

BULLFROG.

Nec sumit aut pouit secures, Arbitrio popularis aura, - Hor

No. 19.

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THE CRISIS.

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The present aspect of affairs in Nova Scotia is extraorlinary beyond all precedent. Those who have been eleced to make laws, appear before us not as Legislators, but s Legislature makers. Not content with Legislating for he people they represent, they seek to place the people nder the Legislation of others, and this too, without any ppeal to the people themselves. The leaders of both rovincial parties have coalesced, and stand pledged to a easure concocted by the Statesmen of a Colony whose olitical affairs are at a dead lock. Then again, we have the two papers most widely read throughout the Province, ardently advocating Federation, while the whole of the ountry papers, save one, are against the scheme. And, s regards the two leading political journals, we must, without the smallest leaning towards either of the parties which these journals represent, award the palm of fair dealing to the Chronicle rather than to the Colonist. The managers of both these papers give prominence to the various speeches of the delegates, which invariably appear accurately and ably reported; but the speeches of those opposed to Federation are, as a rule, but partially reported. The Chronicle, it is true, faithfully narrated the proceedings of the Anti-Federation meeting of Dec. 23rd; but the olonist, had no reporter in Temperance Hall, and gave to its readers a most one sided summary adopted from the columns of the Reporter; while upon the meeting of Dec. 30th, the Conservative organ was all but mate. Now, without presuming to dictate as to the course to be adopted by any Halifax paper, we are of opinion that both the leading political journals should, all things considered, give as much publicity as possible to both sides of this important question, as illustrated by public speakers on either side. It would be folly to affect ignorance of what every one seems fully assured-viz:-that the sentiments of at least two of the delegates find utterance in the columns of the two leading papers to which we have referred. These two delegates affirm, (and we believe honestly affirm) that they court opposition: why then did they not use all their influence to put their opponents speeches

fairly before the outside public? Let us note the leading points whereon the parties for and against Federation are opposed. The Federation party is of opinion that by an Union with Canada, we should be the better able to resist aggression without further taxing the resources of Great Britain. This sentiment is as unselfish as it is patriotic, and if based upon sound calculations as to our own innate resources, must demand all honor and respect. The principle involved is essentially sound and honorable, indeed, as Mr. Gladstone remarked, before a select Committee on Colonial Military expenditure: "No community which is not primarily charged with the ordinary business of its own defence is really, or can be, in the full sense of the word, a free community. The privileges of freedom, and the burdens of freedom, are absolutely associated together: to bear the burdens is as

necessary as to enjoy the privilege, in order to form that character, which is the great security of freedom itself." We believe these principles are heartily endorsed, not merely by the delegates and their supporters, but by every sensible man in Nova Scotia. But the Anti-Federation party say, with seeming reason, that the sum voted for defence, is utterly insufficient to cope with the items detailed in the scheme laid before the British Government. Dr. Tupper, when pressed for an explanation upon this head, clearly stated, towards the close of a speech of most marked ability, that the entire sum voted for defence would be applied to the maintenance of an efficient militia force. So far, so good. That an annual vote of one million dollars would support a militia capable of holding out until reinforced by English troops, is we think, more than probable. But we should like some information regarding naval defence, munitions of war, &c. Lugland will of course defend our sea board, but will the Ottawa Government undertake the naval defence of Lake Ontario? Will England find the necessary gun boats, as well as the men to fight them? Should such not be the case, our Lakes must, under existing arrangements remain undefended, imasmuch as the Militia force is to swallow up the whole of the money voted for defence! It is through lack of information upon these points that men are chary of accepting the scheme in its relations with self-defence. We do not oppose Federation for the sake of opposition, but because we are, so to speak, in the dark regarding some very important monetary items. If England will undertake to keep our military stores well supplied with all the most approved implements of modern warfare, and will moreover make us a handsome present of ten or fifteen gunboats, ready manned and officered,-if England be pledged to this generous policy for all time to come, let the delegates say so, and by so doing calm our fears for the future. But if, on the other hand, England is pledged to no such policy, we must set aside Mr. Archi-BALD's figures as worthless. The item "naval defence" is put before us as prominently as the item "militia," upon which we are to expend one million dollars. The words "naval defence" must therefore be expunged, or an extra defence expenditure voted, in which case a new budget must be prepared for our acceptance, or rejection. We have but little sympathy for those who haggle about twenty, forty, or sixty cents per head, when a really great question is at issue; but we heartily sympathize with those who refuse to accept the Federation Scheme until the meaning of perhaps its most costly item (naval defence) is fully and clearly explained by the delegates. If the latter can afford us any information upon this head, it is, we think, their duty to do so. The tariff question, a question of thousands, has been most minutely commented upon, while "naval defence," a question of millions, remains, totally unexplained.

The other great point at issue is that which treats of a general election. The anti-federation party is of opinion

that the people's representatives should be sent to the country, in order that the whole body of electors throughout the Province should hear both sides of the case. This demand seems to us reasonable enough. But what said Dr. Tupper in Temperance Hall on Saturday evening? He said that the Parliament had the power of altering the constitution, and quoted precedent in the case of Lord Durham. Dr. Tupper's argument seemed to us somewhat ill timed, considering the strong opposition to Federation which exists throughout the country districts. Parliament has, of course, a perfect right to recommend its own dissolution; but the people have a similar right, and if country members are opposed to Federation, they should agitate their constituencies upon the question of dissolution. Upon this subject, Mr. May writes as follows:- "As Parliament may tender its advice to the Crown, regarding its own dissolution, so the people, in their turn, have claimed the right of praying the Crown to exercise its prerogative, in order to give them the means of condemning the conduct of Parliament." Now, we commenced this article by saying that our present condition was extraordinary beyond precedent; we must, therefore, be prepared for extraordinary measures on the part of the people, "in order to give them the means of condemning the conduct of Parliament." It is true, Parliament is not sitting; but the coalition of the leading men of either party upon a question threatening the overthrow of the constitution upon whose terms both parties were elected, may fairly be called "the conduct of Parliament," rather than the conduct of the ministry. Let country members see to this, and agitate for petitions to the Lt. Governor for a dissolution.

We confess to seeing a closer resemblance between the attitude of Dr. Tupper and that of Lord Durham, than between the present state of Nova Scotia and the former state of Canada. We all know the circumstances which led to Lord Durham's appointment. There had been a difference of opinion between two parties, Protestant and Catholic, and an excited mob had fired a few shots while attempting to rescue some prisoners. The Canadians resolved to suspend the constitution under which alone they had any existence until their treasonable demands were conceded; in fact, Canada was in a state of incipient rebellion, and it was deemed expedient to create in the person of Lord Durham a Dichalor—the first since Julius Cesar! We leave our readers to find out the analogy which satisfied Dr. Tupper.

We think that a little calm reflection must convince men of all parties, that any attempt to carry this great question without an appeal to the people may be productive of the worst possible results. It is no light thing to demolish a constitution under which we have risen steadily in importance and self respect; it is dangerous to do so in the teeth of so large and respectable an opposition. Never was there a time when the Province needed wiser counsel than at present; never a time when the loftiest intellects of Nova Scotia were more imperatively called upon to declare for or against so gigantic a scheme. In that country whose constitution we have endeavoured to adapt to our peculiarcir cumstances, no statesman of marked ability is ever lost sight of at an hour of perplexity. Veterans that have passed a life time in their country's service may, in the evening of life find repose upon the benches of the House of Lords; but they serve their country still, and upon really great questions England listens reverentially to their words, weighted as they are with the wisdom of long, and it may be rough experience. Such men may slumber awhile, but they wake at the first

note of danger to the land they love. What Englishman does not recall with a thrill of pride the memorable debate, a few years back, upon the China war, when the giant intellects of Brougham, Lansdown, and Lynd-HURST, found expression on one memorable night and carried weight throughout the whole civilized world? But it is not so here. He, of whom Nova Scotia is most proud, holds a position which precludes him from giving to his country the full benefit of his long experience, and vigorous intellect. In the political career of Joseph Howe, we have the history of Nova Scotia for more than a quarter of a century. Are we indeed to lose altogether the benefit of such an one's counsel in a crisis so import ant as the present? The Province is divided into three parties upon the Federation Scheme. Some are for it, some against it,-many are of doubtful mind. A few lines from the pen of Mr. Howe would, we think, be hailed with joy throughout the Province. A crisis is at hand, greater, far greater than any through which we have hitherto passed, and one of Nova Scotia's ablest and most experienced sons is silent. We question whether Mr. Howe is not, at the present moment, the most self-denying man in the Province.

