selves against the attacks of the Indians. Mrs. Fife has lived with her third son, Jacob Fite, in Wilson County for a number of years, her husband having died many years since in Smith county. On the 12th of April 1861, a large number of her descendants met at the house of Jacob Fite and celebrated the one hundreth anniversary of her birthday. At that time she had eleven children living—her oldest (a son) being eighty years old, and her youngest, (a daughter) fifty-nine; seventy-six grandchildren, three hundred and five great grand children, and seventy-one great-great-grand-children; in all four hundred-living descendants. At the time of her death her grand children of the fifth generation had increased to twenty-one, and her grand son feels quite certain her living descendants now number over five hundred. Mrs. Fite was a remarkable woman, as were all those who participated in the exciting struggles incident to the early settlement of this State. She retained a vivid recollection of the revolutionary struggles as well as those which resulted in the establishment of the white settlement in Tennessee. Her memory was clear and her health good almost to the hour of her death. Indeed it may be truthfully said that she lived until "the delicate machine" was entirely worn out, and "the wheels of weary life at last stood still."—*Nashville Dispatch.*

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Herald.

Sir,—The electors of the Second District of King's County feel as much interest in the Confederation Scheme as those of any other District in the Island, and perhaps more, as one of their Representatives has pledged himself to its support. However, the interest they feel will not allow their judgments to be warped one way or the other. They wish to know the advantages and disadvantages, to be derived from joining with the sister Provinces, and in doing so, they have been materially assisted by your paper, which has handled the subject in a plain practical manner. We are principally farmers and Fishermen here; but still not so ignorant as to deprive ourselves of the privileges we have. We read the *Examiner*, but are not so well pleased with its Editor as formerly. In fact, we can assure him that he will not meet with the reception he anticipates. Mr Whelan will not be returned for the Second District of King's County on the Union Question; you may rely upon that. There is not one man in five hundred who will support the Union ticket.

In conclusion, it is thought the quintessence of cowardice his not allowing any one but electors to question his explanations. Let him come.

Yours truly, D.

St. Peter's Bay, Dec. 30, 1864.

The Herald.

Wednesday, January 4, 1865.

1864.

This, with its noiseless tread, is steadily marching towards eternity, and the year 1864—those which preceded it—is now numbered in the past. The year which has just fled has not been characterized by events of a very momentous nature. It is true we have seen Freedom trampled in the dust in the case of unhappy Poland, but the records of the past also tell of the struggles and failure of a Kosciusco. While we deplore the unfortunate termination of the Polish struggle of 1863 and 1864, we believe that the Spirit of Liberty will yet assert its sway and strike from the limbs of the oppressed the vile fetters of despotism.

"Thus Freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeath'd from bleeding sire to son,
Tho' baffled oft, is ever won."

Were it not for this hope, we should despair of the destiny of mankind, as we brooded over the heroic struggles of the Poles, their first brief victories, the vain appeals for assistance to Western Europe, and the final despair, the agonizing shrieks which rent the midnight air, and the cry of suffering which pierced the clouds as the last ray of hope which illuminated the twilight of the conflict vanished into utter gloom at the triumph of the barbarous Cossack. Despotism has again triumphed, to the disgrace and reproach of the chivalry and civilization of the Nineteenth Century, but the day of Retribution must come.

Denmark, too, has been shorn of her strength and possessions at the hands of Prussia and Austria during the year 1864, and the probability is, that her name will speedily be blotted from the map of Europe and exist for the future in history alone. The struggle, so far as we can comprehend it, is one of rapacity to a certain extent, on the part of might against weakness and division on the other.

The great American struggle still "drags its slow length along." We must confess, however, that the cause of the South looks gloomier to-day than at any time since the breaking out of the Rebellion; but in so far as Richmond is concerned, that leaguered city seems as secure to the Confederacy as ever. Sherman, in his march through the South, has laid everything waste with fire and sword, and his victorious arms have overcome every obstacle in the way of the capture of Savannah. On the sea, too, the Federals have been more than usually successful, and they have succeeded in sweeping from the ocean three of the most daring and noted of the Confederate privateers. The re-election of President Lincoln on the war ticket, is an event of the past year which will, doubtless, have an effect upon the duration and issue of the war; and from present appearances, we would not be astonished if peace were restored to the distracted Union ere the close of another year.

