

GREAT INUNDATION.—The breaking up of the ice this year has been attended with great calamities. At Berthier and Sorel the waters rose to an unprecedented height, destroying property to a considerable extent, and in the height of the flood came on the great gale of Wednesday last, adding to the horrors of the scene. At l'Isle de Grace, the steamers of the Richelieu Company did their best to render assistance to the poor people; but in spite of all their exertions—and the heroism of Capt. Labelle and others, no effective succor could be carried to them on account of the violence of the storm. The loss of life has in consequence been very great, and the sufferings of the survivors are worthy of all our pity.

On Monday afternoon at three o'clock, a public meeting, called by His Worship the Mayor on the requisition of a large number of influential citizens, was held in the City Concert Hall for the purpose of adopting measures for the relief of the sufferers by the inundation of the Islands near Sorel. About three hundred persons were present; and about one thousand dollars were subscribed on the spot.

THE GALE.—The gale of Wednesday last raged all over the Province. Many churches and other buildings have suffered severely from its fury.

CONFEDERATION IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.

(From our P. E. Island Correspondent.)

Charlottetown, P. E. I.,

April 6, 1865.

To the Editor of the True Witness.

SIR,—Since I had the honor of last addressing you, the question of "Confederation" has undergone a thorough discussion throughout the length and breadth of the Lower Provinces. There has been scarcely a paper published for the last three or four months, that did not contain an article or two on that all-important subject; it has been made the matter of debate before numberless public meetings in every city, village, and hamlet in these four Provinces; some scores of lectures have been delivered on it, and always to crowded houses; and even in the social circle, where weighty matters of state seldom find an entrance, it has furnished a theme for many a brilliant and interesting conversation. It has, in fact, made us all politicians. The names of McDonald, Brown, Galt, &c., have now become almost "household words" with us, but probably not quite in the sense which these gentlemen would wish. The people of the Lower Provinces are far from looking on the above named politicians and their abettors in aid out of the Canadian Legislature, as the purest patriots that ever breathed,—as the incarnation of every public and private virtue. They regard them, in general, rather as a number of visionary schemers, who seized on this hobby of Confederation, to extricate themselves from the wretched plight into which an extravagant policy of many years' duration had hopelessly plunged them. They ask themselves: "Why is it that we never heard a word about Confederation before Canadian politics had reached a dead lock? If considerations of a military nature demanded a union of the Provinces, how is it that this necessity was never observed till the defeat of the McDonald-Carter Government one fine night last Spring, when Mr. Brown, with an amount of generosity foreign to his nature walked over to the Treasury Benches, and by his timely interposition, prevented the wretched ship of State from dashing to pieces? If, on the other hand, Confederation was resorted to as a means for removing the difficulties so long existing between Upper and Lower Canada, then in the name of common sense, why ask us to have a hand in the business? What have we to do with the squabbles arising out of Canadian politics? What returns are we to get for confiding the administration of our public affairs to the tender mercies of Canadian politicians, whom, in point of public virtue, we regard as not one whit superior to our own?"

You will not, therefore, be surprised to learn that Confederation is almost unanimously opposed by the people of these Provinces. After the return of the delegates from Quebec, we had quite an excitement in this island for a short time, caused by the quarrels of the delegates amongst themselves,—strongly reminding a person a little inclined to profanity, of the "Acts and Proceedings" of Barnum's *Happy Family*! The upshot of the whole was, that this island was deprived of the valuable services of the Hon. Col. Gray, leader of the Government—(or Premier, as he would be styled by the people of Canada, who are more given to aping British Imperial usages than we are)—a gentleman who had given up a lucrative position in the English army, in order to give this, his native isle, the benefit of his talents. Col. Gray resigned in consequence of what he was pleased to style the "duplicity" of another of our delegates, the Hon. Mr. Palmer, who was guilty of the unpardonable crime of standing up for the rights of P. E. Island at the Quebec Conference! After a few weeks of anxious suspense, the Lieut. Governor appointed the Hon. James C. Pope, leader of the Government. The latter gentleman has taken particular care not to make Confederation a Government question, and has, therefore, brought it before the Assembly merely to have a debate on it. In a House composed of thirty members, it has only four supporters, whilst the other twenty six are heart and soul opposed to it. The Confederation (or, as it is sometimes called here, the "Botheration") scheme is, therefore, "squashed," so far as this colony is concerned.

