THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1886.

Mr. Blake on the Riel Question.

Mr. Blake has spoken upon the Riel affair; but, as is usual with most of that gentleman's utterances, his remarks are exceedingly misty and vague. Last week at London, Ont., he was banquetted by some of his political friends, the number of guests being, as we are told, over eight hundred. Of course Mr. Blake's speech was the feature of the evening, and his pronouncement upon the agitation which his followers had been exciting in his absence was anxiously awaited. While disposed, as we must naturally expect, to lay the major share of blame for the rebellion upon the Government, still there was not that in his speech from which Messrs. Laurier, Mercier and their allies could derive much consolation. He is reported to have said that he was anxious to retire from the leadership of the party, and he hoped that his friends would soon relieve him from that post; but until then he would do his utmost for them. Mr. Blake is one of the most uncertain of politicians. Our memory fails us as to how many times he was in and out of the Mackenzie administration during their five years of power; while since he was chosen Leader of the Opposition his conduct has been much the same. At one time we read that he has abandoned his lucrative law practice to devote his time exclusively to politics, while again we hear of him sulking, avoiding the House and dodging divisions. Mr. Blake is evidently not the man for leader of a party—he is too visionary and theoretical without being in any way practical, while his temperament is not such as to attract support.

Having attacked the Government upon their fiscal policy and charged them with the rebellions of 1870 and 1885, he went on to speak of the fate of Riel and the excitement which his execution had caused. He is reported to have said that an attempt had been made for obvious political purposes to color the character and exaggerate the import of the agitation on this subject. Some Quebec supporters of the Government, he said had, in common with its Quebec opponents, denounced its action in very strong language, and words had been used, and suggestions made and things done which did not commend themselves to his judgment. This can be interpreted as nothing else but a direct slap in the face to Messrs. Mercier and Laurier for their part in the agitation, and we are glad to notice that herein Mr. Blake's good sense rose superior to his party feelings—He could not but foresee the lamentable consequences towards which the agitation, as his lieutenants were booming it in Quebec, would lead.

But Mr. Blake's party prejudices overcame him when he proceeded to attribute to the organs of the Conservative party a desire to inflict upon the Dominion a war of races. The Conservative press, so far as we are aware, did nothing of the kind—they had a duty to perform and they did it, which was to shew the inevitable issue of such an agitation as the Grits were exciting. They pointed out to the French Canadian journals and to those representatives who were so violent in their denunciation of the Government, that to proceed in the course they were adopting would assuredly lead to a most bitter feeling between the two great nationalities composing our Dominion, and they warned them that there could not be two codes of justice in Canada, but that crime, by whomsoever perpetrated, must be punished. That our French Canadian brethren have profited by the warning, we have good reason to believe, as the excitement is rapidly dying out, although a few of the more impulsive, aided by the Grit forces, are still striving to do all the mischief they can.

Mr. Blake was most cautious in his statements—he did not condemn the Government for the execution of Riel, but thought that Parliament was the proper place where their conduct in the matter should be tried. He seemed to appreciate the responsibility which rested upon the Government in dealing with Riel's case, and he deprecated the attacks made upon the Administration for having hanged Riel for political ends. The question, he said, could not be made a party one—he did not propose to construct a political platform out of the Regina scaffold, nor to create or cement party ties out of the blood of the condemned. It looks as if the Quebec Conservatives who anticipated Mr. Blake's assistance to defeat the Government, simply for having hanged Riel will be disappointed. We have no doubt that the Opposition will take an early opportunity, in the approaching session, of arraigning the Government for what they may term neglect or delay, and with thus having brought about the insurrection of last spring, but the disaffected Conservatives having already expressed themselves and declared that the Government were not responsible, can scarcely, in a few months, with any consistency, repudiate their own votes. The rebellion, they have declared, was not the fault of the Government, but Riel should not have been hanged. In this latter contention there is no hope from Mr. Blake's speech, that he will afford them any support.

There is one important point in Mr. Blake's speech, which doubtless, Riel's sympathizers have made a note of, and that is where he upheld the constitution of the court which condemned the unfortunate man. The Grits made a great outcry that he was tried by a jury of only six, and his execution was denounced as a "judicial murder." We fail to gather from the report of Mr. Blake's speech, which we have received, any crumbs of comfort which either his own followers or the disaffected Conservatives of Quebec can pick up.

That Special Train.

