A New York paper says:—"It is well known that meetings of the Fenians are being held every evening here, to which only the initiated can gain admittance, and that at some of them men are exercised and drilled by officers of experience.

CANADA THE OBJECTIVE POINT.

A respected citizen hands us the following, which has been sent him by a correspondent in a large town of Indiana:—"There is a great number of Fenians here—some Irish, some Dutch, some English, Scotch and American. I feel sure that before this summer runs over Canada will be attacked by those ruffians. It is all their talk that the Green Flag will soon be hoisted over Canada, and that they will make that their place of action, and go for glorious, although enslaved Ireland. General Sweeney is to be their active man. He is collecting money in large amounts, and buying arms. Some have given him as high as $50,000; some $20,000; and one man gave him a gunboat the other day. There is a certainty they will soon try what can be done. The members of the Society here don't like O'Mahony.

Sweeney is, no doubt, the man who counsels an attack upon Canada, and it cannot be questioned that he is receiving large assistance in all parts of the West.

SWEENEY'S PLANS.

The New York *World* of Saturday says that the publication in that paper of Sweeney's plan of campaign against Canada caused the Senate faction to be looked upon with more favor by the "brotherhood," as having something tangible in view, while there was a corresponding depression in the O'Mahony quarters.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR WAR.

The *World*, which we cannot help thinking is poking fun at the order, says its reporter has learned that at recent secret meetings immense contributions have been made for carrying war into Canada before the 1st of May next. It says that all the men and material offered will be ready for use and acceptance by the 25th of the present month, and that with them a blow will be struck at once without waiting for O'Mahony to conquer Ireland. The *World* says:—

"Chicago offers three regiments of infantry, two battalions of artillery, and 8,000 stand of arms, and a naval brigade of 1,000 men for service on the Lakes. St. Louis gives twenty-five hundred volunteers and a battery of artillery, with fifteen thousand pair of army brogans. Cincinnati promises five thousand volunteers and two battalions of artillery, one Irish merchant giving his whole hog crop of the year toward the cause. Philadelphia has two Fenian regiments organized, and proffers two more with six thousand overcoats of the United States army regulation pattern. Boston will furnish twelve hundred men for sixty days' service, completely armed and equipped. The factory girls and rich artisans of Lowell will put a battalion of infantry in the field, also completely equipped, and each girl of Irish descent contributes one month's wages toward arming the battalion. Indianapolis is to give two hundred and fifty men the means to reach Montreal, and the weapons to defend themselves from the attacks of the British soldiers on the frontiers. Cleveland is not behind, and the old officers of the Seventh Ohio volunteers have organised a regiment of eight hundred men, all of the officers having seen service. Newark twelve hundred men. Patterson two hundred, and Trenton two hundred and fifty soldiers. The Fenians of Baltimore will place one regiment of infantry and a battery of six guns at the service of General Sweeney. Columbus, Ohio, offers four 12-pound Parrot guns, and Pittsburg, not to be behind, is in the field with two light-draft gunboats, five hundred men, one thousand pair horse-blankets, and a silk flag. Rochester, N. Y., is ready with 200 men and two artillery forges, and the empire city itself outstrips all competitors in patriotism with six thousand men, fifteen thousand stand of arms, and thirty thousand pair of army shoes; in addition to four gunboats and eight hundred cavalry sabres. Richmond, Va., one hundred and fifty men and six new gun carriages. Detroit five hundred men and one hundred barrels of gunpowder. Milwaukee two hundred men and two hundred muskets, and Memphis, Tennessee, one hundred Enfield rifles and three pieces of cannon, with three hundred men of stalwart build to transport them safely to Canada. New Orleans offers a battery of artillery, and Savannah and Charleston will furnish conjointly one thousand men and their equipments. This is but a brief resume of the contributions in kind from the more prompt wanting; each locality pledging itself to furnish in good faith the sums opposite their names:

"Chicago, $600,000; St. Louis, $300,000; Albany, $150,000; Philadelphia, $200,000; Pittsburg, $75,000; New York, $500,000; Baltimore, $200,000; Richmond, Va., $60,000; Lowell, Mass, $60,000; Boston, $300,000; Portland, $75,000; Harrisburg, $40,000; Syracuse, N. Y., $25,000; Buffalo, $100,000; Troy, 80 000; Milwaukee, $42,000; Detroit, $36,000; Racine, $10,000; Hartford, $50,000; New Haven, $30,000; Cincinnati, $250,000; Wilmington, Del., $10,000; New Orleans, $400,000; Savannah, $120,000; Charleston, $100,000; Washington, D. C., $250,000; Indianapolis, Ind., 80,000; Springfield, Ill., $250,000; Brooklyn, N. Y., $300,000; Louisville, Ky., $80,000; Toledo, Ohio, $40,000; Cleveland, Ohio, $100,000; Burlington, $200; Bridgeport, Conn., $26,000; Jefferson, Mo., $15,000; Keokuk, $5,000; Patterson, N. J., $26,000. This is but a brief exhibit of the contributions for the crusade, as it is impossible for us to make room for the one-fiftieth part of the contributions which are to carry on this modern crusade."

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

DEAR SIR;—

Permit me, through the columns of your widely circulated journal, to offer a few observations on Education. This, in a free, enlightend, and Christian country, is confessedly a subject of the highest moment. How can mankind be intelligent, happy, or useful without the culture and discipline of Education?

"It is education," in the words of Dr. Humphrey, "that smoothes and polishes the roughness of his nature. It is this that unlocks the prison-house of his mind, and brings out the captive. It is the transforming hand of Education which is now, in so many heathen lands, moulding savageness and ignorance, pagan fanaticism, and brutal stupidity, revenge, treachery and lust,—and, in short, all the warring elements of our lapsed nature, into the various forms of exterior decency, of mental symmetry, and of Christian loveliness. It is Education that pours light into the understanding, lays up its golden treasures in the memory, softens the asperities of temper, checks the waywardness of passion and appetite, and trains to habits of industry, temperance and benevolence. It is this which qualifies men for the pulpit, the senate, the bar, the art of healing, and the bench of justice. In a word, Education, regarding man as a rational, accountable, and immortal being, elevates, expands and enriches his mind, cultivates the best affections of his heart, pours a thousand sweet and gladdening streams around the dwelling of the poor, as well as the mansions of the rich; and while it greatly multiplies and enhances the enjoyments of time, helps to train up the soul for the bliss of eternity." In perusing the above quotation, I was so struck with its beauty and elegance that I could not forbear giving it in full.

With such a picture of education before us, it is natural that we should examine minutely into the condition of our common or District Schools, which are undoubtedly the groundwork of our public education, and, therefore, has high claims on our attention. Its grand design is to foster and direct the unfolding of our youthful mind, and to fit it for its two-fold duty—rational manhood and an enlightened citizenship. It may with truth be said, that on the instructions our youths receive in our District Schools, depend their future career. "Youth is the time for forming habits," yet, it may be said with propriety, that in every period of life, the acquisition of knowledge is one of the most pleasing employments of the human mind. But in youth, there are circumstances which make it productive of higher enjoyment. It is then that everything has the charm of novelty; that curiosity and fancy are awake, and that the heart swells with the anticipation of future eminence and utility.

Whether we view it in its physical, intellectual, or moral aspects, it has the one grand aim. In its physical aspect, it should have the same care for the body as the laws of our being render necessary. In its intellectual aspect, its aim should be to make a well-informed and intelligent community. In order to secure the former, it must disseminate knowledge, and this it strives to do by means of instruction. To create the latter, it must exercise the various powers of the pupil's mind on the knowledge presented; and this is Education. In its moral aspect, its aim should be to direct the mental power into proper channels, and to collect the pupil's energies into one fit and substantial whole—*character*.