In the other Provinces it has met with a similar fate. In Newfoundland, the consideration of the question has been put off till after the next General Election, which will take place, probably, in September or October next; whilst in New Brunswick, the people have shown by their late voting at the polls, in a manner that cannot be mistaken, that they will have nothing

to do with the proposed Confederation. Nova Scotia has been likewise so opposed to the scheme, that the Government proposed a Resolution the other day in the House of Assembly to the effect that, since Confederation has failed, it is advisable to have a Union entered into amongst the maritime Provinces themselves!—This is a pleasing symptom of returning reason on the part of Dr. Tupper, once a red-hot advocate of Confederation, for Nature herself seems to point to such a Union as that proposed in the resolution referred to. But what advantages would accrue to the Provinces from a Union with Canada, with the State of Maine stretched out between them, it seems difficult to determine, and the people here have pronounced, in a voice of thunder, against the visionary scheme. The Canadian Government may send as many embassies to London as they choose; they may flood the country with pamphlets, portraying, in beautiful terms, the greatness to which we will attain as a nation, if we only unite; but the inhabitants of the Lower Provinces "can't see it,"—they are too practical a people to be caught by castles in the air. I remember reading, in Dean Ramsay's "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character," the story of an old dame in Edinburgh, who was extravagant in her praises of a certain preacher of the day, and who, on being asked if she understood him, replied with indignation: "Understand him! Do you think I would be so impudent as to understand that great man?" Whether it is from want of "impudence," or from some other defect, the people of the Lower Provinces cannot, for the life of them, "understand" the advantages of Confederation, and they have in consequence very wisely resolved to let it "slide" back into obscurity.

Respectfully yours,

VERAX.

REMITTANCES IN OUR NEXT.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

The following gentlemen have been elected officers of the above association, for the ensuing year: President—B. Devlin. 1st. Vice President—R. M. Shane. 2nd Vice President—Neil Shannon. Treasurer—W. P. McGuire. Corresponding Secretary—Edward Woods. Recording Secretary—Felix M. Cassidy, re-elected. Assistant Secretary—James M. Elroy. Chaplains—The Rev. P. Dowd and clergy of St. Patrick's Church.

COMMITTEE:

Thomas McKenna, Jas. M. Shane, Wm. Wall, re-elected; B. Tansey, do; Wm. Stafford, do; Wm. O'Brien, Fras. Mullins, Thos. Patton, John M. Elroy, re-elected; M. C. Mullarky, Geo. Murphy, Thomas Hanley, F. H. McKenna, re-elected; L. Devany, M. Mullen, W. B. Linehan, re-elected; H. Wall, do; Wm. Harper.

Marshalls—Oliver, Joseph Cloran; Assistants Thos. Mathews, W. Fennell, Wm. Gooley and M. Stewart.

HIBERNIA CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY, DUNDAS.

At the Annual Election of the above Society, which took place on Thursday evening, 13th inst., the following officers were appointed office-bearers for the ensuing year:

President—J. B. Looney. Vice President—J. Horrigan. Secretary—J. Watson. Assistant Secretary—P. Cosgriff. Treasurer—J. Cosgriff. Grand Marshal—H. Cowles. Banner Bearer—E. Cumming. Flag Bearer—J. Dundas.

MANAGING COMMITTEE.

Henry Cowles, John M. Cummings, Patrick Cummings, Daniel Keily, James Fahy, Patrick Fahy, Daniel McGinn, John O'Brien, Lawrence Kealy.

TERRIBLE DISASTER AND FLOOD.