The change of arrangements instituted last week by the Post Office Department, whereby the Special Train connecting with the *Northern Light* was taken off the route, has caused not only immense inconvenience, but has aroused the indignation of our people. Why, such a step should be taken, as the Department has resolved upon, is simply inexplicable. We cannot believe that the Minister is aware of the whole facts of the case, or he would hesitate before depriving us of the very moderate accommodation which that special train afforded. Under present arrangements the mails may arrive at Georgetown at five o'clock in the afternoon, yet they are not distributed in Charlottetown until noon, or possibly one o'clock the next day. As a case in point, we have only to cite that of Saturday last, when the steamer arrived at 7, p. m., yet the mails which she brought were not delivered until noon on Monday, a delay of *forty-one* hours. There must also be considered the extreme inconvenience to which business men particularly are subject who, receiving their letters at noon, have only an interval of two hours before the mail closes again. A letter written on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock cannot leave the Island, under present arrangements, until Tuesday morning. This is simply outrageous. We have as much right to a special train connecting with the *Northern Light*, as we have to one connecting with the steamers in summer time at Summerside. We thought this was an age of progress. Surely we are not going to return to the methods of twenty years ago!

We have said that the change of which we complain is unintelligible. Is it the expense of the special train that has caused its removal? We cannot think so. A special to Georgetown does not cost as much as a special to Cape Traverse, and we presume, so soon as the ice gets heavy, the Capes route will be resorted to, and we shall have the Cape Traverse Branch in full operation—it was for this purpose it was constructed, to carry mails and passengers comfortably to and from Cape Traverse. Were there no *Northern Light*, we should be compelled to cross at the Capes, and the branch to Cape Traverse would be brought into requisition. So long as the *Northern Light* is able to cross, a special to Georgetown costs far less than to Cape Traverse, and we think the Department should be satisfied with that much of a saving rather than inconvenience a whole Province for the sake of a few dollars. Strong representations have been made to Ottawa about the matter, and we hope, in the interest of all concerned, to see the mistake speedily rectified.

The Quebec Agitation.

The "boom" in the Riel agitation appears to be about over, and the excitement which a few weeks ago was intense, is rapidly cooling down. When the Grits thought the Government of this country within their reach, they boasted of the numerous defections from the Government ranks, and that there was no question that Sir John would be defeated on the meeting of Parliament, if, indeed, a dissolution were not earlier resorted to. But the Grits are unfortunate—nothing that they apply their hand to seems to succeed, and it is very improbable that the Government's majority will be greatly lessened in Parliament on account of the action of the administration in the Riel matter. Assuredly, there are some French Conservative members who will oppose the Government, but the number falls far short of the thirty-three whom the Opposition so certainly calculated upon. At the outside there will not be more than twelve Quebec votes lost, which can easily be spared from Sir John's present large majority, while upon a straight vote upon the Riel question, it is more than probable that several of the opposition would vote with the Government. Many of the French members who were loud in their denunciations of the Government, have had their eyes opened, and will refrain from any further demonstration. The declarations of the Bishops are chiefly responsible for this state of things—they put the people on their guard, and shewed them the folly of a course which could only result in a "war of races." Were Sir John to be defeated when Parliament meets, he would appeal to the country without a doubt of being sustained. The position which the French Canadians would occupy in the new Parliament, they are well aware of, and they are shewing their good sense in now quietly accepting the situation.

From the Montreal *Star*, an independent paper, we quote the following which we are inclined to treat as trustworthy:—

"An intimate friend of Sir Hector Langevin, who has just returned from Ottawa, says the cabinet does not anticipate any serious defection among the French members on the Riel question and for every conservative bolter a grit vote will be gained. Several of the recalcitrant conservatives have already been to Ottawa to interview the French ministers on the terms on which they will return to the conservative ranks. They proposed that some whitewashing resolution should be passed which would enable them to go back to their constituents. Neither Sir Hector, Sir Adolphe nor Mr. Chapleau would even listen to this suggestion. They weren't in want of friends, they said. The cabinet do not expect to lose more than ten or twelve votes at most. They expect that Messrs. Girouard, Desjardins, Bergeron, Coursol, Amyot, Guilbault, Cuthbert and Daoust will go back on them to a certainty, and they don't feel sure of Mr. Gaudet. But little further defection is anticipated and the present intention of the government is to meet the house, postponing the elections till after the session. A personal friend of Mr. Chapleau said this morning that it was wonderful what a change had come over the opinion of the country regarding the execution of Riel. A month ago he was the only one in Montreal of Mr. Chapleau's friends who defended his policy, now the old followers of the magnetic minister are flocking back to him with renewed confidence. The mandements which have been issued by all the bishops, had killed the movement, and strange to say, the men who were loudest in their denunciations of the cabinet were now entirely satisfied that its policy was the correct one. The bolters were now sorry they had not kept their mouths shut."

The City Accounts.

Continuing our review of the City Accounts for the past year, we find that the Real Estate belonging to the Corporation is valued at $88,495.60, made up as follows: Market House and Lands, $33,396.54; Queen's Wharf property, $13,000; Pownal Wharf property, $23,695.31; Fire Engine Houses and Land, $7,100; Land at head of Queen Street, $2,103.75; Land at Spring Park, $4,000; Love property, $5,000. It is a question if these properties are worth the values set upon them by the City Government. It is well known that the Market House and Land is not available as a set off against the City's liabilities; all that could be attached would be the rents and tolls arising from that building. The Queen's Wharf, which is valued at $13,000, last year yielded a revenue of only $548, little over four per cent., while Pownal Wharf returned $1,410.50, equal to nearly six per cent. upon the value. The land at the head of Queen Street, the land at Spring Park, and the Love property, aggregating over $11,000 in value, are as yet unproductive.

