

The Star,

AND CONCEPTION BAY SEMI-WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

Volume I.

Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, Friday, July 5, 1872.

Number 15.

JULY.

S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.
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MOON'S PHASES.

FULL MOON.....	2nd, 9.22	A. M.
LAST QUARTER.....	9th, 8.55	A. M.
NEW MOON.....	17th, 1.13	P. M.
FIRST QUARTER.....	25th, 1.37	A. M.
FULL MOON.....	31st, 5.2	P. M.

NOTICES.

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May 14. tff

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AGENT FOR

Parsons' Purgative Pills.

THE EXECUTION OF PAT- RICK GEEHAN.

HIS LAST CONFESSION.

(From the Morning Chronicle, July 1.)

ELEVEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

At eight o'clock this morning Patrick Geehan, convicted of the murder of Garrett Sears, suffered the extreme penalty of the law, within the precincts of the Penitentiary.

The scaffold was erected in the open, walled-in space on the West side of the building, and is a solidly built structure, most perfect in its mechanical arrangements.

Soon after the condemnation of the prisoner, it became apparent that the ministrations of the attending clergymen and pious women were having their effect upon him, and he gradually became perfectly resigned, admitting the justice of his sentence and his willingness to die. With his mind thus composed, he went to his death as resignedly, as it is possible for mortal to go.

For some time past he has slept quietly at night, and such was the case last night. He slept quietly and peacefully, knowing that slumber would no more come to him until he slept his last sleep.

Early this morning he was visited by the Rev. Dr. Howley, the Chaplain, by Father Doutney, and four of the Nuns, who prayed with and for him unceasingly, and later by Father McCreath. Geehan gave his whole attention to the ministrations of these holy men and women, and they had the satisfaction of knowing that their labors were rewarded by the complete penitence of the doomed man. At seven o'clock, Mass was said by the Rev. Dr. Howley, and the Communion was administered to Geehan, after which the brief remaining time was occupied in prayer until a few minutes to eight, when Geehan was waited upon by the officials, and his arms securely bound by a white sash—he expressing the wish that his hands be kept free so that he might shake hands with the Nuns and the clergymen.

At a minute or so to eight Geehan walked out through the lower door into the yard, with a firm step. His face was very pale, but bore an expression of perfect resignation. He was supported on each side by the Rev. Dr. Howley and Father Doutney. As he stepped out through the door, he gave one glance at the few officials and others present, and then cast his eyes to the ground, keeping them so fixed as he ascended the scaffold. Quickly, calmly, and resignedly he took his place upon the drop when his legs were bound, and after a few words from the clergymen he shook hands with them, a white cap was drawn over his face, and he quietly awaited the end. A white handkerchief was waved, the bolt was drawn and the body of Geehan fell a distance of about four and a half feet. At first no motion was apparent in the body, but presently there was a convulsive twitching, then a gentle drawing up of the knees, and lastly a fluttering in the whole frame—all of which did not continue more than fifty to sixty seconds—and all was over. The neck was not broken, but death virtually took place immediately upon the fall. There could have been no suffering after the first instant, the rest being a mere nervous, convulsive motion, usual in similar cases. The resignation of Geehan, his freedom from suffering, and the excellence of the mechanical arrangement of the drop, are subjects of much satisfaction.

After the body had hung half an hour, it was gently lowered into its coffin, and carried into the cell which Geehan had occupied, where it was examined by Drs. Crowley and Simms, who pronounced life extinct. The necessary legal certificates were then signed, and the melancholy tragedy closed.

The Sheriff and the officials of the prison deserve the highest credit for the humane and delicate manner in which their duties were performed. Inspector Foley with a large detachment of Police, was present, but happily there was no occasion for their services. Not more than half a dozen people were assembled outside the Penitentiary gate, the only interest being taken in the execution showing itself by the small knots of people sparingly congregated in the fields on the other side of Quidi Vidi Lake.

Geehan, a few days since, had a final meeting with Johanna Hamilton in presence of Dr. Howley. He asked her forgiveness for any blame which she might attribute to him, which she readily accorded.

Geehan was dressed in his prison clothes. His grave has been dug near the North-West Angle of the Penitentiary Building, and his body will be interred to-day.

(From the Morning Chronicle, July 2.)

