Secular Department.

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The conduct of the four Liverpool merchants, who wrote to the Emperor Napoleon requesting to know what were his intentions with regard to this country, and the reply of the Emperor's private secretary, have afforded scope for a good deal of criticism. An act so unprecedented as that of the merchants referred to has been universally condemned, and it is rumoured that it may possibly bring the writers within the lash of criminal law. So incensed was the Liverpool Law Society that it was said to have passed a resolution, offering to support the law officers of the Crown with available evidence for a prosecution, should one be instituted; but the statement has been since denied. The writers, however, had no intention of doing anything illegal, and the indignation which their conduct has provoked carries with it punishment enough to deter others from similar folly. Nevertheless, the reply evoked the Emperor's kindly feeling towards this country in a manner which is at least satisfactory, although it will not arrest the military ardour which has taken possession of the people. In this ardour the Government is participating. It is said that the War-office is now preparing guns and batteries which will require the services of 50,000 volunteer artillerymen,—a much larger number than can at present be rendered available for that arm of the service. On the part of the Government there is no intention, it is believed, to increase the Royal Artillery, the desire being to depend on the amateur or volunteer spirit which now animates the whole nation.

A speech was made at Bridgewater, recently, by Mr. Kinglake, which cannot fail to give an immense impetus to the volunteer movement, and it may go a long way to render the organisation permanent. Mr. Kinglake speaks from a personal knowledge of the Emperor of the French. He describes him as a thoughtful man, constantly occupied in his library with the study of battles and plans of military campaigns—a man who admits no one to his confidence, and rules without even the advice of a minister. Commanding an enormous army, now flushed with its recent victory over the greatest military power in the world, and ruling without restraint from a Parliament or a free press this man may be driven by the force of circumstances into a conflict with this country, and its people, therefore should be prepared for the worst that can happen "The French Emperor," said Mr. Kinglake, "was a guest in this country: he has a friendly feeling towards England; he has always been a faithful ally to this country and at present he has no quarrel with us. But the cause of our anxiety is this—the Government of France is centred in one man. All the resources of thirty-seven millions of a warlike race are centred, not in a Parliament, not in a council of state, not even in that crop of statesmen which we are accustomed to call a ministry, but in one man. Well, then, it is evident that this man is a dangerous neighbor. Any medical man will tell you that, however friendly his feelings may be to-day, a mere fit of the gout, or of indigestion may convert him into an enemy to-morrow. Your security, if you rest it on the French, must repose upon the will of one man. I say that if we were to remain perfectly passive in this state of things we should be madmen or idiots." It hardly required the session during words to increase the martial fever which has seized upon the nation; but the movement, as we have had occasion to state before, cannot do injury if it will relieve us from the "invasion panics" which have frightened the isle from its propriety at stated intervals during the last eight or nine years. Confidence is essential to the welfare of a commercial and maritime country, and as confidence in the intentions of our neighbor has been shaken, the next best thing is to have confidence in ourselves. We do not believe that the Emperor of the French has the slightest intention of invading England, and he has sense enough to know that the attempt, if made, would fail, and would cost him his crown, and be accompanied with the destruction of his dynasty; but so great is the popular suspicion of the motives of Louis Napoleon that the best, and certainly the least expensive, security against surprise and attack is the volunteer rifle and artillery corps movement with which the country now bristles.—*European Times, Dec.* 10.

A letter from Florence sketches the scheme on which France and Austria are said to be agreed for the settlement of the Italian question. Austria is to give up Venetia, which is to be declared independent, but governed by the Archduke Ferdinand of Tuscany. Parma, Modena, and Tuscany, are to be united under a French or Russian Prince, to be appointed by Congress; and the Legations are to be restored to the Pope, who is to inaugurate such reforms as will satisfy his subjects. This is said to be the proposition, but the writer declares his belief that the time has passed for such a compromise. Speaking of the Romagnese, he says, "It is necessary to travel through the country, to mingle with the people of all classes, in order to become aware of the deep root that hatred of priestly rule has struck throughout the Legations. It is necessary to see the daily food that the press of these countries supplies to popular animosity to imagine the outbreak that will inevitably follow any removal of the check that the hope of better destinies still puts upon the passions of the multitude."

