AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS .- The correspondent of the London Times furnishes us with some very valuable information respecting these lately settled dependencies of the British Empire. Already it appears that Australia stands second, amongst British possessions, in England's list of customers; India being first, and British America, but at a long distance behind, only third. Indeed the exports from Great Britain to the United States, are only one-fourth more in value, than are British exports to Australia, which amount to about sixty millions of dollars a

There is, of course, even in Australia as everywhere else, distress, and complaints make themselves heard; but the distress of Australia, after all, is very different from that which we, in those semi-arctic regions, call distress; and the complaints of the Australian destitute and unemployed, sound somewhat strangely in ears accustomed to the bitter cry of our own half-starving poor-as will be seen from the following statement of facts given by the Times correspon-

A meeting of the unemployed, he tells us, was held the other day in Melbourne to invoke the Government in behalf of these poor destitute laborers. A series of resolutions were adopted, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Chief Secretary, to see if anything could be done. Amongst the deputation, and, of course, chief sufferers, was one who admitted that his distress amounted to this. That he had just thrown up an employment under a mining company, because his wages had been reduced from Five pound sterling a week, to Four pound, ten shillings. Now, as the Times informs us, a working man can, even in the mining districts, live very comfortably for thirty shillings a week, and thus save, even out of his reduced wages, the snug little sum of about Three pounds, or nearly fifteen dollars, a week. There are, we think, many laboring men in Canada, as well as in Ireland, who would be very glad to be exposed to the distress of which the laboring classes in Australia complain.

We recommend the consideration of these facts to those very silly, or very dishonest journalists who pretend that the material advantages which attract so many Canadians to the United States, are due to the superior political conditions of the last named country: and that we have but to assimilate our political institutions to those of the great republic lying South of us, to enjoy at once an equal degree of material prosperity. The progress of the Australian Colonies gives the lie to all these theories. It shows how perfectly insignificant in their influence upon material prosperity, are political institutions; and how all important are the material conditions, such as soil, temperature, latitude, and the possession of coal. Australia, a British Colony like Canada, thrives faster even than the most goahead portion of the United States; not because of the superiority of its political institutions, but because of its geographical position, its climate, gislature not interfered in the matter, had it reits splendid pasture-lands and its mineral re- frained from inscribing on its Statute Book the insources; and if in any respects Canada be inferior in material progress to the States lying betweet us and the Equator, it is owing in like manner, not to any defect in our mode of Goverament, not to any vice in our laws; but to our inferior physical conditions, to our shorter summers and longer winters, to our want of coal, and to our being cut off from direct communication with the sea for nearly one halt of the year.

The Toronto Globe appears to be somewhat alarmed by the statements of the Minerve's London correspondent on the School Question. and the intentions of the Canadian delegates thereupon:-

La Minerve is Mr. Cartier's organ at Montreal, and its editorial correspondence from London is written by a member of its stuff sent over to watch the passage of the Confederation scheme through the Imperial Parliament. It is very likely that his speculations relative to the school questions are inspired by Mr. Cartier himself. The language which we have translated is not as clear as it might be, but it makes two things plain-first, that there is great anxiety in certain quariers to convince the readers of _a Minerue that the interests of the hierarchy are safe in Mr. Cartier's hands; and, secondly, that the danger of an attempt to tamper with the school system of Upper Canada is not past. The counting of heads in which the writer in La Minerve includes, is possibly indicative of disagreement among the delegates them. selves. We have not thought it necessary to keep up the discussion of this question, while it was not known what Ministers really proposed to do, or what exact meaning was to be attached to the mysterious hints which were thrown out some time since by their organs. But if the delegates do attempt to disregard the settlement of the school question sanctioued by the Quebec conference, and by the Canadian Parliament, and to prepare the way for forcing a new and more odious Separate School Law upon the people of Upper Canada, there will be an opportunity before such an outrage can be pushed through the Imperial Parliament, to make known in England the feelings of the people of Upper Canada on the subject. As soon as it becomes known what the plan of the delegates really is, we can promise them that it they propose a scheme to place our school system at the mercy of the Romish hierarchy, little time will be lost in making the voice of Upper Canada heard. Their safety lies in adhering honourably to the terms of the Quebec resolutions.

