NEWS ITEMS.

Australia makes better olive oil than does Italy.

The English duty on tobacco amounts to some $45,000,000 a year.

A Virginian was recently married who has 104 grandchildren.

Farmers are offering good sound apples at Westfield, Mass., for 75 cents per barrel.

A man named Edward Madden, residing in London, England, has been committed for trial for sending threatening letters to the Queen.

There is skating in Atlanta, Ga., the first time in 20 years. Thousands of pounds of ice have been cut and packed there the first time ever known.

Paper teeth are a new invention in Germany, and a number of specimen were displayed at the late paper exhibition at Berlin. They are warranted fully as durable as any.

A remarkable cavern, discovered near Columbia, Tuolumbe County, California, has been explored over a mile. Some of the chambers are of remarkable beauty and grandeur.

The first match of the English cricketers, under the captaincy of Lord Harris, against sixteen players of South Australia, has resulted in a victory of the English eleven by four wickets.

There are two Lawsons, editors of papers in Charlottetown, P. E. I. One edits the *Presbyterian* and the other the *Patriot*. The former is knows as "Lawson the Saint," and the latter as "Lawson the Sinner."

A Berlin despatch states that an understanding exists between the Great Powers to insist upon the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russians within the time appointed by the Treaty of Berlin, even if the international commission should not have completed its labours.

The proportion of soldiers who can read and write in the several armies of Europe is as follows:—Germany, 922 in 1,000; Sweden 930; England, 890; Holland, 750; Belgium, 700; France, 635; Portugal, 495; Spain, 490; Austria, 460; Italy, 450; Russia, 115 Turkey, 75.

A correspondent of a London paper expresses surprise that while there are frequent items about the importation of American cattle, nothing is ever said about Irish cattle importations into England in comparison with which the American imports are not worth mentioning.

The son of King Theodore, of Abyssinia, who was taken to England after the fall of Magdala, is being educated for the British army. He is a slender and dusky youth, and haughty and shrewd as becomes a descendent of the Queen of Sheba. He likes his English life, admitting that a spring mattress and an ulster in London are preferable to a mat and bare legs and a blanket in Abyssinia.

Admiral Andrew Drew has just died in England, aged eighty-six. He brought home the despatches announcing the surrender of Copenhagen in 1807, took an active part in the Ashantee hostilities at Cape Coast Castle, and when serving in Canada something over forty years ago, was a sharer in the exploit of cutting out the Caroline and sending her over the Falls of Niagara, which so nearly brought about a war between England and the United States.

The failure of the Cornish Bank is the latest commercial disaster in England. It is believed that the liabilities are over one million pounds sterling. Some say that the bank can pay in full, but it seems the more general opinion that this is impossible in the present state of mining enterprise. It is believed that the mines of Western Cornwall alone owe the bank £100,000, the calling in of which loans would have a most disasterous effect on the whole of West Cornwall.

The Princess Victoria, of Baden, was at her recent confirmation required to write a short autobiography and proposed plan of life. Among other statements the young Princess advanced the following Republican theory—that princess must not conceive that they are placed in their high position because they have greater rights than other human beings, but that they may maintain an elevated standard of obligation, and set an example of fidelity to duty to the whole society of which they are members.

California is experiencing the coldest weather known in that State since 1850. The temperature during the winter has most frequently ranged between 40 and 65 degree Fahrenheit. This winter it has fallen to 15 degrees, and in some places even lower. To the residents on the Pacific coast this is much more trying than it would be in the East. In San Diego, where bananas and oranges grow, the thermometer has fallen to 22 degrees. There are fears that the trees will be injured and the next crop may be materially affected.

In 1864, the farmer, as well as all persons having families to support, had to pay 20 cents per pound for his sugar, to-day the same amount may be bought for less than half; calico was 40 cents, to-day six cents; delaine have fallen from 40 to 10, ginghams from 40 to 9; checks from 55 to 18, canton flannels from 95 to 8, bleached muslin from 55 to 12, brown muslins from 55 to 8, and these are only a few items in a long list. Of course the produce which farmers raise has fallen very much too, but not to such an extent as those articles they have to buy.

A statistical review of the battles fought by Austrian troops since 1405 has just been issued by the military authorities, which shows that in that period the aggregate losses in killed and wounded have amounted to 1,085,931, including 261 generals and 17,096 officers, while the prisoners taken by the enemy were 56 generals, 4,174 other officers, and 289,041 non-commissioned officers and men. As to trophies and captures, the account stands:—Guns taken, 4,101, lost 1,805; colors and standards taken, 2,033, lost, 989; horses captured, 13,622, lost, 129,227; waggons captured, 11,833, lost, 3,910.

Lord Lorne has plenty of time before him, says the *Broad Arrow*, to encourage a soldierly spirit in Canada, and he need use none but constitutional and legitimate means towards this end. It must, however, be a satisfaction to the Canadians that they have in their Viceroy neither a military officer who holds any but regular troops in contempt, or an administrator who as a civilian takes no direct interest in the efficient organization of the militia force. Proper recognition is all that the Canadian militia looks for from the authorises, and it will, we trust, be forthcoming at Lord Lorne's hands.