After saying so much about education—discussing its one grand and ulterior aim—I will now turn my attention to our District School-houses, which I, as a P. E. Islander, blush to own are a disgrace to our educational system. "If there is any house in the district more pleasantly located, more comfortably situated, better warmed, more inviting in its general appearance, and more elevating in its influences than another, that house should be the school-house."—*Cousin*. Is this the case with our school-houses? On the contrary, the shabbiest and meanest looking hovel in the district is, unfortunately, the school-house. There are, undoubtedly, exceptions to this rule. I would ask, How can a teacher impart instruction to thirty or forty pupils, huddled together round a stove (with innumerable cracks in it), scarcely large enough to heat a room ten feet square—old, rickety benches, off which, if the scholars happen to rise without communicating their intentions to the bench, tumble down—three legged stools—broken windows, etc. Moreover, in many of those houses of public instruction (!) during the winter season, the first work for the teacher is to shovel out the snow before proceeding with his usual routine. To this it may be answered that the people in many of the districts are poor, and, therefore, cannot build suitable school-houses. This, I own, is the case in many districts; yet, in many more comparatively poor, we find large and commodious school-houses, well furnished, etc.; whereas, in richer and more prosperous ones, the school-houses are in a dilapidated condition. The school-houses in general are not in keeping with the advanced condition of education; in many districts they are only tenantable in summer, and are much too small for the number of children requiring accommodation.

In making those statements I am not ranging on fairy ground. Any person who doubts their correctness can refer to the School Visitors' Reports. Now, the question naturally suggests itself, is there any remedy for these evils? In my way of thinking, were the Visitors more strict in the performance of their duties, the school-houses would be in a much more creditable condition than they are at present; but the Superintendents do not wish to deprive the people of the blessings of education, which, undoubtedly, would be the case for a time, were the schools closed; yet, I think were all the shanties which now disgrace the name of school-houses closed, the result would be beneficial. How can we expect persons who, in common parlance, do not know "B. from a bull's foot," to take any interest in the cause of education? No! the only means to bring them to their senses is COMPULSION. Again, the majority of Trustees in those school Districts are illiterate—men who can neither read nor write. They take no interest in education, they will not attend quarterly meetings; some of them do not go near the school-houses for the whole year, and very often the teacher will have to go to their houses before he can get his "papers" certified, &c. Cannot the Board of Education devise some means to remedy those evils? If not, let them resign and give place to men who will. These gentlemen may say, it is none of our business; look to the Government. What promoters of education! what guardians of the youthful mind!

I will now offer a few observations on the many difficulties the ill-paid, ill-treated teacher has to contend with. In the first place, let us see how the alteration in the Education Act, in reference to the £15 which the teacher is bound by law to receive from the inhabitants before he can get the Government allowance, works. Now, in many settlements the idea is that the cheapest article is the best. Well, the good and successful teacher thinks that the £55 is little enough for him: consequently, he demands it. Then comes another Government man (!)—dubbed teacher, to be sure, probably "drummed" away by his former masters for neglect, incapacity, &c. This "bird of passage," only that you must mention the extra £15 in your agreement, and to secure you, I will give you a receipt for the amount,"—consequently, he is engaged; whilst the conscientious teacher, who wishes not to throw away his services for nothing, nor to defraud the Government, is told by the people "we can get a teacher cheaper than you offer, so you can go about your business." In this respect many of our best teachers are treated.

Again, the average daily attendance of 20 is met with merited disapprobation on every side. In the rural districts in which there are upwards of 40 scholars, it is impossible for the people to keep up the average during summer and autumn. In these seasons of the year, the attendance is very irregular. This obstacle is unavoidable and irremediable in this country, where labor is scarce and expensive, and the seasons are short. Another evil which follows from the average being so high is, that in many districts it leads to dishonesty. The scholars are sent to school in the morning—say one lesson—the teacher then calls the "roll." This done, the scholars start off home. If the *honest* teacher happens to be deficient—say even in one quarter out of four—the "immaculate Board," Council, &c., &c., reduce his *salary* accordingly,—consequently, the teacher has to bear with this without a murmur. It is supposed that he can make his subscribers pay this deficiency. But this is a fallacious idea. How is it to be insured? In many districts the teacher has to do without it; and, if he chose not to do this, he must appeal to the law. Sooner than do this many teachers "let it slide." Is it purposely to defraud the teacher out of his lawful hire that his reduction is made? I cannot see any other reason for so doing. The teacher may average 25 for one quarter, and the next only 18. He gets *nothing* for the overplus of 5 in the first quarter; whereas, his salary is reduced for the deficiency of 2 in the next. If the framers of the Education Law were actuated by a spirit of fair play, they would permit the teacher to use the overplus in one quarter to make up for the deficiency in the other. In my opinion, and, I think, I can safely say it is the opinion of the multitude, the average should be reduced to 18.