Spain has her work cut out in Morocco. The Government has given orders for a levy of 50,000 men next month—a proof that it has undertaken a greater task than was anticipated. Spain has no glory to reap by the contest beyond the glory of fighting, for she has distinctly pledged herself to the British Government that she will not, if successful, take an inch of territory from the enemy. The *Daily News* of the 14th instant, referring to this contest, says:—"The ulterior question to which the politician in Spain can fail to look forward is, what real advantage can result to that country, even if she succeed in the humiliation of the Moors? Spain, hardly able to govern herself, cannot hope to govern an African population of eight millions into the bargain, even if she were permitted to indulge the freak of breaking her word. Every one knows that the ostensible cause of the war was an empty pretext and as the Spaniards were already admitted to trade with them on the footing of the most favored nation, they cannot have drawn the sword with the view of any legitimate accession of commercial rights. It defeated in this war they will have reaped a rich harvest of disgrace; but if finally successful according to the national superiority of Spain to Morocco, they will be reduced to this dilemma—either they must conform to the pledges they gave to Lord John Russell, and thus terminate the war without an appreciable object—for they can hardly under those pledges obtain better terms from the Moors than the Moors were ready to concede before the war began—or they must entertain schemes of colonization, or government without colonization, in Morocco. The second of these aims would be analogous to what France has carried out in Algeria; the first would resemble on a small scale the Spanish colonization of Mexico in a former age. Both these objects require a decisive and overwhelming superiority, which Spain does not now possess, and cannot therefore call into action. Morocco is more populous and far more powerful than was Algeria when conquered by the French. Yet the French are at this day compelled to retain 80,000 men for the maintenance of that barren province, and this force equals nearly the whole military peace establishment of Spain. The Spaniards are a nation of barely thirteen millions, with a territorial area hardly inferior to France with its population of more than thirty-six millions, and with a soil far more fertile than either France or Morocco. In the latter country they would have less at command than they have already on their own soil, where agricultural energy would be more remunerative than any foreign colonization." There is one dash of light in this gloomy picture drawn by our contemporary—Spain, of late years, has been largely increasing in material prosperity, and prosperity on the part of a people too often creates a taste for war; but it will be found unequal, nevertheless, to the harassing drain of such a contest, and Spain will discover, we suspect, ere long, that the whole affair was a blunder.

A strange piece of intelligence comes to us from Hungary, to the effect that the young Emperor of Austria is about to vacate the throne. The assigned reason is a fear of figuring in history as "the last of the Hapsburgs." A communication so startling has necessarily excited much attention, and it is found that the birthplace of the rumor is "the high political circles" of the city of Pesth; but, until the statement is verified, the public may arrive at the possible conclusion that "the wish is father to the thought." The Emperor, it is further added, abdicates in favor of his son, born only recently, but the Emperor's brother, Archduke Maximilian, is to be appointed Regent during the minority. It would be premature to speculate on statements like these. Whether true or false, they serve one end—to show the present instability of the Austrian empire. All the outlying provinces, and more especially Hungary, are ripe for revolt, and, without a speedy change in the system of government, the events of that memorable year, 1848, may be repeated, with this difference—that Russian aid cannot be calculated on to make things pleasant again. In the present temper of Europe, a Government which cannot cultivate the good-will and affection of its subjects will gain little by their coercion, and, if the independence of the people is achieved, what is now passing in Italy will serve to show that the independence may become permanent. The time of ruling nations by mere physical power is rapidly passing away—a fact that seems to have penetrated somewhat tardily into the cranium of Francis Joseph. If the crowned heads who are to meet in Paris next month will remember this, the consequences may be beneficial.—*Ibid., 17th Dec.*

FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The *Moniteur* of to-day announces that last night the health of Prince Jerome continued to improve. The *Moniteur* also publishes an article explaining the law on the press, the wisdom and necessity of which, it says, has been proved by eight years' experience.