THE LATE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The meetings held last week in the Temperance Hall were on the whole eminently successful; as successful indeed as any meetings could be, which had no direct object in view, but the fair discussion of a great subject. It is not for us to decide who had the best of the argumentsit is not for us to assert that the arguments in favor of the present scheme were entirely fallacious, or that the arguments employed against it were suggested by persona animosities to the delegates, or the personal interest of the speakers against a consummation of the proposed scheme Our space will not allow a full analysis of the various speeches delivered on Friday and Saturday. Many of them were excellent; one of them, considered merely a a piece of oratorical display was magnificent; two or three of them were silly in the extreme. Dr. Tupper's final address, all must admit, should make Nova Scotia proud of the oratorical power of her Provincial Secretary. Mr. Archibald's speech was clear, lucid, and to the point Messrs, Annand and McDonald reasoned calmly and logically, and the figures of Messrs, Jones and Stars should, by the careful and honest study of the question which they evinced, have protected these gentlemen from the sneers, which the novelty of their position as public speakers provoked from many of their audience. Ald. Tobin was amusing, which cannot be said of Mr. John Tobix's speech, though the latter gentleman accused the former of boring his audience by jesting on a grave subject. Whether Alderman Tobix bored his audience of not, it was for the occupants of the Hall to decide. Good pleasantry is more congenial to the public taste, than dry and platitudinal declamation as Mr. John Tobin found to his cost, when with a graceful bow to the electors of Halifax he was forced into his seat forty minutes later. Messrs Wier and Lynch described Canada—the advantages of railways-and the glories of commerce with great success -but as far as arguments went, their speeches might have been delivered with equal effect in favor of a Federal Union, between Nova Scotia and Asiatic Tartary. As we said before, our space will not allow us to consider in det iil, the arguments used for, or against the Union Scheme on these occasions. There are two points however, which appear to us deserving of especial notice. There are two arguments which have been used-one of them by both

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sides—the other only by the delegates—which appear to have produced a greater effect than they deserved, upon the audiences in the Temperance Hall.

Let us take the argument made use of by the delegates alone first; it is this. "The stupidity of those who can declare that an Inter-colonial Railway is of no advantage to this Province, is inconceivable. The stupidity of those who do not see that Union is strength is culpable-and it is born of selfishness. The stupidity of those who do not know that a great country is greater than a small one iswell-no words can describe it. Therefore, the Federation Scheme now offered you must be accepted. Its opponents, prove themselves not only the opponents of our scheme, but of Railways, free trade and self-defence. We can quote you words of every Statesman of this Province, showing the unanimity of feeling which existed in their minds in favor of a Union of British North America. Argument of this kind is most unfair, since by branding those who oppose the Federation Scheme with a stupid aversion to all improvement whatever, it endeavours to conceal the consideration that this Union does not stand merely upon 600 miles of railway and a common tariff. It lays its entire strength upon advantages which may, or may not be obtainable without Union, and at the same time condemns the opponents of the Quebec Scheme as undesirious of improvements which the latter fancy can be had without entering upon a dangerous Union at all. This we assert is an unfair way of laying a great question before the public. It is as if a shop-keeper should say to a customer "boots are essential to your comfort. A hat is necessary for out-door exercise, and a life spent in the house is conducive to ill health. Therefore you must buy my boots and my hat." The purchaser may urge that the hat and boots are somewhat dear. The shop-keeper replies: "No, all the great doctors of the day say that hats and boots are essential for health." Is the purchaser convinced by such arguments? We think not.

The other false reasoning indulged in largely by both delegates and Anti-federalists is this. Both sides seemed to take delight in quoting from the former speeches of their opponents in order to show that the latter by their adoption or rejection of the Union Scheme contradict their own opinions formerly expressed. Mr. UNIACKE twitted Dr. Tuppen with the remarks made by the latter last year to the effect that a general Union of the Colonies was impossible. Dr. Tupper humorously, but somewhat unfairly, crushed Mr. Miller by referring to a speech of that gentleman which advocated an equitable Union of all the Provinces, in preference to one of the Maritime Provinces alone. We should have thought that the time for such bickerings was past. Then again Mr. Howe, our great living Statesman was brought forward (and the mention of his name produced a cheer) as a kind of Deus ex Machina in support of arguments for, and against the Delegatic doctrine. Now all this kind of argument is excessively weak, especially in a country like ours, which being young, is liable to undergo many sudden changes of public feeling and national necessities. The greatest of men have changed their opinions, and as long as honesty dictates such changes, nothing can be said against them. Public men being but the representatives of public feeling should be fairly credited with honest intentions until dishonesty of conduct can be proved against them. As Lord Macaulay observes-"A man ought no more to be called an apostate because his opinions alter with the opinions of the great body of his contemporaries than he ought to be called an oriental traveller, because he is always going round from west to east with the globe, and everything that is upon it." In the same manner, neither Dr. Tupper or Mr. Miller should be exposed to the public as turncoats, until an open breach of faith on their parts has made
their dishonesty a subject for general reprobation. We
have alluded to these two false aspects of the Confederation argument for the simple reason that they are liable to
mislead the public. We have indeed but three objects in
view. We wish to see the Provinces united if ample provision be made for their self-defence. We wish to see
the terms of Union fairly set before the people, and we desire that the people's voice may be heard upon the proposed
annihilation and reconstruction of their constitution.

AMERICAN JOURNALISM.

The manner in which the Chronicle seeks to counteract the arguments temperately put forward by this journal upon the Federation Scheme, is not a little instructive, as ilustrating the peculiarities of the American people. It would seem that disinterestedness is a quality which is not comprehended upon this side of the Atlantic. When Mr. LANCASTER's yacht gave | shelter to the survivors of the Alabama, the American press boldly declared that the owner of the Deerhound was in the pay of Captain SEMMES. The New York papers would fain make their readers believe that the Times is in the pay of JEFF DAYIS. The Chronicle asserts that "Mr. UNIACKE and his confreres have organized and secured the Citizen and Bullfrog" to write down something, or somebody. As regards the Bullfrog, this statement on the part of the Chronicle is simply untrue. Mr. UNI-ACKE, and his friends have no more connection with, or influence over this journal, than they have over the Chronicle. The Bullfrog declared against the terms of the proposed scheme long before Mr. UNIACKE or his friends came forward in the matter at all. The Chronicle writers make use of one or two names in connection with this journal, and in so doing blunder, as men usually blunder, when treating of business other than their own. This is, however, one of those striking peculiarities of American journalism which so materially weaken the influence of the fourth estate on this side of the Atlantic. The next indictment preferred against us, is somewhat serious. It is urged (by the Chronicle) that we impute base motives to the Jmperial Government, and would have our readers believe that Her Majesty's Ministers are trying to deceive England's Colonial subjects. Yet what is the true state of the case? We reproduce the sentence upon which hinged the whole of our argu-"There can be little doubt that the praise accorded the Federation Scheme has been called forth on the supposition that the details of the scheme could be accepted in good faith' as meaning exactly what they profess to mean, and under such c roumstances the English Ministry and the English press must necessarily rejoice? Now, "naval defence" was one of the details referred to, and English Statesmen are not in the habit of regarding such items as meaning nothing whatever. If the words "naval defence" are not calculated to deceive the English people we are greatly at fault. Nova Scotia is a fine Province, and should be fairly dealt with; but England is also a fine Country, and English tax payers should not be deluded by words "full of sound and fury, signifying-nothing." We shall in future let contemporary remarks about this paper pass unnoticed. To reply to all the nonsense printed about the Bullfrog, would only bo:e our readers.

THE OLD STORY.

If we recollect aright, that worthy body of men to whom have been confided the interests of this city, not long since congratulated one another, and the public in general, that Rockhead had, as a suburban retreat, lost many of its former charms, and was, in point of fact, but thinly populated during this inclement season. This is highly satisfactory, especially when we come to consider the dangers and difficulties to be overcome in a winter journey from the Mayor's court to our model jail. But, it would seem that while Rockhead prison is comparatively empty, that other model establishment—the Pauper Asylum, is, if possible, more overcrowded than usual,

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The policy which crowds the one establishment in order that the other may seem empty is at once subtle and profound. It does not look well to have many prisoners in jail at Christmas time. Even Aldermen may be excused for exercising a little undue leniency at a time when all men are merrily inclined. They can just now afford to be gracious towards those friendly topers whose convivial customs have made the sidewalks of Water Street thrice-driven beds of down. What's the use of sending a drunkard to Rockhead to get sober, when the poor house is ever so much nearer? None at all, especially at Christmas time, when the prison functionaries should be allowed to enjoy themselves. No, the Poor's Asylum is the place; let Tim, and Peggy, there quarrel and blaspheme till they fall asleep in an odour of "white eye,"—they won't disturb anyone but the Paupers, who are, as a matter of course:—

"Blithe and gay, Keeping their Christmas holiday."

It would, of course, be absurd not to use the poor house as an ordinary police station cell. It would cost some money to keep up a police station on that rotten old country principle which provides temporary, unfurnished lodgings for such votaries of Bacchus as cannot see their way home after sunset. Such men cannot be specially provided for; a "lock up" at the Police station would be nothing short of a premium on intemperance. It is true, drunkards may disturb paupers, but this is no business of ours,-it only affects those, guilty of that most atrocious of sins-poverty. Poverty! the mere idea of a man being poor or infirm at a time like the present, is manifestly absurd. Who could think of Paupers, while contemplating the future in store for us? Paupers, forsooth! at a moment when the river St. Lawrence is to be "swung" into Bedford Basin,—when Halifax is on the eve of becoming the great trade emporium for Asia, and Australia,-paupers! let them rot and perish.