I must bring this long letter to a close. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for giving me so much of your space, and trusting that you will permit me, through your columns, to return to the subject next week,

I remain,

Yours, &c.,

Lot 47, March 27th, 1866. D.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR,—The members of the Prince of Wales Institute, Lot 11, convened a meeting on Saturday evening, the 24th inst., for the purpose of electing their office-bearers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were unanimously elected:—

John Callaghan, President, (re-elected); Archibald Ramsay, Vice-President; Joseph Murphy, Secretary; Robert Ramsay, Treasurer. Managing Committee—Patrick Murphy, Thomas Boyle, David Smith and George Palmer.

During the winter, several very excellent lectures have been delivered in the Prince of Wales Institute. The first was a lecture delivered by the Rev. Mr. Swabey,—subject, "The Russian War." He being previously invited by the members of the Institute to deliver a lecture, he very kindly complied with their request by doing so, together with placing in the hands of the Treasurer a handsome donation for the benefit of the Institute. No man could, I think, give a more explicit view of the cause and origin of the Russian war—reviewing and commenting as he proceeded on the valor and indefatigable exertions of the British and French forces through the whole campaign—to the satisfaction of all present. On resuming his seat, the Rev. gentleman was highly complimented by those who addressed the audience, when a discussion took place relative to the prowess and successes of Great Britain, in all her warfare with any foreign foe who has been unwise enough to attempt to triumph over British arms. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. gentleman for the very instructive lecture he had delivered, when the audience dispersed, highly pleased, and expressed a wish that the Rev. gentleman would condescend, on a future occasion, to deliver another lecture before the "Prince of Wales Institute."

Again, in compliance with an invitation, Mr. Thomas Murphy, of Fort Hill, delivered an instructive and well-written lecture, in the above-named Institute. Subject, "Historical Sketches of Popular Delusions." The subject was handled very ably and lucidly by the lecturer, having evidently evinced a thorough knowledge of the subject on which he lectured. After resuming his seat, the meeting was addressed by several gentlemen present, when a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the lecturer.

On the 20th inst., in compliance with an invitation, the Rev. Mr. Murray, of Lot 14, delivered a lecture before the Prince of Wales Institute. Subject, "The Tombs of the Patriarchs." The Rev. gentleman gave a very graphic description of the subject on which he lectured, and all present were highly pleased with the information imparted by the Rev. gentleman. After resuming his seat, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the lecturer.

I feel pleased to inform you that the Prince of Wales Literary and Debating Institute is in a progressive state, and has done much to improve all those who attended regularly since its organization.

Subject of debate for the next meeting is—"Whether did Ancient or Modern times produce the most illustrious men." Subject to be opened by Mr. A. Callaghan.

By giving the above publicity in your next issue, you will much oblige,

Yours, respectfully,

JOSEPH MURPHY, Sec'y.

March 28, 1856.

(Papers favorable will please copy.)

The Herald.

Wednesday, April 4, 1866.

COLONIAL UNION.