It will be seen from the above that the Globe is as much in the dark as we are ourselves, as to event of Confederation, and in the matter of in any other bargain made betweet human beings. Province by England .- Baily News.

Education, be placed on precisely the same looting as the Protestant minority of Lower Canada. We must wait with patience until the details be made public; and then it will be the interest, as well as the duty, of the Catholics of both sections of the Province, to tender to them, and to the Ministers who introduce them, their hearty support, as a set-off to the threatened hostility of Mr. George Brown and the Clear-Grite of Upper Canada. A Ministry, honestly desirous of doing justice to the Catholics of that section of the Province as well as to the Protestants of this, will have many obstacles to encounter from the Upper Canadian Liberals; and to surmount them, it will need the co-operation of all the friends of Freedom of Education, whose interests, we have reasons for believing, will be carefully attended to by His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax now in London, and by others in whom Catholics can well afford to place unlimited confidence. Such guarantees as shall satisfy them will, of course, be sufficient to satisfy the Catholic laity, and in their hands, without any misgivings as to the result, we should all be well content to leave the matter.

It is painful, but at the same time instructive, to note the steady decay of religious feeling in Protestant England, with respect to marriage, especially since the formal recognition by the Legislature of the principle of Divorce, and the creation of a legal tribunal particularly charged with the duty of putting asunder those whom God had joined together in holy matrimony .-For many long years after the outbreak of the apostacy of the XVI century, the old belief respecting marriage still maintained its hold on the people of England. Though they no longer called it a Sacrament, they deemed it a religious rite; they looked on it as a union of the sexes cemented and blessed by God Himself, to be contracted in His bouse, and to be solemnized by His minister. It was for several centuries after the rupture with Catholicity, held to be in its essence indissoluble, and therefore essentially distinct from a mere civil contract, of which the essence is that the contracting parties are the sole factors therein; and are therefore competent, by mutual agreement to release one another from their respective obligations, the moment these are found to be burdensome.

But illogical as is the English mind, this state of things could not last for ever: the via media; in which Anglicans delight to walk, must, in course of time, become worn out; and the idea of attaching any peculiar religious significance and value to marriage, after it had ceased to be deemed a Sacrament, could not, when exposed to the test of reason, retain for ever its hold on the Protestant mind. There is no via media or middle term betwixt marriage a Sacrament, and marriage a mere "civil contract;" and all Protestants having rejected the first, are now rapidly adopting the second theory concerning marriage, and its meaning. Even had the Lefamous and anti-Christian recognition of the righ of Divorce, the respect for marriage as a sacred rite, and therefore as distinguishable from a civil contract for the delivery of a specified quantity of Mess Pork, would have died out. Recent Legislation has but accelerated an irresistible movement, and brought to light a little sooner, that contempt for Christian or religious marriage which now forms one most noticeable feature in the vital statistics of the British Empire.

It was in 1837 that the Legislature began to tinker its marriage laws; and even up to 1844, so strong and generally diffused amongst the Protestant people of England was the belief that somehow or other marriage was something more than a mere" civil contract," that no less than 91 out of every hundred marriages were celebrated is churches. The next decade, that from '44 to 34, shows a falling off in the number of such marriages, only 84 in 100 being celebrated in churches or places of worship. In the next decade, that from '54 to '64, the Report of the Registrar-General shows a still greater falling off, a still greater decline in the number of mar riages contracted with some form of religious rite, or invocation of God, since only 78 in 100 were so celebrated.

But just ir proportion as religious marriages ceased, or the idea of marriage as a "religious rite" decayed, so did the number of civil marringes, or marriages contracted before the civil magistrate and without any "religious rites at all," (we copy from the Report in the London Times,) steadily increase :-

"The number of these marriages was small at first"-(Christians naturally looked upon them as disreputable)-" in 1841 it was but 2,064 not two marriages in 100. But in 1854 the proportion approached five in 100, and in 1864 it was more than eight in 100-one marriage in every dezen. 14,611

These statistics show plainly in what direction, and with what force the current of public opinion in Protestant England is now setting. The time is not far distant when it will be considered approval to the Imperial authorities, and that it the means which M. Cartier intends to adopt, to as irrational to invoke the intervention of reliredeem his oft resterated pledges, that the Ca- gion, and the name of God, in a civil sexual contholic minority of Upper Canada shall, in the tract, as it would be to invoke the same Power does not look like an early abandonment of the

Nor can it well be otherwise. All modern legislation in Protestant countries, and for that matter in some Catholic countries too, aye! even in Canada-tends in one and the same direction .-It is all based upon the assumption that marriage is a mere civil contract, to which, however, re- bere :ligious ceremonies or accidents may be added at the pleasure of the contracting parties; and the people unfortunately, but only too rendily, take their cue from their rulers and legislators.

