they were not adequately represented in the Legislature. He should vote for the committee proposed by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Cartier spoke at some length against Representation by Population, and said he should vote against the motion.

Mr. Dickson supported the motion, and dwelt on the injustice done to his constituents in Huron and Bruce under the present system.

Mr. Mackenzie, Lambton, supported the motion and exposed the weakness of Mr. John A. Macdonald's speech.

Mr. Joly, in French, referred to the course taken by Mr. Cartier and his friends at the elections in making use of this question to excite feelings against Upper Canadians and their Lower Canada liberal allies.

Mr. Cauchon replied to Mr. Joly.

Mr. McKellar in an able speech supported the motion.

Mr. Cockburn at half past eleven o'clock moved an adjournment of the debate. He said the question was one of great importance, and as he and several others desired to speak, he thought the debate could not be concluded to-night.

Mr. Brown wished before the House rose to take the opportunity of replying to the personal attacks made on him by Mr. John A. Macdonald. He went on to show that these miserable personal attacks were all that hon. member could resort to, in order to divert attention from the important question before the House, on which he had not expressed an opinion. He remarked on his repudiation to-night of the doctrine as to a confederation of the Provinces laid down in the despatch of his colleague in 1858, and said that was but one specimen of his want of any fixed principle in politics. He commented severely on the position Mr. John A. Macdonald had occupied in the Government as paid agent of Lower Canadians, always advocating their cause against the interests of his own section, and the wretched position he still occupied as Mr. Cartier's tool and instrument in the House.

After Mr. Brown's speech a warm discussion took place as to the position which the adjourned debate should take on the orders.

Messrs. Powell, Galt, Cauchon, and others endeavored to assign it a place on the orders where it might not be reached during the remainder of the session. Finally however, it was made the first order of the day for Wednesday, and the House adjourned at 1½ 30.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, March 15.

The following bills were introduced:—Mr Alexander: Bill to amend the provisions of the law for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, and Manufactures. Mr Campbell: Bill to authorize the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. James Church, Carleton Place, To lease certain minerals or lands belonging to said Church.

The amendments of the Select Committee to the Parliament special provision bill (?) were, on the motion of Mr Ferguson Blair adopted, and the bill ordered to a third reading on Thursday.

The Herchmer's Estate Conveyance Bill, and the Bessemer's Patent Bill were severally read a second time and referred to Committes.

The Council then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Quebec, March 15.

This afternoon, Mr McKellar from the general committee on elections reported the following as the names of the members appointed to serve on the Brockville Election Committee: Mr Huot, T. R. Ferguson, Wells, Wilson, and Taschereau.

Mr McKay, Lambton, presented the first report on the joint committee on printing.—The Committee recommended that tenders be asked for the printing paper, printing and binding required by the Legislative Assembly and Council for five years, commencing on the 1st of January, 1865.

Mr Cockburn presented a report from the Montreal East Election Committee intimating their final decision as follows:—first.—That the petitioners had failed to prove their qualification as electors upon the primary objection taken by the sitting Member to their right to petition; second that the sitting member Hon. G. E. Cartier was duly elected; third—that neither the petition nor the defence of the sitting member were frivolous or vexatious.

Mr McFarlane moved that the Terrebone Election Committee have leave to adjourn till Wednesday the 23rd inst.—Carried.

Mr Irvine moved that the Richelieu Election Committee have leave to adjourn till Tuesday, the 22nd inst.—Carried.

The following Bills were then introduced: By Mr Dunkin: To incorporate the North American Steamship Company. By Mr Morris: To provide for the succession of Trustees to the property of the St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal. By Mr. Rose: To incorporate the Lower Canada Copper Mining Company. By Mr Morris: To incorporate the Escott mining Company. By H. T. McKenzie: To incorporate the Independent Order of Good Templars of Canada. An amendment was moved by Mr McGee that this bill be not now read the first time, but that it be read a first time this day six months, was negatived 86 to—By Mr Laframboise: To incorporate the Guelph, Fergus, Owen Sound and Lake Huron Railway. By Mr Knight to incorporate the Bunker Hill the Ophir and the Havelock Gold Mining Companies.

The Explosion at Quebec.

THE VERDICT.

"That, on the fourth day of March, in the year aforesaid, in the parish, county and district aforesaid, a certain building known as the laboratory, there situate and containing a large quantity of gunpowder and other explosive material, accidentally, casually and by misfortune, took fire, and it so happened that, by the explosion of the great quantity of gunpowder and other explosive material aforesaid, the said laboratory blew up and was completely destroyed, and that the said Edwin Hawkins (and others) then and there being present, received, each and every one of them, by the falling ruins and materials of the laboratory aforesaid, divers mortal bodily injuries received as aforesaid, of which they, the said Edwin Hawkins, (and others) then and there died.