The suppression of the native revolt in New Zealand will also form part of the chronicles of 1864. From this revolt, it is hoped and believed, that good will result to all the parties interested, and particularly to the Colonists and the Imperial Government in their future dealings with the aborigines.

During 1864, Death, with his noiseless tread, has rapped at the sanctuary, and at the castles of the great as well as at the cottage of the peasant. The demise of the illustrious Archbishop Hughes, and of the no less renowned Dr. Cahill, and also of the eminent statesmen the Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and other illustrious personages, will render the year 1864 a mewhat memorable.

The transplanting of a branch of the House of Hapsburg to Mexican soil is an event of much importance, proximately and remotely, both to the people of Mexico and of this Continent generally.

Turning our attention to this Island, we find that two lines of steamers have been established which cannot fail to benefit us. The first line belongs to a local company, and maintains during the summer season almost daily communication with the mainland. The Island has no reason to feel ashamed of the "Princess of Wales," and the money which she, in connection with the "Heather Belle," annually saves to the Colony must be considerable. The second line belongs to a company of American gentlemen, and when first established, the most gloomy forebodings were indulged in by some of our knowing ones. Experience, however, has shown that direct steam communication between Charlottetown and Boston is not only likely to prove eminently remunerative, but also highly beneficial to this Colony. The good which these steamers have done in developing trade and in enhancing the value of our products and of manual labor, is patent to every intelligent person. Each year, as the trade increases, the advantages of the Boston and Inter-colonial line of steamers will become more and more manifest. The holding in Charlottetown of an Inter-Colonial Conference to discuss the advisability of a change in the constitution of these British American Provinces, and the subsequent history of that Conference, are matters of much local interest, and stamp the year 1864 as an important one in Colonial history. The only other matter of local importance is the Tenant Organization, which has been established during the past year. Having originated chiefly on account of the deception and recklessness of scheming politicians, whose promises to settle the Land Question have proved abortive, the Tenant Union has assumed large proportions, and promises to adjust in a summary way the differences between Landlord and Tenant. Neither the Government nor the proprietors can afford to overlook or disregard such a formidable organization as this, and the sooner the difficulty is equitably adjusted the better it will be for the Colony.

We thank our readers for the patronage they have extended to us during the past year, and in bespeaking their support for the present, we wish them, one and all, a Happy New Year.

SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL IMPROVEMENT.

To-day, in snow arrayed, stern winter rules
The ravaged plain,—anon the teeming earth
Unlocks her stores, and spring adorns the year.
And shall not we, while fate like winter frowns,
Expect revolving bliss?—Shoberl.

The time was in the history of our race when few common-places were more in use among writers and speakers than complaints of human degeneracy. Such complaints are as old as the oldest records of history, or poetry, or ethical literature. Many lamentations of this nature, full of pathetic beauty—many denunciations, pregnant with terrible sublimity, are to be found in the sacred writings; but they are rather, perhaps, to be applied to the fall of man from his original state of happiness and virtue, than his gradual deterioration from age to age. The most eminent of profane and uninspired poets and historians have incorporated denunciations of the degeneracy of the human species into their compositions. Homer, Horace and Virgil, talk almost as often and as dolefully about

"Such men as live in these degerate days,"

as any of the versifiers who bewailed the corruption of mankind in the last century. Ovid gives us, in detail, the well-known fable of the Four Ages, and the melancholy transition from gold to silver, from silver to brass, from brass to iron; as if man had been descending in a regular series since the earliest era of the world, from his primeval pitch of harmony and felicity, and perfection through the several stages of degradation, until in utter hopelessness, he may almost exclaim with the lost archangel of Milton—

"Me, miserable! Which way shall I fly
Infinite wrath and infinite despair
Which way I fly is Hell; Myself am Hell—
And in the lowest deep a lower deep
Still opening to devour me threatens wild,
To which the Hell I suffer seems a Heaven."

