

ience though interesting enough for a party of thirty or forty—which is now the talk of the town. The young men perform more in private than in public for their cabinet can be taken to pieces and built up in any room in half-an-hour. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people believe that the effects produced are produced by some spiritual influence, and the Brothers and their managers favour this supposition, by stating that they are ignorant of the power that ties and unties them. Half the professional conjurers in London have been stimulated by the offers of rewards or the desire for notoriety, to endeavour to expose the trick, but no satisfactory exposure, has as yet taken place. Professor Anderson, a second-rate conjurer, lately issued invitations to witness an exposure of the preternatural pretensions of the Davenport, and at least seven hundred persons attended, one half of whom were persons eminent in literature, science, and art. Something like the rope trick performed by the Davenports was done very badly by Mr. Anderson's assistants but no attempt was made to explain it. All that this noble audience learnt was that a man can get out of a rope without aid from spirits; and they appeared to be highly gratified at the discovery. This can hardly be regarded as a credit to the nineteenth century and its intelligence.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

ARRIVED.

S. S. Canada Boston, Mails etc.—to S. Canard & Co; Packet Barque Halifax, O'Brien, Boston 3 days, genl. cargo—to Lawson Harrington & Co.

Saturday Dec. 24.

Steamer El Almanderez, —, Montreal, bound to Havana; Briggs, H. Gilbert, —, New York, —, to J. & R. B. Section; Margaret, —, Jamaica—to N. L. & J. T. West; Schrs, Flying Cloud, Smith, Gloucester, Mass.; Centre Point, Goodwin, Gloucester, Mass.

Monday, Dec. 26.

Schrs, Maderia, Nugent, New York, flour—to Young & Hart; Julia, Fenton, Boston, genl. cargo—to Lawson Harrington & Co; Hope, Carrole, New York, flour—to Jas. Cochrane & Son; Bright, Hilton, Havana,—to Osley & Co.

Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Schrs, Golden Rule, Patterson, Porto Rico,—to W. P. West; John Nelson, —, New York,—to J. & R. B. Section.

Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Schrs, John Milson, Nelson, New York, flour—to J. & R. B. Section; Et auer, Fraconia, Snow, Boston,—to J. F. Phelan.

Thursday, Dec. 29.

Schrs, Sarah, Pictou—to Master; Susan, Lang, Boston; Daring, O'Brien, from a cruise eastward; Annie, Grieve, Sydney; Brig, Mary J. Williams, returned from sea.

Friday, Dec. 30.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

CLEARED

Saturday, Dec. 24.

Steamers Canada, Hockley, Liverpool, mails etc.—by S. Canard & Co; Delta, Gullford, St. John Nfld.—by S. Canard & Co; Briggs, Chieftain (new 126 tons) Conard B. W. Indies, fish etc.—by Salter & Twining; Mary G. Williams, Hunt, Staves and Shooks—by G. Eisenhan; Queen of the North, Campbell, Portland, fish etc.—by W. Hare and others; Emily Jane, Gammon, Jamaica, fish etc.—by N. L. & J. T. West; Ocean Star, (new 200 tons) Jenkins, Bermuda, 20 head cattle, 50 sheep, 300 head poultry etc.—by G. C. Harvey and others; Kate, Johnson, King-ton Ja. fish etc.—by G. Brunner; Schrs, Snow Squall, Chasson, Margaret C. B. genl. cargo—by W. G. Taylor and others; Barque Penelope, Clay, Liverpool G. B.

Sunday, Dec. 25.

Schrs, Caroline, Brown, Barter Ponce, genl. cargo—by Master; Conservative, Melzac, Margaree C. B.—by S. F. Burs & Co; Squando, Sullivan, Grey-ston ough, genl. cargo—by B. Wier & Co, and others; Wild Wiv, Henson, Liverpool, genl. cargo—by Jennett & Taylor.

Monday, Dec. 26.

Schrs, Wm. Stairs, Ham, Jamaica—by W. Pryor & Sons; Agemoria, Dickson, Lingan,—by W. M. Harrington & Co; Luperc, Swin, Shelborne—by Master; Telegraph, Shaw, New York—by J. A. Moren and others.

Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Brig, Gentle Annie, Pitts, Port Medway, ballast—by B. Wier & Co; Schrs, Franklin, Myers, Tangier, genl. cargo—by W. Barron.

Local and other Items.

The Recorder, taxes up with mentioning Mr. Uniacke as a gentleman able to "serve his country" at a time of perplexity. We must bear the penalty of our carelessness, albeit the expression should have been printed "serve his country," which Mr. Uniacke is fully competent of doing. We should much like to see men of his stamp taking a more active part in politics than has of late years been the case; the tone of the House of Assembly would not be lowered.