But from this view of marriage the most deplorable consequences must follow, and have followed, as a logical necessity. If, as has been often urged, marriage be a mere civil contract—and if it be aught more, it is altogether beyond the jurisdiction of the mere civil magistrate-it follows as a necessary or logical consequence, that there is no moral difference betwixt marriage and concubinage. A legal difference there may still be asserted, as there was betweet the sexual unions of Roman citizens with one another, and those contracted betwixt Romans and strangers, betwixt slaves and freed men; betwixt the connubium celebrated with the solemn rites of confurrentio, and the mere contubernium which the Roman law tolerated betwixt the vilest of Rome's population. But a moral difference, or distinction betwixt marriage and concubinage, can no longer be logically asserted by those who, claiming for the civil magistrate the right to legislate for aught more than the civil accidents of marriage, thereby by implication assert that marriage is a mere civil contract.

Another fatal, but unavoidable consequence of their theory is this. That according to its advocates, adultery ceases to be a crime sur generis, or indeed according to commercial ethics, any moral offence at all. Adultery is a breach or violation of the marriage contract .-But if marriage be a mere civil contract, then adultery, which is a breach or violation of such a contract, is the same in kind as, and, morally, indistinguishable from, the breach of any other civil contract-such, for instance, as the failure of an army contractor in furnishing the Government with a specified number of bullocks, or pantaloons, within the specified time. The contractor so failing renders himself hable to be mulcted in damages, and to forfeit all the advantages of his contract; but in the general opinion of the world, he is guilty of no very grave moral offence. Yet is the offence of the defaulting army contractor precisely the same in kind, if not in degree, as is that of the adulterous husband -if indeed marriage be a mere civil contract, if indeed it do rightfully fall within the domain of the mere civil magistrate.

Therefore it is that, although from a Catholic point of view, a marriage contracted before, or celebrated by, a registrar, or a police magistrate. or a tinker, is just as valid, just as much a Christian marriage, as is one contracted before, or solemnised by a Methodist minister, or for that matter by the Archbishop of Canterbury, we look upon the substitution of civil, for religious, marriages in England as a great misfortune; or rather as the symptom of the spread of serious moral corruption amongst the Euglish people. It shows that, gradually, but surely, they are throwing off all idea of a connection betwixt religion and marriage, and are becoming accustomed to treat it as a mere civil contract. This contempt for, or disregard of, the religious character of marriage, will of course be accompanied with contempt for, and disregard of its moral obligations; for it is impossible that intelligent beings can long force themselves to believe that the moral value of their sexual unions can in any manner be affected by the sanction given thereunto, or withheld therefrom, by a registrar or other civil magistrate. He may be able to legalize that which without his sanction would be illegal; but be can neither add to, nor take away from the moral character of the union itself .-The bar-keeper of the meanest tavera is, in so far as the morality of the offair is concerned, fully as competent to solemnize a marriage as is any public officer appointed by the State; for all that either the one or the other can do is to witness or testily to the fact of the contract, which would be just as morally binding without him, as with him-neither more nor less so.

should thank England :- These are; the Ordnance Survey, and the National School system. The latter has "borne"—so says our N. York paper—" a fruitful crop of devoted and intelligent patriots:" or in other words, by its anti-Catholic tendencies, it has prepared the once soundly Catholic soil of Ireland for the reception of the anti Catholic and pernicious seeds of Fe-

PROVINCIAL DEFENCES .- With reference to General Michel's report as to the defencelessness of Montreal, it is rumored that the Imperial Parliament is to be asked to vote £2,000,000 sterling for fortifications here. It is even said that the plaus to fortify Montreal on the south side have already been drafted and sent home for is not unlikely the work will be commenced early next summer. Taken in conjunction with the forts erecting about Quebec, this expenditure

BISSOP LYNOH AND THE FENIANS.