THERE is something in the present condition of Ireland peculiarly instructive to the people of this Colony. Sixty years ago, Ireland was, by means of an Act of Union, incorporated with England. It was the wish of the King and Ministers of the day that this Union should take place. The people of Ireland did not desire it; but the wishes of the people were ignored in the presence of an imperial policy, which, it was declared, was going to give strength to the Empire. Hence, the Union between the two countries was, in the language of Mr. Bright, brought about by proceedings "disgraceful and corrupt to the last degree." But now, after an experience of sixty years, has Pitt's idea of union and strength been verified? The periodical famines which have visited Ireland, within that time, the number of emigrant ships that surround her coasts, the wide-spread Fenian disaffection that exists, attest the contrary. Had Ireland possessed a free Parliament of her own, to legislate for her local wants and interests, but subject in all things else to the Crown of Great Britain, she would, in reality, be a source of strength to the Empire instead of a weakness, as she now is. Here, then, is a case in point, of a country, in defiance of the wishes of its people, having lost its Parliament in obedience to the wishes of Pitt and his colleagues, whose policy of Union and strength has been successful only in producing poverty, suffering and misfortune. On this side of the Atlantic we have been told, time and again, that we ought, in furtherance of a similar policy, and in obedience to the wishes of the Imperial Cabinet of the day, similarly surrender our legislative independence. In fact, it has been branded by the champions of the Quebec Scheme as rank disloyalty to refuse to submit to this policy of Colonial Union. No impartial person will contend that loyalty, on the part of provincials, consists in yielding implicit obedience to an imperial policy which is more than likely to prove disastrous to the parties immediately interested. History abundantly proves, that Union, and especially that Union which has not the cordial approval of the people, which requires force and fraud to accomplish it, does not always signify strength, and that Imperial ministers, in their desire to carry a particular policy, sometimes do commit grave mistakes. We have too much confidence in the intelligence and independence of the people of British America to suppose that they will, merely to meet the necessities of Canada, or even to carry out an imperial policy, accept a scheme of union which must of necessity prove oppressive and burdensome. Time may prove, too, that in first attending to their own interests, the people of the Provinces may be more effectually serving the interests of the Empire than by adopting any expensive scheme of political union, however much desired by inordinately ambitious men in the Provinces, or by statesmen at Home. The best guarantee of the permanence and safety of any empire is the voluntary support of a free constitution by a free people, and we may rest assured that if the Irish policy of the British Cabinet of former days is to be enforced upon British America, the same results will be made manifest, although perhaps not to the same deplorable extent. With reference to the so-called consolidation of British America, the independent opposition of the Maritime Provinces to the Quebec Scheme of Union, has already had one beneficial effect. It has compelled the concoctors of that scheme to admit the injustice of its terms, and to acknowledge themselves willing to modify them, so as, if possible, to obtain the consent of the people to the abstract question of Union. The organs of Confederation have no right, therefore, to assume to themselves any credit in this matter. At first, not so much of an alteration in the Quebec Report, as the dotting of an i, or the crossing of a t, would be permitted. We were to accept the Report, Constitution and all, as a whole or not at all. The "treaty," as it was termed, would be fatally affected were the slightest alteration made in it; but what a change has been wrought in the views of the "treaty" manufacturers and supporters generally, by the unbroken opposition of the free people of the Maritime Provinces. Even the *Islander*, which a few months ago would scarcely accept, if they were offered, better terms than those contained in the Quebec Treaty, so "just and equitable" were they, does not now insist upon those terms, but, on the contrary, admits that they should be modified in accordance with the spirit of ordinary fair play. Despite the Fenian scare, the opposition which effected this change for the better in the *Islander*, and its fellow-workers in the cause of Confederation, will, we have no doubt, continue to be exercised in receiving any new proposition for Colonial Union, and promptly rejecting the same if calculated to circumscribe political freedom. Ireland's history can not be blotted out, nor can we close our eyes to its obvious lessons under existing circumstances. Neither prudence nor loyalty demands implicit obedience from British colonists to the behests of the Imperial Cabinet, and the cry of disloyalty, which is sometimes hurled against the opponents of Confederation, is a misapplication of language which can deceive no intelligent mind. The designs of Her Majesty's Government, with regard to Ireland at the commencement of the present century, may have been conceived in the best possible spirit, but we cannot avoid thinking that if the Irish Parliament had loyally and independently rejected the imperial policy of centralisation, as the British Provinces do now, that country would be happy and prosperous, and a source of strength to the Empire. Her example would alone be sufficient to warrant us in our opposition to Confederation from a principle of loyalty as well as of prudence; and from such principles we have no doubt the opposition of the Maritime Provinces emanated, and will, we trust, continue *ad multos annos*.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The R. M. S. *China* arrived at Halifax on Tuesday last. A portion of the Mail for this Island was received in town on Sunday, and the balance on Monday evening. The Hon. J. C. Pope, Leader of the Government, was a passenger by the *China*, and succeeded in reaching town on Sunday morning. The *China* brings European dates to the 18th March, but the news generally is unimportant. The Reform Bill in England, and the Irish Question, were the principal topics of discussion both in Parliament and the press. The Parliamentary test oath was, after a sharp discussion, abolished, and a modified form of oath substituted. The cattle disease is abating. In Ireland, Fenians continued to be arrested all over the country, and hundreds of American agents had taken their departure therefrom. On the Continent, affairs between Prussia and Austria are indicative of war. Spain is preparing to prosecute the war vigorously against Chili and Peru. The infamous Mazzini has raised a strange issue in the Italian Parliament. Having been elected to a seat therein, both the King and Parliament refuse to admit the legality of his election. The estimation in which this apostle of the dagger is held by Napoleon, whose influence is predominant at Turin, will easily account for the opposition of Victor Emmanuel and his Ministers; but what the issue of the question raised will be, we have no means of knowing.