We have received a copy of the *Gazette de Sorel* of Friday morning last, containing a long account of disasters in the neighborhood of Sorel and Berthier, caused by the recent flood and the high wind of Wednesday. From Saturday last until Wednesday, the water had continued to rise. Even as early as Monday, it was ascertained that Berthier and the islands near Sorel, and the Canal du Moine were submerged. At Berthier they were without bread, the bakers' shop being all under water. A subscription was started for their relief, headed by the Richelieu Company, \$50, and the Hon. Mr. Armstrong \$30. Captain C. L. Armstrong, notwithstanding his age, hired a boat, and hastened to carry relief to the sufferers. On Tuesday morning the Richelieu Company placed one of its steamers at the disposal of the people of Sorel, a considerable number of whom went in her to Berthier to relieve distress. Business of all sorts had been suspended, but no serious damage had been done to any of the houses. At two o'clock on the same day the same steamer took provisions on board, and proceeded to the relief of those suffering from the flood at Canal du Moine. There a sad spectacle awaited them. As far as the eye could reach nothing could be seen but water. The poor had abandoned their houses, where they had neither fire nor bread, and had taken refuge with their more wealthy neighbors. Even here they were forced to live in the upper stories of their houses, one of them having as many as 60 persons stowed away in it. L'Isle de Grace was 10 feet under water, which still continued to rise. On Wednesday about noon the sky became clouded. One of the inhabitants of the islands went to the President of the Richelieu Company, Mr. Sincennes, asking him to send a steamer to the islands to bring away some of the families and animals, as they could stay no longer. He gave a ready consent, but before any of the Company's steamers could be got ready, Captain Laforce, proprietor of the 'Cygne', generously offered to go with her. Hardly had she left port when the wind blew fresher, and at 2.30 p.m. became a tempest. Vessels were driven from their moorings. A shed in Messrs. McCarthy's ship yard was thrown down. A large quantity of wood belonging to them and others was carried away into the river, and it was with difficulty the Company's steamers were held by their anchors. One wood boat was driven from her moorings, and rolled helplessly in the swell, her only mast being broken. Two young men were left upon her in imminent danger of sinking. At 4 o'clock p.m., the steamer 'Bell' endeavored to go their rescue, but was beaten back by the storm. At last however, they were rescued by three men in a boat. Meantime the wind was doing terrible damage on L'Isle de Grace; houses and barns were overturned, and the numerous accidents to life which we are pained to record were feared. The steamer 'Cygne' was able to reach L'Isle de Grace, but it was scarcely possible by means of incessant and almost superhuman efforts to save from destruction during three long hours that the tempest raged. During this time, her passengers looked on in despair at the destruction of life and property which they were utterly powerless to prevent. Houses and barns were swept away,

men and women precipitated into the water and drowned. Here and there the poor creatures were seen clinging desperately to floating pieces of wood and to trees, and their harrowing cries being mingled with the roaring of the storm; but no one could reach them. Night came on and darkness came to add to the horror of their situation. About eleven o'clock, two other steamers of the Richelieu Company, having on board several people of Sorel, among others two priests and Dr. Oadioux, left port to go to their rescue. During the time the 'Cygne' was with difficulty held by her anchor, Capt. Labelle set out with a canoe and two men to pick up those in danger of drowning, being directed in his course by their cries. In one place he found a young woman holding on by one hand to the branch of a tree, thus steadying her head above the water, while her feet rested upon a small tub, with which she had escaped from a falling house. With this she managed to bail out the canoe, which was nearly two-thirds full of water. A little further they found a young girl with two children in her arms, on a tree which was cracking with the force of the wind; she, too, was rescued. After three hours of this work, Captain Labelle and his comrades returned to the 'Cygne'. A man, named Lavallee dit Bioche when his house fell, placed himself, his wife, and five children in a canoe. A few minutes after, the canoe was smashed against a tree. The poor mother seized the branches of the tree, and held to it; her husband and five children secured themselves to another. There he remained, with a child upon each arm, and the other three hanging to a branch of a tree sixteen hours. His wife worn out by fatigue, was drowned before his eyes, and one of the children died in his arms. Another poor woman was lying in bed near her accouchement; her husband, feeling that the house must go, told her to take courage, and come with him to the canoe. She refused, saying "Save yourself and the children; it will be impossible to save me; we shall meet again in another world." Even as she spoke, the house fell, and they were all thrown into the water. Such was the course of events during that terrible night. The following is a list of the persons drowned, as far as can be ascertained:—

Upon l'Isle de Grace.—The wife of Joseph Lavallee and one child; the wife of Louis Cardin; the wife of Pierre Bihier, 2 children and sister-in-law; 4 children of Paul Pelouquin; 2 children of Ignace Lavallee; 1 child of Patrice Lavallee; 1 child of Paul Cardin; another woman named Lavallee was saved upon a floating log, holding two children in her arms and nearly dead. All but three houses upon the island were swept away by the storm and the water. The greater part of the animals, grain, &c., were destroyed.