The *Patrie* mentions as a rumor that Prince Gortschakoff will decline to attend the Congress as Plenipotentiary of Russia, unless England is represented by some important member of the Cabinet.

PARIS, Dec 17.—The *Moniteur* of to-day contains the following:—"The Emperor received yesterday the Papal nuncio, who presented to his Majesty the letter of the Holy Father."

Yesterday evening the state of Prince Jerome was still serious. Pleuritic pains in the left side having set in necessitated the application of a fresh blister. The Emperor paid three visits to his uncle yesterday.

SPAIN.

The Madrid *Gazette* announces that the service of steam packets to Cuba will be put up to public tender on the 20th inst.

The Madrid journals mention a report that the Government were about to borrow 25,000,000f. from the bank, on deposit of securities.

LORD PALMERSTON AND THE SUEZ QUESTION.

The *Morning Post* asserts that the moment M. De Lesseps obtains the firman of the Porte sanctioning the scheme, he will have succeeded in severing Turkey from Egypt. If the firman does not accompany the absolute concession—in plain language, the sovereignty of several miles of the sandy desert, which is the district embraced for one of the objects of forming fortresses. It cannot be for a moment supposed that England can be indeed one of a friendly power should be asserted. It forms no part of the interest of England to assist in carrying out a scheme either wholly impracticable, or of which the practicability would be shown, incorporating for the especial benefit of France an Egyptian Dardanelles or an Egyptian Gibraltar, and such a result, we may venture to add, is not yet contemplated by the statesmanship of Lord Palmerston.

THE CONGRESS.

TURIN, Dec 16.—Count Cavour has been definitively appointed first plenipotentiary of Sardinia in the Congress. General Dabormida does not leave Turin in order to be present at the opening opening of the Chambers. There will be no ministerial change in Sardinia.

TURIN, Dec 17.—General Dabormida has officially communicated to the French Government that Count Cavour and the Chevalier Desambrois will be the representatives of Sardinia at the approaching Congress.

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, Dec. 17.—In the last Cabinet Council, presided over by the Emperor, it was resolved that in the next budget a reduction of 38,000,000 florins shall be made in the expenses of the war department. It is said that Austria is about to proceed to a complete disarmament.

HUNGARY.

A letter in the *Times*, dated Pesth, Dec. 12, says the die is cast. The Austrian Government is resolved to adopt a rigorous policy toward Hungary, instead of redressing her manifold grievances. One hundred and eighty Protestants—noblemen and gentlemen—have within the last few days been cast into prison, or cited before the magistrates, for having taken part in the assemblies which protested against the imperial patent of September. The Austrian army in Hungary will soon be nearly 50,000 strong.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, writing on December 14, says the danger of a conflict between the imperial authorities and the Hungarian Protestants daily increases, and that Hungarian political and religious agitation go hand in hand.

British and For. American News.

United States.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

THE ORGANIZATION.—The Democracy of the House are divided into two interests—one willing to see an organization effected, and the other desiring to procure the co-operation of the Southern Opposition, to present a sectional aspect, with a united South. The latter cannot prevail. The next experiment will be on Mr. Taylor of Louisiana, but with no better prospect of success than was had with Mr Boocock.

Efforts have been made to concentrate on Mr. Davis of Indiana, as a compromise; but without success. The South will not touch him, though he declares his readiness to support the Democratic candidate when his vote can elect. If the Opposition hold their present position firmly, as is expected, and call for a vote steadily at the close of every speech on the part of the other side, the plurality rule may come sooner than has been anticipated. There is a possibility that, after other experiments at combination have failed, various members of both parties South may agree to serve the public interests, demand an organization, and allow it to be effected by their silence or frank explanation. The present state of things cannot continue very long. A better temper prevails on all sides. It is the understanding among the Opposition now that no points shall be made hereafter, except upon unquestionable emergency.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The accusation against Dr J. C. Ayer, of Lowell, for stabbing R. S. Fox, Jr. the treasurer of the Middlesex Mills, has been withdrawn, because the prosecutor found that no complaint against him could be sustained. The fact is that Dr Ayer merely defended himself as best he might with a penknife he happened to have in his hand, against a cowardly assault made on him from behind, with the premeditated intention to dishonor and punish him for the exposure he had made and is making of the wrongs practiced by the officers upon our manufacturing corporations. This community not only upholds the doctor's successful defence of his person, but it heartily approves his course in publicly denouncing the Fitz-Barnacle Family management—the abuses of our public property for private ends. Dr Ayer's medicines, however valuable, are not all for which the masses of our people hold him in regard.—*Boston Herald*