The Colonial Standard publishes the following very original views regarding a general election in connection with Federation: "the question of confederation would be altogether lost sight of amid the multiplicity of subjects which would rise up in the event of a general election. * * the votes given by the people at the polls would not, in any sense, represent their views on this great subject. * * A general election would bring up a host of other questions which would completely overshadow that of Confederation." Upon reading these passages, we are forcibly reminded of the man who, while being escorted to the gallows upon a rainy morning, begged for an umbrella lest he should possibly take cold. But the following passage may explain the secret of the Standards' anxiety: "There is nothing more certain than that a general election, in which the whole policy of the government was put in issue would be the very worst test that could be adopted to obtain an indication of the views of the people on the Confederation scheme." Quite true. But the whole policy of the Government (Annapolis Railway, and Education Act, of course included) will be laid bare soon enough; meanwhile, let the Representatives of the people go to their constituents on the one issue of Confederation. This question once explained to the people at the polls, (by those for and against the scheme) would, we venture to think "overshadow" all other questions ever discussed in this Province. While an attempt is being made to force a camel down our throats, we are not likely to make wry faces at the approach of a goat.

Speaking of Mr. Welles, the Secretary of the Navy's report, the New York Herald makes the following remarks:—Among the achievements of our navy is the alleged enforcement of the blockade of three thousand miles of sea coast. The Secretary glances in this connection at the commercial morality of English merchants, and very justly classes their present efforts in the blockade business with their efforts in the Chinese opium trade. He glances also at the ports of Halifax, Bermuda and Nassau, as "ports that will always be in sympathy with the enemies of this country," and in that phrase gives the real reason why they ought to be ours.

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY.—Monday the 26th inst, was observed as a general holiday, and the weather proving unpropitious, was duller than such days usually are in Halifax. A few drunkards disturbed the gloomy tranquility of the main streets. We have no doubt, however, that our fellow citizens enjoyed themselves in their own way at home, and we must hope for finer weather on New Year's day.

We are informed that his Excellency the Lieut. Governor is taking steps in the matter of representing this Province in the Dublin exhibition next year. We hope Nova Scotia will even surpass on this occasion her efforts in 1862.

The entertainments given in Temperance Hall by the Amateurs of the 17th Regiment during the past week were most successful. The performance indeed was the best of its kind that we have ever seen in Halifax. The dramatized Christmas Carol was remarkably clever, and the manner in which Sergt. Smith performed Scrooge's part, deserved the applause which it received. The music from Macbeth is already well known to our citizens, as also the excellent manner in which it is rendered by the band of the 17th. It was really refreshing to see a couple of Clowns and Pantaloon on the stage. They played their merry quips and tricks with great agility, and the house was convulsed with laughter. We must also congratulate the 17th Regiment on the possession of a poet and composer. The "Mayflower," words by Sergeant Instructor J. E. Smith, and Music by Drum-Major Gurney, reflects the greatest possible credit upon both writer and composer. The music is excessively pretty, and the words are amongst the best that we have seen, addressed to the Natural beauties of Nova Scotia. We quote the two verses which please us most:—

North the lee of rubbly rocks
Snowy fragments linger,
Shedding tears that Plinius mocks
With his fery finger;
Tears that act as cheering show'rs,
Beams that cherish sweet Mayflow'rs,
Till each little blue bell
Breaks in beauty o'er the dell.

When the rindlet's muddy line
Grains the snow like marble,—
When amid the spruce and pine
Merry Robins warble,—
When the snow's death-tear is shed,
When the Mayflow'r rears her head,
Tiny bells her triumph ring,—
"Winter's past, Huzza for spring."

The Bishop and his family were upset from a sleigh in Pleasant Street on Monday afternoon. Fortunately none of the party were injured.

The press of opinion as to the terms of Union is not, while it is of the *Colonist*—the *Chronicles* and *America*. Happily, last lie together.

Maximilian is He must be too better. Perhaps

The Reporter is converted our con days, has been c are so easily to l them.

The Pictou St. ligious, so called intolerance." H uncharitableness please the *Mor* however, the Jo passage above c not mean divide lead us to suppo from country pa written in good

Summary o

The latest d Head Quarters the enemy retre The rebel for South.

At least one t thing which im Forrest effect of the rebels du 17,000 men, 50 Gen. Davidso by the Richmo Miss., on the 9

The Hon. J. m gress, and prom House, Boston.

The fire in B 23rd inst, destr

General Day reached Pensa trip. He destrc and a number c the opposition.

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The rebel G. Light Artillery, troving the reb

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The followin Savannah, Ga., I beg to recen with 150 heav 25,000 bales of

Governor Wa out the Militia He says tw miles of Mobile

The Richmo march of Shern cmplished, an cations with t stragglers and

The Enquire into South Car The New Y.