It can be no wonder that the moderns, who have borrowed so largely from the ancients, should have adopted the common notion of human degeneracy. We perceive it, accordingly, pervading the most celebrated of their historical descriptions and their moral effusions. The idea, in fact, seems almost natural to a poetical mind. Pensiveness and melancholy are most congenial with a spirit of poetry; and no sentiment is more proper to inspire a touching melancholy—a melancholy, too, it must be remembered, which on account of its generality and remoteness from personal feelings, is free from any really painful sensation,—than the belief in the gradual deterioration of humanity.

Such, then, was the strain in which, for the most part, writers and speakers indulged until about the commencement of the present century, when a sudden revolution in their sentiments took place. So far in the opposite extreme has this change been carried that platitudes on the enlightment of the nineteenth century now form the stock-in-trade—the never-failing outpourings of the would-be-servil writers and speakers of the present day; particularly when they find themselves at a loss for anything else on which to write or speak. The arts and sciences have certainly been advanced to a considerable degree of perfection during the last half century. General education, too, has been more widely diffused than at any other period in the world's history. In Great Britain, in the countries on the Continent of Europe, and in the United States, knowledge has of late made vast strides in an onward direction. In the British American Colonies in general, and in P. E. Island in particular, a great deal has been done towards the diffusion of knowledge during the last twelve years. But notwithstanding that we boast of the enlightenment of the age, and of the increased intelligence of our people, we think there is still a great deal of room for improvement. Even in Charlottetown, where opportunities are, comparatively speaking, abundant, very few persons are to be found who can relish the beauties of literature or the pleasing enchantments and sublimities of the arts and sciences. That this is the case must be apparent to all who attend the various lectures and other entertainments given from time to time in this city. No matter how great the fame of the lecturer may be, no matter how important may be his subject, he cannot command even a moderately large audience. Nor is this so only of lectures on literary and scientific subjects; the same may be said of nearly all our musical entertainments, and of the latter, we are frequently favored with some of a superior order of merit. Such is the encouragement which literary and musical talent receive in Charlottetown, and this is particularly so in the case of native talent. Whilst on the other hand, any juggler, self-dubbed "Professor," or any pack of strolling vagrants or tricksters who may come along, and announce the performance of a series of tricks or tom-foolery of any description, no matter who or what he, she or they may be, or how high the price of admission, a crowded Hall is sure to be the result. All classes and creeds in our community flock in great numbers to witness the wonders and to sip up the honey that falls from the lips of the cunning cheat who pockets their money without giving them anything in return therefor, except in many cases to germinate, in their minds, the seeds of immorality. The question arises, Can nothing be done to remedy this state of things, and to cultivate a taste for literature in the community? Well, a great deal has been done and is being done for this purpose, by philanthropic individuals; but those for whose benefit it is do not seem to desire to avail themselves thereof. That philanthropy will never fails to encourage the moralist, who points out the origin and effects of individual depravity; the divine, who, clothed with the thunders of inspiration, announces the misery and remorse which must attend it as a shadow; the satirist,

"Who, alas! for virtue, point the pen,
Brand the bold front of shameless, guilty men,
Dash the proud gamester in his gilded car,
Bare the mean heart that lurks beneath a star;
Nor e'er permit one rich or noble knave
To walk the world in credit to his grave,"

seems to be capable of exercising but little influence over the minds of a large number of our citizens so far as the cultivation of literary taste is concerned. Nor are the peculiar tastes of the great majority of our citizens, owing to the want of literary societies. In addition to the Catholic Institute and the Christian Association, there has lately been established in Charlottetown a literary body, designated "The Charlottetown Literary and Debating Society," the particulars of which we publish in another column. This latter Society has been established as a common platform where all creeds and parties can meet in order to discuss subjects of common interest; and as such it is peculiarly deserving of support. It commends itself particularly to our young men as a place where they may spend a couple of hours once in each week in improving their minds and relaxing their spirits. As the meetings of this Society are to be held on each Friday evening, they will not in anyway clash with the two associations we have above named; and as by its constitution everything of a sectarian character is carefully excluded, it can comprise the members of both the Catholic Institute and the Christian Association, besides the great majority of our citizens who attend mental improvement Society at all. The literary societies hitherto established in Charlottetown have already produced good fruit, and we trust that as the "Literary and Debating Society" is established on a large and liberal basis, it shall receive the support and patronage of all who desire the cultivation of the mind and the promotion of social fellowship. We should like to see societies of this stamp established in every District of the country, and if our people will support them, together with the numerous Temperance and other useful associations, at present in existence, they may, in the course of a short time, be able to boast with some semblance of truth of the general enlightment of the present age.