No one has any right to be a pauper now-a-days. Pauperism is an unmixed evil, and should be discountenanced as such; therefore, let us, by all means, use the Poor's Asylum as a Police Station. What matters it, that a man should, while suffering from delirium tremens create a panic in the poor house? He will not, in all probability, do anything more playful than send females into hysterics, terrify his male companions, render night hideous with his ravings, disturb the last moments of the dying, and fill a place designed for some less deserving individual. Some silly people may imagine, that the destitute family of a consumptive artizan, or the unfortunate victim of an unlooked for accident, should have a stronger claim upon the resources of the Asylum than a common tippler. No such absurd idea can for a moment be entertained. Those who would argue in such a strain must be opposed to Federation. They are men of narrow minds, unable rightly to comprehend the true elements of greatness. They are men who prefer looking upon the ground to peering into the heavens; they are meditators rather than star-gazers. To such we would say-Union is strength. Why seek to arraign class against class, when the advantages of Union are obvious to all,-why encourage petty jealousies, when amalgamation will effectually destroy the evils thereon attendant? No, union is strength! Look at our Pauper Asylum, and in that model establishment see the happy results of union. There we have all classes under a common control. The aged and the youthful, the bedridden and the robust, the timid orphan and the unblushing harlot, the crippled mechanic and the hardened jail-bird, the dying penitent and the

blaspheming infidel, the palsied dotard and the raving lunatic, all are housed together. Their lives have hitherto been monotonous in the extreme, but the introduction of two or three more delirium tremens cases will work wonders. But we have, of late sent but few drunkards to Rockhead, and this fact clearly proves that we are, beyond all doubt, the most moral, intelligent, and superlatively excellent people to be met with upon earth.

SERIOUS FUN.

We have had no great public amusements in Halifax this Christmas. We ought perhaps to have had a pantomime, a public ball, and all manner of pleasant things. Since, however, none of these have been vouchsafed-follow us O intelligent reader into the Temperance Hall on the nights of Friday and Saturday, in Christmas week. "If ever a subject deserved to be considered soberly," how often by-the-bye has that phrase been employed during the past month, well, well-almost all great things have a ludicrous side and public meetings are no exceptions to the rule. Let us then go to the Temperance Hall merely to laugh, merely to pick the plums of fun out of a dry debate. We know nothing kind readers about the questions at issue, or if we do, are prepared to ignore our knowledge on the present occasion. Let us enter the hall. Two seats in the front row are vacant, we will take them. The delegates their friends and their opponents are arriving, we are in the nick of time. Ah there is the Mayor what a bore the whole thing must be to him. He is in the position of a speaker of a House without his authority, but the audience look more inclined to laugh than to make a disturbance. And here come our delegates supported by Messrs. Wier, John Tobin, and Lynch, then follow the Anti-Federalists. Mr. Howe is here too. Although he will not speak his name will be mentioned pretty often during the discussions. The debate begins. Let us look at the highly respectable audience which surrounds us. All ages and classes find in it their representatives. Look at that dear old man who has longed perhaps many years for some kind of Union. He is rather deaf and blind, but although he can't see the speaker or hear his words, or know to what party he belongs, he knows when applause is going on. On such occasions he pats his knees with both hands and mutters audibly, "very-good, I think go too." Dear old man may he live to see a real Union of the Colonies! There is a young man who cheers every delegate, and every assistant of the delegates. He sees himself roving over the boundless West, in square rigged vessels on the lakes, and in express trains to British Columbia. Honest enthusiast may you see your dream realized! Here is a sober merchant counting the cost of every farthing which he will lose or gain by the changes of the tariff. He has no more enthusiasm than an oyster, or patriotism than an Italian Jew. Dollars and cents for this year and the next limit his vision. "Sufficient unto the day are the dollars thereof." He says, "I have got on well enough as yet-a fig for the changes!" There again is an honest man who waits to hear both sides of the question, and hasn't made up his mind on the subject as yet. He cheers hits made by either party, and cheers doubly when such hits are followed by praises of the honesty, integrity, and enterprise of Nova Scotians. All the audience is well behaved, attentive and respectable. Let us look at the speakers. If we can get any fan, for mind that is our only object now, let us listen to them and make remarks (in whispers of course) upon their speeches. Mr. Wier and Mr. Lynch have spoken and good heavens dear reader what rubbish they did talk! It was perhaps wise of the delegates to have a couple of extra speakers on the platform, either to show their own strength, or to fill up the time. We will put a more charitable construction upon their action in this matter. They knew that many on the opposite side were unaccustomed to public speaking This might, (thought the delegates, re opinions. our side They wi speakers our surn delegate we shall better th these tw "Sur swung to and the would h of Hali

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gates, render them nervous and prevent a free expression of their opinions. Our course is clear. We will put forth speakers on our side so silly that confidence will be restored to our opponents. They will see that they are fairly matched with some of the speakers in favor of Federation. The results (if we are right in our surmises) of this kind thoughtfulness on the part of the delegates were the speeches of Messrs, Wier and Lynch. Reader we shall have a laugh at last. Better than pantomimes or plays, better than balls or ballet dances, were the worded visions of these two dreamers. Here is a specimen of Mr. Wien's speech.

"Suppose that it had been possible thirty years ago to have swung that noble river (the St. Lawrence) into Bedford Basin, and the connection had been accomplished, what he would ask would have been the extent, wealth, and commercial importance of Halifax at the present time? He would leave it for his andience to imagine." This was perhaps the best thing Mr. Wier could do under the circumstances, but the reflection arises. If the St. Lawrence got into Bedford Basin how would it get out? or if it did make any attempt to do so where would Halifax with its extent, wealth, and commerce be? In all probability under the river. No-on the whole we are very glad that the connection was not made. Let us hear what Mr. Lyncu can say to afford us amusement. Arguing in favor of Federation and having had the good fortune at some former period of his existence to visit Canada, Mr. Lyncu said :

"Her rivers were not like any others (? do they run up hill) Her lakes were great oceans on which, at the present time, there are 7,000,000 tons of shipping. * * In extent, the country was seven times as large as England, and British America one ninth of the world. Her live stock was worth 89,000,000. Her forests abounded with timber (so do ours) to an inexhaustible extent, and scarcely anything excited so much attention as the pile of that timber, standing near our column of coal, at the great exhibition of 1861. All this wealth would be ours, * * * How were we to get this? By the proposed Unioa."

There reader is a glorious prospect !- Don't laugh if you can possibly avoid doing so-you are to have all these lakes, forests, peculiar rivers, and eighty nine millions worth of livestock all to yourself if you do as Mr. Lyncu bids. But more, you are also to become, as that gentleman said in another part of his speech, the great manufacturing people not only for America but for Asia! What a sublime contemplation! Well, well it is great fun to hear gentlemen talking nonsense-kind twaddle that cannot possibly do any harm and may please the speakers. Do not be angry dear reader with Messrs. Wier and Linch. It is not for you to say that their speeches were not concealed efforts at fun-efforts perhaps made entirely for your own amusement. Come away, Mr. Lynch has sat down. Let the other speakers thunder forth sense. We have had enough laughter for to-night so again I say come away, "quietly-don't disturb the audience."-Hi-Cab !

NEW HOTEL FOR HALIFAX.

It is well sometimes to descend from the ideal for the real and to alternate the sublime with the practical. A poet is no less a poet for incidentally appearing in a clean shirt; nor does a patriot, while moulding and manipulating the destinies of his country, transgress any constitutional principle by looking occasionally to his own menage, "going into supply," and "calling the house to order," at home. In like manner, cities with colossal conceptions and aspirations, such as Halifax has recently been tempted to indulge in, may wisely study their own internal wants, condescend to details, and make provision for those every-day requisites which are essential to the respectability and welfare of any place, whether symbolized by fancy as the commanding vestibule of a Western World, or limited by fact to the

status of a modest but improving metropolis of a "Lower Province.