The Plant and Moveable Property are valued at $24,543.99, made up as follows: Two Steam Engines, two Hand Engines, Hose Reels, Hooks, Ladders and Furniture, $18,525.60; Fire Bells and fixtures, $2,029; Office and Hall Furniture, $1,208; Horses, Carts, Trucks, Scales, &c., $1,254.50; Spring Park Tank, $1,357.14; Iron Watering Cart, $169.75.

Mr. Love was paid for his property, in cash, $3,732 and took a mortgage, payable 12th February, 1887, for $1,268.

The Assessment levied upon Real Estate for 1885, amounted to $25,640.66. The sum collected was $24,015.21, leaving arrears of $1,625.45—the largest arrearage since 1878. The valuation of personal property was assessed at $1,273,955 and the tax levied amounted to $3,758.52, of which there was paid $2,905.27, leaving arrears of $853.25. The number of persons on the Assessors' roll liable to Poll Tax is estimated at 1,900, valuing $3,800 of which there was collected $2,112, leaving arrears of $1,688.

The ordinary Revenue of the City for the year amounted to $10,265.36. The returns from the Police Court were $1,666.61—$1,183.25 being for ordinary fines and fees, and $483.36 being for the City's share of fines collected under the Scott or Licence Acts. The total amount collected on the prosecution of the Inspector of Licenses was $1,450, only one-third of which the City received. The City or Small Debt Court returned $121.37; the Market Tolls and Rents of Stalls were $2,600.07; the Market Hall returned $277; the rent of the City Weigh Bridge was $400; Truckmen's Licences were $263.25, (there are seventy-two licensed truckmen); Vendors' Licenses were $900; Auctioneers' Licenses $300; Horse and Carriage Tax, $672; Dog Tax, $144.

We doubt if some of the sources of revenue are as well looked after as they should be. We feel very certain that there are more than 144 dogs in Charlottetown, and we are not sure that $672 represents the total amount that should be paid as Horse and Carriage Tax.

The cost of lighting the streets for the eleven months ended 1st November last, was $3,133.94. The Police Department cost $5,440.92, which includes the Stipendiary Magistrate's Salary, that of his Clerk and the Bailiff of the City Court, as well as the rent, etc. of the Police Station and other expenses. The Salaries of the Marshall and Policemen amounted to $2,760. The Fire Department cost $2,722.23, but there is an unpaid account for new hose, amounting to $597.45. The Market House cost $1,229, and the maintenance of Streets, $5,175.42. The Board of School Trustees received during the year $9,942.60.

The total amount of Debentures afloat is $107,200, bearing an annual interest of $6,221. Debentures to the amount of $19,900 fall due and require to be redeemed this year. There remained unpaid at the end of the year, coupons and accounts, aggregating $2,654.34.

The Criminal Statistics, furnished by the Stipendiary Magistrate, shew that 640 cases of various kinds were brought before him during the year, of which 588 were convicted, and four were sent to the Supreme Court—48 being acquitted. These statistics include 40 convictions for assault; 35 for breach of Scott Act, 26 having been acquitted; 284 for drunkenness; 6 for larceny; 32 for vagrancy.

The City School Board have $37,500 of Debentures afloat, on which they pay an annual interest of $2,250. They also pay an annual rent for the Upper Prince Street School of $1,650, and $700 for the Queen Square School. The West Kent Street School Building and grounds are valued at $25,628.91. $3,135.30 were paid as Salaries and Supplements to the City School Teachers for the year ended 1st July, 1885.

Fort Augustus.

The Fort Augustus Board of Health backed by the ready action of the Government and the skilled medical services of Dr. J. T. Jenkins, are using their best efforts to check and stamp out the contagion of small pox which has developed in two families in the place.

A series of necessary rules and regulations for local use have been passed and enforced. At a meeting on the 14th inst., the following resolution was adopted and ordered to be published:

Resolved, that all persons residing in Fort Augustus and vicinity unvaccinated are required to be vaccinated before the 25th inst., otherwise they will be liable to a fine of $10. and that the inmates of any house within the jurisdiction of said board who shall wilfully conceal contagious or infectious sickness in the family without reporting the same to a member of this board shall be liable to be fined $20, to be collected from the head of such family.

The four small pox patients here are doing well, no new cases.

Michael Lavery,
Sec'y of Board.

Fort Augustus, Jan. 15th 1886.

The fishing schooner *Mabel Dillaway*, of Gloucester, with her crew of sixteen men, has been given up as lost, not having been heard from since Christmas Eve. Michael McDonald of Grand River, was one of the unfortunate crew.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Montreal *Gazette* of 15th inst. contains a very interesting letter signed "Orient," upon politics, winter communication, etc. We hope that an Island letter may prove a permanent institution in the columns of our valued contemporary, for we have no doubt it will be the means of awakening more interest among our Upper Province friends in our affairs.