"And the jurors aforesaid, in saying upon their oaths, that the said Edwin Hawkins (and others) in the manner and by the means aforesaid accidentally, casually and by misfortune came to their deaths, cannot refrain from expressing the following opinions:—

"And the jurors do say that the practice that has been followed, for a considerable length of time, of destroying fuses, by fire, in the vicinity of the laboratory is highly culpable and reprehensible; and the jurors are of opinion that, in this case it caused the sacrifice of the lives of eleven human beings.

"That the internal management of the laboratory was not what it should have been, the jurors are satisfied. Too large a quantity of made up ammunition was allowed to remain in store at the laboratory, and too great a quantity of powder was taken into the laboratory at one time. On the day of the explosion the laboratory contained 45,000 rounds of made-up blank ammunition, and 800 lbs of powder in barrels. This last quantity of powder could have taken eleven days to be expended by the men working in the laboratory.

"That the laboratory was used for storing away a large quantity of explosive material of different sorts, and this to such an extent that the available space in the building was considerably lessened.

"That the laboratory was under the control and management of Captain Thomas Mahon, inspector of Warlike Stores and Fire master, but the jurors regret to find that, although placed in such a responsible position the proper means were not given him to avail himself in all cases of the services of the most expert, intelligent and steady men. And the jurors agree with Cap. Mahon that soldiers should not be employed in laboratories, because they are so often changed that they cannot be made perfect and expert as required.

"That the laboratory was situated in a very dangerous and objectionable locality, being at a distance of about seventy feet from a large magazine containing a large quantity of powder."

BELLEVILLE PARTIALLY INUNDATED.—Belleville, March 11.—Owing to the heavy rain which fell all day yesterday and the late mild weather, the ice in the Moira River gave way during the night, blockading the river near the lower bridge, causing great damage to property. Sheds along the river were torn down, cattle drowned, and a large quantity of sugar, salt, flour &c., destroyed by water. Again at 5 o'clock this afternoon, the ice began to move, tearing down barns, sheds, and everything on the banks of the river within its reach. The new iron bridge sustained tremendous pressure, and is now bent and twisted to such a degree as to render crossing dangerous. The water is now rushing knee deep across Bridge street, and several buildings on the west side of the river are completely surrounded by water.

Contested Elections.

There are still thirteen contested elections pending—five from Upper and eight from Lower Canada. The members whose seats are contested are:

Mr. Robert Bell, of Russell; Mr. Chambers, of Brockville; Mr. Cornellier, of Joliette; Mr. A.A. Dorion, of Hochelaga; Mr. Geoffrion, of Verencheres; Mr. Labreche Viger, of Terrebonne; Mr. Perrault, of Richelieu; Mr. Powell of Carleton; Mr. Raymond, of St. Hyacinthe; Mr. Remillard, of Bellechase; Mr. Simpson, of Niagara; Mr. Alonzo Wright, of Ottawa County.

The other case is that of the special return in the County of Essex. It is said that the petition against Mr Dorion is about being withdrawn. Several of the above contests involve questions of property qualification. It is curious to note that, with but two or three exceptions, the members whose right to sit in Parliament is disputed, were elected by pretty decided majorities. In ten of the above cases the committees have been struck, and are either at work or have adjourned for a few days with the consent of the parties concerned. In the Essex case the committee is to be struck next week. The Niagara and St. Hyacinthe cases are not so far advanced.

A SHORT SERMON.—Peter the Great, when at Zaardam, wished to hear a rather famous preacher. The latter consented to preach before the Czar. Having ascended the pulpit he said, with solemnity and dignity, 'Think well, speak well, and act well Amen.'

Some men are kind because they are dull, as common horses are easily broken to harness. Some are orderly because they are timid, like cattle driven by a boy with a wand. And some are social because they are greedy, like barn yard fowls that mind each other's chuckling.

The Herald.

CARLETON PLACE.

Wednesday, March 23, 1864.

To those whose duty it is to listen to, or to read, the speeches of members of parliament, the address of the Hon. Geo. Brown, on the Representation question, cannot fail to be refreshing; after the almost inexhaustable supply of criminations and recriminations which have lately been poured out upon the floor of the House by some of the spouting machines, connected with the opposition. It affords us some measure of satisfaction and pleasure to point to the mover of the resolution on the representation question, which we publish to-day; and to ask our readers—do they not feel proud of the fact, that, in Canada, we still have some men, who can rise above mere party feeling, and calmly consider great political questions and treat them in a becoming temper, in fitting words, and with a desire to better our system of government and our common country.