Canada.

FEDERATION.—The Conventionist organ insists upon a delay of some years before any scheme of federation be carried; and it announces that there is a general understanding that the subject shall not be hurried. We have always contended that a great question like this would necessarily take some years to mature. The Conventionist organ is of this opinion too. It told us the other day that "Federation cannot be carried into effect in one session or two. A general election must take place in the *interim*." Precisely. This, at least, is something like common sense, from the leading Conventionist organ. If federation cannot be carried into effect in one session or two, it follows that we must take three to it. At this rate, the year of grace 1862 will find the question still on the carpet. Three years' grace to begin with is really liberal; and perhaps, if things are not quite ready when the third session arrives, the Conventionist oracle will ask an extention of time. We are bound to acknowledge this very handsome conduct on the part of the Conventionists organ; and should it ask an extention of time in 1862, we think the question will be deserving of consideration; more especially so as the confession carries with it an admission that we can afford to wait as we are three years longer, at least. If we could only get the organ to acknowledge that the entire capital of the Convention consisted of an idea thrown out, somewhat at random, by Mr Galt and picked up by M. Dorion, we should have some hope of it, after all. We make an appeal to its candour; and let it not be said that we appealed in vain.—*Toronto Patriot.*

It is rumored in Canada that Mr Galt, who lately left for England, visits the Colonial Office for the purpose of inducing the Home Government to grant a sum of money for the extention of the Grand Trunk Railway eastward through New Brunswick.

Nova Scotia.

We were much pleased to see in the last issue of the *Gazette* a complete vindication, of the character of the inhabitants of Marie Joseph and vicinity from the unjust and cruel charges preferred against them by the officers and other passengers in the unfortunate steamer *Indian*. The report of the Commissioners sent down by His Excellency the Governor—John U. Ross, Esq, and Captain James Daly—completely exculpates the people of the Eastern Shore, and proves conclusively that the miscreants who robbed the passengers of their effects and carried off the plate belonging to the ship, did not bear the name of Nova Scotians.—*Nova Scotian.*

The Protestant.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1860.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Royal Mail Steamer *Canada*, after a passage of fourteen days, arrived at Halifax on Saturday last, bringing Liverpool dates to the 17th of December. The Island Mails by the *Canada* were brought across the Straits to Cape Traverse on Wednesday, and reached this city the same night. The intelligence received is devoid of much interest. The most important and latest news is contained in preceding columns. In addition to it, we observe that in Ireland, meetings to sympathize with the Pope, continued to be held, at which much excitement prevailed. The strong language used at these meetings by some of the clerical orators, had given great offence in quarters, yet some of the most influential men have seen no hesitate to express their belief that the separation of the spiritual from the civil power would be a decided gain to their faith. It is said that the Government will not change the system of mixed education in the National Schools in Ireland but will entertain any suggestion for their more efficient working. Notwithstanding the pacific disposition manifested by the Emperor of the French, active preparations for war continued to be made in England, and the Volunteer movement was still exciting much interest and receiving cordial support. There had been more fighting between the Spanish and the Moors; but no great or decisive battle had been fought.

AN INQUIRY.