The amount of the payment to the United States of the Geneva Award, was fifteen millions, five hundred thousand dollars; accrued interest, two million, five hundred and sixty thousand, six hundred and forty-three dollars and sixty cents. Amount of payments by the United States to individuals on account of indemnity eight millions, three hundred and eighty-nine thousand, three hundred and thirty-seven dollars, and thirty-seven cents. Leaving amount turned into the United States Treasury, March 3d, 1878 not drawing interest, nine millions, six hundred and seventy-seven thousand, one hundred and five dollars and eighty-nine cents.

Public feeling in the United States is rapidly growing hostile to the payment of large indemnities to the legislators of all classes. In many of the States a strong movement has taken place in the direction of reducing the indemnities paid to members of the Legislatures, although the rate *per diem* is in almost every case below that paid to the members of the Ontario Legislature. This movement is extending to the case of members of Congress. The long session of each Congress usually lasts about six months. Allowing six working days to the week, and subtracting a fortnight for the holidays, this gives about 140 days for the long session. The short session only lasts three months, subtracting the holidays when the members are at home, numbers but sixty-six working days. For each of these sessions the members of Congress draw $5,000 and mileage. For the long session this makes an average of more than $35 per day, and for the short session $76 per day. Several leading members who participated in the well-known salary grab, by which the pay was raised to $53 per day for the long, and $114 per day for the short session, and dated backwards as well as forwards, have been rejected by the people. Indications are not wanting that with the increased number of wealthy men in the Republic, the people will demand that their representatives should draw only nominal indemnities for their services.

A Prince Edward Island Mystery.

Prince Edward Island has a mystery of a rather serious character. On the 25th of October last, Edward Lyons left Souris on horseback to go to his home at the head of Souris River, and has not been seen since. His horse came home on Sunday morning (26th October) riderless and without any saddle. It was supposed that, being under the influence of liquor, he had accidentally fallen into the river and been drowned, his body being carried out to sea by the tide. Diligent search was made for his remains, but without avail. New and painful interest is added to the mystery by the following story in an Island journal:—

An Indian named Thomas Abraham, who slept at the house of William Willis, on Souris beach, on the night of the 25th of October, now relates the following story:—Late that night he obtained lodging at the house of William Willis, on the beach. Later in the night a man, whom he recognized as Edward Lyons, of the head of Souris River, entered and asked for a drink of water. Mrs. Willis gave him the water and when he drank he lay down on the floor and fell asleep. Shortly after he began to sleep, Mrs. Willis searched his pockets, and took from one of them a large wallet. After taking the wallet she went to the bedroom where her husband was lying, and they conversed for some time. She returned from the room when the conversation ended, and ordered the Indian to go upstairs to bed. He did so and when he had been in bed a short time, a terrible noise arose in the house, which continued at intervals for the greater part of the night. The Indian was dreadfully frightened and did not sleep any. He got up early the following morning and left the house. Before he left he could not see any signs of Lyons.

William Willis is a labouring man, apparently about fifty years of age. His wife is some years younger. They reside in a wretched-looking house on Souris beach, near the old railway depot. Before the disappearance of Lyons, Willis and his wife lived almost devoid of the necessaries of life. Since the disappearance of Lyons, they have been living comfortably, and have purchased large quantities of flour, tea, etc., for which they have paid "ready cash." They keep a house of questionable reputation, which is frequented by a gang of rough characters.

Boynton Swimming before the Queen.

"After the Cork business," said Capt. Paul Boynton, continuing the story of his travels, "I came across the Channel. I was in London, and one day when I went to the *Herald* office I was told that there was an invitation for me to go before the Queen. I accordingly went over to the Isle of Wight. I landed on Saturday, and Monday morning I was to give the exhibition. Early in the morning Gen. Ponsonby and two of the Queen's ladies in waiting came to see me. When they were about to go away, I said:—'Well, ladies, you will take a drink with me?' One of the ladies was quite willing, but Gen. Ponsonby would not have it. He afterwards came to me and explained. He said:—'Those were ladies of honour, and for them to drink with you would create a great scandal.' I went on board the Alberta. The Duke of Leiningen, who was the captain took me down and told me what to do. 'When her Majesty comes,' said he, 'just slip into your dress and get through your evolutions as quickly as you can.' Presently the court party came on board. I looked round for the Queen, but could not make her out. I did not know what she would be like. I looked out for somebody like the Queen in 'Hamlet,' with a long white cloak full of red spots. The Captain said, 'Now, go through quick.' Then I saw a little woman in black who seemed to be the centre of the party, so I thought that must be the Queen. I bowed and said 'Her Majesty?' She bowed a little and smiled. I said, 'Shall I take water now?' She smiled and bowed again; so I glided into the water, and did the thing all up in a hurry. I had a dress suit on under my apparatus, and when I clambered on deck I quickly threw off my sea dress and came before her Majesty again. She said: 'I am pleased and astonished; it is wonderful.' A young lady who stood close by asked me a question, to which I answered 'Yes, miss.' Some of the ladies began to laugh, and the Queen smiled a little. I did not know what they were laughing at, but I thought I had done something wrong, so I said, 'Your Majesty must excuse me. I have never been presented at court before, and am not posted.'"—*New York Herald.*

$200,000,000 at Stake.