A highly esteemed correspondent, styling himself "A Backwoodsman," finds fault with us for not coming out in opposition to the present managers of the Brockville and Ottawa railroad. In part, we must plead guilty; being so peaceably disposed, as not to find fault with everything, which may differ from our opinions. No one could hold a higher estimation, in our minds, than the late superintendent, Mr. Brooks. We thought he was the right man in the right place; and we are quite sure the public appreciated his active and well directed services as Superintendent of the road. And we still think that he should have been retained, at any cost, in the management of the concern—fitted, as he was, by a thorough experience of the working of the road. But, it appears, other people can see farther into a millstone than we can; and the management of the road has been transferred into other hands—whether for the better or for the worse, time, alone, can tell.

Mr. Richardson, and the present board of directors, have been placed at the helm of affairs, without our knowledge or consent; and, for all we know, at present, it may be for the interests of all the parties concerned. We have a good share of confidence in the energy and promptness with which Mr. Richardson acts; and we think there is good reason to feel assured that nothing will be wanting on his part to push the road through to Arnprior as soon as possible. Mr. Morris, and some of the other directors we are sorry to see on the board, but we hope there is honesty enough left to keep in view the interests of the parties interested and the success of the enterprise in which they are engaged. We could be very unwilling to throw anything in the way of the completion of the road.

Quebec Correspondence.

Quebec, 18th March, 1864.

MR. EDITOR—Although the verdict of the Coroner's Jury, on the bodies of the men killed by the late explosion here, in effect, attributed the accident to the burning of condemned fuses outside of the building; yet some persons, who are in a position to give such an opinion, think that the true cause was in some way connected with friction matches and smoking—the origin of many a fire in all parts of the country.

The dismissal of Mr. Keefer from the Board of Works Department, although the groundwork of attack by the opposition against the Government, seems to be approved of by all parties. Both Mr. Rose and Mr. Cauchon blame Mr. K. with a large share of the extravagance and mismanagement of the Department, while they were at the head of it. At any rate, the dismissal will be a saving to the country, for no new appointment is made to fill the vacancy, but the employees already in the office are to do the work.

Mr. Brown's speech, on moving for a committee to consider Representation by Population, was a very able and statesmanlike affair; and it was a subject of regret both in and out of the House that Messrs. Galt, John A. and Cartier did not deal with the question in the same style. Instead of dealing with the merits of the question they confined themselves almost exclusively to petty personal attacks on Mr. Brown and others who act with him. Indeed, the opposition was in a difficult position—fairly "cornered"—for Mr. Brown took the very despatch which the three gentlemen referred to a committee of nineteen, to be composed of members from both sides of the House and both sections of the province. Could anything be fairer than this? Could the question be dealt with in any way more likely to promote a right feeling in both sections of the Province? But no, say the Bas-Canadians, and a few from the West, "we'll vote you down, right or wrong. It is "true you Western 'codfish' have a majority "of over 380,000, but accidental circumstances give us the control, and we'll use it in "the most arbitrary manner, and you may "help yourselves." Depend upon it, the time is not very distant, when Upper Canadians will help themselves—of course in a peaceable and constitutional manner.

On Tuesday Mr. Mowat introduced a bill to confirm the order in council, by which the subsidy of £104,000 paid to the Canadian line of ocean steamers is reduced to £54,500, or nearly one half. By the new arrangement it is expected that the service will be more safely and efficiently performed than under the old and more costly system.

Mr. McDougall, on the same day, introduced a bill to regulate the gold mines of Canada, but as gold is a metal almost unknown in your part of the Province, I suppose your readers will take but little interest in the bill.

On Tuesday, Mr. Mackenzie moved to introduce a bill to incorporate the Good Templars, a temperance society similar to the "Sons", when he was strongly opposed by Mr. McGee and twenty-seven others, on the ground that it was a secret society. The first reading of the bill, however, was carried by 86 voting for it. You will perceive that this indicates a great change of opinion in favor of such societies, when you recollect that a similar bill was thrown out a few years ago by a considerable majority.

Yours, E.

Carleton was highly favoured last week in the way of amusements. A soiree and a concert in the same week is something to which our villagers have not, at least this winter, been accustomed. A brief notice of these important events will therefore be necessary.