We received last evening from Rev. Dr. M. F. Howley a communication, of which the following is a portion. The part remaining unpublished is the confession of Johanna Hamilton, which we shall give to the public in our issue of to-morrow, together with a second letter from Dr. Howley containing a statement concerning the unfortunate man Geehan. Some of these documents are not yet in our possession; but even if they were, to publish the whole in one publication would have been more than we could have accomplished since eight o'clock last evening.

Dr. Howley's first communication commences as follows:—

CATHEDRAL, St. JOHN'S, Newfoundland,
July 1, 1872.

SIR,—So many false and uncharitable rumors have gone abroad concerning the unfortunate Geehan, who this day suffered the awful penalty of the law, that I think it my bounden duty to make a few remarks upon the melancholy affair, in which I had been called to take so prominent a part. The old maxim *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*, would seem to be reversed in this case, and *nil nisi malum* would appear to apply more appropriately to our citizens. No one appears to have aught but evil to say of poor Geehan. Perhaps when they read the subjoined statement, made on the threshold of eternity, they will somewhat mitigate their anger, and drop a tear or a prayer over the memory of the man. I must first then say that the report in your paper of yesterday contains a true account of the sad proceedings, as far as you witnessed and learned from me. Moreover I can add, that from the first time I visited Geehan, shortly after his imprisonment, I found him the same respectful, submissive person. He never made use of a violent, harsh or vituperative expression against anyone. His conduct was always the same in the presence of the good nuns, who visited him every day since his condemnation, and the wardens of the prison can testify the same. He felt the keenest anxiety for having dragged the poor girl Johanna Hamilton into the trouble, and for having, in a moment of anger, as appears below, endeavored unjustly to criminate her. I have had occasion over and over again to examine both most minutely and separately upon every circumstance of the case, and found them consistent (though unaware) in all matters connected with the tragedy. I have the original documents signed by the prisoners in presence of witnesses, with full permission to use them. I should be very far from doing so were it merely to satisfy the morbid curiosity of the multitude, but under the circumstances I feel it necessary for the vindication of persons connected, and especially the unfortunate girl Johanna Hamilton, who, though she may be frail and weak, and guilty of defaults of a kind which are to be condoned before a tribunal higher than that of men, still it will appear had no hand in the shedding of a fellow creature's blood and is more to be pitied than blamed. The character she has gained for herself in the prison is one of gentleness, simplicity, and gratitude for the slightest favors received, with a continued and heart-breaking repentance for her sins, and sorrow that she did not at first state the whole truth instead of risking her own life to save Geehan.

On the 14th of June I obtained the following free and voluntary statement from Geehan in the presence of Messrs. R. Raftus, Barrister, and P. J. Scott, Attorney:—

"PENITENTIARY,
June 14th, 1872.

"I, Patrick Geehan, hereby solemnly declare that there never was any plot or conspiracy between me and Johanna Hamilton to get rid of either Mrs. Geehan or Garrett Sears. I never up to the time of Garrett Sears' death said one word to her on such a

subject, nor did any conversation ever take place between us to that effect."

"(Signed) PATRICK GEEHAN."

MICHAEL F. HOWLEY, D. D.,
R. RAFTUS,
PATRICK J. SCOTT, } Witnesses.

On the 23rd of June, he wished to make a full statement in writing and have it published; but as I thought it might be with a lingering hope of reprieve, I refused, telling him I could hold out no hope, and he had better make up his mind to die and prepare himself for the awful moment. I gave him time to consider, and called on the next day, 24th. I told him that if he wished to make a public confession he could do so, but that the better way would be to make it now, and leave it closed till after his death, and for his last few hours to turn his thoughts to God. He freely consented to abide by my counsels, when I wrote down verbatim from him, the following statement, which being concluded, I called in the Keeper, and in his presence demanded of Geehan if the statement in that paper was his last confession, if it were true and voluntary, and he answered in the affirmative and signed it in our presence. It is as follows:—

GEEHAN'S CONFESSION.

PENITENTIARY, St. JOHN'S, Newfoundland,
June 24th, 1872.