BLACKGUARDISM OF THE "EXAMINER."

The temper of our contemporary the "Examiner," is evidently "getting no better fast." One of the "Boys" of this paper having successfully landed the "qualified" writer of the "Examiner" upon the "broad of his handsome back" in the mire, whence he sends forth a "howl of vituperation" to his own intense relief, the "qualified" writer aforesaid seeks to convince his readers that he has sustained no injury in his upset. We have told the truth too plainly to please the writers for the "Examiner," and hence we are, in their estimation, "curs," "blatherskites," "boys," "scribblers," ignorant, envious, malicious, impudent, presumptuous, &c., &c.; nor can our contemporary, from the profound contemplation of his own moral, physical and intellectual charms, perceive anything in us meriting praise, or even common courtesy. In the discussion of the Confederation Question, we have been careful to abstain from anything like attacks on the private character or the persons of individuals, and we can boldly challenge our contemporary to prove that we have applied the epithets "traitor" and "conspirator" to him, or indeed to any one of the Delegates, however applicable and well merited he himself appears to regard them. The terms were first employed by the "Examiner" on the 18th of September last—if we mistake not—in reference to the Conference of the maritime Delegates. The word "coward" in the quotation from Shakspeare was intended just as Falstaff used it; but simple as was our intention, it appears we struck the right nail on the head.

The Examiner's contemptible scurrility may by some be considered a capital defence of the terms which this Island has received from the Quebec Conference, and of political consistency; but our contemporary is not "within the roar of an ass" of the truth if he imagines that we shall "whininglY" or otherwise, "complain" of his latest illustration of intellectual vigor. The "whining" personalities of our friend merely convince an intelligent public that he has been worsted in fair argument and that our "scribbling" is not, after all, such "bosh" as he pronounces it to be. We are, therefore, delighted, in one sense, that he has been compelled to resort to the lowest of scurrility as his only defence in the present discussion; but we regret that he has so far forgotten the dignity due to his years as to indulge in a species of buffoonery which none but the most degraded characters employ. Low blackguardism degrades only the person who adopts it, and if the "Examiner" prefers that style of argument, we wish him joy in his congenial task. Our contemporary illustrates the well known truth that the lower we proceed in the Animal Kingdom, the more disgusting are the means of defence which Nature has furnished its creatures. A bloated toad for instance, although "wearing a precious jewel in its head," can live all its life in the dirtiest ponds, inhale the most noxious vapors, and spit its froth and venom at all its enemies. The animal Mephitis Mephitica can also emit an odor not at all agreeable to those who approach it; and so it is with many other of the lower animals.

"Boy" and "nonentity" as we may be, we have the satisfaction to know that public opinion has awarded to us the credit of having soundly thrashed the boasting bully of the "Examiner," until his "bellowings have filled the air" We can do so again when he shall have scraped from himself the filth which at present envelops him, nor shall we be under the necessity of soiling our hands by taking off our gloves to accomplish that task. We tell our contemporary, advisedly and at the risk of giving him a bilious attack, that it will take a *gentleman* of much more physical, moral and intellectual vigor than even he possesses, to throw us upon the broad of our back. He can take up the gauntlet as soon as he pleases, and he will probably discover, as he has in this instance, and as other bullies have experienced before now, that there is such a thing as being thrashed as well as thrashing. We are very much deceived, too, if the disgusting attacks of the Editor of the "Examiner" will enhance his reputation among his constituents, who desire to hear argument and not vulgar abuse; nor will his Canadian friends, and other colonists who view from a distance the discussion of the Confederation Question in this Island form a very exalted opinion of the Historian of the Convention. For ourselves, we would be as despicable as the "Examiner" labors to represent us, were we to allow our temper to be ruffled by the silly exhibitions of our contemporary, and he will find, that so far from being squelched by him, we shall thrive under his billingsgate.