To begin with Hotels-what we ask, has Halifax to boast of? What can she offer to ordinary visitors, much less to such expectant pilgrims as allured by the glowing pictures of this "Grand Atlantic Wharf" would naturally expect to find here a city replete with hotels of magnificent proportions and pretensions? The former class of persons are already doomed to discomfort, and the latter, if they arrive very soon, will simply consider that they have been hoaxed. It cannot be concealed that the accommodation now afforded is generally of a very "shady" character, and that a visitor has for his Scylla (and his "siller" too) the manifold tortures of slatternly, badly built, badly arranged, and badly managed hotels; and for his Charybdis, the stingy, dingy, despotism of antiquated boarding houses; and whichever choice he makes-with one or two solitary exceptions-his stay in Halifay is thus rendered as ancomfortable and consequently as short as possible. Nor is it external visitors alone, but our own community also, who have grievous cause of complaint; for the modern hotel has come to subserve, in every large civilized place but this, many collateral social requirements, and has developed itself into a leading "domestic institution "

Conscious of this great public desideratum, and encouraged by the financial success of the Club speculation, several active citizens, we understand, have set on foot an enterprise for the erection of a new hotel. The capital of the company (already half subscribed) will be \$80,000, which should suffice to give us in Halifax an establishment inferior in appearance, commodiousness, and style, to none in British North America, and, with good management, superior to all. It is intended that the hotel should have an Anglo-American character, combining the promiscuous table 'd hote accommodation of the States with the privacy (for those who prefer it) of the old English system, for which a considerable number of special apartments will be required. If to these be added bath rooms, reading, writing, and billiard rooms, and all the other conveniences which modern travel and taste have rendered indispensable, there can be no fear of the popularity and profit of the undertaking; for even if all the present establishments were unexceptionable in style and comfort, there is so large an increase in the application for hotel accommodation that the mere excess of demand over supply would almost suffice to support it. It is, indeed, this very excess of demand that has prevented an improvement in our hotel system corresponding with that of other communities where competition has been more active. One new and improved establishment here would have a salutary effect upon the others, and if still further competition be required for this purpose, we hope it may be forthcoming, until the time arrives when we can welcome with a confident hospitality guests of every class to our city, and when hotels with a good cuisine, potable wines, airy well furnished apartments, clean linen, bright plate, and inodorous waiters, may become the rule, instead of, as at present, the exception. It is almost superfluous to wish success to this new undertaking, for, with ordinary good management, success is certain, and those who embark in it will effect at once a great public improvement and a good private investment.



NEW YEAR'S DAY.

The Second of January was a merry day in Halifax. Everybody went to see everybody, and everybody was glad to see everybody else. "A happy New Year,-nany of them." "wont you have a glass of liqueur or sherry "--"you must be quite tired by calling on so many people" were the most used phrases of the stay-at-home or female portion of

the community. "A happy new year" "no that k you," or, "thanks, I remember a curiously pleasant compound which gratified my palate last new year's day" were the expressed sentiments of nine-tenths of the visiting part of the population. Punch, wine, curacoa, and Bishop (untainted by Colensoism is still, thank goodness, strictly orthodox) were freely offered to the visitor. A bright sun without and cheerful welcome within rendered the whole business pleasant to all concerned. This custom of New Year visiting is on the whole a very good one. It may become tedious to some who have repeated the operation for many consecutive years, but we hope that it will never be allowed to die out in Halifax. One of its great advantages is the opportunity which it offers for the blotting out of little coolnesses which may have sprung up during the past year. Mrs. A. may have omitted Mrs B's. name in her list of invitations to a small party. Mr. C. may have disagreed with Mr. D. about the regulation of the City finance, but all the sores of the past year are buried in the warmth of mutual well wishes for the next. It is after all much the same kind of merriment as that which made the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of December the great feast days amongst our Norse ancestors. They rejoiced that the shortest day was passed and that the days once more began to lengthen. We have changed the time of our New Year's Day from theirs but the same feelings prevail amongst us. They burnt the Yule log, and made merry on the occasion of their New Year. We pay friendly visits and wish good wishes to all on the advent of our new year. So may it ever be. Let the dead year bury its dead, let the old year bury its rotting cankers, its little social sores, its little family squabbles and everything else little and mean which it brought into existence. Well, well, we are beginning to moralize which we had no intention of doing when we started. We said that the day was pleasant to all, and it is rather a difficult thing to imagine which enjoyed it most, the stay-at-home ladies or the fly-about gentlemen. Each party commiserated the other. "You must be so tired of sitting up," say the visitors. "Not half so weary as you walking about all day," retort the ladies. We will not attempt to decide this question. It appears to us that the advantages on both sides are fairly balanced. The walk-abouts get fresh air and know who they are going to see. The stay-at-homes don't get fresh air, but have the great charm of ignorance as to who may turn up next. "Will Mr. B. call?" "Has Mr. C got over his little huff?" All this gives excitement to their afternoon. Messrs. B. and C. have no such amusement, for if once they make up their minds to call at a doubtful house, a ready welcome is certain. And here lies the great charm of the New Year's visiting. It opens an escape from the little estrangements of the past year. Bygones are bygones, and a new social year is commenced with good will to all, and a hope that good fellowship may prevail until the begining of the next year. So may it be.

QUEENS OF SONG.

BY ELLEN C. CLAYTON. Z. S. HALL.

The author of this charming work truly observes that "Love of an art creates love of the artist. We cannot be "moved, excited, transported by the poetry of Shakspeare, "and yet take no interest in himself. We desire to know all about him that can be known, and eagerly receive every "scrap of information that can be gathered as to the life and "fortunes, the character, habits, manners, and domestic relations of the man whose writings we so dearly cherish. "Akin to the interest we take in the great dramatic poet is "that which we take in the great dramatic musician. We

"feel for a Mozart as we do for a Shakspeare. And not less "lively is our personal sympathy with the professors of that "beautiful art which interprets and embellishes—which rewalizes and brings before our senses—the grand and beautiful conceptions of the dramatic poet and composer."

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This is undeniable. Who that has listened to the glorious music of Mozart, Bellini, Meyerbeer, Rossini, Auber. Gluck, &c., as rendered by Mario, Grisi, Lablache, Braham, Alboni, Lind, Gardoni, &c. can help feeling something akin to friendship for those upon whose sweet accents we have so often hung with rapturous delight. None that have seen Jenny Lind in La Figlia del Reggimento can help taking an interest in everything connected with a lady who might have made a fortune as an actress no less than as a singer. Who can recall Mario as Raoul, Grisi as Norma, Lablache as Leporello, Alboni as Arsace, or Tietjens as Alice, without wishing to know all about those who have so often ministered to our pleasure while elevating our taste? Well, in the volume before us we find short, but well written and most interesting biographies, of all the "Queens of Song," from Gabrielli to Piccolomini,-from Lavinia Fenton (the first Polly Peachum), afterwards Duchess of Bolton, to the graceful and gifted Catharine Hayes (rightly termed the "Irish Lind") whose early death is still fresh in our minds. To us, whose good fortune it has been to know several of these gifted "Queens of Song" in their private as in their public life, the work under consideration is full of interest, and we feel assured that an almost equal interest will be felt by all who peruse Mrs. Clayton's valuable addition to the literature of her country.

To Mrs. Clayton's research we are indebted for some interesting information regarding that admirable production, The Beggar's Opera, which more than aught else has perpetuated the memory of Gay, as an ill used poet, and successful political satirist. The Beggar's Opera, although now rarely put upon the stage, will be remembered so long as the name of Wilkes is quoted in connection with a Parliamentary lack of wisdom, but we believe Gay still gets credit for many songs not his own. Speaking of Gay's opera, Mrs. Clayton says: "one or two of the songs were wr tten by other "persons; the first, 'The modes of the Court,' being writ-"ten, according to the Dawager Ludy Townsend, by Lord "Chesterfield: 'Virgins are like the fair flower,' by Sir "Charles Williams: 'Waen you censure the age,' by Swift; "and Gamesters and Lawyers are jugglers alike," was sus-"pec ed to be written by Mr. Fortescue, the Master of the "Rolls. The political 'hits' were thoroughly appreciated "and enjoyed. Lockit's song, 'When you censure the "age," was instantly felt to apply to Sir Robert Walpole, "and was loudly encored. Sir Robert, with ready wit, par-"ried the thrust, at the repetition of the song, by calling "out, in a sonorous voice, 'Encore!' which produced a " general cheer."

