industry which he displayed on behalf of the *Examiner*. We do not know what our friend's intentions are, but we heartily wish him success in whatever sphere he may employ his talents.

We desire to direct attention to the programme in another column, of a concert to be held to-morrow evening in aid of the sufferers by the small pox. There are many poor people who, besides losing their time, and being weakened by disease, have been put to much loss and inconvenience by the loss of their clothes and furniture, and we trust to see a full house reward the efforts of the charitable disposed ladies and gentlemen who are endeavoring to relieve the distress which the horrible plague has caused.

Two men, James Kennedy, Angus R. McDonald, master, from Liverpool for Charlottetown, have been wrecked off Holyhead. The Captain was rescued from the rigging, the crew took to the boat, and the ship was wrecked. The ship was of 650 tons, owned in Liverpool by Ritchie Bros. and the master, Capt. McDonald, was referred to by a son of Major Alex. McDonald, Lower Montreal. He was sent out by an English firm to St. John, N. B., in 1875, to superintend the building of the *James Kennedy*, and has since sailed her, the ship a superior vessel having cost \$400,000.—*Examiner*.

## General News.

The crew of the steamer *General Gordon* arrived here on Wednesday night in the schooner *Asia*. The *Asia* was from Georgetown with a load of potatoes. Solomon Bateman, one of the crew of the *General Gordon*, said: "We left Lower Canada at eight o'clock on Saturday morning. There was a fresh easterly wind, but we were blowing a perfect gale. About twelve both spars went over the side. We cleared away the wreckage. About one o'clock the schooner *Asia* came along, and after great difficulty succeeded in rescuing us. The gale did not abate till Sunday night. We lost most of our clothes. We had a lucky escape, not being out more than five hours and not being distressed more than two hours. Before we were safe on board the *Asia* we were safe on board the *Asia*. The crew belong to P. E. Island and will be sent home by the marine department.—*His Herald*.

A telegram from Buffalo, N. Y., says: Two agents of the American fur company are on a tour of inquiry to the commercial cities bordering the great lakes to ascertain from individuals suggested in the prospectus of the fisheries the popular feeling with respect to a renewal of the reciprocity treaty of 1873 between the United States and Canada. This treaty gave the right of citizens to fish in Canadian waters and vice versa. The object of the inquiry of these gentlemen includes the importation and exportation of fish. It is also their object to make known the fact that the fisheries of the great lakes are equally imperilled with those of New England by the action now contemplated for a renewal of the treaty. We propose, said one agent, "to see the prominent fishermen of this vicinity and get them to memorialize their congressmen on this subject, to prevent, if possible, the appointment of another fish commission like that of 1877, which gave Canada \$50,000 as a bonus under the reciprocity treaty of 1873."

Society at St. Peterburg is just now much occupied with the revival of a very curious story. About three years ago there was a spiritualistic seance at the Officers' Club in that city, in which the spirit of a famous departed General was called up, and prophesied among other things that there would be a great war in 1886, in which Russia would take the leading part. As the ghost of the deceased warrior mentioned among the names of the officers who would greatly distinguish themselves during the war, those of some men who did not even figure in the war list, the affair was looked upon as a joke and nothing more was thought of it. But, by a strange coincidence, among recent appointments to the rank of commissioned officers the very names appear which the spirit had foretold, the officers being men of no family, who have risen from the ranks. As there is no country in the world where superstition is carried to such an extent as in Russia, the incident has caused quite a sensation. It would be very strange if at the commencement of the year 1886 we should see Russia driven into a war with Austria, as a result of the struggle between Serbia and Bulgaria.