To the American members of the Carpenter family, and to those of their allies who inter-married with them, there are about nine estates bequeathed and unclaimed in the English court of chancery. The largest of these estates is that of William Carpenter, who died in the year 1700 at an advanced age. It is now estimated that this property is worth £40,000,000, or, in United States currency, $200,000,000.

Several efforts have been made to recover this immense fortune, but in every case the chancellor has decided against the claimants. In these contests it is very clearly shown, however, that the heirs of the colossel estate were to be found only in America.

There is a very important relic in this suit that has been sought after in vain. This is the family Bible of Timothy Carpenter. It is twenty inches broad, thirty inches long, and five, eight to ten inches thick. It was provided with two clasps at each end, and three at the opening, and was bound in leather and brass. This relic is filled with family records that are of great value in the prosecution of the claim. When it was last heard of, it was in pocession of Ralph Derring, who is supposed to be a resident of Western New York, and a person interested in the suit. The country is being scoured for the book, and rewards are offered for information touching its whereabouts.

THE BEET SUGAR ENTERPRISE IN MAINE.—In a lengthy article on the results and prospects of the beet sugar industry in the United States, during this season, the *American Cultivator* thus speaks of the work that has been done in Maine: "It has remained for a few enterprising pioneers in the beet sugar in Maine, headed by that indefatigable beet sugar maker, Ernest Thomas Gennert, to achieve a most decided success during the past season in the Pine Tree State. Sugar beets have been raised in Maine, some individual cultivators having produced fifteen and even twenty tons to the acre; they have been found to average in saccharine matter higher than beets grown in Germany or France; practical and efficient machinery has been erected at moderate cost, and first quality granulated sugar has been produced from these beets, demonstrating beyond a question that sugar-beet raising may be made a remunerative occupation for many New England farmers, and that beet-sugar refineries may be made paying investments in this section of the country if under skilful management. No difficulty has presented itself that was not surmounted, no drawback has occurred that may not be easily overcome. Within the brief period of about six months Mr. Gennert has shown the world that he could buy sugar-beet seed in Germany in the spring, ship it to the State of Maine, stimulate the raising of beets, establish a refinery and astonish the people of New England with the finest sugar of home production refined in November of the same year."

The Canadian militia are accorded a large measure of praise by correspondents of English journals who have recently returned home. Speaking of their appearance in Montreal, the correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* says that gathered on parade were more than one battallion that would have done credit to any army in the world; that Stevenson's four-gun battery is almost the equal of some of the famous batteries at Woolwich; and that the Scotch companies of the 5th Fusilier regiment showed as handsome a set of fellows as ever marched past the saluting point. He adds:—"I remember that with six weeks' drill only rough Turks from Anatolia had defended the lines at Plevna, and as I looked at the militia of Montreal I could but feel that General Sir Selby Smyth had as effective a force under his control as could ever be expected in a country where the only training in the year or a twelve days' drill, with one evening in a week for exercise. The material was excellent, the uniforms good, even the new helmets being worn by the infantry; while the precision with which the men executed every movement spoke volumes for the care that had been taken with them, and their aptitude for instruction."

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper for a few remarks. In common with many others of the Reform Club, I am very much disatisfied with the manner in which the ladies of the Club are carrying sail. The Tuesday evenings are taken up by them with lectures. Now Sir, they must know that on this particular evening the Reform Club holds their business meetings, these meetings lately have been the last thread that has held the club together. Snap this asunder, and in a few weeks the Reform Club of Fredericton will become a thing of the past.

At the present time the Club needs new life infused into it, for without doubt it is rapidly sinking, and the action of the Ladies Union in holding lectures on the only evening the Club meets is deserving of censure. They say they are a distinct body, and not subordinate to the Club. All right. Do they want to see Blue Ribbon men again in the gutter. Continue these lectures on Tuesday evenings for a short time longer, and they will then see the mischief they have caused. Why cannot we have a night once in a while in the City Hall like last winter? But no, the Management is given over to the ladies, and the course they have adopted will not tend to save one poor drunkard. Where is Sheriff Temple? Give us one more old fashioned temperance meeting in the City Hall, it will help the Club to die easier.

BLUE RIBBON.

Fredericton, Jan. 17, 1879.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 18, 1879.

Trade and Tariff.