The following passage is instructive, as regards the use actors occasionally make of "one touch of nature." Mr. Kelly was performing with Mrs. Crouch in John Kemble's translation of Lodoiska:—

"Mrs. Crouch was the Princess Lodoiska, Kelly person"ated Floreski. * The last scene was heightened by
"an unexpected and fine effect from an accident with hap"pened to Mrs. Crouch. When she was in the blazing
"castle, the wind blew the flames close to her; but she had
"sufficient fortitude and presence of mind not to move from
"her painful situation, although she remained at the hazard
"of her life. Kelly, seeing her danger, ran up the bridge,
which was at a great height from the ground, toward the
"tower to rescue her, when, just as he was quitting the plat-

"form, a carpenter prematarely pulled away one of its supnot less "ports. 'Down I fell,' says Kelly, 'and at the same moof that "ment the fiery tower, in which was Mrs. Crouch, sank hich re-"down in a blaze, with a violent crash. She uttered a scream d beau-" of terror. Providentially I was not burt by the fall; and T." "catching her in my arms, scarcely knowing what I was ie glori-"doing, I carried her to the front of the stage, a considera-Auber, "ble distance from the place where we fell. The applause ie, Bra-"was loud and continued; in fact, had we rehearsed the mething "scene as it happened, it could not have been done half so cents we "naturally or produced half so great an effect. I always one that carried her to the front of the stage in a similar manner, and "it never failed to produce great applause." (Page 134.) can help

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Concerning the well known serenade of Don Pasquale, we have the following account, which will doubtless interest our readers :

"In January, 1843, Don Pasquale, one of the sprigh liest " and pleasantest operas ever written, was placed in rehearsal " by Donizetti at the Theatre Italien. Its reception at re-"hearsal was ominous: despite the beauty of the music, "which was in his happiest vein, the orchestra kept a dead " silence. Not a sound of satisfaction, not a token of appro-" bation, was afforded by the musical jury. The two direct-"ors stood by trembling for its success; but Donizetti lis-"tened and shrugged his shoulders, and taking the arm of "his friend M. Dormoy, the publisher, quietly left the thea-"tre. 'Let them alone,' he cooly said; 'they know nothing "about it. I know what Don Pasquale wants. Come with "me.' On reaching home, Donizetti hurried up stairs to "his bedroon, and in a drawer beneath an old battered "piano-forte he pulled out from amid a quantity of music "what appeared to be a song. 'Take this,' said he to M. "Dormoy; 'this is what Don Pasquale requires. Carry it "at once to Mario, that he may learn it without delay, and "tell him that he must rehearse it this evening." The song "was 'Com' e gentil.' The serenade was sung with the ac-"companiment of a tambourine, the accompanyist being " Lablache himself, who was concealed from the eyes of the "audience." (Page 377.)

The reader of "Queens of Song," is thus introduced to

Catharine Hayes :-"The shades of a summer evening were beginning to ga-"ther over the city of Limerick, so famed for its gloves, its " races, and its lasses; parties of pleasure were floating "down the Shannon, passing, one after another, the pictur-" esque gardens attached to the mansions of the Earl of Lim-"erick and to the See house of the bishop, which stretched "to the river's edge, when the silence of evening was broken "by a delicious childish warbling, as if some little Loreley " had emerged from the stream. Song after song was poured "forth in quick succession, and more than one boat crept "under the shadow of the trees, that its occupants might "listen to the unseen song tress, who, hidden in a woodbine "bower, unconscious of the audience she had attracted, con-"tinued singing till, at the conclusion of the Lass of Gowrie, "she broke into a prolonged and thrilling shake. The lis-"teners, carried away by their admiration, made the welkin "ring with a rapturous shout of applause, startling the "timid child, who fled, half blushing, half frightened. The "singer was little Catharine Hayes, then some ten years of "age, a native of Limerick, born in 1828 at No. 4 Patrick "Street." (Page 423). We would fain linger long over the pages wherefrom we have selected these extracts, but our limited space renders full justice to the "Queens of Song" impossible. We most heartily recommend the volume before us to our readers. It is well bound, well written, and well printed, and will prove a valuable addition to the library, not merely of those who wish to be "well up" in operatic matters, but of those who take an interest in the fortunes of

world known celebrities. We cannot, however, conclude without noticing Signor Mario's antecedents: "In 1838, M. "Duponchel, the director of the Opera, (Paris) was looking "for another tenor to replace Daprez, as he had replaced " Adolphe Nourrit by that admirable singer, and at last his "eager eyes lighted upon a handsome young refagee officer " of two-and-twenty, named Candia. M. Candia, who was "the son of a Piedmontese General, and had been, besides, "an officer in the Piedmontese Guard, had for some time " been the cynosure of attention in certain Parisian circles. "As he moved in aristocratic society, his expenses were ne-"cessarily heavy, and he dared not ask his father for pecu-" niary assistance, the old gentleman being a severe disci-" plinarian, and very angry with his son.

"M. Candia had been often told that he had a hundred "thousand francs of income in his throat, and Duponchel " volunteered to give him 1500 francs a month to begin with, "if he would appear at the opera. He hesitated, on ac-" count of his ari-tocratic birth and his patrician father, and " could not make up his mind to sign the name of Candia to "a theatrical contract; but dining one day at the house of "the Countess de Merlin with the Prince Belgioso, M. " Duponchel, and many others, M. Candia was induced to " accept the proposal of M. Duponchel, and he compromised " with his family pride by signing his Christian name only-" that of Mario.

Communications, &c.

It is distinctly to be borne in mind that we do not, by inverting letters oney any opinion fiverable to their contents. We open our columns to all, dishout barning to rang; and those supply a channel for the publication of pinions of all shades, to be found in an other journal in Nover Scotia. No notice whatever will be taken of enanymous communications. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

To the Editor of the "BULLFROG."

MR. EDITOR :

I venture to ask space in your columns for a few remarks

THE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

You have editorially taken up the cause of this party generally, and I am opposed to it generally. I do not say that I am opposed to Temperance "per se" but I am opposed to the ethods adopted by the Temperance League to put down Drunkenness. I have attended several meetings in different places-I have there seen congregations gloating over beastly revelations and experiences-the recital of which might produce a temporary disgust at the evils of Drunkenness, but a permanent degradation of those refined feelings, which are still more necessary to the development of the principle which is contended for. A man whose refinement is permanently shocked is in a dangerous state when he is placed in temptation-and this is not the only evil produced, an attempt is systematically made (and you repeat this attempt by describing those who use wine or beer in moderation, as-"obstructive trimmers who drink one glass and feel no sin" -- *) bring into censure the most respectable portion of the community whom the attendants at Temperance Lectures have to meet in daily life-Instances describe what I mean better than assertions. A clergyman a very highly respected elergyman, a friend of mine, was asked to be one of the delegates of some church dunning meeting. The rector of the parish to which he went was a Temperance man, after an oration upon Temperance as a convenient subject to speak upon, he said "All my friends on the platform are I believe Temperance men"- to which my friend had to reply that he was an exception-Now I don't say that the remark was made "there you ought to be ashamed of yourself "-but I do say that my Revd. friend was placed in a position which society demands should have been avoided. The effect produced upon the audience was to cause a sneer at a most respectable member of society for doing that which he was perfectly right in doing,

^{*} This had reference only to those who would endeavour to compromise matters with an habitual drankard.

taking his glass of wine at dinner if he liked it. This instance of the evil I speak of extends to every man who honestly thinks he has a right to use his own discretion in matters of eating and drinking. That a large class of society do not use their discretion, but abuse themselves and become an annoyance to others by drinking for drinking's sake, is a truism which I do not look over, but what right has any one to make men who turn themselves into beasts bugbears to respectable people ! What right have people to trifle with my good name who decidely prefer beer to water because a wretched set of beings choose to degrade themselves by abusing what I use?

I do not want to mingle myself up with Temperance Leagues. as long as they follow this line of politics-but I will gladly join with them, if they will give up their horrible and degrading sensation descriptions and experiences, and their impertinent and unjustifiable censures upon men of moderation. field for doing good is open here, more perhaps, than in most places. What do I see around me-in my own sphere of life ! I see parents sending their sons at 15 or 16 years of age to learn business-(and merchants take them, because they are glad to get errand boys cheap-for nothing)-and for this, these boys are taken from school and thrown into direct collision with a lower grade of society. I see these young men bye and bye, form chums, having a glass with this fellow, and a glass with that fellow. I see that the fashion among them (and parents know it); construes a refusal on their part to have a glass as a part insult. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"-so as it won't do to be a dull boy-and as running errands, is not in their idea "play" what must they do ! They must go and have a glass and be sociable, for there is no opportunity for "play" in any other way Even going down to the wharf when the " Prior' is out, is slow fun after a while! I see no effort made by parents to instil a taste for out-door sports, as a safety valve for the dullness spoken of in the proverb! I see no cricket ground in Halifax, (the subscriptions of parents could soon buy one!) I see no encouragement given to an interest in the Volunteer movement, &c.! In short, I see no opportunity afforded these lads to join in auything of the kind! If they want "play" they must invite a friend to have a glass. In the evening again, I go to parties, and I see no brothers of families there! are all errand boys-learning business as it is called, and these are the encouragers of drunkenness, and this all work and no "play" is the evil which debases the tastes of those lads who are not wise enough to resist the growing evil, and thence the evil penetrates through all grades of society-and the parents who thus save school bills and subscriptions to Cricket Clubs and Volunteer Associations, and who too readily lay the flatter. ing unction to their souls that getting some merchant to let them run errands for nothing, is a good way to provide for their children's interests, are the people whom Temperance spouters should declaim at, pointing out their folly and the wicked recklessness of their ways, and not at those respectable men who choose to take what they like in moderation, and whom you describe as "obstructive trimmers who take one glass and feel no sin."

Yours, faithfully. EAGLE EYE.

To the Editor of the "BULLFROG"

Many names have been suggested for the proposed British American Confederation. 1 beg to add another to the list, and trust it may prove acceptable.