The Bank Statement, published in the last Canada *Gazette*, shews an increase for December, 1885, over the same month in the previous year of nearly ten million dollars in deposits, of over three millions in discounts, and a decrease of over three and a half millions in overdue notes and debts. This is a hopeful sign and indicates a speedy revival of business.

The story is going the rounds of the Grit journals, that a large number of men have been discharged from the Railway workshops at Moncton. The Moncton *Times*, having made enquiry, states that about thirty men, who had been taken on for special work which is now completed, have been discharged. To prevent the necessity of a greater reduction of the force, the men in the shops will be put on the eight hour system, working from 7 a. m., to 4 p. m.

The Honorable Messrs. Sullivan and Ferguson have been appointed by the Provincial Government to proceed to London, there to support the prayer of the Memorial to Her Majesty the Queen, adopted last session by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, praying Her Majesty's intervention to secure from the Dominion Government the continuous steam communication guaranteed us by the Terms of Confederation. We are sure that our people, without distinction of party, will heartily wish the delegates success in their mission.

Mr. Gladstone has declared that exports are the test of a nation's prosperity. A correspondent of the London *Times* points out that Great Britain's exports were at least £10,000,000 less last year than in 1875. Those of Germany have increased during the same period by nearly £40,000,000; those of Italy by about £7,000,000, and those of the United States more largely still. In manufactured articles alone the exports of the latter have risen from $65,000,000 in 1875 to $111,000,000 last year. The exports of this Island since 1871 have more than doubled. This should surely be accepted as an index of our prosperity.

The Dominion Revenue for December shews a very gratifying increase over that for the same period of 1884. The customs receipts were $256,000 in advance—a slight increase also in the excise receipts, and the revenue from Public Works shewed an improvement of $46,000. The total increase amounts to $334,855. The expenditure, however, is in excess of the previous year, which is principally accounted for by the payment of the expenses of the North-West Rebellion. Whether such expenses should be charged to capital or ordinary revenue is a question which will be determined at the ensuing session. It is not very often that a war debt is treated as ordinary expenditure.

By a table of Mortuary statistics which Dr. Johnson, has furnished to the daily papers, we learn that the total number of deaths in Charlottetown during the past year amounted to 206. Dr. Johnson says in his report:—

"An examination of the facts and figures exhibited in the several tables, will, I think, warrant the conclusion that the general sanitary condition of the city has been throughout the year, reasonably satisfactory; the disastrous invasion of the smallpox, near the close of the year, being the chief cause of the extraordinary mortality. Deducting from the total mortality the fifty-two deaths from small pox, the number of deaths from ordinary causes for the year 1885 is but nine more than in 1884; and it is at once interesting and instructive to observe that the number of deaths of children under 5 years of age from *diarrheal affection* (summer complaint) in 1884 was 3, against 11 in 1885, this cause alone thus ranking within one death, the exact difference between the total mortality from ordinary causes for the two years. In 1883 the number of deaths of children under 5 years from *diarrheal affection* was 12, being a difference of 1 between 1883 and 1885."

Evidently British Columbia is enjoying an era of prosperity. From figures presented by a correspondent of the Halifax *Herald*, we learn that the total foreign imports last year are valued at $3,500,000, and the Canadian imports at $930,000. The exports are valued at $2,040,000. This includes product of the mines $765,000, of fisheries $703,000, and animals and their products $415,000. The export of salmon reached 106,000 cases. The amount on deposit in the three Savings Banks aggregates $2,214,000. The output of coal was 356,500 tons, valued at $1,348,000. The gold exports are valued at $595,000, making the total value of gold production since 1858 $49,267,000. New gold fields have been discovered, and with the old ones are being rapidly developed; the fishing industry is being extended, a company having been organized to prosecute the whale fishery in the Gulf of Georgia on an extensive scale. Not less than twelve millions of dollars were expended on Vancouver Island, and the mainland of the Province last year in railway construction. The city of Victoria spent over $750,000 last year in new buildings, and many magnificent new blocks are under contract for this year, including a $60,000 block; another to cost $50,000; a $50,000 hotel, and a $30,000 boarding house; and all this in a Province which has a population of less than fifteen thousand white people.

A telegram from Isaac's Harbor, N.S., of 11th inst., to Halifax *Herald* says: Schooner *General Gordon*, of Souris, P. E. I., potato laden, drifted ashore on Goose Island yesterday. She appears to have been dismasted at sea in a gale and then abandoned, as none of her crew were on board when she struck, and all their baggage is gone. The *General Gordon* was bound from Souris to Providence, R. I., and was last reported at Canso on the 7th inst. She is a vessel of 87 tons register, built at Prince Edward Island in 1884 and owned by Mr. John McLean of Souris.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS

The Small Pox Hospital has not yet been handed over to the Government, Dr. Jenkins not being fully satisfied with the cleansing.