The question of depression of trade in England is, not on its face, an attractive, but to the people of Canada, it ought to be, a very interesting one. The depression is only temporary, but British manufacturers will find it very difficult to recover the position they held two or three years ago. The times are changed, England has now rivals. "She must look to her own; while she has been the running horse for years, her competitors have not been idle but improving their distance, until she has now to apply whip and spur to prevent even a dead heat." There is no doubt that England's great rival are the United States. The position of the latter country is very different from what it was half a dozen years ago. Its people have recovered the effects of the civil war, their protection tariff has stimulated manufactures until they have been made independent of foreign countries, they are pushing their goods and produce everywhere abroad, and largely into England. They are again buoyant in spirit, and seem determined to win if possible the first commercial and manufacturing position in the world. This is the way some of them talk, "we have been blessed with a richer and more boundless country than any other people, and as we possess all the better qualities of all races, blent into American homogeneity, and endowed with that indiscribable something which springs from its country or its liberty, or both, why should we be second to any other nation."

Some of the more sanguine Americans, no doubt after reading dismal accounts of the state of trade, and industrial affairs generally in the old country, imagine that England has touched the highest point of her greatness and trade supremacy and will henceforth decline. But that is hardly the opinion of Americans who have had opportunities to study on the spot, her condition. The U. S. Consul, General at London writing to the *American Exporter* for Jan. 1879, while holding that the summary of trade for the past year is gloomy beyond all precedent in the United Kingdom, and since he held his present position there has been no time when the general condition was so uncomfortable and the outlook so uninviting says "it must not be supposed that England is on the brink of ruin. Individuals and institutions and interests may suffer but the country is firm. It is depression after all and not disaster that exists. The manufacturing population especially has been reduced to straits, and it is to be feared the worst has not been reached. The agricultural classes are uneasy and the commercial community anxious and fearful; but among all it is rather a foreboding of coming trouble than the actual presence of a storm that causes the state of feeling that exists." The present depression is only temporary in England, but her trade outlook is permanently changed. The competition of the United States will grow keener and closer with the years. It is just possible (and the Consul General is inclined to be of that opinion) that England will return to the protective system, before many years are past.

In view of the present state of trade in England and the revival of confidence and business in the United States, and the certain competition in the future between the two great countries, the question, "what tariff changes are the Dominion government going to propose,' becomes, we think, interesting. What will the national policy be like? while protesting Canadian manufactures interests, will it favor the old country or the republic? The tendency of trade as between Canada and England and the United States has been in favor of the latter country. Will the "N. P." do anything to counteract that tendency? Canada is a part of a great Empire, and its people are deeply interested in the endurance, the welfare and prosperity of that Empire. It is their duty as well as their interest to do all in their power at this time, to strengthen England, and not to play into the hands of her rival.

Since writing the above, despatches from Ottawa give an idea what the "National Policy" will be like. No absolute dependence can be placed, of course, on these despatches, but if they are correct, the Dominion Government, in modifying, re-arranging, or re-adjusting the tariff, "will endeavor to tax such articles heavily as are imported extensively from the United States, and favor those imported from England, to a large extent." This is the policy, if Canada must have a protective tariff, which her position, as a part of the British Empire, seems to demand. Canada ought to throw all her weight on the side of England. The Ottawa despatches give some particulars, more or less trustworthy, we suppose, of the interviews that deputations from the Manufacturers Associations of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces have been having with Hon. Mr. Tilley, and other ministers. It is said that these associations desire a general tariff rise, with a few exceptions, to 35 per cent. from the present 17½ per cent. It is suggested that 35 per cent. will be imposed on leather, silk, boots, shoes, saddlery and machinery from 25 to 30 per cent. on furniture, agricultural implements, from 5 to 20 per cent. on ropes and cortage, from 25 to 35 per cent. on wool, 35 to 50 per cent. on cottons, 50 to 75 per cent. on blankets, flannels, &c., on coal, with a slight discrimination in favor of hard coal, 17½ per cent. Indian corn it is said, will be taxed 10 per cent. and wheat at from 15 to 20 per cent. The duties on spirits and the finest brands of tobacco and cigars to [illegible] largely increased. It is not worth while to say m[illegible] about these suggested tariff changes, on the strength [illegible] telegraphic despatch. But if the new tariff is to be at all protective, changes such as these that have been indicated, must be made.

York County Agricultural Society.

