TIME TABLE, G. T. R.

BUFFALO AND GODERICH DISTRICT,

ARRIVE.

Description of train.	Time.
Accomodation	11:30 a.m.
Express mail	3:00 p.m.
Mixed	10:50 "

DEPART.

Mixed	5:00 a.m.
Express mail	10:00 "
Accomodation	1:30 p.m.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, JAN. 17, 1867.

SMALL REFORMS.

In the discussion of local questions, it is astonishing what an amount of capital may be made out of fancied wrongs in small matters. When dealing with the derelictions of great functionaries from Chancellors of the Exchequer to Railway Monopolists, small minds find themselves lost in labyrinths of statistics and questions of national importance, but it is quite different when they come down to the scandalous extravagances of pound-keepers, constables or road-inspectors. It is the fashion now-a-days to charge any man who receives a few dollars of public money with something akin to highway robbery, and there are always people who are ready to swallow the most unbaited hook thrown out by unscrupulous demagogues. If a man receives fifty dollars for a certain amount of work, the question is not, How much work was actually done, but rather, would not some one else have undertaken if for thirty dollars? An assessor gets, say, $80.00, for his year's work—he endeavors to discharge his duty carefully, and yet his supporters are denounced because some person would have taken the job in hand for sixty dollars. That is the great argument of *small reform* which is dragged from the breeches pockets of the discontented or disappointed at the close of every municipal year. We believe in reform where there is abuse of power—we believe in every progressive movement calculated to render the working classes more comfortable and happy, but we do not believe in the cheese-paring policy, which demands at all times, and under all circumstances, the greatest possible amount of work for the least possible amount of pay. Take for example the salaries of public officers. In nine cases out of ten, if the various offices of a municipality were let out by auction on an inverted toll-gate principle, it would be found that a certain number of dollars would be saved annually, apparently, and yet, after all, those who have tried the experiment have had to declare that it was a principle evil in its nature and disastrous in its operation. It opens the way for incompetency—it does away entirely with the idea of old servants, who, from long acquaintance with their work are prepared to perform it thoroughly—and it leads to utter confusion in matters which should be perfectly clear. *Reform*, in the true sense of the term, is a something worthy the life-struggle of such a man as Felix Holt the Radical, (if such there be in real life), but two-penny-half-penny radicalism, trumped up for a purpose, is one of the meanest things under the canopy of heaven. It may be argued that even small matters are of importance, and should be looked after. So they should by all means, but not in a carping, detracting, captious spirit. If the laborer, in ordinary life, is worthy of his hire, he is certainly just as worthy of it in public life. By paying a fair and honorable price to our public servants we do not expect the mere amount of labor they are capable of. We expect the collateral security,—if we may use the term—of ability, integrity and faithfulness, and we unhesitatingly assert that these indispensable qualities are not to be obtained by auction. How is it in the various departments of business? Would I dismiss the foreman of my jobbing or news department, who receives his seven or eight dollars a week for work which gives me every satisfaction, merely because another man tells me he could do a similar amount of work for his board and lodging? Certainly not. Does the prosperous merchant begrudge his confidential clerk the salary which he deems his faithful services worth, because some new-comer comer could be get cheaper?—Does the honorable ship-owner seek to grind down the skilful captain who has so often brought his valuable cargoes into port safely? Does the shrewd manufacturer dismiss his oldest and most tried servants the moment some innovator commences to preach about a radical change right or wrong? No. Through all the ramifications of private business, it is an axiom that to have and retain good honest employees, *a fair day's wages must be paid for a fair day's work!* And why the same principle should not apply to the payment of those who serve us publicly as clergymen, teachers, municipal officers, &c., passes our understanding of such things. We do not desire to argue for anything in the shape of extravagance, but we do wish to impress upon the public mind the foolishness of the dogmas annunciated by those who by hoodwinking a few, seek to elevate themselves.

Another Salt Well in progress.

We understand that a small company consisting of Messrs. VanEvery, Savage, B. L. Doyle, S. Lamontine, W. & J. Kay, and a Mr. Welsh, (a gentleman of experience in boring for salt and oil) are getting out the timber for a derrick to be erected adjoining the mills owned by the two first named. The intention is to push the works with vigor and commence boring in two or three weeks. Steam will be used for boring, but the pumping of brine done by water-power. The hole is to be five inches in diameter, which is considerably larger than the present well. An experienced workman has been engaged to superintend the work, and no doubt is felt with regard to the success of the enterprise. We certainly hope the company will "strike" the genuine article at a reasonable depth and enjoy every prosperity.

The Stephens Affair.