The Soiree which took place in the Methodist Church on Monday evening, was, as our readers may have learned from our columns, in connection with the Young Ladies' Sewing Society. The evening was, as to weather, all that could have been desired, but, whatever was the cause, the audience was not so numerous as it ought to have been. We can only say to those who were not present, that they missed a treat. Mr Tytler occupied the chair, while Mr Doherty with his choir was always ready to respond to a call for music. After the meeting was opened, cakes and tea were brought in, and we feel it our duty to say, that better samples of edibles and potables we never saw at a soiree. After ample justice had been done to these, the Rev. Mr McKinnon was called upon, and in a few very brief remarks expressed his approval of the objects of the society. Mr P. W. Cram followed on the subject of modern civilisation. Rev. Mr Duncan, of Perth, was the next speaker. His remarks, which were listened to with marked attention, were chiefly addressed to the young. In plain and forcible language he cautioned them to beware of the "wrong turns" in the path of life, and encouraged them, by showing what young people can do. Rev. Mr Halcroft followed. He considered it one of the most cheering signs of the times that the young people were coming forward in such a cause. Rev. Mr McKenzie was then called upon, and gave some interesting information in regard to the French Canadian Mission. Mr McKinnon again addressed the audience in a few words. Between each of the addresses the choir delighted the audience with select pieces of music. Votes of thanks were then passed to the Speakers, the Girls, the Choir, and the Chairman, after which the choir sang "God Save the Queen," and the meeting was closed.

We hope that at their next soiree the girls will have as good a supply of speakers, provisions and music, and a fuller house.

Mr Doherty's concert, which has long been an anticipated treat, came off on Wednesday evening, in the School house, which was fitted up for the occasion with platform, curtain, and all the necessaries. It (the concert) was a most successful affair. The house was crowded, and certainly the music was well worth the coming for. Where all did so well it may seem invidious to particularize, but we only express the general opinion when we say that Miss Bond, in the numerous songs she sang so well, and Mr Whyte, in his Scotch songs, were the favourites. We must mention also that Mr P. W. Cram gave an address on the subject of music, and Mr Doherty's recitation was received with much applause.

We have, however, no room to notice one twentieth part of the musical gems which during the evening came from the platform. The National Anthem, by the whole choir, finished the performance. We heartily congratulate Mr Doherty in this addition to the laurels he has this season so abundantly gathered, and which we hope he will for many years continue to gather.

We understand that the House has adopted the first report of the Printing Committee so that tenders for the printing, printing paper, and binding, required by the legislature for five years, from the first day of January next, will soon be advertised for. A great improvement, we should say on the system carried on by the late government.

In the House of Assembly the question of an Easter recess is settled by the members almost unanimously deciding to have only an adjournment from the day before Good Friday, to the beginning of the following week. This decision will no doubt have the effect of hastening the close of the session.

The Legislative Council adjourned until the 31st of March. The members of the Upper House have thus taken to themselves a fortnight's recess. Probably they will be back to their work by the time that the measures of importance now before the Assembly are ready to be sent up to them.

Henry M. Allen was sent to the Penitentiary for five years at the Kingston Court of Quarter Sessions, for horse stealing. James Thomas was at the same time sent for four years for a similar offence.

The Parliament has, we think, very wisely determised that the Easter recess shall be short; and that the adjournment shall only last from the day before Good Friday until the beginning of the next week.

Brockville & Ottawa Railway.

To the Editor of the C. P. Herald.

MR. EDITOR—The "Herald" has been rather silent on the changes that have recently taken place in the affairs of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway, which has disappointed many of its readers, who have full confidence in its statements. The country, for a long time, has been thoroughly disgusted with Steel and his tools, and any change made in the Board could hardly be for the worse, yet if the Steel board had any redeeming qualities, it was in placing an honest and efficient person as Superintendent who was popular with the public; yet the first act of the Richardson Board was to get quit of Mr. Brooks, without showing any cause, but merely to make room for a friend, which, to say the least of it, is questionable policy, by raising strong doubts whether the Richardson Board is much of an improvement on Steele and his nominees. It would almost be unreasonable to suppose that it would be when we take into consideration the composition of the Richardson Board—two are Montreal lawyers, two are Americans, whose homes are in Auburn, State of New York, and one is Mr. Steele's partner, who drew $2,000 a year as President of the former Board and who spent his share of the $14,000 expended in pleasure trips to England. It is but just to Mr. Richardson to admit that he appointed one director from the counties that are most deeply interested in the success and extension of the road, but not before he was "pledged" to certain policy. Such being the case would it not be better to have no Board at all, and to hold Mr. Richardson individually responsible in place of shifting it off his shoulders on to the board. For instance there is a very material change taken place in the running of the trains, where there appears to be a want of consideration for the convenience of the people of the Townships of McNab, Fitzroy, Pakenham, Ramsay and Beckwith. According to the Brooks arrangement persons having business in Perth or Brockville could leave home in the morning and transact their business and get home the same evening; but according to the new arrangement, if there is any business to be done at the Banks, Law offices, &c., it will take three days to accomplish what formerly could be done in one. If the trains were connecting with the Ottawa river, and running twice a day then there might be some reason for the present arrangement to receive the Ottawa travel and trade; but as it is it will be a loss, as a great many will take their own conveyance, especially in going to Perth or Ottawa, if they are in a hurry.