The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, was one of the most important events in maritime history, but a Florentine adventurer had the good fortune, most unjustly, to give his name to the *new Continent, reminding us of Virgil's famous

Hos ego versiculos feci, tulit alter honores. Sie vos non robis nidificatis aves; Sie vos non robis vellera fertis oves; Sie vos non vobis vellejatais apes; Sie vos non robis fettis aratra boves.

An opportunity is now afforded to the British nation, of paying to the great discoverer a debt too long due. The name of Columbia is out of the question, being already appropriated. I suggest therefore, that the Christian name of the illustrious navigator be

adopted for this purpose, by calling the New State Christova.

The prison chains of this truly great man lie buried with him in his grave, as though he had lived and died a criminal; and the Continent which he discovered, not by accident, but by his skill and patience, has now an opportunity of doing him an act of post humous justice, such as can never occur again.

I suggest further that the Royal Patent of the New State, date from the 12th of October, that being the day of the year 1492, when the Island now called St. Salvador was discovered by Columbus.

CHRISTOVA.

It was the Christian name of Americus Vespucius, that was given to the new world; this makes it not inappropriate that the Christian name of the Genoese discoverer should now take its rightful place at the head of the Continent. Or, if the name Christova is not approved, then call the New State Cipango, the object of the great Admiral's golden fancies.

Local and other Mfems.

OBITUARY.—We much regret to learn the decease, at St. George, s Bermuda, of John Mignowitz, Esq., of the firm of Mignowitz & Co., Granville Street. This young man had proceeded to Bermuda but a few weeks since, when he has been striken down by the fever which has carried so much mourning through those Islands. Mr. Mignowitz was highly esteemed by through those islands. Mr. Mignowitz was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintance of this city by whome his sudden death will be felt as a severe blow. The family will have the sympathy of the whole community in this their sad breavement—Recorder

The Sackville Border states that the snow is very deep over the mountains between Amherst and Truro, and that it is next the mountains between Amherst and Truro, and that it is next to impossible for the mails to get along they are consequently many hours behind their time. The roads through the lower part of Sackville are also so blockaded with snow that the traveller has to creep along under fences and in ditches that momentarily threatens to capsize him. Between the Comer and Charters, and over the Monrameook marsh the road is also very much drifted.—Chronicle

A Coor Customer.—About three months since Dr. Allen, Mayor of Cornwall, fled to California leaving his affairs in an embarrassed condition and his seat at the head of the Town Council vacant. Last week he reappeared in Town having returned from the Pacific coast, and at the ordinary meeting of the Council took his place in the chair as if he had been regularly attending to the duties of office. Some of the members objected on the ground that the municipal act declares a seat vacant if a member about himself for three mouths without the leave the ground that the municipal act declares a seat vacant number absents himself for three months without the leave Council. The doctor however, holds on to the place and intends to run again at the next election .- Recorder

The Govenor General's calls for Militia to do duty on Canadian frointier has been responded to with alacrity. The papers say that offers by different volunteer companies continuous conti papers say that offers by different volunteer companies continue to pour in from all parts of the Province. It is not thought that a very large number will be required. The term of service will be until May next, and the different companies will be distributed judiciously along the more important points.

CHRISTMAS CHEERY .- The scholars, of the Sabbath School CHRISTMAS CHEERY.—The scholars, of the Sabbath Scholattached to the Bishop's Chapel, on Thursday evening last e joyed a treat kindly prepared for them by their elders. Abot two hundred children of both sexes and all ages were preset and after the good things provided had been "stowed awas an interesting address was delivered by his Lordship the Bish all ages were present; an interesting address was delivered by his Lordship the Bishop who canfiested a great degree of interest in the proceedings of the evening. A magic lantern was also exhibited. We are glad to know that Salem Sunday School was never in a more flourishing ecndition than at present.

The Deaf and Dumb at the Institution have not been forgotten during this auspicious season. Such a trifle seems to render them supremely happy, that it is gratifying to learn that they have been amply regaled with Christmas cheer and that the enjoyment thereof has been immense.—Ib.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE .- The Hon. Provincial Secretary stated in the course of his speech at Temperance Hall on Saturday evening last, that the Legislature of this Province would meet for the despatch of business on Thursday the 9th of Feb.

The Old Year ended during a rain-storm, and the New Year ushered in under a copious flow of the watery element. In consequence of this the Watch Meeting at the Brunswick street consequence of this the Waten Meeting at the Bushal. A Methodist Church was not so largely attended as usual. A sermon was preached and some good singing by the choir passed away the

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w Year nt. In k street ual. A passed away the time until. as the City Clocks announced that twelve away me time data. As the city clocks announced that twelve o'clock p.m., had arrived, devout prayer was engaged in by those present. The custom of "praying out the old year and praying in the new" is fast becoming obsolete—Ib.

Judge Stewart, C. B., died at his residence in this city at 11 o'clock on Sanday. He occupied the position of Judge in Chan-cerv at the time that Court was abolished in this Province, and at the time of his decease ne was Judge of the Court of Vice Admiratly.—In times past, he took a prominent part in Pro-vincial politics and through ability and energy he won for himself a distinguished position in this country. As a lawyer had few equals, and his decisions on the Bench where charac ized by sound judgement fairness and discretion.—Chronicle As a lawyer he

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week.

Steamer North America from New Orleans for New York with 259 passengers on board, mostly invalid soldiers, foundered at sea, Dec. 22nd., and 197 lives lost.

sea, Dec. 22nd, and 197 lives lost.

Late Richmond papers urge that Jeff. Davis be deposed, and Gen. Lee installed as supreme ruler of the Confederacy.

The expedition of Major General Granger had effected a landing at Pascagoula and was advancing rapidly on Mobile. On the 15th, Granger attacked and routed a rebel force at Francklin Creek. Refugees state that Mobile is defended by only five thousand troops, mainly Militia, and there is a strong Union feeling in that city. Nothing later from Wilmington.

Advices from Tennessee state that Hood is unable to cross the Tennessee River until it falls.

General Thomas is close unon him, and Generals Steadman-

the Tennessee River until it falls.

General Thomas is close upon him, and Generals Steadmanand and Granger are on his flanks. Every attempt made by
Hood to lay pontoons has been defeated by the shelling from
Federal Giun-boats.

The Confederate General Bragg officially notifies his Government, that the Federal fleet, under Admiral Porter, has disappeared from off Wilmington, Jeaving only the usual number of

blockading vessels.

General Butler, commanding the land forces before Wilmington, has also withdrawn, and has gone to rejoin the army before

The new rebel privateer "Sea King," whose name has been The new rebel privater: "Sea King," whose name has been changed to "Shenandoah," is actively at work on the Atlantic.

Capt. Hanser of the brig Susan, reports the destruction of his vessel; also barks "Ellena" and "E. G Godfrey" and the schr "Charter Oak," The ship "Kate Prince" was captured and bonded. She conveyed the officers and men captured to Babia, Brazil. The Shenandoah carries four sixty-eight pounder smooth bore guis, two thirty-two pounder rifts, and two twelve

pounder smooth ore.

Governor Fenton was inaugurated, and issued a proclamation
urging the people of New York State, to fill the last call for
troops with volunteers.

Refugees from Charleston, state great scarcity and suffering prevsils in that city, and all are leaving who have means to get away. Several blockade runners are in port desirous of getting

A force of 300 rebels on Saturday made a dash upon Grant's eket line, drove them within the entrenchments, killing and

picket line, drove them within the entrenchments, killing and wounding several and capturing 35. They then retired. A resolution of thanks to Ex-Governor Seymour, introduced

Legislature 3rd inst, was tabled. Advices from Richmond have been received, indicating that the rebel Congress has secretly given power to the Commander-in-Chief to detail 50,000 slaves for service in their army as

soldiers.

The result of an explosion at the bulk head of Dutch Gap Canal, on Sunday, was the filling up of the work, thus temporarily defeating its object and compelling a resort to dredging, should the projector persevere in its completion.

Provost Marshal General Fry has issued an order that none but Infantry Volunteers are now to be raised by the United

Correspondence from Savannah shows a strong Union feeling Correspondence from Savannan shows a strong Croin feeling among the citizens. The Mayor had called a public meeting largely attended, in which pacific resolutions were adopted among them—one requesting the Governor to call a convention of the people of Georgia to say whether they want the war continued. Savannah River is being cleared of obstructions.

Sherman was preparing for an advane on Charleston.

The Richmond Sentinel of the 21st says, if we are overcome give us political alliauce and association with England, France, Spain, or any other nation, rather than subjugation to the Yan

The storm through which Admiral Porter's fleet rode in safety is said to have been the most severe that has occurred on the

coast for many years.

A Federal transport arrived at New York from Charleston Bar 30th, reports that the fleet of iron-clads had returned to Charleston Harbor, and were to co-operate with General Sherman in an attack on that city.

It is reported that Hardee had been brought to a stand, and would probably be obliged to surrender.