Halifax Markets.—Oats, 44c., Barley, 70c., Potatoes, 27 cents per bushel. Mess Pork, $14.00, Thin do, $13.00 Rump, $11, Prime Mess, $12.

Three passengers by the *Northern Light* on Saturday, drove up from Georgetown that night by the road, rather than wait for Monday's train.

Mr. James McQuain's Grocery Store, Upper Great George Street, having been thoroughly renovated, is now filled with a fresh stock of Goods, which he is prepared to sell at the lowest prices for cash.

The barque *Claribel* owned by Welsh & Owen, on a voyage from New Zealand to New York, was forced to put into a Bermuda port in consequence of damages received. Mr. Welsh left yesterday for Bermuda.

Three new cases of small pox have developed in the Gillan family at Afton Road, but as they had been vaccinated several days previously it is hoped the cases will be mild. The other patients are all doing well.

Some time ago, in a contest at the Roller Rink, Mr. J. J. Jenkins captured the Gold Medal and the championship of the Island. Mr. M. B. Trainor afterwards challenged him, and the challenge having been accepted, we understand that the race will come off on Tuesday, 2nd February.

A gentleman informs us that the other day, on the preserves of the Smelt Fishing Association, he picked up a perfectly frozen smelt and dropped it into one of the holes in the ice. After a short time it commenced to wriggle and squirm, and in a few minutes took its departure swiftly.

At a meeting of the Catholic Literary Union, held on Friday evening, 15th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are hereby tendered to the Hon. John Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue, for his thoughtful kindness in presenting our Library with the series of the Records of the Dominion Patent Office.

The premises occupied by Mr. Patrick McClosky, Pownal Street, have been inspected and pronounced free from small pox. The following clean bill of health has been granted by Dr. Johnson:—

Health Office, Jan. 15, 1886.

This certifies that I have inspected the premises occupied by Mr. Patrick McClosky, Pownal Street, recently quarantined on account of the infection of small pox, and that all things required to be done to disinfect, cleanse and renovate the same have been well and effectually done.

Richard Johnson, M. D.,
Health Officer.

The Supreme Court is still in session In the case of Roderick Steele, for stabbing, the jury disagreed; Steele, who is out on bail, will be tried again next term. In the case of the Queen on the prosecution of John McRae vs. Hector and Donald McMullin and Frederick Coles, for assault, the jury found Donald McMullin and Frederick Coles not guilty, but disagreed with regard to Hector McMullin. Otto Sydney Robertson was next put upon trial for the manslaughter of the lad Fitzpatrick. Having been locked up all night, the jury came into court and announced that they could not agree; they were accordingly discharged. It is understood that they were eleven for acquittal to one for conviction. Robertson is being tried again to-day. The Gillis murder case will probably be brought on to-morrow.

Capt. James McDonald, a well-known master mariner engaged in the Gloucester fisheries, died on Sunday afternoon, after a year's illness of consumption. Last summer he visited Colorado, for his health, but failing to receive any benefit, returned home to die. He was a native of Cardigan, P. E. I., and the last of three brothers who came to Gloucester to engage in the fisheries, Capt. John, of schs. Bunker Hill and Hattie L. Newman, having died of consumption at St. John's, N. F., Jan. 17, 1883, and Michael, a younger brother, having been lost in a dory from schr. Carrie F. Morton, June 13, 1874. Capt. McDonald was a man of fine abilities and excellent character, and was highly respected. His funeral took place from St. Ann's church Tuesday morning, and was largely attended.—*Gloucester Advertiser, 15th.*

Subway Meeting at Eldon.

On the evening of Friday, the 8th inst., the Hon. Senator Howlan addressed a large and influential meeting, the subject being his proposed Subway.

The meeting was organized by appointing J. W. Mutch, Esq., to the chair, after which the Senator took the platform and spent over two hours giving minute details as to the steps he had taken to work up the project, and also in showing, by models and otherwise, how it was proposed to construct and work the Subway. After the Senator resumed his seat, and the applause subsided, the following resolution was moved by Hon. James Nicholson, M. L. C., seconded by Messrs. D. A. McLeod and W. H. Lord, and unanimously carried:

Whereas, The Dominion Government stands pledged to establish and maintaining efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between the Island and the mainland of the Dominion, winter and summer, thus placing the Island in continuous communication with the railway system of the Dominion:

And Whereas, In this the thirteenth year of our connection with the Dominion, the terms on which we entered the Confederation, in this particular, remain unfulfilled, and thereby a sacred obligation is being violated, and an immense injury being done to a large body of people;

And Whereas, we have listened with interest and pleasure to the explanation of the scheme proposed and advanced by the Hon. Senator Howlan, as to the construction of a Subway across the Straits of Northumberland, between Cape Traverse on the Island, and Cape Tormentine in New Brunswick.