The Annual Meeting of the York County Agricultural Society, took place on Thursday at three in the afternoon in the Temperance Hall. The attendance was small. Besides the President, Mr. J. H. Reid and Mr. Richards, Secretary, there were present Messrs. Dibblee, Grieves, Limerick, Mulligan, Edwards and Smith. The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting. There was some disputation between the President and Mr. Dibblee regarding a notice given at the last Annual Meeting by the latter, of a motion he intended to move to rescind all the bye-laws; rules, and regulations, of the York County Agricultural Society, and to appoint a committee to draft new bye-laws, &c.. The President held that the said notice was not in order as it had been merely verbal. A resolution moved by Mr. Edwards was at length carried; that the minutes be amended and the notice inserted. Mr. Dibblee was thus enabled to put his notice to meeting. Before this was done the meeting proceeded to elect the officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Reid ere he quitted the President's chair, briefly referred to last year's annual meeting, which had taken place under very different circumstances from that of the present; and to the difficulties that had been encountered in getting the Exhibition building. The building erected was a very good one, but hardly such as he had desired. He then read the Superintendent's Accounts of expenditures and receipts on the building:—

Expenditure,	$3,255 00
Receipts,	3,153 00
	$102 00

He explained that there were several sums due from parties whom he named—who had promised to subscribe, and he expected to collect $250, which would put the balance on the right side. Mr. Reid then proceeded to speak of the project he was contemplating for this year. He had had correspondence with the General Government regarding it. The Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise had passed through part of the Province and had promised to visit other parts. What he contemplated was, in the event of the Marquis and Princess visiting the Maritime Provinces, in the course of next autumn, to induce their Excellencies to be present at a Grand Exhibition to be held in Fredericton, on the first week in October. $5,000, he thought, would be required to finish the Exhibition Building, according to the original design, and to paint and decorate it, though it might be done for $4000. He was confident that the project might be successfully carried out. Mr. Reid referring to the possibility of the meeting electing some one else as President, impressed on his hearers the necessity, in making a new appointment, of chosing a man, who could give a portion of every day to working up the proposed exhibition, &c. For his own part he would be glad to give place to another.

On the motion of Mr. Dibblee, seconded by Mr. Mulligan, Mr. J. H. Reid was re-elected President without a dissenting voice. Mr. Richards was re-elected Secretary. Some discussion occurred on the motion to re-elect Mr. J. A. Beckwith, Treasurer. Mr. Mulligan objected to make the appointment when Mr. Beckwith was not present at the meeting; he thought if gentlemen did not consider it worth while to attend the meetings of the Society, they should not be appointed to important offices. Mr. Richards, adverting to the fact that the Treasurer had not, for several years, made up his accounts, and that neither he or any of the other members knew how the Society stood, what money they had received and paid out, or what property they had, he thought that in electing a Treasurer they should appoint a gentleman who was able to attend to the duties of the office. A committee — Messrs. Edwards, Grieves and Dibblee — was at length appointed to wait upon Mr. Beckwith, confer with him regarding his acceptance of the Treasurership. Messrs. Alex. Thompson, W. Grieves and C. H. Whittaker, were appointed members of the Executive Committee. Messrs. J. Edwards, W. Edgecombe and Wm. Grieves, Audit Committee.

Mr. Dibblee's motion to rescind all the bye-laws, rules and regulations of the Y. C. A. Society, and to appoint a committee to prepare new bye-laws, &c., for the government of the said Society, and to report at an adjourned meeting, was carried, and Messrs. S. H. McKee, Geo. Y. Dibblee and Jas. Tibbits, appointed to act on said committee. The meeting was then adjourned until the second Thursday of February.

Mayor's Election.

Last Monday morning G. F. Gregory, Esq., was re-elected, on the nomination of Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Hodge and Alderman Dykeman, Mayor for the ensuing year, Mr. Gregory has entered on his seventh term of office. Mr Sterling, in the course of a very complimentary speech, said that in these hard times, the city was fortunate in having a mayor of Mr. Gregory's economical tendencies. Mr Gregory in returning thanks for his re-election, said it had always been his fortune to have friends who were very warm and foes who were very bitter, and he accounted for his unopposed election by the supposition that his foes had not been able to bring out a candidate who would give him a sufficiently strong opposition. He would hold out no other prospect, but increase of taxation this year. He spoke of the city debt and of the way it was accumulating, and set his face against all such increas, as the construction of Water Works, which to be perfect must be accompanied by a complete system of sewerage, would entail. He spoke against the grant for the Exhibition Building. But surely the grant is defensible; the city gained more than $4,000 by having the exhibition, and the fact that there is a permanent building, will tell strongly in favor of Fredericton when the question of the next exhibition comes up. Does His Worship not know that Mr. Reid intends to invite the Governor General and the Princess to open an exhibition next October in that very building to which he grudges the grant. If there had been no building, what foundation could J. H. have had for indulging in so glorious a dream! Mr Gregory said that the last year was to himself the least satisfactory of all the years during which he had filled the office of Mayor, nothing occurred to stir up the popular mind. Does he entend to signalise his seventh term of office by some reform, which will break up the prevailing apathy regarding civic affairs, by some act which will make the seventh term memorable! Instead of being the least satisfactory, may he see the way to make it the most satisfactory to himself, and the most conducive to the interests of the city.

ROYAL SPORT IN ITALY.—A Rome correspondent writes:—His Majesty returned on Saturday (Dec. 28.) night from two days' hunting at Castel Porziana. The bag, without counting other game, contained sixty-nine wild boars, and required three large waggons to convey it to the Quirinal. Three dogs were gored during the sport. The product of the chase were distributed in presents from His Majesty to his Ministers, the Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and [illegible] high dignitaries at Court, [illegible] of the Senate, to [illegible] and others.