Isle aux Ours.—Ignace Bergeron, Pierre St. Martin, Francois St. Martin, Pierre Bergeron, and Pierre Plante, have lost their houses, barns, grain, animals, &c. It is believed that Pierre Plante is drowned. He has not been seen since Wednesday.

Isle Madame.—Bruno Ethier, Belouise Cournoyer, Joseph Cardin, and Athanasie Cardin, have lost everything. Ethier had 1000 minots of oats in his barn. Other of the inhabitants of this island have also suffered, but the details are not ascertained.

Upon the Canal du Moine.—71 houses, barns, and other buildings were destroyed, and large numbers of animals and a large quantity of grain. Fortunately, no one was drowned.

Upon l'Isle du Pade.—17 buildings of various kinds were destroyed.

Two or three houses have been destroyed at Berthier.

THE DISASTER AT SOREL.—We learn that Lord Alexander Russell has kindly offered the services of the band of the P. C. O. Ride Brigade at the Crystal Palace next Monday in aid of the sufferers of the late flood at Sorel and the surrounding neighbourhood.

MEETING AT TERREBONNE.—A meeting of the citizens of Terrebonne was held on Sunday for the purpose of taking steps to relieve the sufferers by the inundation of the Islands below Sorel.

The Reverend Messire Gratton was called upon to preside, on motion of the Honorable Edward Masson, seconded by R. Masson, Esquire, and Thomas Lapointe, Esquire, merchant, requested to act as secretary.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted expressing the condolence of the meeting with the unfortunate sufferers, and appointing a committee to collect subscriptions for relief in the town and parish of Terrebonne. About \$400 were subscribed at the meeting, and the Committee will immediately proceed to collect further amounts. L. B. Voligny, Esquire, has been requested to remit the money collected yesterday to the town committee.

THE RICHELIEU COMPANY.—The arrangements for the carrying on of the business of this Company and the running of the ordinary fleet of steamers during the ensuing summer, differ little from those of last year. There will be, as usual two large powerful boats, keeping up a daily service between Quebec and Montreal, viz: the *Montreal*, Captain R. Nelson, and the Quebec, the splendid new steamer built last year at Sorel, of iron imported from the Clyde. This vessel is to replace the *Azrop*, Captain J. B. Labelle, on the route last summer. The usual line of market steamers will also be put in operation.

THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.—The *Quebec News* asks, "What does the Government expect to obtain by their [the Commissioners] presence at the Dublin Exhibition? What quantity of specimens of Canadian industry are to go forward that will require the attention of three Commissioners to explain their merits to the Irish people? We are much inclined to believe the whole thing is a sham, and a disgraceful sham if the expenses of these gentlemen are to be paid out of the public chest." The quantity of specimens sent from this Province is very small, and one person would be amply sufficient to look after the Canadian department at the Exhibition.

THE RAIDERS AND "ROMANISM."—The *Montreal Witness*, says the *Leader*, is very indignant over some letters written to a Lower Canadian priest by Bennett Young and Marcus Spurr, and from them concludes that these young men are in a fair way to Popery. It may be satisfactory to our contemporary to learn that his fears are unfounded. The priest referred to paid the "raiders" many visits, sympathized deeply with them and gave them encouraging words of cheer; but he never spoke to them on the subject of religion, and therefore did not draw either Young or Spurr towards that goal which the *Witness* dreads so much.