We copy the following paragraph from a late No. of the *Scottish American Journal*, the editor of which has recently visited this colony and some of the neighboring provinces, and published in his paper extensive notes of his tour. He says:—

A party of our readers who it seems have been induced by our recent articles to contemplate emigration to Prince Edward Island, or some other part of the Lower Provinces, desire information with reference to the taxes in these parts. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia the taxes are raised by a tariff averaging about ten per cent., but from which most of the leading necessaries of life are exempt. In Prince Edward Island also the taxes are light, and the prices of the principal articles of import very moderate.

The editor is quite correct in stating that our taxes are light. The most direct tax on the inhabitants generally is six shillings and eight pence currency, for every hundred acres of cultivated or occupied land. But the proceeds of this tax are appropriated to the support of Free Schools, which are established in every part of the Island, and confer great educational advantages on the inhabitants. Other taxes are principally duties imposed on some goods imported, and paid by the importer. These taxes, however, are quite light, seldom above ten per cent. *ad valorem*, so that the prices of the principal articles of import are very moderate, more so generally than in the neighboring Provinces. The inhabitants of the Island are also exempt from poor rates, a tax which is imposed in some of these Provinces. In short, we may safely say that no parties emigrating to this Island will find themselves burdened with taxes.

DEBATING CLUB.

A meeting for the purpose of formally opening the Charlottetown Debating Club, will be held in their Room upstairs in Brecken's building, opposite the Bank, on Friday Evening next, the 13th inst., at 8 o'clock when an Address explanatory of the objects of the Association, will pe delivered, and other business transacted. Each member will be entitled to introduce two friends. Seats will be reserved for ladies.

[For the Protestant.]

EDUCATION IN P. E. ISLAND.

No. III.

Mr Editor;

In my last communication, the necessity for improved sites, buildings, and furniture, was briefly yet forcibly represented. The annual grant deemed suitable in each case was detailed. While securing these objects, no effort should be spared to render the arena for youthful development comfortable, healthy, animating. In our climate, every building intended for the occasional or constant occupation of youth or children should be constructed with reference to the cold of winter as well as the heat of summer. Do our school-buildings, such as they are, exhibit such forethought and care? Are they always provided with a porch or double door? Are they generally banked on the approach of winter? Is the stove of the right quality and in the proper place? Is the plastering or ceiling kept in repair, and is there always fuel in sufficient quantity? In cases far too many for the honor of parents and trustees, these questions must be answered negatively. It is unpleasant to bring these things to the view of the public, but the interests of the rising generation and the abuse of public money, demand their exposure. Our schoolhouses require to be warmed from the month of October till May. For this purpose a sufficient quantity of wood should be laid up at one time in winter, to last till the return of the same month in the following year. Then might our schools be rendered comfortable by dry fuel in the chilling weeks at the close of autumn; instead of presenting the dreary aspect of a few young children huddled around a stove in which a little green simmering wood refuses to afford any heat, the elder scholars arranged around the sides of the building at the same time, trembling from cold and casting rueful looks towards the stove. Not unfrequently has the school been dismissed from want of fuel. In the month of October, I called at a school on the main highway from Georgetown to this City. The building wore externally a dilapidated appearance. On entering, I found the teacher alone, without fire in a room totally out of repair. It was eleven o'clock. On inquiring where were the scholars, the teacher replied that only two had come, and these were sent to the woods for fuel. A short distance from the school, two boys had been seen stretching themselves under the spruce bushes, where not a fragment of wood was to be found. This is not a solitary case, as the registers may testify. Can parents and trustees expect a government to sustain such schools?

For health and animation, purity of air is no less necessary than warmth. If the school-room is cold, the blood recedes from the extremities of the body and oppresses the vital organs; if the air is impure, the lungs inhale its deadly carbon, and through vitiated blood, the muscles are enervated, and the brain becomes dull, clouded, dreamy. Languor is everywhere perceptible—serious injury is sustained, and progress is impossible. Provision should be made for regular and ample ventilation. In our present buildings cracks and openings in the walls too often afford in winter a superabundance of cold air, while an open door allows in summer the free ingress of the atmosphere. The ventilation in either case is incomplete or dangerous. The air in our school-rooms should be restored to a healthful state by the sliding down of the upper sash of opposite windows in summer, and by a revolving ventilator beneath the stove, and a small hinged hatch in the most retired part of the ceiling, in winter. The room should be swept every *evening* immediately after school, and the fire lighted and the seats and desks dusted every morning an hour before the meeting of school. Unless attention is paid to the comfort and cleanliness of our schoolhouses, they will never be those centres of attraction to the young which the interests of our country require them to be.

