

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS.—The correspondent of the London Times furnishes us with some very valuable information respecting these lately settled dependencies of the British Empire.

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.

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.

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 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 staff 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.

It will be seen from the above that the Globe is as much in the dark as we are ourselves, as to the means which M. Cartier intends to adopt, to relieve his oft reiterated pledges, that the Catholic minority of Upper Canada shall, in the event of Confederation, and in the matter of

Education, be placed on precisely the same footing 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-Grits of Upper Canada.

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.

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.

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 in churches.

But just in proportion as religious marriages ceased, or the idea of marriage as a "religious rite" decayed, so did the number of civil marriages, 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:—

Nor can it well be otherwise. All modern legislation in Protestant countries, and for that matter in some Catholic countries too, are 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, religious ceremonies or accidents may be added at the pleasure of the contracting parties; and the people unfortunately, but only too readily, 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 betwixt 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 confarreatio, and the mere contubernium which the Roman law tolerated betwixt the vilest of Rome's population.

Another fatal, but unavoidable consequence of their theory is this. That according to its advocates, adultery ceases to be a crime sui 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 pantalons, within the specified time.

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 solemnized 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 English 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.

The N. Y. Irish People, Fenian organ, admits that there are two things for which the Irish 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 Fenianism.

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 plans to fortify Montreal on the south side have already been drafted and sent home for approval to the Imperial authorities, and that it is not unlikely the work will be commenced early next summer.

BISHOP LYNOX AND THE FENIANS.

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

"ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE, Toronto, Dec. 14, 1866."

Dear Sir,—I received first ten Dollars, and second twenty, to be forwarded to Rev. John MacMahon.—I sent him the first remittance; and the second I gave to the Sisters of Charity to help them in supplying him with provisions. Since Rev. Mr. MacMahon 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.

"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 Brotherhood would only compromise these men and the parties who carried the relief; but private friends might do something."

"We do not judge those men 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 men."

"J. JOHN JOSEPH LYNOX, Bishop of Toronto."

The Rev. Mr. Methot, Rector 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 time 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 McColl, a discharged Custom House officer of Toronto, now editing a Fenian paper in Buffalo, gives this amicable New Year's Day exhortation to the way to treat every Irish soldier and official in the British service, to whom 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 expects, and to consider that heaven is ready to justify any act that would rid the world of a monster so heinous and corrupt."

"This is very good for the ex-Surveyor of the port of Toronto.—Montreal Gazette."

THE FENIAN PRISONERS.—Last night the three prisoners Thomas Madden, Thomas Smith and Michael Crowley, arrived at the Kingston Penitentiary, the sentence of death against them having been commuted at the last sitting of the Executive Council here, to twenty years imprisonment. The Volunteers and Government Police have 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, Tenn. He had been found sleeping in a barn at Fort Erie after the fight. Some Fenian documents were found on his person and a missive to his lady love, none of which were regarded as containing proof enough for conviction.

The prisoner who was convicted is named Timothy Kelly, of Cairo. He was arrested on Sunday morning, after the battle, in a barn near Fort Erie. When arrested he had a wound in his arm, and he expressed his regret that he had come to Canada, and said he 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 day. Patrick O'Neil was first tried. The evidence against him was similar to that against Kelly. After a short deliberation he was found guilty. Sentence deferred until Monday.

Patrick McGrath was the next tried. He was also found guilty. Sentence deferred till Monday also.

The 'General' Gleason who succeeds to the sceptre of Stephen, 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 I. R. He was, however, a lieutenant, and subsequently a captain, in one of the Irish American regiments raised during the civil war, and was cashiered 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 off on the double plea of being an American citizen, and of being convinced that the Fenian movement was 'all a humbug.' Such are the stunts and the scoundrels who, in succession, endeavour to use and abuse—to degrade and dishonour—to trade on and betray the best feelings and interests of Irishmen, abroad and at home. As our Yankee neighbors say—'Pass round 'General Gleason'—Montreal Gazette.

The Quebec Chronicle states that Government is negotiating with the Laval University for the purchase of the university buildings on the Grand Battery, in the Upper Town, and that the buildings are probably intended for the use of the local government under Confederation.

BOGUS COIN.—Lead 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 Graby 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.

CHAUDRON GOLD MINES.—The Inspector for the above mines reports that a large nugget has just been taken out of one of the pits, in the Seigneurie of Rigaud, Vendreuil, 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. O.) CHURCH BELLEVILLE, O. W., a competent person to take charge of the Organ and Teach Choir.