As the worn out ship of Fenianism sinks beneath the waves of oblivion, the largest and shrewdest of the rats are struggling to escape. Stephens, the Chief Organizer of the Irish Republic—the man who was to initiate the revolution in Ireland ere the 1st of this month, and who was believed to have departed on his mission many weeks ago—has been found skulking in private lodgings in one of the back streets of New York, paying for his board at the rate of $45 per week out of the sum placed at his disposal by patriotic navvies and servant girls for the purpose of raising "Ould Nick" on the shores of the "Gem of the Sea." No doubt Stephens thought the matter over, and being well aware that a hempen cravat would probably be his sole reward should he revisit Ireland, determined to retire to some secure retreat, and like poor Macawber, wait until something should turn up. But the enterprise of Argus-eyed newspaper reporters was too much for him. He was dragged out of his hiding-place and must now face the music as he best can. Of course, he will be tried for treason, and if his irate brethren, heads of the Irish Republic in America, have no power to hang him, he will be deposed, and some fresh demagogue put in his place. Fenianism has run itself into the ground, and we think it will meet with nothing henceforth but the assisting kicks which are generally meted out to those who are rapidly going down hill. The journals which formerly aided and abetted the Brotherhood are now eager in their endeavors to prove that it has been from first to last an unmitigated *humbug*. Peace to its ashes!

THE NEW MUNICIPAL ACT.

We expect that a good many changes will have to be made in the new Assessment Act at the next session of Parliament. As we anticipated, a good deal of trouble has arisen at the recent elections through the ambiguity of many portions of the Law. On several important points the lawyers differ as to the meaning intended to be conveyed, and it is not wonderful that other people should differ as well. Hardly any two towns in the country carried on the elections alike, and hence there will no doubt be a good deal of litigation in cases where there have been sharp contests. But in our humble opinion, where an effort has been made to carry out the law in good faith the elections will be held valid, although it should be ascertained afterwards that something slightly different was meant.

As we have intimated before, we think it a wise provision to have the polling commence and conclude on the same day, but it is manifestly wrong that Monday should be that day. Most of us know the nature of a hot contest in municipal elections—the canvassing, preparing, &c., and the drumming up and increasing excitement on the eve of the decisive day. If the election comes off on Monday it is impossible to keep excitable people from thinking about votes and voting on the Sabbath proceding, and it is more than probable they will do a little electioneering *work* as well. Is it not morally certain that a good deal of this kind of thing was going on on Sunday last throughout the country? In the interest of the principle of Sabbath observance which has always been cherished by our legislature, the day should be changed to Tuesday, ere the end of this municipal year.

THE DECLARATION.

The declaration of candidates elected was held in the Victoria Hall, on Wednesday last. The proceedings were opened by the usual announcement of the Clerk, when Mr. Crabb read a formal protest against the return of Mr. Detlor, on the grounds of corrupt bribery, plurality of votes, and informality generally. The Clerk then declared J. V. Detlor, Esq., duly elected Mayor by a majority of 37, and Horace Horton, Deputy Reeve, Mr. Hays announced his intention of unseating Mr. Horton, on the ground of his not having been nominated within the hour. Mr. Detlor made a few remarks thanking his friends for the noble support they had given him, promising to do all in his power to advance the interests of the town generally, and declaring positively that he would at the close of his term of office retire to private life.

He was followed by Messrs. Crabb, Hays and Leonard, but the language used towards the close was so violently personal that we refrain from inflicting it upon the public.

☞ We observe that Mr. Gibbons comes in for another dose of foul abuse, but if it hurts him as little as the scurrilous attacks he has been exposed to for the past six months, his digestion is not likely to be much injured. It is something new to hear him termed the late Warden, for all know that he is still Warden, and that if he is not re-elected at the next session of the Council he will retire honorably and bearing with him the good will of his old colleagues of all parties. Mr Gibbons has faults, as most of us have, but the insinuation that he has used his official position to secure whatever wealth he may possess, is as base as the mind from which it proceeds is soured against all that is good. We treat the inuendo that the Warden has overstepped the bounds of his duty to favor the *Signal* with the contempt it deserves. We have never either asked or received from him a favor which it would be wrong for us to solicit or him to grant. The animus of those who carp and snarl so constantly at everything beyond the limited range of their own ideas is too plain to escape the attention of those sought to be influenced.

The allusion to Mr. G.'s family connections is one of the greatest outrages that has ever disgraced Canadian journalism, and wherever read will raise a cry of indignation. Shame upon any man capable of such an act!

BILLIARD MATCH.

A friendly billiard match between twelve of the bilhard players of Goderich (six on each side) was played in the Huron Hotel Billiard Room, on Saturday evening last, of which the following account has been furnished us for publication:

The parties opposed to each other were:

No. 1. T. Darcy, T. J. Moorhouse, Capt. McGregor, R. Blastt, W. Thompson and V. Elwood.

No. 2. M. J. Wright, C. Slack, J. T. Garrow, C. E. Robertson, W. McGregor, L. H. Robertson.