The impression is that the change has been made at the instance of Mr. Sherwood, as it has long been a favorite scheme of his for the benefit of Brockville, at the expense of the back country. Such grasping has injured Brockville more than many are aware of; if the road had been extended to commend the travel and trade of the Ottawa in place of having it expended in expensive works that could well be done without for some time, hence the greed of the Brockvilians has lost them a large trade that has gone to Ottawa city, for a number of years past.

Notwithstanding the gross blunders Mr. Richardson has made, it is but just to give him credit for the prompt manner in which he has made preparations for the extension of the road, and if he only faithfully fulfil his promises it will cover a multitude of sins. We shall see.

A BACKWOODSMAN.

Quebec, March 17.

Mr. Page declines the office of Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, vacant by Mr. Keefer's dismissal, and retains his present position as Chief Engineer.

Mr. Trudeau has been appointed Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Braun takes Mr. Trudeau's place.

The salary will be, as formerly announced, between $2,000 and $3,000.

The rebels write their secret letters with sulphuric acid freely diluted with spring water, and hold before the fire, the letters turn black. A quill pen must be used.

Beckwith Council.

The Municipal Council of the Township of Beckwith, met, pursuant to adjournment on the 25th day of February, 1864.

Present, the Reeve and Messrs. McArthur, Kidd and Ferguson, councillors, absent Mr. Struthers, councillor.

Minutes of the last sitting of council were read, approved, and signed by the Reeve.

Petitions from Mr. Donald McFarlane, Mrs. Isabella Hughton and Mr. Robert Metcalf, with the requisite number of Municipal voters for Tavern Licences for the present year were then presented and read.

Moved by A. McArthur, seconded by George Kidd that Duncan McNee be appointed Pathmaster for the half of the concession, for 1864, instead of Donald McLaren who refuses to accept the office.—carried.

The clerk then presented the account of Jas. Poole, Esqr., for printing for 1863, amounting to £11 2s 6d, currency, which was accepted and ordered to be paid.

Moved by Mr. Kidd, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, That the petitions of D. McFarlane, R. Metcalf, and Mrs. Isabella Hughton be granted, and that the clerk be authorised to grant the necessary certificates upon them, complying with the Rules and By-laws of the municipality in such cases made and provided.—carried.

Moved by Mr. McArthur, seconded by A. Ferguson, that the By-law for the appointment of township officers be now introduced and read the first time.—carried.

The said By law was then introduced and read the first time.

Moved by A. McArthur, seconded by A. Ferguson, That the By-law now read be read the second time, short, and passed.—carried.

The By-law for the appointment of Township officers was then read the second time, short, and passed.

Presented by Mr. McArthur, the petition of John Cram, jr., praying to be detached from School Section No 11 and attached to School Section No 9, which was read, and in connection with the said petition the following copy of a resolution passed at the annual school meeting of S. S. No 11 was laid before the council, "Moved by D. Cram, seconded by N. McNeely, That John Cram be allowed to withdraw from school section No 11, Beckwith.—carried.

Signed, P STRUTHERS,
Secretary."

A. McArthur moved, seconded by George Kidd, That the Petition of John Cram be granted, and that the clerk be, and he is hereby instructed to make the necessary alteration prayed for, being considered a very special case.—carried.

Moved by Geo. Kidd, seconded by A. Ferguson, That P. Madigan be appointed commissioner to expend a certain sum of money granted by this council in September last to the second line at lot No 14, in place of the late James Burrows now deceased.—carried.

Mr. McArthur moved, seconded by Geo. Kidd, That the By-law to amend the By-law of the Municipality for Regulation of Houses of Public Entertainment, Shop keepers, and others, selling spirituous or fermented liquors by retail, within the municipality, be now brought up and read the first time.—carried.

The said By-law was read the first time.

A. McArthur moved, seconded by A. Ferguson, That the By law now read be read a second time, short, and passed.—carried.

The By-law to amend the By-law of this municipality for the Regulation of Inns or Houses of Public Entertainment, &c., was then read the second time, short, and passed.

A. McArthur moved, seconded by A. Ferguson, That the Reeve be, and he is hereby authorized to employ a surveyor to ascertain the proper metes and bounds of a certain Road west of the Lake, and to have the necessary witnesses summoned to give evidence in court in regard to the said Road if such be required.—carried.

The council then adjourned till the second Tuesday in April next.

PENAL CLAUSE,

OF THE BY-LAW TO AMEND THE BY-LAW FOR THE REGULATION OF INNS, &c., IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BECKWITH.