CONFEDERATION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—We learn from the *Islander* of the 31st March, just received, that the Colonial Secretary proposed a series of resolutions favorable to a Union of all the Provinces, to which the leader of the Government, the Hon. J. C. Pope, submitted in amendment, other resolutions opposed to Confederation, the last one winding up as follows:—"That this House disavows the recommendations of the Quebec Convention, and on the part of Prince Edward Island emphatically declines a Union which, after a serious and careful consideration, it believes would prove politically, commercially and financially disastrous to the rights and interests of the people." The resolutions were under discussion; but the *Islander* says there are only four members who will vote for the whole of those submitted by the Secretary.

The maple sugar crop was expected to be quite large this year. In the western section of Canada the supply will be abundant and equal to the demand.

The 'boss' butchers of Quebec have struck for higher prices for their meat, demanding 12 cts per lb for that which they have been selling for 10 cts

The *Bransford Expositor* says:—There is a little of the milk of human kindness left in the world after all, as such facts as this demonstrate: Mr. Gurnett, after publishing a paper in the village of Bradford for some years, at the loss of his time if not something more, at length concluded to abandon the thing. He did so, and his patrons thereupon resolved to do something handsome for him. Accordingly, they invited the retired editor to an oyster supper, (most of the bivalves being eaten by themselves,) and presented him with a cheap copy of Dickens' works. We are not told what Mr. Gurnett said by way of thanks for all this liberality, but we fancy he must have felt very *Heapish*.—"umble" as Uriah was, in his live-long existence of thankfulness for small favors.

RISE IN BREAD.—The bakers of the city have raised the price of their bread—for what reason we cannot conceive. On Saturday some of them did not issue a sufficient quantity to supply the wants of their customers, and on Sunday a good deal of inconvenience was experienced among housekeepers in consequence. The rise took place yesterday. The reason for baking as little as possible on Saturday is obvious.—*Transcript*.

The servant girl of Mr. C. Cook, West street Napae, had been indulging on Sunday last in a comfortable smoke, and when she was finished she placed the pipe in the bed. As night had been expected, the bedding took fire, and says the *Standard*, had it not been for the prompt application of several pails of water, the house would have been reduced to ashes.

The *London Free Press* says:—We regret to learn that Mr. L. F. Harris, Insurance and Commission Agent, in London, has made himself scarce in these parts since Monday, embezzling moneys of three Insurance Companies, for which he was agent, to the amount of some \$5000 or \$6000.

The *Essex Record* states that a Mrs. Sheridan procured a quart of whisky at the house of James O'Connell, Sandwich East, on Saturday night last.—She went to a field in the rear of her house, drank the whisky, and was found next morning to be dead.—An inquest was held, and the verdict returned was, that Mrs. Sheridan died from the effects of excessive drinking and exposure to the inclemency of the weather.

With respect to the formation of a new ministry in New Brunswick, the *St. John Telegraph* of Monday has the following, which is somewhat different from the programme previously reported:—

The new Government, as now arranged, stands as follows:—

Hon. Mr. Smith, Leader, without office, or as President of the Council.
Hon. Mr. Hatheway, Board of Works.
Hon. Mr. Allan, Attorney General.
Hon. Mr. Gilmour, provincial Secretary and Minister of Finance.
Hon. Miss Botsford, Surveyor General.
Hon. Messrs. Anglin and Hutchison go in without office. The Solicitor Generalship and Postmaster Generalship are left vacant for the present. It is thought the former will be reserved for Mr. Williston, after his friends finally bury confederation out of sight, as he represents a Confederate County; while efforts are being or were made to induce the Hon. Mr. Todd to accept the latter office.