Therefore Resolved, that our representatives in Parliament be respectfully requested to press upon the Dominion Government the urgent necessity of immediate and decisive action on their part, to cause that a searching inquiry be made, by survey and otherwise, to determine the practicability of the proposed work, and if found feasible, to proceed with the construction of the work without further delay, or take immediate steps to fulfil the Terms of Union in some other efficient way.

The Hon. Samuel Prowse, being present, was called on, and gave a characteristic, ringing and patriotic speech. Hearty votes of thanks being tendered Senator Howlan, Hon. Mr. Prowse, and the Chairman, which were neatly replied to, the meeting dispersed.

Eldon, Jan. 11th, 1886.

The greatest consolation to one growing old, is the improved surroundings which come with age, experience and wisdom. We are reminded of this fact by the appearance of the new Seed Annual of D. M. Ferry & Co., the celebrated seedsmen of Detroit, Mich. (They enjoy the enviable reputation of being the widest and best known firm, in any business in the United States.) Millions of people, gardening both for profit and pleasure, have found ever increasing satisfaction and delight in using their seeds. Every one desiring seeds of the highest type and best quality, should secure their Annual. It is sent free on application.

Mrs. Muffins Heard From.

To the Editor of the Herald:

Dear Sir,—Some years ago when the *Islander* newspaper was all the fashion, through being readable and newsy like, I was in the habit of writing to the Editor now and then, as was that complacent as always published my letters, which were a cheap and easy way of settlin' a few lines to Australia and Injy, through havin' folks of mine livin' there, and postage bein' so dreadful dear, as a paper would go cheaper than a letter, and twice as economical, havin' always been brought up careful and believin' in "waste not, want not," as the sayin' is. Well, Mr. Editor, now I've returned to Charlottetown after a long absence, and Polly was sayin' to me as I'd better take up the habit again, and tell folks what become of me all these years, through havin' been in Montreal, as was called there to nurse my daughter Sarah Jane, as always took after her Pa, my poor, dear departed Benjamin, as had the rheumatics awful, though dyin' at last with yaller janders, as took him off suddent. Poor Sarah Jane, as was married that comfortable in the corset makin' line, with a good husband, which his name was Podgers, and the beautifulest twins that you ever set your eyes on, as I was sayin' took the rheumatics and died along of it turnin' to rheumatic fever, a short time after I got there. For fifteen years, Mr. Editor, I lived in that blessed house, as often give me a turn through bein' in Craig Street, next door to a laundry shop, that was kept by a lot o' heathen Chinese as was that disgraceful in their habits, as disgustin' ain't no name for—which I always had the name o' doing up shirts well thro' havin' learnt when I was a girl from my mother's sister, as always commanded the highest prices, and put me in the way of havin' a gloss on my poor dear Benjamin's bosom as would shine like a new tin kettle.

As I was sayin', Mr. Editor, I put up with such neighbors, as was low, and kep' house for Podgers, bringin' them twins up lovely as could hem their own handerchiefs at eight years old, and at eleven was that handy about the house and as neat with the corsets as one could wish, and when I left was seventeen and able to take orders for their Pa, as was a relief through my always holdin' that though it was necessary for Podgers to keep on the business to keep bread in them dear lambs' mouths, to say nothin' o' jam, it was hardly the thing for him, only forty last Michaelmas, to go round soliciting orders for corsets as is strictly feminine things, and give me a turn—not but what the men wear them sometimes themselves, as I knowed a clerk in the dry goods line as was likewise a volunteer and that small round the waist as a wasp, ain't a circumstance to. Well, as I was sayin', I did my duty by Podgers and them lambs, and not even the small pox would have budged me, tho' it was at Mrs. Flipperses over the street, and round the corner in Hermine Street and up and down Bleury as was awful, but through having been vaccinated as ran freely, I was not afraid, and would have held on at Podgers', but that just in the middle of December what does he do but bring home another wife to take the place of my departed Sarah Jane, as I wouldn't stand, along of havin' my Christmas baking most done for her to devour, and her being a French woman and a tailoress as had that indecent a sign hung out as read in English "Mad. Pigeon, dressmaker in men's clothes!" So I says, says I, "None of your Pidgeons for me," and off I comes home to the old place, to find Polly, as is my daughter Mrs. Spriggins, and her boys and Spriggins all splendid, not but what the boys was changed through having growed up into young men, and Tom, that's the eldest, bein' engaged to Miss Plummer, which her father mends umbrellas, besides being a clockmaker, and has quite a penny in the bank.