After reading the last two issues of the "Examiner," an unbiassed person might with much propriety say in the language of the Bard of Avon: "It is with a kind of colic pinched and vexed, by the imprisoning of unruly wind, which, for enlargement striving, in passion shook."

We must confess that we have seldom seen our contemporary in such ill humor as he has been with us; and to account for it, we must look for another cause than any provocation we have given him. It may be that the Confederation scheme has too suddenly gone "aglee," and his "golden prospects" vanished into thin air; but certainly "some strange commotion is in his brain," and "in most strange postures we have seen him set himself." With this last quotation, we wish our contemporary more serenity of temper than he has lately enjoyed, an increase of logic, courtesy and manners, and a Happy New Year.

TALK.

The talk is, there has been ten times more talk about Palmer's speech in Canada than there was any call for

The talk is, the Canadians well know he was opposed to the Union, and they do not charge him with attempting to deceive, as he was evidently, out of courtesy to his brother delegates, speaking the sentiments of Messrs. Gray, Whelan, Pope & Co.

The talk is, that Palmer has been very badly treated by some of his old friends.

The talk is, that Whelan is going to persuade the Irishmen of St. Peter's, that there is no real desire for a repeal of the Union between poverty-stricken Ireland and her wealthy neighbour, England; and that they must not believe the stories they have heard about the tens of thousands who have perished from famine and starvation.

The talk is, that P. E. Island will derive about as much benefit from a Union with her rich neighbor, Canada, as Ireland has by her Union with her rich neighbour, England, and that nobody has yet found out what that benefit is.

The talk is, that if we go into the Union, our Leislature will have about as much power remaining to them as the City Council. They will have the privilege of enacting laws to prevent the running at large of sheep, swine, geese, &c., &c., and of enacting laws to compel the settlers to make and repair their own roads, to build Bridges, wharves, &c, when there is no money to pay them for so doing except by direct taxation.

The talk is, that when this takes place, Whelan will be laughing in Canada, and laughing in his sleeve at the P. E. Islanders for being such fools as to believe his balderdash about the benefits of Union.

The Confederate Tariff.—The following remarks on the reasoning of the *Examiner* and *Islander*, appear in the Toronto *Patriot* of the 7th inst. We here see what importance a Canadian paper attaches to the promise of reducing the Tariff under Confederation. The fallacy of the *Islander's* reasoning is also referred to:

"The application of the Canadian Tariff to the Lower Provinces is a point on which considerable anxiety is felt in some of them. But the Charlottetown "Examiner," edited by one of the Delegates who attended the Quebec Conference, states that the Canadian Government has passed an order-in-Council binding itself not to exact a higher tariff, under the proposed Confederation, than 15 per cent. It is difficult to see how they could bind a Confederation, not yet created, and of which Canada will form only part, to observe any such restriction. If all the restrictions spoken of be imposed, we shall soon cease to hear of the omnipotence of Parliament.

"Calculations are being published of what the revenue of some of the Lower Provinces would be under the Canadian tariff; but they are based upon the erroneous assumption that the increase of revenue would be proportionate to that of the tariff. Thus argues the Prince Edward "Islander:" "Had the Canadian tariff been applied to the importations "into this Island in 1863, instead of paying $143,544 duty, "they would have yielded a revenue of $230,542, being an "excess of $86,991, or £27,187 currency. Should the "Confederation be consummated as proposed, taking the "statistics of the year 1863 as data, the revenue of Prince "Edward Island, for local purposes, would be $184,598." There might be some increase of revenue, but, on account of the fundamental error we have pointed out, there is no reason to believe it would be what is here stated. We, in Canada, know by practical experience that the paradox first announced by Pitt, of increasing the revenue by lowering the tariff, sometimes asserted a possibility.