The following is from the *Journal de Quebec*, translated by the *Montreal Herald*:—The *Toronto Globe* loves to navigate in troubled waters; it is now agitating the confederation of the two Canadas only, in the supposition that the more general confederation is lost. Aside from this question it raises another, which he knows to be full of tempests, that of separate schools, and he has not the ordinary respect of social life for the persons whom he puts on the scene. Who does not remember the angry war he had with Dr. Rverson, the Superintendent of public instruction of Upper Canada? Then this public functionary was, according to him, a miserable man whom he endeavored to crush at any price for the good of the country and the safety of instruction.—To day he is almost a God, whom he is ready to defend against all. Another time mounting his protestant horse he marches in triumph in the ranks of the Upper Canadian populace, saying to them: follow me! But they have finished: by discovering the stratagem and the egotism which moved him. We would ask this question: Is Mr. G. Brown, President of the Executive Council, the proprietor of the *Globe*? If he is why does he write, or allow to be written—that which we read on the two questions of which we speak. Does he believe that this is the one means of arriving surely at his aim, or at his aims? If he does believe so, he is much mistaken. Good faith has always been the surest guarantee of success, and men have always finished by being the dupes of their own frauds and their own deceptions. If the *Globe* believes to regain the Protestant ground lost in neglecting the most common rules of decency towards the dignities of the Catholic Church: and the political ground, insisting in an inconvenient manner, on a constitutional change without regarding the consequences of the work the Canadian Parliament had to a complicity, we can tell him, as well as those of whom he is the organ that he is a very bad calculator, and that he will find himself, the day after the experiment, precisely at the point where he was before he was tempted, with the rest of his prestige lost. This is all that we have to say to day; we shall return again to the subject. We shall only add, in concluding, that the *Leader* follows in the same view, without doubt, to embarrass Mr. Brown; but the *Leader* is in opposition, and that is the 'role.'

Died.

In this city, on the 17th instant, Thomas Corcoran, Esq., for many years an officer in the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company, aged 71 years. The deceased was a native of Killybeg, Ireland, and leaves behind him many sincere friends to deplore his loss.—May his soul rest in peace.

In this city, on Thursday, the 13th instant, at her son's residence, Mrs. Judith Kiernan, relict of the late Patrick Kiernan, a native of the Parish of Templeport, County Cavan Ireland, aged 75 years.—May her soul rest in peace.

At Valcartier, on the 13th instant, Loughlan Henry Coughlan, late of Quebec. May his soul rest in peace.

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS

Montreal, April 18, 1865.
Flour—Pollards, \$3.25 to \$3.50; Middlings, \$3.35 to \$3.80; Fine, \$3.65 to \$3.80; Super., No. 2 \$4.25 to \$4.45; Superior \$4.60 to \$4.75; Fancy \$4.70 to \$4.80; Extra, \$4.95 to \$5.05; Superior Extra \$5.20 to \$5.30; Bag Flour, \$2.50 to \$2.60.
Oatmeal per brl of 200 lbs, \$4.75 to \$5.00.
Wheat—U. Canada Spring \$1.03 to \$1.07.
Ashes per 100 lbs, Pots, latest sales were at \$5.20 to \$5.25; Inferior Pots, \$5.00 to \$5.00; Pearls, in demand, at \$5.40 to \$5.45.
Butter—Store packed in small packages at 16c to 19c; and a lot of choice Dairy 00c.
Eggs per doz, 15c.
Lard per lb, fair demand at 00c to 00c.
Tallow per lb, 11c to 12c.
Cut-meats per lb, Hams, canvassed, 9c to 10c Bacon, 00c to 00c.
Pork—Quiet; New Mess, \$20.00 to \$21.50; Prime Mess, \$15.00 to \$16; Prime, \$14.50 to \$20.00.—*Montreal Witness*.
Dressed Hogs, per 100 lbs. \$9.50 to \$10.00
Hay, per 100 bundles \$9.00 to \$10.00
Straw, \$9.00 to \$10.00
Beef, live, per 100 lbs 8.00 to 9.00
Sheep, \$6.00 to \$8.00

Body Found in the Canal.—At a little before one o'clock yesterday afternoon, the body of a man was found in the canal lock, near the basin by the lock keeper. The deceased, from the appearance of the corpse, would seem to have been in the water all winter, being in such a state of decomposition, that it would be difficult to state his age, and having one arm entirely missing. The body had also lost all clothing, except shoes and socks. The body was taken to the dead-house.—*Herald*, Tuesday.

JUST PUBLISHED.

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BY HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL WISEMAN.

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July 21st, 1861.

INFORMATION WANTED,

OF JAMES FURLONG, who was in Sorel some four or five years ago, and is now supposed to reside in Naperville, O. E. Any communication with regard to his whereabouts, addressed to the Rev. P. Dowd, P.P., St. Patrick's Church, Montreal, will be thankfully received by his sister, Margaret Furlong.

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Jan. 17, 1864.