Now, Mr. Editor, you wouldn't believe how comfortable Polly is, with her nice house, and as tidy a little servant girl as you ever seen, and that truthful as not a word need ever be doubted. Would you believe it, one night hot very long ago, we sent her, which her name is Malvina down to the Post Office, as was before the Government played that mangy trick with the mails as come in regular about ten. Well, Malvina she was a'comin' home quiet and decent like, when who steps up to her but a man that we know by sight, through havin' lived neighbors. "Good evening, Miss," says he. She bid him the time o' day quite simple like, and would you believe it, he begins to talk to her quite sweet, begging her to take his arm, and sticks by her all the way home, and wouldn't take no hint to go, as was most improper, along o' him bein' a married man and a minister, and likewise an editor, as is no decent company for a servant girl—no offence to you, Mr. Editor—but I hope he'll be exposed as is a roaring lion—and a lyin' and roarin' too, most of his time, which I don't hold with his ways as ought to be properly punished, which a good horse-whippin' would not be no name for. Polly was that proud of Malvina for tellin' us all about it, and for refusin' his arm, as she gave her a wincey wrapper quite serviceable and handy for wearin' o' mornings.

Well, as I was a-sayin', I come home about Christmas, and got took that short with the asthma as couldn't budge till the small pox was all over and never seen a yellow flag nor nothing, but through feelin' thankful made an effort to go to the Thanksgiving Service in the Methodist Chapel, as was that full that crowded ain't no name for. Now, Mr. Editor, I've been at all sorts o' services in Montreal, as never was narrow-minded through bein' once in a Synagogue, and used to every kind o' religion from the Christmas Service at Notre Dame down to Chiniquy and bad eggs.

But what struck me in the chapel—as I heard it all elegant along o' havin' a front seat in my sister's, Mrs. Crumpetses' pew, through Crumpets being a pillar—was that there was a great sameness in the speeches, as may be you've heard of the Cologne clock, which all the Apostles come out one after another by machinery, as the clock strikes along o' bein' wound up mechanical like, and having done their duty goes back regular in turn. Well, them parsons come out somethin' like that—as perhaps it was a good thing to give them a chance to be like the Apostles for once—and they all talked a lot about the "dreaded disease" and the "terrible pestilence"—which no one wont gainsay it was, but it seemed to me there wasn't much about the Almighty, as it ain't in the order o' things to bring Him in after the Mayor and the Town Council and the Board of Health and the Policemen—as I don't doubt is all decent folks and mighty well pleased with each other—through bein' somethin' of the same school o' thought, as Tom would say. But you'll admit, Mr. Editor, that in stopping the small pox, the Lord did more than the Mayor, which his power is limited through being human. And it seemed to me too that if they were lookin' round for some one to praise, it would have been more kind and Christian like to say a few words about the clergymen who went to the Hospital, and who visited the sick and dyin', and who risked their lives every day, and of that good Dr. Jenkins as acted so sensible and firm which was natural along o' him bein' experienced and knowin' what he was about, and his dear young son which everyone loves through him bein' so friendly and clever like, and of the Sisters who nursed them so beautiful and all for the love of "God as even bigotry ought to respect—as certainly was instruments in the hands of God more effectual than policemen or watchmen as is well in their way and essential for the government of a city—which is what Tom says. And now, Mr. Editor, through bein' somewhat tired I'll bid you *au reservoir*, as they say in Montreal, and along of me forgettin' some of my schoolin' will you kindly correct my spellin' and such like, and oblige,

Yours truly,

Dorothy T. Muffins.

Charlottetown, January 16th, 1886.

Around the World.

Father Beckx, the General of the Jesuits, is dying.

Anna Swan, the Nova Scotia giantess, is dying of consumption.

Earl Carnarvon will shortly resign the Viceroyalty of Ireland.

Justin M'Carthy has severed his connection with the London *Daily News*.

George Stephen, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has been made a Baronet.

Bennett Smith, of Windsor, N. S., a millionaire and extensive ship owner, died last week, aged 77.

The Gospel Army have sailed from Halifax to attack the strongholds of Satan in Newfoundland.

Bishop Langevin of Rimouski, and Bishop Gravel of Nicolet, have denounced the Riel agitators.

Mr. Bradlaugh took the oath at the swearing in of the members of the new British Commons last week.

Vanderbilt's chief cook was paid $4,000 a year. There is also a cook in Boston who gets paid the same amount.

The Halifax *Herald* entered upon the twelfth year of its existence last week. We wish our contemporary many happy returns.

E. E. Jones, of Hayfork notoriety, having been arrested in Toronto on a charge of fraud subsequently escaped from the constable.

A petition signed by thirty-one ladies asking for woman suffrage in municipal elections, has been presented to the Portland, N. B., city council.

It is said that a Toronto girl postponed her wedding for one week, in order that she might exercise her franchise and vote for Howland for Mayor.

It is understood that police detective Skefflington will sever his connection with the Intercolonial at the end of the month, and that his office will be abolished.

The New York *World* makes the serious charge against its Board of Aldermen, that by their corrupt acts, the city has been robbed of $33,000,000 due it from Horse Railroads.

A school atlas has been issued in the United States with all the Islands—Great Britain and Ireland among them omitted, as being likely to confuse the pupil with unnecessary details.

It is estimated that Montreal has lost in trade, owing to smallpox, upwards of $6,000,000. Vaccination may have its drawbacks, but compared with smallpox, its direct effect is trifling.