Play commenced at 7 o'clock, three on each side being opposed to each other, their places being taken when they got through by a similar number. The entire number of points to be played was 1800, or 300 for each pair of players. The contest, on the whole, was a very good one, although several of the players failed to make their average game, and each good shot or run was applauded by a large number of on-lookers. The highest run (40) was made by Mr. Wright. The following was the result:—

Wright	beat	Darcy	11	points.
Garrow	"	Moorhouse	8	"
W.McGregor	"	Blastt	24	"
C. Robertston	beat	Thompson	35	"
Capt.McGregor	"	Slack	71	"
Elwood	"	L.H.Robertson	89	"

No. 1 winning by 82 points. When the match was over, the party sat down to an excellent supper in the dining room of the same hotel. The return match will be played next week.

HORSE THEFT.

RECOVERY OF THE ANIMAL AND ARREST OF THE THIEF.

On Thursday night last a valuable mare was stolen from Mr. Allan Grey, township of Plympton, County of Lambton. On discovering his loss Mr. Grey caused the issue of bills offering a reward of $20 for the recovery of the animal and apprehension of the thief. He subsequently traced the fellow to this neighborhood and heard that he had gone to Colborne. Calling on Chief Constable Trainer about 5 o'clock on Sunday evening and stating the case to him, he stopped in his search. Mr. Trainer at once secured the assistance of Constable Addison and started off. After some search and enquiry they discovered that the mare had been sold to Mr. James Wilson of Colborne, for $83.00, $30 being paid down. The young man who sold Wilson the mare gave his name as Robt Charles. The mare was brought to town, and after a short time spent in following up indications Mr. Charles, very much to his own surprise, was arrested in Sinclair's Hotel, Goderich. There being no doubt about the identity of the mare she was given up to Mr. Grey, and the prisoner being examined before the Mayor was committed for trial.

☞ We frequently receive letters from subscribers covering small sums and asking for receipts. Now we wish it to be understood that the address label on the paper is changed when parties pay, and this is a sufficient receipt. Persons subscribing will oblige by giving their P. O. address plainly. Advertisements for the Weekly *Signal* should be in, at latest, on Tuesday morning.

GODERICH SALT CO.

At the annual meeting of the Shareholders of this company last night (14th) the following directors were elected:—J. V. Detlor Robt Gibbons, M. C. Cameron, T. B. VanEvery, R. Runciman, L. C. Moore, Wm. Campbell, Wm Kay and S. Platt.

A stormy discussion arose upon the report of a special committee appointed to investigate the stock books of the company, at the close of which Mr. Runciman resigned office as director.

The Directors met at the close of the public meeting and elected J. V. Detlor, Esq., President for the current year.

☞ We regret to learn by telegraph that Rev. Robt Shaw, son of John Shaw, Esq., Clerk of Goedrich township, died unexpectedly a day or two ago. He was a young man of great promise, and his loss will be deeply deplored.

☞ The case of Wm. Elliott, was sent to the next Assizes, bail being taken for the prisoner's appearance.

MORRIS.

It is now twelve months ago that I wrote you about our doings in Morris; since that time our country has been threatened, and even invaded by the bloodhound Fenians. But we have plenty of good, loyal and true men, who will rally round the good old flag, that "braved the battle and the breeze." When danger seemed near we raised three Volunteer Companies in and on the borders of Morris, and they were drilled for several weeks, but the government did not accept our service, and therefore drill was discontinued. We have had exciting times these last few weeks, on account of the changes in the Municipal Act, relating to the elections. John McRea and Alfred Brown was nominated for Reeve. F. Kelly and Thos Parsons was nominated for Deputy Reeve. C Proctor, W Hingston, D McLean, Wm Wilson, Pat Kelly, and J A McEwen for Councilmen.—Things went went on pretty smooth until the day of election, when all the excitement passed away with a loud noise.—Alfred Brown was elected Reeve by a majority of 82 Thos Kelly was elected by a majority of 83. Wm Hingston, C. Proctor, and Pat Kelly were elected Councilmen. There was a great run between the Scotch and Irish, the result was a complete victory for the Irish.—Nationality in Township elections is bad, but when one party carries it out, the other party has a good right to show their colours.

STANLEY.

A tea-meeting and presentation took place at the School House in Sec. 9, Hay and Stanley, on Friday evening, December 21st. The room was crowded with the parents and the children of the section.—After an excellent tea, Mr. Allan Mitchell was called to the chair, and interesting addresses were delivered by the chairman, and Rev Mr. Dyre, who, at the close of his remarks, presented Mr. Thos Curry, the teacher, (who is leaving these parts) with a handsomely bound copy of the Holy Scriptures. Mr Curry made an able and feeling reply. The Berne Brass Band discoursed capital music during the evening. Altogether the proceedings were very interesting, and we are sorry we cannot give the full report which occupies nearly five pages of foolscap.

Mechanics Institute

At the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Mechanics Institute of the Town of Goderich, held on Thursday evening last, 10th inst., the following appointments, were made for the current year:—John Davidson, President. Robt. Gibbons, 1st Vice President. Samuel Platt, 2nd Vice President. A. M. Ross, Treasurer. Wm. McKay, Secretary.

Committe of Management:—S. Pentland; C. Fletcher; S. Sloan; W. M. Savage; D. Gordon; A Lefroy; H D Cameron; W T Hays; W G Smith; James Thomson; Horace Horton; J B Gordon and F Jordan.