My wife was of a cross and peevish temper. Every year up to the last four I used to have a quarrel with her. For the last four years I let her go her own way. I used to be afraid I'd do something I'd be sorry for. I had a first cousin, Michael Connors, was at me for five or six years to leave her altogether. If not I'd be sorry for it. I'd always take it amiss of him to be advising me so. I thought it would be a disgrace to me. Herself and Sears couldn't agree at all. They'd be always fighting. My best couldn't keep them asunder. When I'd be out they used to fight. 'Tis often she used to come to a neighbor's house to bring me home to make peace. He was as savage as a beast in his manner. I said often to the neighbors that I was supporting hell on earth to have the like of him in my house. Still if I turned him away I'd have to turn her too. She couldn't bear to have him away, and still they could not agree together. I have his bed and box out twice, and she brought it in in spite of me. It ran in my mind to put him out of the way at Labrador where nobody would know anything about it, and still I couldn't find it in my heart to do so. When I came home last fall I never saw them so united. They'd be always discoursing together, same as a young married couple. I thought in my mind that there was something that was not right betwixt 'em. I was afraid of them. (He here stated many family quarrels tending to show a state of things which I do not feel necessary to publish. One case in particular showing that his fears were not unfounded. He then continued.) This was in my mind ever since. I could not trust her. I had many other reasons also for not trusting her. When I saw them so great together, I thought of her actions before, and I said I was not safe.

On the morning of the 20th November, I was putting out nets on the fence, and I had a barrow of twine. I called out to one of them either Johanna or Mrs. Geehan, to come and lift up the barrow. She came and lifted it and brought it to the fence (i.e. Mrs. Geehan). She went back to the cellar and found a bottle under a pile of old twine, with about a naggin or so of rum in it. I put that there myself, for she used to be always jawing me about it, although I wasn't in the habit of taking too much. I used to take a little drop about my work. She didn't like me to have it unknownst to her. She took it up and went into the house with her hands abroad. "I'll make a holy show of you," says she. I followed her in and took the bottle from her, and put my hands on her shoulders and gave her a couple of shakes. I did not strangle or choke her, I set her in the chair and left her there, and went out. I gave her no cause for death. I did not put my fingers on her throat. [He said, on close examination, that his fingers or thumbs might have gone near or touched her throat, but not at all so as to strangle her.] Johanna Hamilton was out about somewhere during this time, I think she was at the brook. After I was out I bethought

myself that she looked queer. I thought the colour of death was in her. I didn't think she was dead when I left her, for what I did could not kill her. When I came back she was on the plashion, the floor, stretched, and there was a little bit of skin off her forehead. She must have tumbled off the chair head foremost and knocked her head against a table that was near. I took her up and rubbed her and shook her, and saw that she was dead, and left her there. Johanna came in then and seen her; she clapped her hands and began to roar and bawl about the kitchen. I sat down in the chair and began to condole with myself for about an hour. I shut the door where she was. I said to myself, if I didn't put Garrett out of the way now he'd certainly do it to me. I couldn't tell whether Johanna heard me say this or not, I couldn't tell whether I said it out loud at all or not, but it occurred to my mind; so I told her to tell me when she'd be calling him to dinner. That's all I told her; and I had not the gun in my hand at that time. I was in the stable at that time. 'Twas about an hour after the death of Mrs. Geehan. I can't recollect whether she let me know afterwards, or whether I saw her going (to call him). At all events I took the gun. 'Twas at the westward end of the house. I put it there about a half an hour before he was killed. I was between two minds whether I had best do it or not. I done it, and it was in spite of me I done it. It was like as if it was to be I should do it. Even when the gun was to my shoulder 'twas like as if 'twas in spite of me it went off. When I was doing it I was sorry for doing it. And still I couldn't help it. As soon as the shot was fired, he bawled and called me my name, and then wheeled and fell face under and with the fall stunned himself. I thought he was dead. I made sure the charge of shot went into him. If I thought he was not dead, I wouldn't meddle with him, but I thought he was dead and to put him out of pain I gave him one blow with the pole of the hatchet and that's all. I wasn't in a passion. I didn't want to mangle or cut him up. I only wanted when I see him struggling to put him out of punishment. Whatever cuts was on the left side they were caused by the fall. I did no more to him. What I told before about the pigs eating off his right ear and the fingers of his right hand is all true. Whatever damage was done on the right side it was by the pigs, any more than the pitchfork in driving away the pig from the dead body. When I went out in the night to take him away to bury him, I saw the pigs and what they were doing. I laid down the light and grabbed the pitchfork and made a clout at the pig. The man was covered with straw. The clout struck the way down through the straw and stuck either in the man or in the beam. I feared it was in the man. I got frightened. Johannah came out. She was so frightened she would not stop in the house. I forced her to come. She was like a little fool, she was so frightened. She didn't know what she was doing. I buried the man in the clay for a few days, until I'd get the woman buried. If I was inclined to do any roguery with the bodies, I had my horse and cart to bury them where they'd be never seen or heard tell of. It took me a whole week to arrange about the funeral and wake of the woman, and to have the prayers of the Church, and the rites of the Church offered up for her soul. I gave away her clothes also for the good of her soul. 'Twas my intention after coming from mass on Sunday to go down to Sears's cousin, John Fitzgerald, and to make the whole case known to him, to have the body taken up and waked; to bring the Crowners then and give myself up. I never dreamed about being hanging. I thought I may be transported. John Drake came in after dinner and remained the evening. This prevented me from going. 'Twas all done out of good nature to bury the woman before she'd be left to the public, when she had no friends of her own. For I know it was, or would be, her last wish not to have any of them around her. I clears Hamilton totally out of the whole of it. She had nothing at all to do whatsoever in it. What she did in it was in spite of her. The four witnesses that swore against her were false. She did not hand me the pitchfork as I stated in the prison here. 'Twas in derision I stated that; spite to her because she said I killed the man. It was not true.