The New York Herald of Thursday publishes the following letter, addressed by His Lordship Bishop Lynch of Toronto to Mr. Robert Coddington, of New York, who, it appears, is collecting money and necessaries for the Fenian prisoners now in jail

"ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE, TOTONTO, Duc. 14, 1866.

Dear Sir,-I received first ten Dollars, and second twenty, to be forwarded to Rev. John MacMahon. I sout him the first remittance; and the second I gave to the Sisters of Charity to help them in supolying him with provisions Since Rev Mr. Mac-Mahon was located in the old jail, and access to him was permitted, these good Sisters sent every day cooked provisions and other comforts to him. In fact for the last six months he and his two com panions in the same ward were well supplied with comfortable food, supplying many of the prisoners with flannel shirts, which they very much need in

" It is sad to think that these unfortunate men are so utterly abandoned by their former friends, if they had any. It is true that relief coming officially from the Fenian Brothermood would only compromise these men and the parties who carried the relief; but private friends might do something.

"We do not judge those mon now, we only know their wants and miseries; and the officials of the jail kindly pass to the prisoners clothing and provisions Father MacMahon expressed himself very grateful for your kindness. All the prisoners enjoy good health. Mass is celebrated for them every Sunday, confessions heard, good books lent to them. and nothing neglected for their spiritual benefit .-They will leave here, I hope, wiser and better mon. " | John Joseph Lyncu,

" Bishop of Toronto."

The Rev. Mr. Methot, Recior of Laval University, in a letter to the Quebec Chronicle, contradicts the report that Government is in treaty for the purchase of the university buildings. Another story of a similar effect, with respect to the Ottawa buildings, may at the same lists nor Antis." tune be set at rest. There is no foundation whatever for the report current some time ago, which had it that the Seminary of St. Sulpice was negotiating for the purchase of the recently erected parliamentary buildings, and had offered land and buildings here in exchange. - Montreal Gazette.

Mr. James McCarroll, a discharged Custom House officer of Toronto now ediling a Fenian paper in Buffalo, gives this amicable New Year's Day exhortation as to the way to treat every leish soldier and official in the British service, to which the writer himself for so many years belonged, and tried so hard to get back when dismissed ;

'This is the enemy with whom we now have to deal, and we call upon every true Irishman in Canada in particular, to plant the dagger in his heart when he least execcts, and to consider that heaven is ready to justify any net that would rid the world of a monater so bideous and corrupt.

This is very good for the ex-Surveyor of the part of Toronto. - Montreal Gazette.

Tue Fenial Patsoners. - Last night the three prisoners Thomas Madden, Thomas Smith and Michael Crowley, arrived at the Kingston Penitentiary, the sentence of douth against them having been commuted at the last sitting of the Executive Council here, to twenty years imprisonment. The Volunteers and Government Police leave Sweetsburg to day .- Montreal Gazette 10th inst.

TORONTO, Jan. 12 .- The trials of the Fenian prisoners were resumed yesterday in this city, before Mr. Justice Morrison. Two cases were disposed of, one by conviction, the other by acquittal. The fortunate one was John Smith, quite a young man, who gave his place of residence as Nashville, Tenu. He had been found sleeping in a barn at Fort Erie after the fight. Some Featan documents were found on his person and a missive to his lady love, none of which were regarded as containing proof enough for con-

The prisoner who was convicted is named Timothy Kelly, of Cairo. He was arrested on Sunday morning, after the battle, in a burn near Fort Erie. When arrested he had a wound in his arm, and he expressed is regret that he had come to Canada, and said be ! had come to Fort Erie after the fight. The jury did not regard the evidence for the defence as being sufficiently exculpatory, and after deliberating for an hour and a quarter, found the prisoner guilty.

The trials were resumed to hay. Patrick O'Neil was first tried. The evidence against him was similar to that against Kelly. After at the residence of the bride's father, on the 8th deferred until Monday.