GODERICH AND HALIFAX.

By advertisement in another column it will be seen that a Halifax firm is desirous of opening up a produce business with our Huron Produce Dealers. We trust that ere long it will not be considered insulting to tell a man to "Go to Halifax!" The trade with the maritime Provinces is destined to be one of great importance.

Election of School Trustees.

There was very little excitement over the election of School Trustees. The following gentlemen have been returned: St. Andrew's Ward, G. N. Davis; St. George's, Chas. E. Robertson; St. Patrick's Jno. Walker; St. David's, E. Clifford and S. Furse.

☞ JUDGE BROUGH has entered upon his duties as County Judge for Huron.—He is spoken of as a sound lawyer and a man of sterling character. We wish him many years of happiness and usefulness amongst us.

☞ Mayor Glass, of London, on his retirement from the civic chair after three years' service, gave a supper to the members of the corporation and press, on the evening of the 3rd. The daily papers speak highly of the affair as one of much interest. Mr. Glass knows exactly how to do such things.

☞ It is said that President Johnson keeps a clerk constantly employed culling newspaper and pasting in scrap-books what is said for and against his policy. As every American journal considers it a public duty to discuss the pros and cons of said policy, the President will have a pretty large scrapbook at the end of his term of office.

☞ The Clinton *New Era* comes to us much enlarged and otherwise improved. The paper is conducted in a gentlemanly manner, and we wish it success.

HAY

The Council of the Township of Hay met in the Town Hall on Monday the 24th of Dec. 1866. Robert Brown, Esq., Reeve in the chair and a full Council present.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and approved, when the following business was transacted, viz:—

William Barkholder applied to the Council to be relieved from paying tax for two Dogs, he having given satisfactory proof that he owned but one dog at the time of his Assessment the Council granted him the relief applied for.

The following Accounts for Gravel were presented and ordered to be paid, George Lowe $4.70, William Sanders $3.00, William Bell $13.12, Christian Bean $1.70, John Gesh $6.15, Christian Oswald $4.50, Christian Murner $4.50, Patrick Ford $5.40.

The following magistrates seat in their accounts for receiving and granting certificates to parties who had sheep destroyed by dogs within the Township, viz:—R Brown $4.50, W Case $3.00, Michael Zellar $6.00, Thomas Lamb $1.50, Walter Fee $3.00.—ordered to be paid.

The following accounts were presented, accompanied by the Legal Certificates, for destruction to sheep by dogs, and ordered to be paid out of the Dog Tax, viz:—Godfrey Nicholson $7.00, I Brown $11.00, P Martin, $3.00, W Bestlor being taxed $7.24 arrears of Taxes, produced the County Treasurers receipt for the same—ordered to be refunded. John McEven (a pathmaster) was ordered to notify P D Bell to remove a portion of his fence off the Hay gravel road, which fence is causing a snow drift on said road, and in case of his refusing or neglecting to remove said fence for ten days after notice to take legal proceedings to have it removed. Mr Bell being notified last winter or twelve months ago to remove said fence the Council pledges themselves to support the pathmaster in carrying out their instructions. The Clerk was ordered to notify William Rath to remove a portion of his fence off the road opposite Lot No. 8, in the 4th concession. The Council appointed Daniel Zellar to expend a balance of road money on the Long Marsh, by having gravel drawn onto it this winter. Account of Henry Graw for a watering pot for the Town Hall, amount seventy-five cents, ordered to be paid. The following salaries were ordered to be paid to the Township officers:—William Wilson, Clerk, $110; Hugh Love, Assessor, $85; William Grundy, Collector, $50; Louis Vauthier, Treasurer, $50; William Lammie, Returning Officer for ward No. 1, $4; William Wilson, returning officer No. 2, $4; Walter Fee, Returning Officer, ward No. 3, $4; John B. Gerber, Returning officer, ward No. 4, $4; Henry Green, Returning Officer, ward No. 5, $4; David Wanless, Auditor, $6; Ralph Brown, Auditor, $6; Walter Fee, Revenue Inspector, $8; William Lehman, Tavern Inspector, $8; Henry Graler, hall keeper, $8; Robert Brown, selector of jurors, $4; William Wilson, selector of jurors, $4; Hugh Love, selector of jurors, $4; William Wilson, Township Librarian, $10; an account of postage and stationery for Township Clerk's office, $5.15, ordered to be paid. Robert Brown, Reeve, Council Fees, $12 Letting and inspecting road repairs, $9, ordered to be paid; James Smillie, Deputy Reeve, Council Fees, $12, letting and inspecting road repairs, $7.50, same deliverance as above. William Case, Councillor, Council Fees, $12, letting and inspecting road repairs, $4, same deliverance as above; William Turnbull, Councillor, Council Fees, $12, letting and inspecting road repairs $9, same deliverance as above. Michael Zellar, Councillor, Council Fees, $12, letting and inspecting road repairs, $2, same deliverance as above.