"Be it therefore enacted by the municipal council of the Township of Beckwith, in Council assembled, that any person or persons, selling or vending Wine, Rum, Brandy, or other Spirituous Liquors, Beer, Ale, Cider, or other Fermented or Manufactured Liquors, without License, contrary to the By-laws of this municipality for the regulation of Houses of Public Entertainment, Shopkeepers, Storekeepers, and others, within said municipality, shall on conviction thereof, before any one or more of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction within municipality, forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum not less than ten nor more than forty dollars, with costs, half of the penalty to go to the informer the other half to be paid into the township treasurer for the benefit of the municipality, and if not forthwith paid, such penalty with costs shall be recoverable by distress and sale of goods and chattles of the person or persons so convicted of a breach of said by-law. And in default of sufficient distress being found it shall and may be lawful for the Justice or Justices before whom such conviction shall be made, and having jurisdiction as aforesaid, to commit the offender, or offenders, to the Common Jail of the County, or the nearest Lock-up House, for a period not exceeding twenty-one days, unless such distress and all costs and charges of conveying such offender, or offenders, to such Jail or Lock-up shall be sooner paid."

EWEN MCEWEN,
Town Clerk.

About three weeks since a commission was issued to Judge Armstrong, directing him to take evidence in reference to certain preliminary objections to the petition in the Russell contested election. On behalf of the sitting member, Mr. Bell, it had been objected that the petitioner, Dr. Hunter, was not a British subject, and that he was not possessed of the requisite property qualification. The commission was charged with the duty of taking evidence on these points. Its labours declared void, we learn that the evidence taken goes to show that Dr. Hunter's property is worth about $40,000, and that the petitioner had no reasonable ground for saying that he (Dr. Hunter) is not a British subject. If the evidence be deemed by the Election Committee sufficient to establish these points, the petitioner will be allowed to proceed to attack Mr. Bell's right to sit in Parliament.—*Globe.*

PENMANSHIP.—The "St. Mary's Argus" says Mr. J. W. Poole, of this town, has accomplished a feat of penmanship quite as remarkable as that performed by the late Mr. Thackery. That accomplished penman, a few weeks before his death, wrote the Lord's Prayer, with the single contraction of the word "which," spelling it "wh." within the circle of a fourpenny piece, drawing a crown in the centre. Mr. Poole has successfully performed the difficult feat of writing the Lord's Prayer, a crown, and the words, "Victoria Dei Gratia Regina," within the circle of a five cent piece. The writing contains in all 72 words or 292 letters and the crown. Beat this who can! The specimen may be seen at the *Argus* Book and Stationery store.

A person threw the head of a goose upon the stage of one of the theatres. An actor advancing to the front, said, 'Gentlemen, if any one of you has lost his head, do not be uneasy, for I will restore it to you at the conclusion of the performance.'

AMERICAN NEWS.

New York, March 17.

The General Assembly of Virginia has issued an address to the people of Virginia, stating that submission to the enemy, who has exhausted every infamy, is not endurable even in thought, and urging them to renewed efforts for victory. One more resolute effort, says the address, and the day is ours.

The Examiner of the 14th reports that the Federals have retreated towards Knoxville, and indications of an early engagement in Tennessee have disappeared.

A despatch from Gen. Polk reports that an attack by Roser and Richardson on Yazoo city on the 5th, and the destruction of much cotton and many stores. The enemy still hold Yazoo city and Liverpool. The rebel loss was 50 killed and wounded. 270 prisoners, captured near Cumberland Gap, have reached Richmond.

The Sentinel confirms the report that the rebels exchange 17 prisoners for every ten received from us, and sets, as the reason, that the Yankees claim to have three-tenths the most prisoners.

The message of Governor Brown, of Georgia, says that the action of Congress has shaken the confidence of the people in their justice or competency in our financial affairs. The compulsory funding of seven hundred millions in 40 days at a less rate of interest than that pledged on full notes reveal repudiation and bad faith.

The discussion of important measures in a secret session was declared a blighting curse, convenient for canvassing what will not bear the light. He declares the new military bill unconstitutional, and says the conscription of citizens will not fill the army, but they will stay at home on details thus depriving the State of her active militia, and placing civil rights subordinate to the military power. The suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus, under pretended necessity, confers to the President powers denied by the constitution, which limited the power of Congress to suspend the action of the writ only in an implied and limited way by express declaration in favour of personal liberty. The Congress cannot confer judicial powers on the Executive, and that warrants issued by the President, are plain violations of the Constitution, and if this act is acquiesced in and the President may impress whom he chooses, it being only necessary to allege treasonable efforts, and no court dare investigate the case. The legislature is earnestly recommended to take prompt action to stamp the Act with the seal of their indignant rebuke.