This is my free and voluntary statement and contains the truth.

(Signed.) PATRICK GEEHAN.

MICHAEL F. HOWLEY, } Witnesses.
JONATHAN MARTIN, }

(To be Continued.)

THE STAR.

HARBOR GRACE, JULY 5, 1872.

The Mails, per "Georgia," English and American, arrived here at 3.30 p. m. to-day—principal news anticipated by telegraph.

CARBONEAR vs. HARBOR GRACE.—An interesting Cricket match was played at Alexandra Park, on Wednesday last, between Eleven of the Alexandras of this town

and the same number of the Victorias, of Carbonear. The contest was well sustained throughout, terminating in a victory for the latter, by three runs and two wickets to go down. We are requested to announce that the return match will come off at Carbonear on Wednesday next.

VARIETIES.

A DEATH-BED MARRIAGE.—A few days ago a man named Coleman Robinson, who resided at Brewster Station, Putnam County, was thrown from his carriage, and had one of his legs broken, but was not supposed to have been much injured otherwise. He was engaged to be married to a Miss Little, of Carmel, and sent for her to take care of him while he was confined to the house. She declined unless they were united in marriage. He assented to the proposition, and last Tuesday evening they were joined in wedlock. The next evening he complained of being much worse and in the evening he died. Miss Little was therefore a maid, a bride, and a widow within twenty-four hours. Mr. Robinson left property behind to the amount of a million and a half of dollars.—*New York Times.*

ATTEMPTED MURDER OF TWO CHILDREN, AND SUICIDE OF THE MOTHER.—About three o'clock on Monday afternoon, a shocking occurrence took place at Blackhill. A woman named Young, the wife of a fitter engaged at Shotley Grove Paper Mills, had left her house in company with her two children, the younger of whom was in a perambulator. On getting to a place called Bridge Hill, the woman took the elder child, a little girl, in the direction of a clump of trees, leaving the baby and the perambulator in the middle of the road. After getting the little girl in the plantation, the mother drew from her pocket a large knife, with which she cut the child's throat. The little girl, however, managed to get away from her mother, and ran in the direction of her home. The woman then cut her own throat, after which she returned to where she had left the baby, which she took into the plantation and then cut its throat also. The cries of the little girl having attracted the attention of two women who were passing along the road, they proceeded with all haste in the direction indicated by the little girl. On reaching the spot, they found the mother with her throat cut from ear to ear, and quite dead, while the baby also had its throat cut, and had one arm round its mother's neck. The injuries to the little girl's throat are not of a serious nature, but the baby is not expected to live. The body of the unfortunate woman was conveyed to an adjoining farm-house, where it now awaits a coroner's enquiry.—*Newcastle Chronicle.*