HOW FENIAN SCARES ORIGINATE.—Last week, a half-*daft* knight of the birchen rod, known to the ragamuffins of Charlottetown as *Rufus*, aware of the excitement which existed throughout the country in reference to Fenian designs, sought to immortalize himself by communicating to Mr. Atkinson, the Governor's Private Secretary, a regular "gun-powder plot," which he had discovered. One thousand Fenians, according to *Rufus*, were organized in some back-settlement, and were preparing to march on Charlottetown for the purpose of sacking and burning it. As Mr. Atkinson was a stranger to *Rufus*' reputation, he deemed the matter of sufficient importance to bring it to the notice of the Solicitor-General, the Hon. T. H. Haviland. Mr. Atkinson having pointed out his authority, *Rufus*,—who awaited at some little distance with all the consciousness of possessing important information, while the conference was taking place between the Private Secretary and the Solicitor-General—the latter could not help laughing outright. When the Private Secretary was informed that *Rufus* "was as mad as a March hare," and an object of sport for the boys of the town, his face, by its visible elongation, showed how cheap he felt at being sold by a simpleton. Such is the way in which Fenian scares originate in Prince Edward Island, and we cannot help remarking that if *Rufus* and all other originators of false alarms were rolled in the mud or placed in the stocks—which mode of punishment ought to be extemporised for the purpose—it would serve them well right, and be conferring a public benefit upon the community.

DROWNED.—A man named Patrick Treanor, belonging to Johnston's River, left this city about 12 o'clock on Saturday night last, to return home; and when a short distance from the head of Queen's Wharf, on the Southport track, fell through an opening in the ice. His piercing cries for assistance soon attracted a crowd of persons, who endeavored all they possibly could, by means of planks and ropes, to save him, but in vain. As the ice was bad, the rescuing parties were compelled to shove planks ahead of them as they proceeded, which necessarily consumed a good deal of time, so that on nearing Treanor sufficiently to throw him a rope, he appeared to be too much exhausted to take hold of it. One of the rescuing party then endeavored and succeeded in grasping Treanor's wrist just as he was sinking; but, in consequence of his bad foothold, the rescuing party was forced to let go his grip to save himself. The unfortunate Treanor was about an hour struggling in the water before he finally sank, and during all the time he continued to make the most harrowing appeals to be saved, and gave his name and place of residence to the horror-struck spectators, who endeavored to cheer him up whilst the above means were being adopted to save him. Treanor was a quiet, industrious and inoffensive farmer, and, we believe, leaves a wife and family to mourn his tragic death. His body has not been recovered.