Still the grand point remains to be secured—THE ATTENDANCE OF THE CHILDREN. The law requires each school-district to have at least forty children from the age of five to that of fifteen; and disclaims the support of a school in which there has not been for six months an average attendance of at least twenty scholars. These are certainly very reasonable demands. In many districts the children capable of attending school, number from fifty to seventy; yet in not a few it is exceedingly difficult for the teacher to secure the minimum legal average. How is this? We have here an exhibition of human nature lapsing into a state of complacent indifference under the absurd, though unacknowledged idea that what costs little is of little worth. In several Sates of the neighboring Republic the school-question after the passing of the Free School Act, was in appearance as dead as all unlike many of the schools of P. E. Island. The description which Barnard the celebrated educationist, gives of the schools of Connecticut and Rhode Island at a time when the legislatures of these states imagined that education was progressing most satisfactorily, is not a little applicable to those of our own country. Enter many of our schools in any month from June to December, and you may find an attendance varying from five to fifteen. You conceive that there is something extraordinary in the first case, but finding another and another in the same state, your surprise settles into a conviction that something is decidedly wrong. You enquire why so many scholars are absent, and are informed that it is the time of planting, or haymaking, or harvest, or potato-digging, or threshing, or there is a want of suitable clothing. It is clear that such excuses may cover the whole season. In some instances, the aid of the elder school children may be indispensable to their parents for a week or fortnight in spring or autumn, but can it be maintained that detention at home is absolutely necessary in one-half of the cases in which it occurs? Impossible. An uncomfortable schoolhouse, an inactive and uninteresting teacher, and insufficient clothing, may have their own influence in thinning the attendance, but *the great cause* is the want of a lively and forcible apprehension of the value of a thorough education on the part of most parents. In almost every school district, we may see the bright boy or the lively girl of the ambitious father or the intelligent mother, make his or her appearance in school day by day, in rain or sunshine, winter or summer. Why should not nine-tenths of the parents in every district be actuated by a similar spirit?

What are the consequences of the absence or irregular attendance of children at school? Sometimes the school is broken up, the teachers being unable to secure the legal average, when the painstaking parent is made to suffer by the negligence of his neighbor. Very frequently, and very naturally, the teacher becomes disheartened, grows indolent, and having nothing sufficient to call forth his energies, the newspaper or interesting book assists in occupying the tedious hours. The writer is treating of facts, not fancies. And always the school is retarded, the labor of the teacher doubled, the regular scholars kept back, and at the close of the term, there are few results to which the teacher can refer with conscious satisfaction; at the same time, the complaints for want of progress are neither few nor suppressed. Who can expect from that district any name to adorn the page of our country's history? Had trustees faithfully fulfilled their engagements with teachers, "to keep in as regular attendance as possible *all the scholars* resident in the said district," this evil could never have assumed its present magnitude. As it is, it must receive the serious consideration of the Government. The minimum average should not, I think, be uniform. Where there are only forty scholars, let it remain at twenty; but where there are fifty, it should be twenty-five; and where there are sixty, a like proportion. The attendance at school would then demand a greater attention from many trustees; the very fear of losing the school would stimulate to active superintendence, where now the impression exists that it is not required. No teacher should engage with trustees who do not pledge themselves absolutely to keep up at least the legal attendance, or in case of deficiency, supply his salary. Where the salary has to be made up by the trustees, the burden of assessment should undoubtedly fall on those who withheld their children from school. This would be but simple justice. Still, force is never pleasant, and not always successful; hence efforts should be made by means of interesting lectures to render the District unanimous and hearty in the cause of education.