Afghanistan and Africa.

While all eyes have been turned towards Afghanistan, little attention has been paid to "the little war," that has been going on in South Africa. In Afghanistan the contest is on a grand field, any may lead to great issues, in South Africa the greatest success will bring no glory. The British General commanding the invading force in Afghanistan has adequate forces at his command, the general in South Africa urgently demands reinforcements, and must consider himself fortunate if he receives half of what he considers necessary. While success has almost everywhere attended the British arms in Afghanistan, and there is every probability that peace will soon be made, the situation in South Africa is becoming more threatening:—

"By latest accounts matters are in a very threatening and unsatisfactory condition in the north-eastern portion of British South Africa. The Kaffir has been disposed or only to be succeeded by what may be a much more formidable difficulty. In the days of the Transvaal Republic there was a serious dispute between the Boers and their neighbor, the King of the Zulus, about a certain strip of territory lying between them. Sir Theophilus Shepstone offered to act as arbitrator, and his proposition was favourably received by Cetewayo, the Zulu King. The Boers, however, were so confident of their ability to "wipe out" the Zulu monarch and his "regiments" that they would not listen to the friendly offer. By-and-bye their encounter with Secocoeni, a chief very inferior in power and resources to Cetewayo, moderated their lofty ideas, and made them ready to listen to reason. By this time, however, their independent existence had come to an end, and their country was "annexed" to Britain. On this the British fell heirs to all the claims and obligations of the Boers, and to this dispute among the rest. Commissioners have accordingly been appointed to consider the whole question, and these have reported quite adversely to the claims of the Zulu King. Accordingly Sir Bartle Frere has summoned Cetewayo to appoint proper parties to receive the decision, and has put his demand, it is understood, in the shape of an *ultimatum*. If Cetewayo submit, good and well. If not, what then? The answer may very likely come by next mail. The likelihood of submission is faint, and the troops in that quarter, under the command of Lord Chelmsford, are but few. Cetewayo can bring at least 40,000 warriors into the field, and these the bravest of South Africa. The British troops may find themselves in considerable difficulty. It is even thought that a large portion of the Transvaal, if not the whole of it, may have to be temporarily abandoned. The next news from quarter is consequently looked for with considerable anxiety."

Waste of Colonial Timber.

A short time ago we referred to the waste of timber lands in the Dominion from excessive lumbering and destructive fires. The subject has been engaging the attention of the Imperial Government. Voluminous returns have been made in reply to questions relating to colonial timber, the analysis alone of which occupies between 30 and 40 pages of a "blue book." The returns are prefaced of some observations, from which—

It appears that Quebec is the only Province in the Dominion of Canada in which steps have been taken (and they are of an ineffective kind) to check waste and diminish the frequency of forest fires. In none of the six Provinces of the Dominion have measures been taken to secure the replanting of cleared areas, notwithstanding an enormous and growing consumption. The importance and value of the trade is shown by the fact that the exports of timber from the Dominion to the United Kingdom during the five years ending 1876 were valued at £24,633,226, as against £16,536,983, the value of the exports of corn and grain. The returns exhibit in a striking manner the urgent need for some prompt and comprehensive action to stay the influences at work to destroy the indigenous forests, which constitute in many instances the principal natural riches of the colonies. There is a tendency in newly-settled countries to regard the timber as a mere incumbrance to the land, and as it generally occupies the most fertile soils the finest timber is that first selected for destruction by fire, by ring barking, and other rude and wasteful methods in favor with settlers. It is probably not possible in newly-settled colonies to put restraints upon the clearing of the land, although even in these cases it would seem to be advisable to leave belts and clumps of timber for the future wants of the inhabitants. No such difficulty, however, exists in many of the localities to which these returns apply, where strong and well established Governments look on supinely while the timber is disappearing and the whole country is becoming treeless and bereft of the shade so necessary to health, and even to existence, in tropical climates.

Papal Encyclical.

The pope has indited a very lengthy Encyclical letter against the revolutionary doctrins of the age. He assumes a very lofty tone to all "principalities and powers." The following is the telegraphic abstract, (Jan. 11th,) of the Encyclical:—