WILLIAM WILSON,
Township Clerk.

NEW COUNCIL.—Robt Brown, Reeve; J Smillie, Deputy Reeve (re elected by acclamation on day of nomination). Councilors re elected, Michael Zellar, W Turnbull; W Carrick, new Councillor.

It is reported that Kossuth has persuaded the Italian authorities not to dissolve the Hungarian diet.

THE GREAT FENIAN SWINDLE.

JAMES STEPHENS EXPOSED AND DENOUNCED AS A "TRAITOR"—THE C. O. I. R. IN ACCOUNT WITH THE IRISH STATE PRISONERS AND OTHERS, &C., &C.

Our special correspondent writing from New York on the 7th inst., sends us the following extract from one of the Fenian organs in that city regarding this gigantic swindle. The *Irish American* says:

We find in a recent number of the Detroit Daily Post the annexed letter from the wife of Jeremiah O'Donovan (Rossa,) who has been acting as Secretary to a Committee for the relief of the families of the Irish State prisoners, many of whom have been left in a state of destitution since the seizures, by the British Government, of their natural protectors. The letter will be interesting to those who have contributed, in response to the many appeals made by James Stephens and his abettors here, for aid for the families of the condemned prisoners, through Jones' Wood meetings, pic-nics in Bellevue Gardens, balls in the Germania Assembly Rooms, and fairs, festivals and concerts generally. As the newspaper reports of these affairs (carefully "revised" before publication) always declared them to have been, each, "an immense success," the subscribers will be glad to know how much of the proceeds of them has reached the intended destination; but we think, after reading Mrs. O'Donovan's letter, the honest, but deluded portion of them will be inclined to ask, like the adherents of the "Moffat Mansion" dynasty—"Where has *this* money gone?"

No 17 Middle Mountjoy street,
Dublin, Ireland, Nov. 20, 1866.

Dear Madame—Your very kind and welcome letter of October 20, followed by your note of a week later, inclosing an order for £17, came to hand in due time. It is need less to repeat how very necessary was the gift to the funds of our Committee; but al low us to thank you and the Detroit Sisterhood very sincerely for the time and trouble spent in realizing it. As you are satisfied with the explanations of my former letters, there is no necessity to again enter into details of the poverty and great destitution still existing among the prisoners' families. It may be proper to remark here that, having heard of subscriptions being set on foot for the relief of the prisoners' families, and a large sum realized by the Jones' Wood meeting, we were expecting these past months contributions from America; but up to this time have met disappointment, as none except yours, arrived. Your proposal regarding the children of the prisoners is not at present feasible; there are several reasons for this. The children are really all too young to work or be of service. Again, we have not the means of sending them; for our funds allow us only to live "from hand to mouth," having to-day sufficient for to-day's tenure of life, perhaps, but no provision for to morrow;—rather a sad position for families that had once been comfortably situated. Putting aside these objections another exists in this—that we cling too fondly still to Ireland "and the promises of James Stephens." If these should all fail us, doubtless many of the sufferers will avail themselves of the kind offer of the Sisterhood in Detroit, and seek their homes in America, myself among the number. You will be pleased to hear that the prisoners under the Act of Habeas Corpus, are, with the exception of about forty, all at liberty. However, the convicted men's families are numerous, and still entirely unprovided for, except what little we can week by week spare to them from the funds. I am, very sincerely, yours,

M. J. O'DONOVAN (ROSSA.)

To Miss Anna J. McDonald, Secretary, Fenian Sisterhood, Detroit.