MARSHAL VAILLIANT.—The telegraphic news from France announces the death of Marshal Vaillant, one of France's bravest officers. The deceased was born at Dijon in 1790, and was, therefore, at the time of his death 82 years of age. He was educated at the Polytechnic School, after which he entered the army and served in the campaign in Russia. At an early period of the struggle he was taken prisoner, and held captive till the close of the war. He was at Ligny and Waterloo in 1815, at both of which places he distinguished himself. In 1834 he was sent to Africa to superintend the construction of fortifications; and on his return eight years later was similarly engaged at Paris. In the French expedition against Rome he was second in command, and for his distinguished services there was rewarded with a marshal's baton and was created count. He has been more or less actively engaged in French military operations up to the close of Franco-German trouble.

THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER.—If you watch two or three masons at work on a large building, the progress they make seems exceedingly slow, and at a casual glance, the work seems no further advanced at night than in the morning. But watch them day after day, and finally you will see how slowly but surely the building nears completion. So in regard to formation of character. The human mind is like a ponderous machine. A small point of iron at a switch will turn it to right or left—sending it on its proper course or perchance causing it to go over an embankment or into another train, crushing both in shapeless destruction. The sight of some object, or a word spoken or read, will give one's train of thought a new direction, or some direction quite different from what it would otherwise have taken. Upon very small things depends all of one's future course of life. Parents teachers guardians—in fact, everyone—may ponder this.

STRIKES IN AMERICA.—Strikes for the eight hours limit are occurring daily in every district of the United States. The copper miners of Lake Superior to the number of several thousands have struck, and troops have had to be called out to check the outrages on the men who refuse to join the movement. One thousand employes in the manufactures of Hamilton, Ontario, have struck for the nine hour system.

Kentucky locals are done on this wise: Abner Moss, a highly respectable and well-known lunatic, was in town last week.



Latest Despatches.

MONTREAL, June 28.

It is stated that Mr. Howe has sent in his resignation as a member of the Cabinet. Mr. Campbell, Postmaster, will be appointed to a Judgeship; Messrs. McDougall and O'Connor, Dominion Ministers for Ontario; and Hon. James McDonald, of Halifax, for Nova Scotia.

LONDON, 27.

Earl Granville made a lengthy explanation before the House of Lords concerning arbitration negotiations. He announced that the injunction of secrecy had been removed from the doings of the Tribunal, and that on Friday an official declaration of the Board's intentions will be given to the public. He considered the ratification of the withdrawal of indirect claims as certain, and repelled with considerable warmth the assertion of Lord Cairns that, had matters not gone thus smoothly for England at the Tribunal, the Administration would have been in danger. His statements are regarded by the majority of the Lords as highly satisfactory. In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone made an explanation and expressly stated that the controversy with regard to indirect claims was ended.

PARIS, 27.

The Garde Republicaine Band, now visiting Boston, has been authorised by President Thiers to visit Chicago.

It is reported that Von Arnim and Thiers will, on Friday, sign the treaty providing for anticipating time for the liberation of French territory from occupation by German troops. The result of the negotiations will be communicated to the Assembly on Monday by the President, who will demand authority to conclude a loan necessary to make payments provided for in the treaty.

LONDON, 28.

Lord Tenterden, while at Charneux recently, sprained his ankle.

The "Times" says the decision of the Tribunal is eminently satisfactory. All Englishmen and Americans ought to be grateful to the arbitrators, who proved themselves true benefactors of both countries. The man who rescued America from discredit is Charles Francis Adams.

The "News" says the result of the indirect claims controversy is a great triumph for the firmness and patience of the British Ministry. Society has now an example for the employment of peaceful tribunals, not to compete with, but to supersede, the work of the sword. Minister Schenck deserves credit for his course during the negotiations between the two Governments.

Other morning papers rejoice over the manner in which the disputes between the two Governments have been settled.

GENEVA, 28.

The Board of Arbitrators met to-day. The next meeting takes place on the 15th July, by which time Lord Tenterden will be able to have the argument on the part of Great Britain put in printed form.

A Paris despatch states that a cabinet crisis is expected shortly. The members of the Right in the Assembly having resolved actively to oppose the Government. McMahon is proposed as successor of Thiers in case the latter resigns. The unsettled state of affairs causes some apprehension.