The Pope inveighs against Socialism, Communism and Nihilism, which militate, no longer secretly, but openly, against the civil state, rupturing the matrimonial tie, ignoring the rights of property, claiming everything, however legally inherited or honestly acquired, and attempting even the lives of kings. These ministers agencies spring from the Reformation, which opened the sluice-gates of scepticism till godless governments have arisen wherein the Author and Redeemer of the world is ignored, youth are trained to believe that man's destinies are bounded by the present and without any hereafter. Hence the impatient and aggresive spirit which seeks its gratification at others expense. Thus the natural developement of the Reformation was indicated by previous pontiffs, from Clement XIV. to Pius IX. in their Allocutions and Encyclicals. But the Church's warning is more than ever required. The equality desiderated by a section is contrary to Scripture. There are distinctions between the angels in heaven, *a fortiori* must there be distinctions between men upon earth. When tyranny prevails then the Church shields the oppressed. When the tyrant is too strong she enjoins resignation. The Pope justifies Christian marriage and the subservience of the woman to the man, of the child to the parent, and of the servent to the master. Such inter dependence rightly observed in the State as in the family would operate on earth as it does in heaven. The poverty of which Socialism is impatient is corrected by the Church, which, besides her own charities, enjoins alms-giving on the rich, to whom she thus reconciles the poor. Such is the solution of the evils for which Socialism seeks a revolutionary remedy. Let therefore all principalities and powers accept the Church as the safeguard of earthly and the surety of heavenly things.

The Fire Department are in trouble with the Silsby Engine. Last Saturday afternoon it was taken to the river for the purpose of flooding the rink in the officers square, and it failed so badly in performing the work that it led to a thorough examination of her component parts. The engineer found that between eight or nine of the numerous tubular orifices by which the crown or top sheet are perforated, were cracked, that some of the tubes were ill fitted to the orifices, and that some of the tubes or pipes were rotten, thus allowing the escape of steam and the the loss of power. It appears that the "crownsheet," which is composed of two layers of iron was, owing to their incomplete amalgamation, defective in the first instance. The work of overhauling the Silsby has been troublesome and will cost something as in addition to a new crownplate, the tubes that passed through it which had to be cut will require to be renewed. A new crown-sheet and tubes have been ordered from the Silsby Works, Seneca Falls, N. Y. and are expected to arrive here next week.

The Trial of the Directors of the City of Glasgow Bank.

The trial of the directors and managers of the city of Glasgow Bank, in the high court of Justiciary Edinburgh, which will commence on Monday the 20th, will excite universal interest. The indictment served upon the accused, charges each and all alike, with theft fraud and embezzlement, though it is probable, that theft will not be pressed; that charge is founded upon certain bills obtained from the London and Westminster Bank, the proceeds of which were retained in possession of the City Bank. The charges of fraud and embezzlement proceed upon various bills and stock transactions, as well as the last annual report. Mr. Leresche, Secretary of the Bank has, it is said turned Queen's evidence, and will from his professional acquaintance with the doings of the bank, unravel a few of the mysteries leading up to the disastrous failure. The question that has been puzzling the officials of the court is how are they to provide the necessary accommodation in the Justiciary Court room, for the counsel in the case—over twenty besides agents—and the press which will be more largely represented than at any previous trial, and the interested public.

Canadian Carriages and Cyprus.

Great fun was made of Tir Garnet Wolsely in some of the London papers, because, as they alleged, he had after praising the salubrity of Cyprus, asked leave of absence as his health had been undermined by the climate. It is now said that Sir Garnet has not been suffering from ill health, and will not return to England. A letter was received from him lately by some one in Montreal, in which he writes of the Canadian carriages which were sent to him from that city—

"They have astonished the natives here, who, accustomed only to the primitive and clumsy carts of the country, cannot understand how such light traps can exist over the rough tracks which answer for roads." As to Cyprus he says: "We are now in the enjoyment of the finest possible climate, very different from what we had in the summer. The nights are cold, and during the day we dress as we should in England. My house, which is really a good one, is now making rapid progress. It came from England in pieces like a Chinese puzzle ready to be put together," That residence is for the winter, and in the summer the General will reside in the hills. He says that he is now getting laws made by the Legislative Council, among whom there are three Cypriotes, more in conformity with English ideas than the old Turkish code, "although," he adds, "the latter was by no means a bad one, had it been justly and well administered." "We have," he goes on to say, "abundance of fruit here, and although we are now well on in the winter, we continue to have fresh grapes and figs every day. The fact is, anything and everything will grow in this most fruitful soil—not only the fruits of Asia, but also those of England."

The correspondent of the Toronto *Mail*, writing under the date (Dec. 26) from London says:—

"News is scarce, for "the world and his wife" are out of town. Of course the same remark applies to Royalty. The Queen is at Osborne, the Prince of Wales and his family are at Sandringham in Norfolk, and the Duke of Edinburgh, who is about to be made a Rear Admiral, preparatory to leaving the sea, and his family are at their country seat in Kent, Eastwell Park. For the moment we jog along in town without either Ministry or Opposition. But the calm is that which precedes a storm. Lord Granville is going to-day to Hawarden, to confer with Mr. Gladstone; but the first clarion call to arms will probably be that which Mr. W. E. Foster (now in his seventy-fourth year) will sound on the sixth prox., in addressing his constituents at St. George's Hall, Bradford. He will be followed immediately by Mr. Gladstone, who is to be entertained at a great banquet at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and, early in February, by John Bright at Birmingham. But my Lord Beaconsfield will, I doubt not, take all the wind out of the Opposition sails by dissolving just in the very nick of time, when the Afghan question is virtually settled, or some other fortunate incident has turned the face of the public with favor towards the Government. I feel sure that a general election will come within two months.