The question of religious instruction in schools, is one which has bestirred this Island throughout its length and breadth. It is of momentous importance. Man is a moral being. His moral powers are a grade higher than his intellectual, just as his intellectual are higher than his physical. An education which ignores the moral powers of youth, is deficient in its highest quality. Traits of depravity will early meet the teacher's eye. Instances of disobedience, revenge, vile language, dishonesty, and covetousness, will often be brought to his notice. Is he to dismiss them without regard, examination or punishment? Assuredly not. How is he to condemn them? By contrasting them with some acknowledged and infallible standard of morality. What is that standard? Not surely the practices or opinions of men—but the revealed will of Him who is the embodiment of all virtue—THE BIBLE. And as prevention is better than cure, the morality of that Book should be regularly inculcated, and that every morning, to regulate the conduct through the day. Would not this necessitate sectarian instruction? By no means. Practice is more convincing than theory. The writer has taught a school of Roman Catholics the common Protestant Testament, and daily explained the same, with the knowledge and approbation of both parents and priest. The difficulty rests in the imagination of fiery zealots. No public teacher, worthy of the name, would betray his high trust by attempting to inculcate anything beyond the grand doctrines of Christianity, including its divine morality. As denominational catechisms are strictly sectarian, they are not needed, and should have no place in our common schools. But the Bible, God's gift to man of every nation, tribe and tongue, should be found in every public school—the Roman Catholics being allowed to use the version which they prefer. With calm reflection and mutual forbearance, animosity and strife must subside, and by the cultivation of peace and brotherly love, our whole youthful population may enjoy the inestimable privilege of an early scriptural training.

It would be a great encouragement to many laborious teachers, if there were at least two regular public examinations in the course of the year, in the last weeks of May and of December, attended by all the Trustees and the most of the parents. It would stimulate the teacher to take special pains—it would kindle in the young a laudable ambition to excel, not for the sake of superiority, but for higher usefulness—and it would warmly interest the whole district in the welfare of the young. In many schools there is no public examination from one end of the year to the other. In others, where it is attempted, one trustee more faithful than the rest, and two or three parents, may continue to make their appearance. The teacher feels that his labors are not appreciated—the scholars grow careless, and a general indifference in respect to intellectual culture overspreads the settlement. What shall be done to make the public school the centre of united and hearty concern in every section of our land?

The status and support of teachers are of too much consequence to be dismissed with a closing paragraph. They are reserved for a full discussion in our next.

Yours, &c.,
G. SUTHERLAND.

Charlottetown, Jan. 6th, 1860.

SUMMARY.

The Supreme Court, Hilary term, commenced its sittings on Tuesday last. The number of cases to be tried is understood not to be very great.

The Couriers crossed the Straits on Saturday last, and also on Tuesday, bringing Colonial and American Mails. They have crossed the Straits six times within six days. The latest Colonial and American news will be found in this department.

The United States Congress [illegible] a Speaker up to the 20th.

The Post Master General [illegible] the mails for the neighboring [illegible] United States will be made [illegible] the Winter, every Tuesday [illegible] Halifax and mails for the United [illegible] Newfoundland, will be made up [illegible] Tuesday Jan. 17th, Friday [illegible] day, Feb. 3d, Tuesday 14th, Friday 17th [illegible]

The Mails will be due at the General Post Office every Monday and Thursday night.

The Pictou *Chronicle*, after quoting the account of the storm at Halifax, copied from the *Halifax Journal*, says:—The Schr. *Ocean Belle* reported in the above paragraph as lost, we believe was from P. E. Island, and not from Pictou, as mentioned.

The Halifax *Sun* says:—"The Schr. lost with all hands on Devil's Island, is supposed to be the *Sarah Elizabeth*, from P. E. Island, with produce."