The *Visitor* of this week puts the Confederation question well—so far as it goes. It says:—

"The Confederate scheme is still the engrossing topic in newspaper editorials and correspondents, and is likely to be for some time to come. The articles written on this subject as yet, however, for the most part, lack the essential element, viz., *light*. The people want to know just what this mighty Confederation means. Does it mean taxation? If so to what extent? Does it mean the opening up of Provincial resources, and of turning to good account mines, minerals, waste lands, lakes, rivers, fisheries, manufactories of all descriptions, etc., etc? If so where is the proof?—Will it afford enlarged facilities for diffusing the blessings of education amongst all classes, and for spreading sound morality virtue, and truth over all the Confederated Empire. New Brunswick included? Are we to have better roads, better bridges, better schools and better people without additional taxes? If New Brunswick refuse to adopt this new plan, will confederation go on and *leave her out in the cold*? Who among our *wise ones* will answer these questions?

"It does mean taxation—to an enormous extent.

"It does not mean the opening up of Provincial resources, except so far as the construction of the Intercolonial Railroad (which may otherwise be provided for) will open them up.

"It will not have the slightest beneficial effect on our mines, menerals, waste lands or fisheries.

"It will leave education just as it is, with this difference, that it will leave no means but direct taxation for such new schools as the wants of an increasing population may require. This the memorandum expressly states.—*St. John Freeman.*

We clip the following extract from a leading article in a recent number of the *Colonial Presbyterian* of New Brunswick. We have no desire or intention to comment upon the evidence which the *Toronto Globe* bears to Messrs. Palmer and Coles's opposition to Confederation while in Canada, further than to say that the Canadian Delegates were not quite so ignorant on that subject as some of our Island Delegates pretend to be. As for the former gentleman's alleged attempt to deceive his co-delegates, we have no doubt the Colonial Secretary will be glad to find that, in that respect, Mr. Palmer's speech at the Toronto *dejeuner* has proved eminently unsuccessful, so far, at least, as the Canadians are concerned. Perhaps they are less "obtuse," or were more observant of the proceedings of the Conference than some of our men. Referring to the battle which George Brown's organ, the *Globe*, is waging in support of Confederation, the Editor of the *Colonial Presbyterian* quotes;—

The anti-Confederation paper at Halifax is making much of the fact that two of the Prince Edward Island delegates who were at the Quebec Conference have, since their return home, declared against the Confederation scheme. These gentlemen are the Hon. E Palmer, Attorney General in the present Government, and the Hon George Coles, a leading member of the Opposition. The *attitude assumed by these gentlemen is but what was to have been anticipated from expressions made by them while in Canada*, so that their hostility to Confederation is not any indication of the way in which the scheme has been received by the people of the Provinces. The gentlemen had their minds made up before their constituents had heard the details of the Quebec scheme at all.—*Prot.*

CHARLOTTETOWN LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

Pursuant to notice, a Meeting was convened in the lower Temperance Hall last evening, the 30th inst., to take into consideration the expediency of forming a Debating Society. Mr. D. Laird was called to the Chair, and F. Longworth being appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*, the Meeting proceeded to frame a Constitution. After some discussion, this was arranged to the satisfaction of all present, by the adoption of 20 rules and regulations for the government of the Society. The Office-bearers for the ensuing year were then elected by ballot, as follows:—David Laird, Esq., President; Malcolm McLeod, Esq., and Mr. W. W. Sullivan, Vice Presidents; Hon. George Beer, Treasurer; Francis S. Longworth, Secretary.

Committee of management—Messrs. Archibald McNeill. H. J. Calbeck, George Alley, Louis H. Davies, Edward Reilly.

A subject for debate will be announced to take place on Friday evening next. A vote of thanks having been tendered to Mr. D. Laird for the very efficient manner in which he discharged the duties of Chairman, the meeting adjourned.

F. S. LONGWORTH, Secretary.

Dec. 31, 1864.

News by Telegraph.

(By Telegraph to "Herald.")

New York, Dec. 28.

Richmond papers of yesterday having Wilmington despatches dated 25th. Federal fleet of over fifty vessels made furious attack on Fort Fisher, about one o'clock on Saturday, and kept up an average fire of 30 shots per minute, until nine. Federal loss 23 wounded. The attack was renewed on Sunday morning. Federals landed two brigades two and a half miles above fort; they were attacked by smaller forces but held their ground. Gold 217.