Depending on "the promises of James Stephens!" Poor widowed wife! God help you, and all in Ireland who, hoping against hope, still lean upon that rotten reed—the promise of one who, hitherto, has tempted braver and better men than himself to risk their all of happiness in this life, only to leave them in the lurch when the fatal hour of trial came, even as he left O'Donovan and Kickham and the others in Mountjoy prison, when those who planned and effected his own escape had calculated to free them likewise, and would have done so, but for the selfish cowardice of James Stephens! Poor widowed wife! still depending on "the promises of James Stephens," even while, in the simple language of patient suffering, you bear terrible evidence against him, that of all the money which he has obtained by trading on the sympathy of our people for your sons and the sorrows and privations of those bereft like you of the arms that should sustain and guard them, not one cent has ever reached you through all those months of weary clinging to the hope whose only alternatives are starvation or exile—alternatives, too, dependent upon the chance of good faith, or courage or manhood of a knave, who has but too long played the foeman's game of fraud and treachery, and now seeks only the secure obscurity in which to spend the ill-gotten profits of his villainy. God help poor Ireland if her suffering children had, indeed, no other hope than that which depends on so frail a prop, as the oft made and as oft-broken "promises of James Stephens." For weeks our columns have been laden with accounts of how his dupes in Ireland have been hurried into English dungeons, consigned thither by the very warnings which he had publicly given to the enemy to be on the watch for them at this time, well knowing, as he did, that his words—sedulously disseminated through the medium of a corrupt press—would combine with the utter hopelessness of the cause he had betrayed, to produce the reckless desperation which prompts men, in the hour of ruin, to rush blindly on destruction. The period within which he solemnly promised those who believed in him, that he would be in Ireland, fighting against British domination, will have passed ere this reaches most of our readers. Even as we write, it wants but twenty-four short hours of the expiration of the allotted time: our intelligence from the other side comes down to Friday, the 28th of December; and instead of the successful insurrection which James Stephens "promised" to those from whom he drew the hard earnings of their toil, we know that all hope of even a respectable rising is worse than vain; that the English jails are again crammed with unresisting victims; and the men who would freely have died for Ireland are flying, panic-stricken and despairing from the country. What must those unhappy fugitives think when they reach these shores,—what must be the reflections of their more unfortunate brethren in the solitude of their prison cells, when they learn that at the very time when James Stephens "promised" to be with them in Ireland, to begin the fight, he was still in America; that he never left these shores at all; that, now his promised time is up, "he is still here;" and that no longer back than Sunday week, "he was seen and conversed with" by two persons, at least, to whom he is well known, in the sumptuous lodgings in this city, which he has hired out of the funds wrung by fraud from the poor Irishmen and women who trusted in his lying "promises." We have before us, at this moment, the official report of the meeting held at the Germania Assembly Rooms, after "James Stephen's" "last" appearance of Jones' Wood. This report was prepared at his own "headquarters," under his own supervision, and was printed in circular form, for those circles throughout the country that still cling to him and gave him their money. In fact it was the last effort to squeeze the last dollar out of the credulous people who had been so long content with "promises" without performance. And such "promises," too! The document starts with the declaration that "James Stephens is bound, before the world, to return to Ireland this year," and this is immediately followed by the statement that "his advent in Ireland must be the signal for battles;" in view of which any body should prevent him from getting there is denounced as an enemy to Ireland, and all good Irishmen are appealed to for money to help him; and in order to set aside all doubts his speech of the 24th September is given at the foot of the circular, to show that he meant fight, and nothing else. In that he says:

It is my determination—and let no man mistake me—to go to Ireland this year." "I tell you that the people "will fight sooner or later." They are bent upon fight this year; and I am determined to live or die with the people. No matter whether by inuendo, insinuation, nods, winks, or those other various ways so congenial to certain Nilotic-mud natures. "if it is asserted that I do not mean to fight, let them be branded by events soon to occur as false prophets or liars." I tell you there has got to be a fight in Ireland this year, "whether I am there or not; but I shall be there beyond doubt."

The alloted period is almost exhausted; the last sands of "this year" are already falling from the glass of time; and events have "branded," as a "false prophet and liar," only James Stephens, the malignant and persistent reviler of honest and tried men—James Stephens, who, to secure the countenance of the stream of treasure poured into his hands by the trusting children of Ireland, "promised" again to fight in 1859, and never struck a blow; promised again and again, from 1860 to 1864, and each time broke his word; vowed before hundreds of witnesses that he would fight before the 31st of December, 1865, or he would resign all connection with the Fenian organization, yet when the time came, did neither; who wrote to the men of Clonmel—

"Let there be no mistake about it. This must be a year of action. I speak with a knowledge and authority to which no other man can pretend, I repeat the flag of Ireland—the flag of the Irish Republic—must this year be raised—"

And he kept that "promise" by putting the letter into the hands of Nairle and Power, the hired spies of the British Government, and by refusing to fight when the time had been set by the men who were willing to risk their own lives on the issue! So, all through 1866, he has been obtaining the money of hard-working men and women in America, by "promise" that he would be in Ireland and fighting before the 1st January, 1867. The day is at hand; and even a brand as a false prophet and liar," James Stephens, who isn't in Ireland fighting, but in the United States, squandering the money so basely obtained.

One word more as to his treatment of the families of those whose wives he has helped to widow, and whose children are orphans through his instrumentality. We have shown how, all unconsciously the wife of O'Donovan Rossa has testified against him, that the funds raised by appeals in their name have never reached them. He has himself, pronounced his own condemnation. In the speech which he delivered at the picnic held here last September, to raise those funds, he says [and we quote it from his own official report.]

"O'Donovan Rossa has left behind him five children unprovided for; and his is only one case. All patroitic people have provided for the destitute children of their patriots. Will you neglect them. You must be sure that history will light you down to eternal infamy or honor according as you act."

By the last mail we received a letter from an Irish lady, the annexed extract from which bears on this matter somewhat heavily.

KINGSTOWN, Dec. 13, 1866.

* * * * * * *

James Stephens is reported to be in Dunkirk; and the Government are keeping a vigilent watch for him at all the ports. His wife is here, flaunting in the streets in the richest velvet and sables—as easy she may, since they are paid for out of the hard earnings of the poor Irish girls and working men in America!"