An efficient person would find lucrative employment (during leisure hours) in town and vicinity. Application to be made (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 Farham Centre (Samuel Sheehy's saw mills) were returning home from their weekly boarding 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 further.' 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 together.' The younger one then sat down beside her, and they talked together until, as near as the younger one can judge, 8 p.m. Then the elder stopped talking, and the younger supposed she was dead. The younger says that about an hour after, her sister gave three 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 is 4 or 5 weeks only touched with frost.—Belford Times

The total number of disasters to Canadian shipping on the lakes during the year 1866 is 63, 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 discover 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 Hon. 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 neither Unionists nor Anti's.

The Prince Edward Island Examiner also says: 'It was rumored about town last week that, at a meeting of the Executive Council, held on Thursday last, the House of Assembly would be dissolved.—The Executive Council is very weak—(having only five members in the Island out of nine)—and, perhaps, they did not feel themselves capable of making such an effort as to dissolve 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 House.'

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

- Hancock Postage, Mich. J. J. McSwaney, \$2; Portsmouth P. Hamal, \$1; Finlay Harbor, J. Kirby, \$10; Elginfield, Rev. Jos. Gerard, \$2; Tyndinaga, P. Kilmarry, \$2; Vienna, H. Vogt, \$7.50; St. Phoeb, P. Ryan, \$3; St. Bridget, B. Maguire, \$3.47; Boncherville, J. B. Dulsbrogher, \$2; Espinasse, William Lynch, \$5.40; St. John, Thomas Sheridan, \$4; Corunna, P. McGill, \$3; Niagara, K. McDougall, \$2; Point St. Charles M. Crow, \$2.50; Hnattingdon, Rev. L. J. Gagnier, \$4; Carleton, P. G. Baechesue, \$2; Norton Creek, J. Bulger, Jr., \$1; Sweetburg, P. Butler, \$2; Wales, J. McDonald, \$3; Lancaster, 36, 8, J. McDonald, \$2.50; Melrose, T. Dineen, M. W. Halchmond, D. Connolly, \$4; Henryville, M. J. Melvane, \$4; Terrebonne, Rev. J. Graton, \$6. Per J. J. Lawlor, St. Johns, N. B. J. McCarty, \$2; J. Cullinan, \$2.50. Per E. Kennedy, Perth—L. Poney, \$1; R. McDonald, \$3; A. McLeellan, \$2. Per P. Doyle, Toronto—K. Coffey Cooktown, \$1; J. McMahon, Tottingham, \$2; M. Walsh, Woodbridge, \$2. Per J. Killoran, Seaforth—E. Hart, \$2. Per F. Ford, Prescott—J. McCarthy, \$2. Per Rev. M. McCauley, Granby—W. Carey, South Rexton, \$2. Per Rev. J. McNulty, Caledonia—Self, \$2; M. Donnelly, \$2; T. Lynch, Jarvis, \$2. Per J. Carroll, Rawdon—P. Mason, \$3.

No material changes in the markets.

MARRIED.

On the 8th instant, at the Church of Cotene 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 Costelloe Lodge, St. Vincent, Manford, C. W., at the residence of the bride's father, on the 8th instant, by the Rev. John Gould, Hugh Brodie, jun., of Montreal, Notary Public, to Christina, eldest daughter of Peter Christie.

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. Dubon, 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, Councilor for Champlain Ward, deeply regretted by a large circle of friends. May his soul rest in peace.

At Prescott, C. W., on the 23rd December, 1866, Mr. Farrell Pezner, Carpenter, aged 57 years, a native of the County Roscommon, Ireland.

MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK

NOTICE. ON and after the 2nd day of JANUARY next, this institution will allow interest at the rate of FIVE per cent per annum on deposits. By order of the Board, E. J. BARBAU, Actuary. December 31, 1866.

COLLEGE OF REGIOPOLIS

KINGSTON O. W., Under the Immediate Supervision of the Rt. 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 will include a complete Classical and Commercial Education. Particular attention will be given to the French and English languages. A large and well selected Library will be OPEN to the Pupils.

TERMS: Board and Tuition, \$100 per Annum (payable half yearly in Advance.) Use of Library during stay, \$2. The Annual Session commences on the 1st of September, and ends on the First Thursday of July, July 21st 1867.