SANITARY.—We publish in to-day's paper a report of the proceedings of a convention of the medical gentlemen of this city, with regard to the precautions that ought to be taken to avert a visit of the cholera. We very much approve of the suggestions of appointing a City Scavenger, and we trust the plan proposed to keep the city clean, will be adopted and carried out without delay. The matter is now principally in the hands of the City Council, and the citizens will hold that Body responsible for the health of the city.

THE Mechanics' Fishing Company, organized in this city during the past year, is in a flourishing condition. They intend to despatch two vessels to the fisheries this coming Spring. They have already secured one vessel for this purpose. We wish the Company every success in their enterprise. From present indications, we have every reason to hope that this long-neglected source of wealth—the Fisheries—will be vigorously and successfully prosecuted for the future.

THE Easter meat on Saturday last was, as we anticipated, a creditable display. Messrs. Blake and Bridges' stalls were the chief centres of attraction, and, as a matter of course, received the most patronage—Mr. Blake alone having disposed of five carcasses of beef, amounting in value in the aggregate to £250. The meat at both stalls is pronounced to have been the best ever exhibited in Charlottetown, and such as would do no discredit to the best market in the world.

THE ice in Charlottetown harbor is now completely broken up, and in one or two days more will have altogether disappeared.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"W. P. Sherkin" would be too severe at present. We will keep your "shot" in the "locker" to be used as occasion may require.

THE Legislature will be opened by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor at 3 o'clock, p. m., on Monday next, the 9th inst.

THE ARGOSY.—We have received from Messrs. Strahan & Co., 50 St. Peter Street, Montreal, the January and February Nos. of this really excellent magazine. Both Nos. are filled with choice reading matter. The *Standard*, a first-class English newspaper, speaking of the ARGOSY, says:—

"If the publishers expect their 'Argosy' to bring them gold, it will not be in the way of a Fleece, while they traffic with such good wares as they bring the public in exchange for sixpences. The only doubt is, whether a traffic so extremely profitable to the producers of the sixpences be not too one-sided to be indefinitely continued by the shipowners who have invited it. But it will be time enough to croak when we see worse goods in their cargo. Enough for the present to say emphatically what is the plain truth, that Number One of 'The Argosy' is the BEST FIRST NUMBER OF A SIXPENNY MAGAZINE THAT EVER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY. We take the new magazine at its word, and shall expect from it the fulfilment of its best promise. Meanwhile, it needs the cordial support that alone can make such a magazine permanent at such a price, and enable it to hold to a high purpose with which it seems to have been started."

Our readers will observe from an advertisement in another column that Messrs. Strahan, the publishers, offer to send a specimen copy free to any person who wishes to get up a club. The address is 50 St. Peter Street, Montreal.

THE Halifax "Reporter" of the 27th ult. says "there is just now very good sleighing in this city and throughout the country."

THE Legislature of Newfoundland has burked the question of Confederation; so say the latest papers from that Colony. Confederation is thus "marching on" to its Lethean home.

CITY COUNCIL.

MARCH 8th, 1866.

Councillor Theophilus DesBrisay, in the absence of His Worship the Mayor, was called to the Chair. Present—Councillors Yates, Gates, Brown, Beer, Morris, Reddin, Heartz, and His Honor the Recorder. The Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The City Clerk read an application from W. Murphy, Esq., the Manager of the Gas Company, for City Debentures to the amount of £300. On motion it was ordered that said Debentures be issued. The Chairman submitted to the Board the Account of the City for the past year; ordered that said Account be published for general information. The accounts of the Gas Company for lighting the street lamps for the past year, amounting to £147 10s., were submitted and ordered to be paid—subject to certain reduction for nights when lamps were not lighted. On motion, it was ordered that a Committee of three members of Council be appointed, in connexion with his Honor the Recorder, for the purpose of preparing a Draft Bill in Amendment of the Incorporation Act and the different Amendments thereto, and to submit the same at an early day to the Council Board; ordered that the following Councillors compose said Committee, viz: Messrs. Yates, DesBrisay, Beer and his Honor the Recorder. On motion of Councillor Yates, it was ordered that the Medical gentlemen resident in this City be respectfully requested to meet together in the City Hall on Wednesday next, the 13th instant, for the purpose of consulting upon the sanitary condition of the City, and to report to the City Council, as the result of such consultation, the best sanitary measures to be adopted for the prevention of contagious diseases. After the transaction of ordinary routine business, the Council adjourned.