New York, Dec. 30.—Admiral Porter makes official report of an attack on Washington. An old vessel loaded with 300 tons gunpowder was exploded close to the wall of Fort Fisher, but failed in anticipated effect. Attack commenced Saturday at noon. Firing of Fort Shelby silenced—Six parrot guns in in fleet exploded, killing and wounding 54 men.—An Infantry force of 3000 was landed, but finding it impracticable to storm fort re-embarked and returned to Fort Monroe.—Naval attack will be resumed.—Gen Burbridge captured and destroyed Salt and Lead Works at Saltville, V. A.—Hood's army reported crossed Tennessee river at Florence.—Steamer 'North America,' from New Orleans with 257 passengers, mostly invalid soldiers, foundered at sea, 197 lives lost.—Gold 224.

New York, Dec. 31st.

General Hood has not yet crossed the Tennessee River. His attempt to lay a pontoon bridge was defeated by the Federal gunboats.—An expedition under General Granger landed at Pascaquald, and was advancing rapidly on Mobile.—Nothing later from Wilmington.—Deserters from Lee's army state that great preparations are being made by Lee for an offensive movement.—Gold 223.

New York, Jan. 3, 1865.

Porter's fleet has abandoned attack on Wilmington. New Confederate cruiser "Shenandoah" is actively at work on the Atlantic. She captured and bonded ship Kate Prince, and destroyed four other vessels. Small Confederate force attacked Grant's picket line capturing 35 prisoners and killing and wounding several.

Gold 225.

All sorts of Paragraphs.

☞ We understand that a Despatch has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reference to the constitution sketched out at Quebec for the proposed Colonial Confederation. After expressing several strong objections thereto, and particularly in reference to the Constitution of the Upper Branch of the Federal Parliament, the Secretary of State intimates that when his hints shall have been embodied in the Report of the Convention, the whole scheme may be submitted to the respective Provincial Legislatures, and if approved of by them, why then the Imperial Government will take the matter into consideration! This, if true, is just what we anticipated, and may account for the change in the *Islander's* tone.

Supreme Court.—Hilary Term of the Supreme Court for Queen's County commenced yesterday—their Lordships the Chief Justice and Judge Peters presiding. The Docket is very light, consisting of a few Record cases, and a small number of Appeals. The business before the Grand Jury is also very small. The following are the names of the Grand Jurors present: Robert Longworth, Esq., foreman; David Stewart, James Reddin, Ewen Crosby, Alfred Winslow, Solomon Mutch, Torquil McNeill, Thomas McNeill, Henry Hall, Alex. Hayden, Neil Rankin, John Ings, William Pethic, John Drake, Isaac Thompson, James Douse and Artemas Lord, Esqrs.

We have received from Messrs. Laird & Harvie, publishers, a bound and interleaved copy of the Prince Edward Island Calendar for 1865. It is very well printed, and contains, in addition to its usual information, some valuable statistics. Every farmer, merchant, and mechanic should have a copy of it.

No mail has crossed the Straits since Monday week, and we are consequently without any information from abroad except that received by telegraph.

A copy of the "History, Geography and Statistics of British North America," by Alex. Munro, Esq., of Port Elgin, New Brunswick,—has been laid on our table by Messrs. Laird & Harvie, Booksellers and Stationers, who have the work for sale. It contains 324 pages of good, clear print, and is substantially bound. It is replete with valuable and interesting information on the history and productions of these Colonies, a view of the principal towns of which is also given. We would advise our readers, if they are desirous of ascertaining the comparative wealth of the British North American Provinces, or of acquiring a knowledge of their early history, their geography and statistics, including zoology, geology, mines and minerals, to procure a copy of this work, which is sold at 5s. currency. No one who is capable of reading should be without it at the present time, when a Union of the Colonies is the all-absorbing topic. We cordially recommend Mr. Munro's excellent work to the public, not indeed as a complete, and in all cases strictly accurate authority, but as one of the most valuable that has yet appeared in these Colonies.

Drawing Room and Levee.—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Dundas held a Levee and Drawing Room at Government House, to-day, which was, like preceding ones, numerously and respectably attended.—*Ex.*