The Rifle Companies in this City appear to be doing a great business in enlisting volunteers. The Highland, Mayflower, and Greys, are now fully organized. At a meeting of Irishmen and their descendants, held on Monday evening last, about ninety men volunteered, and it is probable that the number will be increased to at least three hundred before the close of the present year.—*Halifax Journal*

Cargoes of P. E. Island Potatoes have been sold at ruinously low prices—8d. to 1s. per bushel! Oats do much better, and sell at 2s. to 2s. 3d. Barley brings 3s.—*Hf. Wit.*

Captain Donald M'Donald, late of schooner *Ware*, of Prince Edward Island, arrived here in the schooner *Mulgrave* on the evening of Friday last, and reports that while on the passage from Boston to P. E. Island, the *Wave* was wrecked near La Have in the gale of the 14th instant. The crew and passengers were saved with only what they stood in. The names of the passengers are Joseph Macaulay, of P. E. I., and James Dunn, of Halifax. Captain McDonald, on behalf of himself and crew, desires publicly to express heart-felt thanks for the kind and hospitable treatment they received in their distress from Capt. Jacob Rowkey and family, S. B. Currie, Esq., and family, and others inhabitants of New Dublin.—*Halifax Sun, Dec.* 26.

The Weather since Christmas has been very severe. On Sunday morning, the Thermometer indicated 14 degrees below zero; on Monday morning, it was 5 deg. below; on Thursday morning 6 deg. and yesterday morning 12 deg. below.—The old Year is leaving us in a most surly and uncomfortable mood. May his successor dawn upon us more benignly.—*New Brunswicker, Dec.* 29.

A large fire occurred in Carleton last night, said to be near the Temperance Hall, but the amount of damage was not obtained at the hour of our going to press.—*Ibid.*

The R. M. Steamer *Merlin* arrived here on Wednesday from Newfoundland after a boisterous passage, she was completely covered with ice. The Legislature is summoned to meet on the 31st January, for the despatch of business. The papers furnish nothing of interest.—*Halifax Journal Dec.* 31.

Brown was a white man, a [illegible] of the Puritans, who laid the [illegible] American greatness. He was [illegible] his sons were killed at Ha[illegible] foray. Brown's death has [illegible] very than his life could hav[illegible] the South itself will soon [illegible] too dearly for their luxuri[illegible] entertained of a general [illegible] signals are sometimes obser[illegible] night, and the Southerners [illegible] watch.—*Independant.*

There was an election of Speaker of the House of Representatives on the 7th [illegible] President, probably sick of delay, sent down his Annual Message. We have looked over this document in State paper, which occupied six columns of the Boston *Post*, without finding anything particularly interesting to our readers. A large portion of the message is devoted to the Harper's Ferry outrage.—*Nova Scotian.*

Agricultural Exports.

CUSTOM HOUSE, Charlottetown, Dec. 22, 1859.

Return of the quantity, in bushels, of Oats, Barley, Potatoes and Turnips, shipped from the Port of Charlottetown during the last three months:—

	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Turnips
To England,	25,168		825	
Nova Scotia,	19,858	4,228	57,708	1,347
New Brunswick,	31,666	7,484	1,845	
Newfoundland,	12,653	778	48,229	18,155
Bermuda,	2,426		9,247	1,305
Barbadoes,	3,100	24	2,160	100
United States,	232,867	18,131	36,455	270
	353,558	30,655	156,469	21,177

Total Bushels, 561,859

FRANCIS LONGWORTH, Controller.

CUSTOM HOUSE, Georgetown, Jan. 4, 1860.

Return of the quantity, in bushels, of Potatoes, Oats, Barley and Turnips, shipped from the Port of Georgetown during the quarter ending 31st December, 1859:—

	Potatoes.	Oats.	Barley.	Turnips.
To Nova Scotia,	63,357	31,089	8,210	506
United States,	27,789	36,261	3,848	135
Newfoundland,	11,963	8,347	350	300
New Brunswick,	2,860	3,275	330	
Bermuda,	4,000	200		200
St. Pierre & Miquelon,	1,250	150		250
	111,209	79,333	12,738	1,391

Total No. bushels, - - - - - - 210,670

W. B. AITKEN, Controller.