Patrick McGrath was the next tried. He was daughter of Peter Christie. also found guilty. Sentence deferred till Monday

The 'General' Gleason who succeeds to the sceptre of Stephens, and 'the very small sum in hand' towards making war on Great Britain, we are well informed, never was a ' General' in any service but that of the l. R. Ho was, however, a lieutenant, and subsequently a captain, in one of the Irish American regiments raised during the civil war, and was enshiered from the service for cowardice. The record of the trial, if it be worth while, may be easily procured, by any one interested, from the War Department at Washington. Two years ago this hero was arrested and imprisoned in Ireland, and got oil on the double plea of being an American citizen, and of being convinced that the Fenian movement was all a humbug.' Such are the scamps and the scoundreis who, in succession, endeavour to use and abuse -to degrade and dishunour-to trade on and betray the best feelings and interests of Irihmen, abroad and at home. As our Yankee neighbours say- Pass round ' General Gleason l' .- Montreut Guzette.

The Quebec Curonicle states that Government is negotiating with the Lavel University for the purchase of the university buildings on the Grand Bat-The N. Y. Irish People, Fenian organ, ad- tery, in the Upper Town, and that the buildings are mits that there are two things for which the Irish probably intended for the use of the local government under Contederation.

> Bogus Coin.-Leid quarters and half dollars are being put in circulation upon the markets both here and in Quebec. We trust the police will shortly ferret out the issuers of these spurious coins. The Granby Gazette says: A rumor is current that an establishment for the manufacture of Counterfeit money exists in this village, and that a keen watch is kept on certain suspicious quarters.

> CHAUDISHE GOLD MINES. - The Inspector for the above mines reports that a large nugget has just b en taken out of one of the pite, in the Seigniory of Rigard, Vaudrenil, about thirty-two feet below the surface. It measures about six inches in length, four in width at its broadest part, and contains about forty ounces, being roughly valued at \$300

ORGANIST WANTED.

WANTED, for ST. MICHAEL'S (R. C.) CHURCH BELLEVILLE, C. W., a competent person to take charge of the Organ and Teach Choir.

An efficient person would find lucrative employment (during loisure hours) in town and vicinity. Application to be made (it by letter, post-paid)

to the VERY REV. DEAN BRENNAN, P.P. Belleville, Jan. 14, 1867.

DEATH FROM COLD AND EXPOSURE. -On Saturday evening last, two daughters of Edward Masse laborer, the eldest 13 and the younger 11 years of age, residing near Farnham Centre (Samuel Short's saw mills) were returning home from their weekly bourding school, near two miles from their home. about dark, and when within 100 rods from their destination, the elder sat down and said to the younger 'I can go no farther.' The younger then said she would go to the neighbors and let them know. The eldest replied that she should not go, and took hold of the younger by the arm and held her, saying ' You must stay with me, and we will die The younger one then sat down beside together. her, and they talked together until, as near as the younger one can judge, 8 p.m. Then the elder stopped telking, and the younger supposed she was dead. The younger says that about an hour after, her sister gave tures screams and fell back dead. The younger sat with her until five next morning and then went home and told her parents, who went and got her. The younger sister in d her toes only touched with frost -- Bedford Times

The total number of disasters to Uanadian shipping on the lakes during the year 1866 is 68, of which 11 were steamers, 57 sailing vessels. Three steam and eight sailing vessels proved a total loss. Number of lives lost, 12

The St. John's Telegraph thus refers to the recent election in Prince Edward Island:

'The question of Confederation does not appear to have been in issue; indeed, it is difficult to di cover that the elections were anything more than a personal scramble. It is satisfactory to know, however, that the Hon. A A. McDonald, one of the Quebec delegates, has been returned; while the nominee in another district of Hou. Kenneth Henderson, a hot Anti, was rejected It seems tolerably certain at all events that the Government is in a minority in the Legislative Council, Since the Hon. Mr. Gray and Hon. Mr. Pope left the Government, because of its hostility to Confederation, the Cabinet seems to have gone from bad to worse, and may now make up its mind to give up the ghost. We do not know that much fault can be found with its management of local affairs, but for some time past internal discussions have paralyzed its actions, while in reference to the Union question its policy has been characterized by vacillation which has pleased noither Union-

The Prince Elward Island Examirer also says: 'It was rumoured about town last week that, at a meeting of the Executive Council, held on Thurday last, the House of Assembly would be distolved .-The Executive Council is very weak-(having only five members in the Island out of vine) - and, perhaps, they did not feel themselves capable of making such an effort as to desolve the House Certainly it was not done. It is said that the Government are waiting to see what shape Confederation will take with regard to the other Colonies before they dissolve the