It is announced in correspondence from Ottawa in a way that leads to the belief that the report is correct, that Judge Ritchie will be appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in the room of Sir W. B. Richards, who has handed in his resignation, and that Judge Gwynne of the Ontario Court of Common Pleas will be appointed to the vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court, caused by the coming elavation of Judge Ritchie. If this report is correct, it effectually disposes of the rumor that Sir John McDonald, intended to shelve himself on the bench of the Supreme Court, and assume the place, which it would appear he intends to bestow on one who has never been a political adherant of his party, but who is a thoroughly able lawyer. The Bench and Bar of New Brunswick will be proud of the promotion given to their former chief.

The promotion of Judge Ritchie is past a peradventure. He was sworn in Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at Ottawa, yesterday.

France, though she has had a long interval of quiet, has not come out of her "agony." The political situation is generally considered to be critical. The extreme left of the Republican party object to the appointment of General Gresay, as Minister of War, and seem determined to overthrow the Dufame Cabinet, unless it complies with certain of its demands. The *Times*, Paris correspondent (Jan. 16) says: "the overthrow of the Cabinet would lead to McMahon's retirement and to government by the "extreme left," with revolutionary programma, which would profoundedly derange society throughout France."

Thomas Dowd was executed for the murder of Thomas Ward, at St. Andrews, on Tuesday morning; and a large crowd collected around the jail; within the precincts of which only a few were admitted. He appears to have met his fate quietly, and to have died almost instantaneously. To the last he protested that Mrs. Ward was innocent of all knowledge of the crime, and his last act was to sign a petition, praying that she may be pardoned, or the term of her imprisonment lessened. Dowd, in his confession persisted in saying that he struck old Ward with the axe in self defence, but after the first blow was struck, a demoniac fury possessed him, under the influence of which, he finished him by battering his scull.

The *Globe* says we are not correct in denying the statement made by its correspondent, that a company is being formed to establish a Sugar Beet Factory in Gibson. All we can say is, that we have made inquiries in a quarter where reliable information is likely to be had, and we must still hold to our statement, that there is, as yet, no such company. We do not know what will happen. A company may be formed in time, and we hope it will. Gibson is as likely a place as any, to be the seat of such a factory, Gibson whose very name seems to imply, money, enterprise and success in any undertaking.

It is stated that a new Hampshire firm contemplates erecting four additional starch factories in the upper St. John.

Gen. Grant.

Gen. Grant has, for a year and a half been touring it through Europe. He has visited all, and received the freedom of many of the principal cities in Great Britain and the continent. He has been obliged to make so many speeches that he has almost acquired the power of free utterance. He has listened in Westminster Abbey to a sermon from Dean Stanley who made a graceful allusion to his presence, he has dined in Windsor Castle; he has hobnobbed with President McMahon, he would have been royally entertained at Berlin had not the old Emperor been suffering from the shot of Noebiling, he was present at Madrid when Moncasi fired at the King of Spain, and joined in the congratulatory festivities at Alfonso's escape; everywhere by principalities, powers, and peoples he has been hospitably received as a great soldier, and the representative man of a great nation. He crossed the channel last December, and set foot on the Emerald Isle. He was cheered, feted, and addressed in Dublin but passing through Cork, he felt for the first time in the old world that he was a common man, and he only recovered his tone, when he visited Protestant Belfast, where people stood out in the rain to do him honor, and where one man hailed him as "Oliver Cromwell" Grant! What motive actuated the Cork Council to refuse Grant the customary civic civilities does not appear. It would not have much mattered had not the press taken the "slight" up. It was too good an opportunity for the New York *Herald* who has a grudge against General Grant, who, it is said, aspires to a third term, to let pass. For the last week it has been engaged in the very amiable task of endeavoring to excite Irish Catholic feeling against him, by raking up stories which seem to show, that, Grant, when President, was hostile to the Catholics. The General's friends have categorically denied all these stories, and between them they have made a very pretty quarrel of it. Grant, by this time, is off to India, in the "Richmond." The Cork business will be forgotten long before he returns, and when he lands in New York, after all his peregrinations he will receive a grand ovation and the *Herald* possibly will be highest in its pæans.

The Carnival.

The Carnival in the Skating Rink, last night, was a lively affair. The Rink was gaily decorated with flags and wreaths, and lighted by additional lamps and strong reflectors. The spectator's outer circle was crowded, and about fifty costumed skaters disported themselves on the ice. Grandees and English Cavaliers and Spanish Senoretas, mixed familiarly with boot blacks and chimney sweeps; Auroras and representatives of the star-spangled heavens, flashed past old Mother Hubbard and venerable but petite grandmas. Two snow men like white polar bears, Esquimaux and Canadian voyageurs skimmed around the circle with a 71st Batt. vol