The Governor reviews the causes of the war, expresses his opinion as to who is responsible for it, and how peace should be sought. We should keep before the northern people the idea that we are ready to negotiate when they are ready, and will recognize our right to self government and the sovereignty of the States. After each victory our government should make a distinct offer of peace on these terms, and should the course of any State be doubted, let the armed force be withdrawn and the ballot box decide. If this is refused even a dozen times, renew it and keep before the North and the world that our ability to defend ourselves for many years has been proved.

New York, March 17.

At half-past two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a terrific explosion occurred in the cartridge manufactory of C. D. Leet & Co., on Market street, Springfield, Mass. Forty persons, mostly females, were employed in the factory, of whom seven were so much injured by the burning powder and concussion of the explosion, that their recovery is considered doubtful. One young woman, from West Springfield, who made her escape, was rendered insane by the shock of the explosion. The cartridge factory was connected with the pistol manufactory of Smith & Wesson.

Harrisburg, 17th.—Generals Burnside and Hancock were handsomely received by both Houses of the Legislature to-day.—This afternoon they reviewed in company with Governor Curtin, the 45th, 48th, 50th and 55th regiments. These regiments are under marching orders for Annapolis, where Gen. Burnside's corps concentrates. Gen. Burnside evidently goes to North Carolina. Hancock expressed freely the opinion that his corps would re-enter the Army of the Potomac.

Reconnoitering is very active still at this point.

This State, with the exception of a few counties bordering on the Maryland and Virginia line, is full under the draft of 500,000. The draft for 290,000 more is deemed here as evidence of probable difficulty with some western European power. It will be complied with without draft.

New York, March 18.—The World's Washington despatch has a report that Stuart with 5000 cavalry has crossed the Rappahannock near Fredericksburg. Our army is well in hand, ready for a raid or general movement on the part of the enemy. It is thought the rebel cavalry will also make a demonstration towards the Baltimore & Ohio road.

The House Commerce Committee have authorized a resolution authorizing the termination, by the President, of Canadian Reciprocity, and to make a new one meeting the objections of our government to the present treaty.

Gen. Gilmore's Chief of Staff states that the lower part of Charleston is nearly destroyed, and that only the upper part is now occupied by troops. Rebels are stated to have a large force in North Carolina distributed along the railroad from Petersburg to Wilmington. Longstreet it is said will be appointed commander in South Virginia. Kerby Smith takes his place in East Tennessee.

The Times' despatch confirms Stuart's crossing the Rappahannock, and says Kilpatrick and Morrill are on his track.

The Times' Paris correspondent announced the important fact that Mr. Dayton has served a written notification upon the French Emperor that if the rebel cruiser Rappahannock, now at Calais, is allowed to proceed to sea, the French government will be held responsible for all the damage she may do to American commerce.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.—In drapers' and haberdasher's shops alone there are now in London, nearly 2,000 more women employed than there were ten years ago, and in the rest of England and Wales nearly 8,000. Similar increase of female employment has taken place in other branches of trade. In the census of 1851, there is no mention of female accountants or clerks, while 34 of the former and 274 of the latter class appear in the last census. That the field for operations is still vast, we may judge from the fact that 500 candidates replied to an advertisement for a nursery governess, and 300 for an employment which gave only board and lodging, without pay. There is much which men do that ought to be done by women. For instance, some 20,000 men get their living by plaiting straw, and making bonnets, and a great number are hairdressers, wig, and staymakers—occupations fit for women, and degrading to men.—*London Review.*

The Kingston News states that the lecture delivered a few evenings since in Montreal by a Mr. Smale, of the University of Oxford, on Astronomy, was taken bodily from Dr. Leitch's work, "The Glory of God in the Heavens."

Arrival of the Arabia.

Halifax, March 16.—The Royal mail steamship Arabia, from Liverpool, March 5th, via Queenstown on the 6th, arrived at this port, this evening. Her advices are two days later than per the Jura, from Portland.

The steamship City of Washington, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 5th.

The Danish affairs are reported unchanged.

The Archduke Maximilian arrived at Paris on the 5th, and it is reported that he will embark for Mexico on the 25th, all difficulties having been settled.

Liverpool, March, 5th.—There is nothing important relative to the Danish war.

A Vienna telegram says the mission of The Prussian minister Nanteuffel to Vienna had the desired result, Austria having consented to a continuation of operations in Jutland.

The Federal Diet officially announces that it has received no invitation to a conference.

London, March 5.—A telegram from the Persian Gulf announces the successful laying of 450 miles of new cable to India, and that the paying out of the line towards Europe was about to commence.

There was a report that the government had resolved to make Falmouth the Packet station for all foreign mails, instead of Southampton.