Despatches from Nashville state that news from General Thomas will hereafter be received from another direction. whole army is under marching orders, all the sick and woun we been sent to Nashville.
The Richmond Sentinel, Jeff. Davis' organ urges the abolition

The Richmond Sentinel, Jell. Davis 'organ urgos ine abolition of slavery in exchange for foreign recognition.

The blockade running steamer Julia, from Charleston for Nassau, with four hundred oales of cotton has been captured.

A new English steamer, in the same business, was destroyed.

A new loyal paper, called the Republican, has been started in Savannah.

in Savannah.

There was a grand review of Federal troops there, on the 30th, and a great enthusiasm for the old dag was maniested.

Newspaper correspondents state that Sherman will take Augusta, and then march into South Carolina, concentrating his army in rear of Charleston.

The iron-clad fleet, now in the harbour, will make a naval at-

tack in conjunction with Sherman.

The rebel newspapers confirm this supposition, and speak gloomily about the prospect. Lee is being strongly urged for

NOTICE.

We should feel obliged to subscribers, town and country, if they would forward us the amount of their subscriptions to the end of the past year, Our Agents in the country would also oblige us by settling with us up to the same date.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF HALIFAX. ARRIVED.

R. M. S. Alpha, Hunter, Bermula, mall, etc.—to S. Cunard & Co; Barq. M. B. Almon, ——, Sydney, coal—to S. Cunard & Co; Brigts, Oder, McKinnon, Picton, coal—to order; Markland, Harking, London, government Stores and geal, earge—to W. Starr Son & Morrow, Brig, Chantileter, Matson, Forto Rico, ballast—to G. H. Starr & Co; Barque, Union, Sparks, Cape Breton, coal bound to New York, Brig, Express, Frith, Jungua,—to W. Pryor & Sons; Brigt Italia, Hayes, Fonce,—to W. B. Hamilton;

Italia, Hayes, Ponce,—to W. B. Hamnitton; Sunday, Jan. I. R. M. S. Delta, Gulliford, St. Johns Mid. mails etc—to S. Cunard, & Co; Barque, Penelope, returned from sea having encountered boisterous weather; Brig, Boston Lady, Tillmunt, Glace Bay—to Master; Schr. John Byers, Pye, Sydney, bound to New York.

Monday, Jan. 2.

Monday, Jan. 2.

Brigt, Hannah, Cannaughton, Angunlla,—to J. H. Tobin; Hnidee,
Davidson, Porto Rico—to T. C. Kinnear & Co; Humming Bird,
Sterens, New York—to Young & Hart; Schrs. Galaxy, Liverpool,
N. S,—to Stanyner & Herbert; Friend, Westhaver, Nassau via Lunenburg—to J. M. Watson & Co.

Brigts, Annette, Newell, Havana, 13 days—to. Salter & Twining;
Naney, Taylor, New York, 5 days—to. R. J. & W. Hart; Sprey, New
York—to Jan. D. Cummins; R. M. Steamship Asia, Moodie, Liverpool via Queenstown 10 days, mails etc—to. S. Canard & Co.

Brigt, Princees Dagmar, Brace, Cape Breton, coal—to. B. Wier & Co.
Schr. Eliza Cathriac, Martell, Sydney, coal—to. Master; Brish Pearl
Haldley, Canso—to. B. Wier & Co.; Anna, McDonald, Yarmouth,
bound—to. Newfoundland; Spry, Kennely, Cape Breton,—to. Master;
Frank, McKenzie, Cape Breton—to. Master.

Thursday, Jan. 5.

Schrs. British Pearl, Hudley, Guysboro, fish—to R. Wier &c; May Queen, Pechuan, Molasses Harbor, fish—to R. Noble & Son; British Pride, Fongere, Molasses Harbor, fish—to R. Noble & Son; Ses Star, Perlime, Molasses Harbor, fish—to R. Noble & Son; Yeison, Tremin, I. Ardoles, fish—to Black Bros. and Co; Alma, Proctor, P. E. Island, bound—to New York.

PORT OF DATASETS

PORT OF HALIFAX.

CLEARED

Saturday, Dec. 31.

Barque, Halifax, (pkt) O'Brien, Boston, sugar, fish and molasses—
by Lawson Harrington & Co; Sohr. Herald, Grifflin, Ragged Islands,
genl. cargo—by Jennett & Taylor and others; Steamer, Franconia,
Nickerson, Boston—by J. F. Pielan; Brigts Cassie Gray, Cunningham, Barbados—by J. A. Morin; Mary, Murphy, B. W. Indies,—by
J. Cronan; Sehr. Hero, Hopkins, Jamaica—by G. H. Starr * Co;
E. Hodgson, Stewart, P. E. Island—by W. Rennels; Condor, Romkey,
La Have; Lucknow, Suils, Digby; Albemarle, McKay, Annapolis;
Monday, Jan. 2.

No clearances, public Holiday, Custom House closed.

Monday, Jan. 2.

No clearances, public Holiday, Custom House closed.

Brigts, Mathilde, (Dan) Pieper, Bermuda, genl. cargo—by James Scott, J. N. Harvey and others; Schr. Susan, Land, Boston, pkd. fish—by R. I. & W. Hart; Schrs. Sea Slipper, Arnbury, Lunenburg, sundries—by Lordly & Stimpson.

mdries—by Lordly & Stimpson.

Wednesday Jan. 4.

R. M. Steamer Asia, Moodie, Boston, mails etc—by S. Cunard &
o; Brigt, Golden Rule, Patterson, Porto Rico, fish—by N. L. & J.

Brigt, Kingston, H. Enderson, B. W. Indies, fish etc—by B. und Co; Schr. Racer, Brown, St. Thomas—by Salter and Twining.

THE DOUBLE HOUSE.

Her eyes began to shine with joy, and even I took hope.

But, Dr. Merchiston, can there be no change? You loved one nother once. Love is not yet dead; love never wholly dies.

"Matam silence!
Could it be his voice that spoke; his once calm, low voice! I was now really terrified.
He rose and walked about the room; we two sat trembling. At last he stopped in his old position, with his hands on the mantle-

piece.

"Mrs. Rivers my extremely painful position—you will acknowledge it is such—must excuse any thing in me unbecoming, or uncourt-

I assured him he had my free pardon for any excitement, and I hoped

I assured him he had my free pardon for any excitement, and I hoped he felt calmer now.

"Perfectly, perfectly; you must see that, do you not!"

"I do," said I, with a sense of bitterness against the whole race of mankind, who can drive poor womanistind almost out of their senses, while they themselves preserve the most sublime composure.

"I will now with your permission and in your presence, speak to my wife. Barbara"—in a quiet equal tone as if addressing an ordinary person—"I told you five years ago that it is not I who am inexentable but fate even if the life we then began to lead should last until my death. I repeat the same now. Yet for tases five years you have been at peace and safe. Safe," he repeated, with a slight panse, "under my roof, where I can shelter and protect you better than any where else."

else."
"Protect her?" And then I told him—how could I help it?
the slights and outrages to which their manner of life had exposed! Howevery idle tongue in the neighbourhood had wagged at her expendent to both their dishonor. It was terrible to see the effect produce.

on him.

"Hush! tell me no more, or—Barbara, forgive me; forgive me that I ever made you my wife. There is but one atonement; shall I make you my wides?"

"Doctor Merchiston," I cried, catching his arm, "are you mad?"

"Be started shuddered, and in a moment had recovered all his self-

He started shuddered, and it a more decounted.

"Mrs. Rivers, this is a state of things most terrible, of which I was totally ignorant. How is it to be remedled ?—Granting as you must grant, the one unalterable necessity ?"

I thought a minute, and then proposed, to silence the tongues of all Apedale, that the busband and wife should openly walk to church together every Sunday and kneel together in the house of God. And may He forgive me if in this scheme I had a deeper hope than I betravel.

cest.

I will do it," said Dr. Merchiston, after a pause. "Barbara, do consent?" Will you come home t"

you consent? Will you come home?"
"I will."
"But to the old life? In nothing changed—for changed it cannot,

"But to the out me? In nothing changed—for changed it change, must not be?"

"Under any circumstances I will come home."

"Thank you; God bless you. It is better so."

"There was a quiet pause broken only by one or two faint sobs from her. At last they ceased. Dr. Merchison took his hat to depart; as he was going his wife started up and caught him by the hand.

"Husband one word and I can bear all things. Did—did you ever

ve me?"
"Lore you? Oh my little Barbara!
"Do you love me?"
"Yes," in a whisper sharp with intolerable pain; "yes,"
"Then I do not mind any thing. Oh no, thank God! I do not

She burst into hysterical laughter, and threw herself into my arm was only my arms she could come to—her husband w

gone.

She went home as she had promised and the old life began once more. Without the slightest change, she told me—save that regulary on Sunday mornings he knocked at the door of communication between the double house kept always locked on her side by his desire—that she found him waiting in the hall and they walked arm in arm, as silently and sadly as mourners after a corpe, to the church door. In the same way returning he immediately parted from her, and went his way to his own apartments.

own apartments.