The Irish exchequer bench has ruled that the national league is not illegal, as it exists in every county in Ireland without secrecy and has been tolerated by the government, who know its objects.

The United States pension expenditure is a heavy drain upon the nation. The estimates for 1886-87 for pensions amount to $75,830,220, an excess of $15,728,332.08 over the appropriations for the current year.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company returns of traffic earnings from the 1st of January to the 7th of January, 1886, show in 1886 $118,000; in 1885, $91,000; increase for 1886, $27,000; miles in operation 3,527.

It is said there will be at least 83 Roman Catholic members in the new British Parliament; there were only 60 in the last Parliament. Scotland has returned the first Roman Catholic elected since the Reformation—a Mr. MacFarlin.

The Duke of Edinburgh will assume command of the Mediterranean fleet in February. The Duchess of Edinburgh will transfer her home to Malta, and will there set up a mimic court and make her residence on the Island as brilliant socially as her royal position can make it.

A solemn High Mass was celebrated recently in the Catholic Cathedral in Yokohama for the repose of the soul of King Alfonso. All the dignitaries of the state and the Imperial household were present. The ceremony was remarkable from the fact that it was the first one attended by high Japanese officials since the time of St. Francis Xavier, 300 years ago.

The railway mileage of the United States is greater than that of all Europe, being 128,492 miles at the present time, while that of Europe does not exceed 120,000 miles. The railway mileage of the world is placed at 300,000 miles, one-half of which is on this continent, Canada having 12,000 miles of railway, and Mexico and the Central American States about 7,000 miles. The Dominion railway system is exceeded in length by that of only five European countries, Germany, France, Great Britain, Russia and Austria, and in another two years the mileage of Canada will surpass that of Austria.

King Thebaw who was lately dethroned in Burmah was a man of many titles. When written out in the official documents they run, "His Most Great and Glorious Majesty, King of the Sea and Land, Lord of the Rising Sun, who rules over Sunnaparan, Zampodee-pa, and all the Umbrella-bearing Chiefs of the Eastern Countries, Master of the Saddan (Celestial) King Elephant, Lord of many White Elephants, Lord of Gold, Silver, Rubies and Amber, the Supporter of Religion, the Sun-descended Monarch, Sovereign of the Power of Life and Death, Arbiter of Existence and Great Chief of Righteousness, the Lord of the Golden Palace, King of Kings, and Possessor of Boundless Dominion and Supreme Wisdom."

Referring to the assertion of the Sackville *Post* that the father of Sir Ambrose Shea formerly lived in Windsor, the *Journal* says: "Very sorry we are obliged to reject the compliment, though we would have been delighted to add another to the list of Hants celebrities. But the fact is this, no one here knows anything of such a circumstance, and there is no name of Shea in the list of Barristers in Nova Scotia, dating back to 1827. We say it with a sigh, but we cannot claim the father of this K. C. M. G. No doubt the error is caused by this: Hugh A. Emerson and Henry his brother were unsuccessful lawyers here about that date and moved to Newfoundland. They also or their descendants became famous.

To the Editor of the Herald.

Sir,—Last Wednesday was extensively recognized by the Protestant community of this city, as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for deliverance from the small pox plague. As is usual upon such occasions a collection was taken up, but I think you, sir, will agree with me that it was put to a most extraordinary use, considering all the incidents of the small pox visitation. I observe by Monday's *Patriot* that the proceeds of the collection, some $38, are acknowledged as having been received by the Prince Edward Island Hospital. I think when we remember the noble services of the Sisters of Charity at the Hospital and also recollect that the P. E. I. Hospital was powerless, according to its own confession, to tender any assistance, you will acknowledge that the disposition of the collection was, to say the least, a little peculiar. Would it not have been far better to have devoted it to the relief of the indigent sufferers by the small pox, of whom there are not a few?

Yours etc.,

Protestant.

Local and Special News.

There is an awful moral to the story from Chattanooga about "forty people poisoned by water."

Grey and White Cottons cheap at the clearance sale at the London House.

Ayer's Hair Vigor improves the beauty of the hair and promotes its growth. It imparts an attractive appearance, a delightful and lasting perfume. While it stimulates the roots, cleanses the scalp, and adds elegance to luxuriance, its effects are enduring; and this it proves itself to be the best and cheapest article for toilet use.

Black Silks very low at the clearance sale at the London House.

It is generally conceded that many girls can never become good cooks nor housekeepers, but it is taken for granted that all can be taught to play well upon the piano.

Scotch Tweeds, a grand time to get a suit cheap, at the clearance sale at the London House.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the most potent blood purifier, and a fountain of health and strength. Be wise in time. All baneful infections are promptly removed by this unequalled alterative.

Dress Goods and Remnants very cheap at the clearance sale at the London House.

If collars for fashionable young men get a little more altitudinous in height the wearer will have to be provided with a neck as long as the giraffe's, or he can't wear a hat on