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

Hancock Portage, Mich. J J McSweeney, \$2; Portsmouth P Hamali, \$1; Fitzroy Harbor, J Kirby, \$10; Elginfield Rev Jos Gerard, \$2; Tyendinaga, P Kilmurry, \$2; Vienna, H Vogt, \$7,50; Stephen, P Ryan, \$2; St Bridget, B Magure, \$3 47; Boncherville, J B Delabroquiere, \$2; Epiphany, William Lynen, \$5 40; St John, Thomas Sheridan, \$4; Corunna, P McGill \$3; Niagara, K McDongall, c2; Point St. Charles M Ocow, \$2 50; Huntingdon, Roy L J Gagnier \$4; Carleton, P C Beauchesne, \$2: Norton Creek, J Bulger, Jr, \$1; Sweetsburg, P Butler, \$2; Wales, J McDonald, \$2; Lancaster, 36, 8, J McDonald, \$2 50; Melrose, T Dineen, \$3 Haldimund, D Councily, \$4; Henryville, M W Melaven, \$4; Terreboure, Rev J Graton, \$6.
Per J J Lawlor, St Johns, N B - J McGourty \$2;

J Cullinan \$2.59

Per E Rounedy, Perth-L Poung \$1; R McDonell \$2; A McLellan \$2. Per P Dayle, Toronto-K Coffey Cooktown, \$1; J McMahon, Tottingham \$2; M Walsh, Woodbridge,

Per J Killorne, Scaforth-E Hart \$2. Per F Ford, Prescott-J McCarthy \$2

Per Rev M McCanley, Granby - W Carey, South Rexton, \$2. Per Rev J McNulty, Caledonia - Self \$2; M Donnelly \$2; T Lynch, Jarvis, \$2.

Per J Carroli, Rawdon -P Mason \$3.

No material changes in the markets.

On the 8th instant, at the Church of Coteau St. Louis, by the Rev. Canon G. Lablanc, Wm. Henry Weekes, of Cookshire, Eastern Townships, to Elena Rosa Theresa, daughter of the late Geo. Troutbeck, Esq, of the Commissariat Department, Montreal.

At Cosedale Lodge, St. Vincent, Menford, C.W. a short deliberation he was found guilty. Sentence instant, by the Rav. John Gould, Hugh Brodie, jun., of Montreal, Notary Public, to Obristina, eidest

Died,

On the 12th instant, in the Convent of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Mary A. O'Meara, in religion Sister Mary St. Patrick, aged 19 years. In this city, on Sunday, 13th inst., of consumption,

Bernard Hart, aged 23 years. In this city, on the 11th instant, Mary Browne, aged 52 years, a native of the Co. Ouvan, Ireland. -

May she rest in peace. In Quebec, on the morning of the 12th instant, at his residence. Diamond Harbor, at half past 2 o'clock, Miles O Brien, Esq., aged 34 years, Council-

lor for Champlain Ward, deeply regretted by a large circle of friends. May his soul rest in perce. At Prescott, C.W., on the 23rd December, 1866, Mr. Farrell Feeney, Carpenter, aged 57 years, a native of the County Roscommon, Ireland.

MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS

NOTICE.

ON and after the 2nd day of JANUARY next, this stitution will allow interest at the rate of FIVE per cent per annum on deposits. By order of the Board

E. J. BARBEAU, December 31, 1866.

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COLLEGE OF REGIOPOLIS KINGSTON O.W.,
Under the Immediate Supervision of the R'. Rev. E. J. Horan, Bishop of Kingston.

THE above Institution, situated in one of the most agreeable and healthful parts of Kingston, is now completely organized. Able Teachers have been provided for the various departments. The object of the Institution is to impart a good and solid education in the fullest sense of the word. The health. morals, and manners of the pupils will be an object of constant attention. The Course of instruction wi include a complete Classical and Commercial Education. Particular attention will be given to th

French and English languages.
A large and well selected Library will be OPEN to the Papils.

TERMS: Board and Tuition, \$100 per Annum (payable hall rearly in Advance.) Use of Library during stay, \$2.

The Annual Session commences on the lat. Sep mber, and ends on the First Thursday of July, July 21st 1861.