THE SANITARY CONDITON OF CHARLOTTETOWN.

CITY HALL, March 14, 1866.

Meeting of the Medical Faculty of Charlottetown, held this day at the City Hall. Present—W. H. Hobkirk, John Mackieson, H. A. Johnson, J. T. Jenkins, Hammond Johnson, W. G. Sutherland, F. Beer, T. Dawson. On motion of Dr. Johnson, Senr., Dr. W. H. Hobkirk was called to the Chair. The Chairman then stated to the meeting that the object of their being called together at the request of the City Council, was for the purpose of consulting upon the sanitary condition of the City, and the best and most practicable measures to be adopted for the prevention of contagious disease. The neccessity of such consultation, he was sure was apparent to them all. The present filthy state of many portions of the City was very disgraceful; and he hoped active means would soon be used to remove nuisances wherever they existed. Pure air and clean water, he said, were indispensible to health, and, in order to enjoy those blessings, it was essentially necessary to attend to the sewerage of the City. Feeling confident the subject would receive their best consideratian, he would not offer any further remarks for the present.

DR. JOHNSON, Senr., then addressed the meeting. The public health, he said, was of such paramount importance as to demand the utmost vigilance in order to its preservation, and he thought that the Mayor and Corporation, constituting the "Board of Health" in the City of Charlottetown, had evinced their care by a timely attention to the voice of the surrounding pestilences (which threatened us with their awful scourging during the coming spring and summer) by calling to their aid the collective wisdom of the Medical Staff of the Town to assist them in discussing such measures as shall seem best adapted to ward off the pestilential visitation, at all events, to mitigate its fatality. It was not, he said, their present purpose to dwell upon the construction and arrangement of towns, in reference to the conservation of the health of their inhabitants, or to speak of the propriety of bringing a flowing stream of pure water through every house, in order to promote the cleanliness, and, therefore, the health of the occupants; nor was it their present duty to recommend the immediate construction of a perfect system of subterranean sewers, in order to the effectual drainage of the Town. These, he said, were all ultimate and desirable objects for future consideration, but they had now to deal with things as they were, and to advise the adoption of such measures as were within their present reach, and were best calculated to preserve the purity of the air and water by which we are sustained. These were the primary elements of life and health, and must be supplied freely, whatever the cost, if we would have a healthy people. We know, Mr. Chairman, that the aggregations of ever increasing populations brieg, in their train, an ever increasing amount of putrid and decaying organic matter, which saturating the surrounding soil, promotes the evolution of gases that poison the air, and, by percolating through the subsoil, pollute the cellars beneath our houses, and the water of the wells from which we drink; and the soil upon which the Town was built was of that open and porous character as most readily to promote such results. The leading object should be to remove all such substances from the surface very carefully, and to construct water-tight tanks or cesspools, in which all such matter, whether solids or liquids, should be carefully thrown and removed frequently by the occupier of the house, or by any appointed scavenger; and then, further to promote this object, the drainage of the yards should be very carefully attened to by raising them with clay, filling up old holes, and forming a descent to the out-fall gutters of the streets, which gutters should be lowered to relieve and discharge these waters. By the adoption of such measures, he believed the sanitary state of the City would be greatly improved. Of course, he would add the visitation from house to house of inspectors, to recommend and provide for the internal purification of every house, and to report their condition, if cleanliness is not attended to.

DR. JENKINS next spoke, and said, that there existed an absolute necessity for taking some steps towards improving the sanitary condition of the City, was undisputable; he would, therefore, pass at once to the object of meeting, viz: "To consult upon the best sanitary measures to be adopted for the prevention of contagious disease in the City." It has been suggested that an attempt should be made to carry out a system of under-ground sewerage; he was opposed to any such attempt. In the first place, he looked upon the system itself, under the