The appeal to the House of Lords in the Alexandria case had been entered for hearing, and will probably, therefore, be taken up before the Easter vacation.

In the House of Commons on the 4th inst., the Attorney-General said that the papers relative to the detention of the Tuscaloosa at the Cape of Good Hope were in preparation and would be laid before Parliament in few days.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre called attention to the course pursued by the Confederate agents in England in fitting out war vessels and enlisting seamen, and moved for the papers on the subject. He denounced the proceedings, regretted that the Alabama was not detained, and contended that all such vessels should be prohibited entering British ports. The Solicitor-General explained and defended the course of the government, and asserted that every effort had been made to honestly carry out the laws and maintain neutrality. He admitted that the vessels might be prohibited entering British ports, and said the government was considering the subject of how they could remonstrate with the Confederate Government.

No fighting is reported.

The remonstrance of France to Prussia against the advance of the Prussian troops into Jutland is said to be far less forcible than England's, but the tone of the documents is considered indicative that Napoleon fully means what he says.

Neustadt, in Holstein, is blockaded.

It is asserted that the Prussians have notified England of an intended early attack on Fredericia.

The Austro semi-official Correspondence of Vienna denies the rumored warlike preparations in Venetia, and most positively declares that has not the remotest intention of assuming the offensive. The rumors are nevertheless repeated via Queenstown.

London, 6, p. m.—It is reported that the Austrians are marching on Fredericia, in Jutland.

Paris, March 5.—The *Patrie* publishes a despatch from Hamburg, announcing that three brigades of Austrian troops have received orders from Gen. Wrangel to enter Jutland rapidly and invest Fredericia.

COMMERCIAL.

Liverpool, March 5.—Cotton sales to-day were 4,000 bales; market closing flat at unchanged rates. Breadstuffs generally quiet and steady. Flour downward and nominal. Wheat very dull and easier. Red western 8s to 8s 9d. Red Southern 8s 10d to 9s. White 32s to 33s. The Provision market quiet and steady. Beef steady. Pork firm. Bacon quiet. Lard firm at 42s to 43s. Butter firm. Petroleum market quiet. Refined 1s 9d to 1s 10d per gallon. Crude nominal.

London Markets.—Breadstuffs heavy, and quotations barely maintained. Iron quiet. Welsh bar and rails £7 10s to £8. Consols for money 91¼ to 91⅜.

INCREASED CANAL ACCOMMODATION.

A correspondent of the Transcript says:—It is evident that the St. Lawrence Canals are at last to be sufficiently enlarged to admit Sea-going vessels to pass to and from the Upper Lakes. The first of the links of the chain of this Inland Navigation is the Lachine Canal; and it is a question worthy of consideration, whether it would not be better to make a new Canal on the line proposed by Mr Young, rather than to enlarge the present one; the interruption which would necessarily take place for some years in the navigation, the stoppage of the numerous factories along the line, which would throw thousands out of employment, together with various other interests which would suffer to such an extent, that the difference in the cost between making a new Canal, and enlarging the old one would be of no little consideration. No subject is of such importance to the people of Canada as that of establishing home manufactures, and the situation of Montreal is, without doubt, the most favorable on this continent for that purpose. The Lachine rapids, which a few years since were considered such a drawback to Montreal, will ultimately prove her greatest source of wealth. In Mr. Legge's report upon the plan of the proposed Canal, made for the hydraulic dock company, he shows that two hundred and twenty-one lots, with a maximum power of six hundred and eighteen horses, would be available for milling and manufacturing purposes. Ninety-three warehouse lots and one large dry dock for Ocean steamers. There cannot be two opinions as to the value of such a work to the Province generally, but especially at Montreal, when it would increase the city and value of property to an extent far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

Another fire occurred at London, on Wednesday morning, destroying the building occupied by D. Farrier & Co., grocers. The loss is about $25,000.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Between eight and nine o'clock on Tuesday evening Mrs. Valentine, of Bloor street, Toronto, while engaged in a lively conversation with some friends and the members of her family, suddenly complained of a pain in the head. In a few moments she became insensible, and medical aid was sought, but the efforts were unavailing, and she expired in about half an hour after the commencement of her illness. During the day she enjoyed her usual health, made several calls, and was apparently spending a pleasant evening when thus suddenly struck down.—*Leader.*

Mr. Major, a young merchant of Halifax, died a few days ago from the effects of a practical joke. He was returning from England, where he had been to buy goods, on the Canada, and while amusing himself on the deck with other passengers, one of them drew away his chair as he was about to sit down. The fall broke his arm, and the probability of the accident interfering with his business preyed on his mind, producing a fever from which he died four days after, just before reaching Halifax.