BOSTON, 29.

The banquet given to the Grenadier Band, at the Revere House, last evening, by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, was a brilliant affair. Speeches were made by George Washburn, Mayor Gaston, General Banks and others.

NEW YORK, 29.

To-day was hottest of the season. The thermometer was marking 100 in shade.

The Irish Band arrived in the steamer "Abyssinia." Gold 113 3/4.

LONDON, 28.

A Royal decree has been promulgated by the Spanish official "Gazette," dissolving the Cortes, and ordering elections on the 24th Aug., and convening a new Cortes for the 25th Sept.

The resignation of the Captain-General of Cuba has been accepted, and Captain-General Portierio has been recalled.

There has been a frightful earthquake in Japan, by which 500 persons lost their lives.

It lasted a considerable time and the shocks were so severe that the population were unable to walk but crawled about on their hands and knees. The disaster occurred during the evening meal and the smoldering fires ignited the ruins, adding to the consternation.

PARIS, July 1st.

The treaty providing for the evacuation of French territory by the German troops was signed on Saturday night by Von Arnim. It requires the ratification of French and German Governments, within one week after having been signed. A half milliard francs war indemnity is to be paid two months after the ratification treaty. Departments of Marne and Upper Marne are to be evacuated. The second half of this milliard of francs is to be paid 1st March, 1873, and one milliard francs on the 1st March 1874, when the departments of Andenis and Vosges are to be evacuated. Last milliard francs of indemnity with accrued interest thereon are to be paid on 1st March 1875, when departments of Meuse and Fortress of Belfort, are to be evacuated.

In the Assembly to-day, the Minister of Finance will introduce a Bill authorising a new loan to meet requirements of the treaty.

The Arbitration will continue on the San Juan question at Berlin. Bismarck will appoint distinguished international lawyers to decide the question.

NEW YORK, 1.

A rumour prevails at Washington that Ryan's Cuban expedition has landed safely, and that a well armed insurgent force will at once take the field.

BOSTON, 1.

The Irish band arrived here on Sunday, and this morning were received by most of the Irish Societies and the 6th Mass. regiment.

Gilmore's benefit on Saturday, was a complete success, the house being packed.

NEW YORK, 1.

The thermometer 101 in the shade and ranges from 90 to upwards of 100 over New England. Gold 112 3/4 to 114.

TORONTO, 2.

The "Mail" announces that in consequence of Mr. Morris' appointment as chief justice in Manitoba, Mr. O'Conner, M.P., for Essex, will be sworn in as his successor in the Cabinet. Mr. Morris' portfolio having been taken by Dr. Tupper, and O'Conner taking the duties of President of the Council. O'Conner accepts office under Sir John A. McDonald, as the representatives of Catholics.

MONTREAL, 2.

Yesterday was but little observed by the French Canadians.

Several more of the sufferers of the Belleville disaster have died. The government inquest has commenced. The investigation will be most searching.

PARIS 1.

In the Assembly this afternoon, M. Pausat read the treaty for the evacuation of France. There was great disappointment when found that although certain districts are to be gradually evacuated Germany has a right to maintain full strength of army occupation in France till the war indemnity is entirely liquidated.

The Minister of Finance has submitted, at to-day's session, his Bill for raising a new loan.

The King of Spain is about to make an extensive trip throughout the Provinces lately the prey of Carlist agitations.

The Spanish Republicans resolve to abstain from all elections of a monarchical character.

LONDON 2.

Sir Roundell Palmer resumed his seat in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. R. Gurney addressed his constituents at Northampton last night. He said he thought an interchange of visits between England and the United States advisable. He eulogized the Americans, who were desirous of preserving friendly relations with England. He cared not whether arbitrators required England to pay 2 or 3 millions more or less, but it was necessary for both countries to find justice had been done and their disputes honorably settled.

The Spanish Government have sent large reinforcements to Catalonia to suppress disloyal demonstrations.

BOSTON, 2.

Superb banquet given in Faneuil Hall last night by the British residents of Boston in honor of the Grenadier Guard Band. The Band sails on Saturday for New York and gives a concert there on Friday evening for the benefit of the St. George's Society. German Band gives several concerts in New York and Washington.