The wife and children of O'Donovan Rossa existing in Dublin, on charity, "from hand to mouth," having to-day sufficient for to-day's tenure of life, perhaps; but no provision for to morrow; and the wife of James Stephens flaunting through the same city "in the richest velvet and sables!" O'Donovan, Luby, O'Leary, Kickham, wasting away beneath the torture of convict life in Pentenville; and James Stephens luxuriating in princely lodgings in New York, hired at the rate of $45 a week, out of the money of the Irish people! Men and women of Ireland—you who have been so duped and deceived by this knave and his abettors—are you satisfied with this division of the resources you gave with a holy hope and a fervent purpose? will you cling any longer to a delusion but a hideous mockery of your patriotism? or do you really think that history has infamy black enough to punish adequately the guilt of a scoundrel so heartless as those acts of James Stephens have proved him to be.

The Toronto Fenians.

From the Globe, Jan. 11

The commuted sentences of the seven Fenian prisoners, will date from the 3 d of January last. It is suggested that the cause for delaying their departure for Kingston is in order to give such of them as have any evidence to offer at the approaching trial of their comrades, an opportunity to do so. Slavin, it is said, is subpoenaed to give evidence at the Assizes on their behalf. Positive intelligence of the commutation of their sentences did not reach the condemned till Wednesday night, an hour or two before they were to have started, and the news although relieving them from the dread of the gallows, was apparently not at all agreeable. A portion cherished the hope that if commuted, it would be for a shorter period, to be made still less if the Fenian organization in the United states became shipwrecked; a consummation which, it may be inferred from the fact, they anxiously wished for. Personal liberty to them they felt was now a greater object than any ephemeral project for the liberation of Ireland, and they imagined, they saw, in the downfall of the body on the other side a withdrawal of the cause for which they were imprisoned. The prospect of having to serve at hard labor in the Penitentiary has, however, taken the poetry out of these vain imaginations.

IMPORTANT TO TOBACCO CHEWERS.—Everybody who is in the streets at a late hour of the night or early in the morning, may notice individuals about the fronts of the restaurants hotels and bar-rooms, gathering from the streets and gutters the stumps of cigars that have been swept out or emptied from spittoons. There are a number of establishments in this city to which this refuse is taken and sold, and where it goes through the following process:—It is washed, dried in the sun, or over a fire, placed in a mill and ground, and then neatly put up in small packages, and sold as a superior quality of fine cut chewing and smoking tobacco of various fancy brands. The quantity thus gathered, remodelled and sold every day is almost incredible. The quantity of the tobacco which goes through this process is said to be excellent.—*N. Y. Express.*

The Great Fire at Yokohama, Japan.

San Francisco, Jan. 2.

Additional particulars of the great fire at Yokohama, Japan, have been received. The fire commenced in a cook shop in the street leading from Beutchdori to Yoshiwarra. The latter place is on the peninsula, and contained a great number of habitations of Japanese women. The fire spread rapidly, and, there being only one bridge leading to it, a great destruction of life took place, as all but two isolated buildings were destroyed.

The Japanese report finding thirty-five bodies, but a further examination of the burnt district added largely to the number. The greatest confusion prevailed during the fire, storekeepers in some instances literally barricading the streets in front of their premises with goods, thereby putting a stop to travel, and causing many deaths from crushing among the crowds striving to escape from the fire. The wind blew very strongly, and the fire swept rapidly through the native settled portion of Yokohama, and thence communicated to the foreign quarters.

Every effort was made to arrest the progress of the flames, by the use of water and by blowing up buildings, but in vain, until nearly one-third of the stores and dwellings of the business firms were destroyed. The "go down," or storehouses, of many of the principal business firms were destroyed, as well as many public dwellings.

Early in the day large detachments of sailors and marines were landed from the vessels of the British fleet lying in the harbor, who at first worked well under the control of their officers, but getting access to liquor they became perfectly unmanageable. From striving to save property they turned their attention to plundering, and robberies of the boldest nature were made while the owners of property were standing helpless to prevent them.

Among the losses by the fire and destruction was the archives of the United States Consulate. There were rescued by Consul Fisher from his office, and placed in a bonded warehouse, which soon after was also destroyed. A large portion of the archives of other consulates, as well as the French office, were destroyed.

South America.

New York, Jan. 12.—Advices from Rio Janeiro of the 3rd ult., state that the rivers Amazon, Tocantics and San Francisco have been thrown open to the trade of all nations.

A riot had taken place between the Brazilians and Portuguese in Pernambuco, in which 20 Portuguese and 100 Brazilians were killed.

There had been another violent storm in Buenos Ayres.

Mexico.

Brownsville, Jan. 6.—The capital cities Gaudalaxara, Acqua, Coleantes, are all occupied by the Liberal forces—the two former by Coronas' army, under Gen. Para, and the latter by Gen. Trovino. Mejia, the Imperial commander, is sick and disheartened, and his army completely demoralized.

The Washington Chronicle (Colonel Forney) has the following threat in its leading editorial: "If the existing conflict is not terminated by impeachment it will end in war."