The New York World's London Sunday cable says: Salisbury will not venture to grant Ireland a full measure of home rule, but he will do more to satisfy the Irish than that measure would accomplish. He will not grant land reform, while he liberates and Radicals have been shouting home rule on general principles, the cabinet have had a cold session privately and distinctly at work investigating the actual condition of the Irish people with a view to furnishing practical suggestions for the permanent relief of the country. The investigators have been secretly at work, because what they have been seeking has been official and not second-hand information. The reports are now about all in and collected. The mass of information obtained has convinced the Tory premier and his colleagues that the Irish question can be settled once for all only by uprooting the landlord system of the island. Accordingly a bill having that for its final object is now being prepared by the government, and it will be presented and pushed to an issue as soon as possible after the new parliament has begun its sittings. This bill will probably be described as a necessary and wise measure for the relief of the Irish landlords, and will enable the government to purchase their lands. The aim will be to buy out every landlord in Ireland.

A most disastrous fire took place in Montreal last week. Never before in such a short space of time did fire in Montreal cause so much valuable property to be lost as did the fire of Wednesday. The flames broke out shortly before 1 a. m., and in a few hours nearly half a million dollars worth of property was destroyed. From the onset the water supply was insufficient, and the fire brigade labored under great disadvantages. The atmosphere was intensely cold, the hose being frozen stiff and the firemen covered with ice. A fierce wind was also raging, and caused the flames to spread with great rapidity. About 2 o'clock, when the fire was at its height, the bells of the Convent of Providence, St. Jean Baptiste street, and that of the Church of Notre Dame, tolled for assistance. The fire was illustrated and the air filled with cinders, which were being carried by the wind. The fire brigade realized the imminent danger to the church, which stood only a few feet from the burning buildings. The good Sisters soon found willing hands and the church was protected so by the firemen and others that it escaped burning. The sanctuary of the church was illuminated with tapers and several good Sisters were praying at the altar. The fire in the main tower went on raging with horrible effect. Its origin is a mystery, but supposed to be caused by a defective stove pipe. The buildings destroyed were owned by the Hotel Dieu Nuns and fully insured. The expected loss on them will amount to \$300,000. One of the valuable things was saved for during the fire, the church threatened by the fire. The church was built in 1856 for the special purpose of receiving the statues which were removed from the church after its removal from the Cross. The church was built in 1856 for the special purpose of receiving the statues which were removed from the church after its removal from the Cross. The church was built in 1856 for the special purpose of receiving the statues which were removed from the church after its removal from the Cross.

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## Ireland and Free Trade.

The English journal, *Free Trade*, takes up the Irish question. All that has been done for Ireland has not succeeded to allay her discontent. The emancipation of the Catholics, the abolition of tithes, the establishment of the church, and the reform of the land have been accompanied, not by a decrease in Ireland's agitation, but by an increased hatred to Britain and a more strenuous exertion for home rule. There must be some potent cause at work here. *Free Trade* explains it in this way:—

"The abolition of the Irish import duties and the subsequent enforcement of a so-called free trade policy upon that country undoubtedly furnished the main cause of the decline of population, and the increased hostility of the Irish people to the government of Great Britain. Ireland is poor because her industries have been destroyed and become the victims of a false theory."

Ireland cannot be made contented in the absence of the fullest employment for labor. This employment cannot be restored under the present tariff system, nor can Irish credit, which is almost as good as capital, be re-established until the people are set to work and to endeavor to earn the necessary for home comforts, which tend to contentment and form the basis of loyalty and peace. Ireland, we repeat, is the victim to the *laissez faire* policy, that of letting industries go to the wall. Her discontent is the result of the enforced idleness of her people."

If this be true, and it has every appearance of reason, what a terrible legacy have Richard Cobden and his school bequeathed to the Englishmen of to-day! Ireland in 1841 had eight and a quarter millions of people; to-day she has barely five. In 1841, she was the farm-yard of England; to-day she is almost in a lullaby. Population is declining; there must be some terrible agency at work. Ireland has complete free trade with England, has had it since 1860, and the prosperity of the industries of that date have vanished. Until 1846 she was protected from the outside world, but from that date, the decline of Golden Free Trade, she has gone down hill at accelerated speed. There may be an accumulation of causes at work in Ireland's decay, but the coincidence in that decay and the adoption of Free Trade points too plainly to the fundamental cause of her discontent."

JOHN L. O'NEILL, Justice of the Peace.