. Terrible Accident in Montreal. Buelph Evening Mercury OFFICE MACDONNELL STREET

FRIDAY EV'NG, FEB. 5, 1869

THE ALABAMA QUESTION.

There are grounds for believing that, notwithstanding the sanguine assurances of Mr. Reverdy Johnson, the Alabama difficulty is not going to be settled so quietly as the best friends of both Great Britain and America would wish. The fact is undeniable that with a large portion of the citizens of the Republic, a war with England would be greeted with delight-and educated as many of them have been to regard the mother country as a once powerful nation, but now comparatively weak and in her dotage, their idea is that a fight with England would not be a matter of much account, and would soon result in her signal deteat. The "al-mighty eagle" which,—according to those over whose interests it is supposed to keep a watchful eye,-can "flap its wings and crow over all creation," is, of course, too gallant a bird to be in the least intimidated by the old and effete lion whose claws (vide 4th July orations) were so badly picked at Monmouth and Yorktown. Indeed, so insolent is the tone and bearing of the press and people of the States, that it looks almost as if this Alabama business was brought up on purpose to give an excuse for a quar-It might have been settled long. rel. ago but for the shilly-shallying of Mr. Seward and the rest of the American Cabinet, who seem to have delayed its final settlement for some purpose of their own. A few of the leading en of the States have manifested a willingness to have the matter arranged on equitable terms, but as usual the noisy and turbulent spirits who have so much to say have managed to have the Alabama difficulty drag along its slow length for over three years-and the end is not yet.

Mr. Reverdy Johnson is apparently overdoing it in making himself so popular in England ; and this is the difficulty which now presents itself. Had Mr. Johnson made fewer afterdinner speeches, and shown a cold shoulder to such men as Laird and Roebuck, the probability is that the terms of the proposed Alabama treaty would have been agreed to by the United States and a peaceful settlement ensue. We are not surprised, under the circumstances, to see the disfavor with which the proposed terms are looked upon by the majori-ty of the American people, who ap-pear to t. ... hk that their ambassador has been "soft-sawdered" by the as-tute ex-Secretary of State in England, Lord Stanley. Gen. Grant, if we are to believe the statement, has openly expressed his entire dissatis-faction with the treaty as it now stands; and as he is shortly to be the ruling man in the States, his uttor-ces have more than a passing signifi-cance. So far as England is concern-ed, she is not likely to alter the Ala-bama treaty to suit every passing whim of the American politicians, and certainly will not be bullied into any concession she may regard as undisfavor with which the proposed and certainly will not be builled into any concession she may regard as un-fair to herself. If the two nations cannot agree, there is but the one al ternative—and this alternative no pa-tentous appearance—but for the pro-tentous appearance—but for the pro-cent we can only wait and watch the progress of affairs—hoping for the best, but bearing in mind that "CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.— The CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.— The

THE ROOF OF ST. PATRICK'S HALL FALLEN IN ! NARROW ESCAPE OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES !! LIVES !! A deplorable accident, by which sever-al persons are supposed to have been ser-iously injured, if not killed, occurred shortly atter midnight on Wednesday night, through the falling in of a large portion of the roof of St. Patrick's Hall, The Concert of Les Commis Marchands had taken place in the earlier part of the evening, and alterwards, dancing was commenced. About 2,000 people had been present at the concert, and a large part of them remained, when, shortly after midnight, a cry was raised that the roof was giving way. It seems that about 12 o'clock, while the company were engaged in a waltz, them numbering about 150, they were startled by a short, sharp crack, as of a pistol shot, in the roof, di-reack, as of a pistol shot, in the roof, di-reack, as of a pistol shot, in the roof, di-reack as of a pistol shot, in the short, louder than the first, and pieces of plaster began to fall. At this moment, Mr. Ras-trick, whose rooms are beneath the Hall, came running up, and told the superin-tendent to have the room cleared at once. A panic now seized the people and a rush was made towards the stairs. The ex-cellent facilities for ogress which the Hall afforded, in two wide flights of stairs, leading out upon Craig street, and Vic-toria Square, allowed the room to be cleared in a surprisingly short space of time, and without much difficulty, else a number of lives must have been lost. The dight of the company was hastened by the increasing noise of the breaking roof, and hardly had the room been cleared, when the entire roof tell in with a tre-mendous crash. Mr. Rastrick was cut by falling plaster, Constable McCornick was struck in the mouth by a piece of cornice, which therewer quickly on the spot, but fortunately no fire occurred. Mr. Perry and Chiel Bertram, accompanied by Dr. Kingston, made a carettil survey among the debrix to ascertain if any person re-mained; but they left perfectly satisfied that overy one had succeeded in escap-ing. Before the asrival of the firemen, Mr. B. Taazy assi Feb. 4, 1869.

powerless from fright, and who had been miraculously preserved beneath some beams. An examination of the ruins shows two upper flats to be almost a complete wreck. The great weight of roof falling from such a height caused it to break through portions of the hall floor, into the room beneath. The whole length of the flight of stairs, on the side of the Victoria Square is covered with rubbish; and a huge mass of timbers having brok-en through the floor, hangs threatening-ily over the landing, looking as though the slightest movement would precipi-tate it into the shops below. What was last night a hall, presents now an inde-ectibable scene of wreck and confusion. The large statue of St. Patrick which surmounted the wall on Victoria Square, fell inwards and lies prostrate among the ruins. The building was probably pre-vented taking fire by James Kerrigan, care-taker of the hall, turning of the gas. Some of the dancers were unwilling to leave the hall, even when repeated cracks denoted the impending catastrophe, and it was in trying to get these out that constables McCornick and Hague found themselves shut in, and only escaped by breaking out of a window. There was a report in circulation of some boys still being missing, but it does not seem to be credited. Messrs. Hutchinson, Brush & Spiers, architects, have been appointed to enquire into the accident. The prevail-ing opinion seems to be that the iron roof was altogether too heavy.sig the amount of support afforded. The *Leader's* despatch state that two poreons were killed outright, and thirty others injured.

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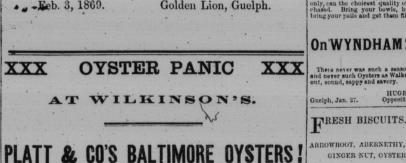
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