An important dispatch is said to have been received in Ottawa by cable, to the effect that the Confederation delegates in England have agreed to cut Ottawa and make Quebec the capital of the United British Provinces.

By Atlantic Cable.

London, Jan. 12 (noon).—The Lords of the Admiralty are busily engaged in the preparation of estimates for the large increase of the naval arm of the service which has lately been ordered.

The Times of this morning has a long argumentative article on the subject of the impeachment of the President of the United States, and says the scheme looks like a fatal blow at the constitution.

Paris, Jan. 11.—The Japanese embassy has arrived in this city, and will shortly leave for America.

Several of the yacht clubs of France propose to confer medals of honor upon James Gordon Bennett, jr., owner of the successful yacht Henrietta.

Vienna, Jan. 12.—The Morning Journal of this city to day contained official announcements that the Sublime Ports has called 150,000 men into service to quell the Greek insurrection in the Mediterranean.

Pesth, Jan. 12—M. Deak has issued an address in which he condemns the patent lately issued for the reorganization of the army. He says that the carrying out of the scheme will certainly prove fatal to the arrangement of the present difficulties, and adjures the Emperor to concede the claims of Hungary.

Madrid, Jan. 12.—The proffered mediation of the United States in the differences between Spain and Chili is regarded as almost certainly the forerunner of an honorable and permanent peace.

A Sensational Snow-Storm.

From the N. Orleans Picayune, Jan. 4.

New Orleans wore quite a novel appearance yesterday, draped in its snowy garb.—Fifteen years has passed since snow was in our city. At an early hour in the morning we ascended to the top of the City Hall. On the roof of this building the snow was from two to three inches in depth. Reaching the highest pinnacle, we strained our eyes in every direction. A heavy blue vapour hung over the city, and feathery flakes of snow fell thick and fast around us. This greatly circumscribed our vision. Such portions of the city as we could see presented an odd appearance. A white pall seemed to mantle everything. The clerk of the weather during our slumbers had dropped a sheet over us and neglected furnishing a blanket. This was certainly cold comfort such a night.

Lafayette square presented quite a picturesque appearance—a wide sheet of snow; not a spot uncovered. The old staunch sycamores, which have for so many years graced this square, for once wore a garb becoming their age, and each tree looked hoary-headed.

During the morning the newsboys had a happy time in the square. A large number could be seen with bare feet rolling large balls of snow with as much indifference to the weather as if they had been reared amidst icebergs. These balls they packed together, and a "snow man" graced the central walk about nine o'clock. A huge snow figure graced the balcony of a building corner of Baronne and Poydras streets as late as 5 o'clock in the evening.

The feminine portion of the community, especially those born and reared in our midst, unaccustomed to "snow frolics," enjoyed the occasion amazingly. We noticed many of them battling with snow-balls, and pouncing each other with a hearty good will. They frisked and romped like antelopes skipping about, and their merry laughter and bright faces told of the jolly time they were having. The sharp air made their pretty little noses as red as radishes. There was one we saw with her long hair flowing about her neck and shoulders, the snow clinging to it, and, in its spotless white, not whiter nor purer than the bosom which heaved beneath. The sunshine, soft and unclothed, of about sixteen summers, shone in her face, and she was as joyous as a bird; and she had that in her eye which always shoots a fellow right in the heart. We would't care how often it snowed, if we could only see such a creature romping in it. We even wished we had been one of those snow flakes clinging in her hair. May she live to enjoy another snow frolic.

The Ocean Yacht Race.

Late English advices contain the details of the voyage of the Henrietta. The last day of the race excitement ran high. Every sail seemed a Fleetwing, and every star the Vesta's signal light. At 8 p. m. they were on soundings; at 12, midnight, off Cape Clear, and next morning, Dec. 24, found them in the chops of the Channel, hoping to eat their Christmas dinner at Cowes. Nearing the land of Christmas carols and Dickens upon Christmas eve, it was impossible to go to rest. After a very late dinner, they had Christmas songs and stories; among the former was a ditty composed in honor of the Henrietta, and sung to the familiar air of "Sweet Evelina." While these festivities were in progress the Scilly Island lights were passed at a quarter past seven p. m. The current drifting to leeward, they started south southeast for an offing and passed the islands handsomely, having made no tack since they left New York, and having only varied eleven miles from the straight line between the two points. So admirable a landfall reflected great credit upon Captain Samuels. At three o'clock a. m., they passed the Lizard light, going thirteen knots an hour steadily. Running close into the bold coast, they sighted the Eddystone, Start Port, and Portland Hill, and at 12.40 p. m. on Christmas Day, took on board a Cowes pilot. A heartier cheer never rent the air than that which greeted the pilot's announcement that no other American yacht had passed up the Channel. The race seemed won, and a sudden blaze of sunshine lit up the chalk cliffs of Old England in silvery glory; it was like an illumination of welcome.—Under every stitch of canvas, with even her stargall set, and with her racing flag and Yacht Club ens