Apedale was quite satisfied and circulated innumerable explanations which had probably as much truth in them as the former accusa-

Dr. Merchiston came as usual to play chess with my husband, and be allusion was ever made to the night which had witnessed so strange

Mrs. Merchiston improved in health and cheerfulness. To a woman the simple conviction of being loved is support and strength through the most terrible ordeal. Once sure of that her faith is infinite, her consolation complete. After his "Yes," poor little Barbara revived like a flower in the sun.

Not so her husband. Every body noticed that Dr. Merchiston was wasting away to a shadow. On Sundays, especially, his countenance, always sallow and worn seemed to me to have the ghastly look of one whom you know to be inwardly fighting a great soul-battle. You feel at once the warfare will be won—but the man will die.

And still, as ever, of all the impenetrable mysteries that life can weave at man and his secret were the darkest.

that man and his secret were the darkest.

At least to me. Whether it was to my husband, whose reserved habits and wide experience of human nature helped to make him what, thank Heaven, he always was—much wiser than 1—1 do not know; but I often caught his grave penetrating eye intendy fixed on Dr. Merchiston. So much so that more than once the Doctor recolded from it uneasily. But Mr. Rivers redoubled his kindness; in truth, I never knew James who was very undemonstrative and usually engrossed between interest in his patients and his domestic affections, attach

himself so strongly to any male friend out of his own house, as he did to Dr. Merchiston.

to Dr. Merchiston.

He seized every opportunity to allure our neighbour from his morbid
He seized every opportunity to allure our neighbour from his morbid
solitary in-door life to a more wholesome existence. They rode out together on the medical rounds—James trying to interest him in the
many, many opportunities of philanthropy with which a country surgoon's life abounts. Sometimes—one day I especially remember—in
Merchiston said he thought Mr. Rivers had familiarized him with every
usuable accept of human rain.

Mercuiston san he mongat are inversing an annuarized him with every possible aspect of human pain.

"Not all—I have yet to show you—indeed, I thought of doing so this morning—the blackest aspect human suffering can show. And yet, like all suffering a merciful God has not left it without means of alleviation."

"What do you mean? I thought we were going to some hospital. For what discours?"

"What do you mean? I thought we were going to some hospital. For what diseases?"
"No physical disease. Yet one which I believe, like all other diseases, is capable of prevention and care—mental insurity."
Dr. Merchiston grew as white as this my paper. He said, in a confusel manuer, which vainly tried to simulate indifference—"You are right. But it is a painful subject—insurity."
I did not wonder that my husband tried to change the conversation, and his morning plan likewise. It was evident that in some way the topic strongly affected our friend. Probably he had had a relative thus afflicted.

Adrertisements.

OLD CLOTHES.

nd very poor district is constrained to appeal to the ance in clothing, that she may be enabled to send and weekly School. Covering for the head and feet erry acceptable.

can be left at the Bible Depository opposite St. Paul's Church

CHARLES KAIZER.

FORMERLY FURRILG TO THE ROYAL FAMILIES OF PRUSSIA & HOLLAND. Announces to the public of Halifax that his

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VARIED AND VALUABLE STOCK OF FURS ever seen in this country. Having acquired in a large European experience, the fullest knowledge of his business, he can dress, finish and self Furs far superior to any offered in the market, Ladies desirous of

market, Ladies desiron.
GOOD NEW FURS that can be confidently r

KAIZER'S FUR DEPOT.

Corner of Duke and Granville Streets
tablishment.

Superior Shirtings, &c.

200 Pes 30 & 36

00 pes COTTON TICKS, fine quality, 2 "STOUT DRAB JEANS, 10 " 84 Stout Grey Cotton SHEETING GREY FLEECED COTTONS,

COTTONS, 100 prs Heavy Yorkshire BLANKETS, Fine White, Rose and Fancy Saxony and Welsh Flannels,

Short Lanceshire do, 3-4 and 4-4 BLACK GLACE SILKS, Lambs Wool, Shetland and Merino Under Shirts, Drawers and

Rubber, and Searlet Worsted Braces, &c., all just received by S. S. Africa, and for sale low by W. & C. SILVER.

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GERERAL IMPORTERS OF BRITISH AND FORDING MANUFACTURES.
FREENTONE WAREHOUSE,
Corner of Prince and Hollis Street.

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Illustrated London ditto, ditto.

All the Latest Magazines and Newspaper

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Nelson's Opaque Gelatine. Nelson's Brilliant do. Patent Refined Isingliss. Pure Ground Spices. Flavouring Essences in variety. Candid Cirron and Lemon Peels, just received from the manufactory in London.



GENERAL POST OFFICE. MONEY ORDER ARRANGEMENT.

MONEY ORDER INTERCHANGE is to be extended, commencing 1st Jan. 1855, to the various Money Order Offices of Newfoundland and to Charlottelowar Prince Educard Island.
The system of Money Order Interchange with Nova Scotia, therefore, will include from the afore-oaid date, the United Kingdonas, Canada, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.
For particulars, see Notices, at the various Money Order Offices of the Prefor particulars, see Notices,

vinces. By direction of the Post Master Ceneral, J. S. THOMPSON

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FISHWICK'S COLONIAL EXPRESS,

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and New Brunswick, connecting at St. John, X. B. with the Lastern Expu
grouppar for all the Eastern States, at Portianal with the Eritish and Americ

Express for all parts of the Canadas, and at Boston with Adam's Chemy, R

& Co., and other Expresses for all parts of the United States—Also at Liv

pool, G. B., with the American European Express

FOR ALL PARTS OF EUROPE AND THE EAST.

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This Express forwards all kinds of Parcels and General Freight, Specie, &c, to all the above places. Also collects notes, &c.

Special Messengers accompany all Goods.

Brafts in small sums to enit solit on London, Liverpool and Paris.

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NEW GROCERY STORES.

The Subscribes having removed from Ear town to the City of Halifax, return their sincere thanks to their Old Customers in the Counties of Colchester and Fleton for the generous support accorded them, and solicit a continuous of the same in their New Establishment, No. 24 SACKVILLE STREET, Opposite J. D. Nasi's Varriety Hali, Control of Control of Counties and Counties and

SKATES. Cigars, Tobacco, Vesuvians, Pipes, etc.,

The Subscript has much pleasure in amounting to his customers and the public generally, that he has received per British Lion from England, and barque Hallike from Riston, a large and varied assortment of Goods, comprising:—Ladies and Genti's SkATES, of Superior quality and mish, Syrague's Patent Stik APS with newly invested 1 nacles, by which the strap can be tightened and adjusted without cutting hose in the lenther, 259° If has only to be seen to recommend the first his share, CLARS and DBLACCO of the best brands—shell or strong "DSIVIAN ILOHIY, PIPS of all the—Meerichaum, Briar, and other kinds, in great variety—some very

JAMES O'CONNELL, Opposite Post Office, Barrington St,

BELCHER'S FARMER'S_ALMANAC. 1865.

MSSBS. A. & W. MACKINLAY, No. 10 Grawille street, Italifax, will promptly execute all orders for the above. [3P The bound and interleaved expics are embellished with a splendid engraving of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

C. H. BELCHER, Publisher and Proprieto

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W. M. HARRINGTON & Co. have just received per Mail Steamer from England, the following:--W. M. HARRIMOTON & Co. many just record per son and the Lagdand, the followings:

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HALIFAX, N. S., October 22nd, 1864. EXTENSIVE FALL STOCK

SCHOOL BOOKS STATION "RV &C.,
A. & W. MACKINIAY have received per steamers Sistem and Asia, ships
Rosenach, Spiris of the Ocean, and other vessels, a large part of their Fall
on their neal low terms, for each or approved credit.
On hand—A large stock of the IRISH NATIONAL SERIES OF SCHOOL
ROOKS.

GROCERY AND CIGAR DEPOT. JAMES REEVES,

·TEA, COFFEE, SUGAR, SPICES, FLOUR, MEAL, PICKLES, SAUCES,

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Skates and Boxing Gloves.

Rest Quality English SKATES and BOXING GLOVES for Sale at 137,
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to order.
The bags manufactured at the above Establishment can compete both in price and in quality, with any imported into this city.
Specimen bags of every description with prices marked, can be seen at the Depositary, III, Barrington street, where orders are received.

T. W. BATEMAN'S
Challenge from the 6th Ward to this Parish, for his own
Manufacture of SRATES,
MAKING AND GRINDING, against imported trash.



Commissioner's Office, December 20th, 1864. NOTICE TO THE PRESS.

NOTICE TO THE FREEDS.

This Department will not pay for Advertisement inserted in the different papers unless directly ordered by the Commissioner for the papers so inserting AVARD LONGLEY.

CIDER, APPLES, AND SMOKED HERRING, 20 bbis, CIDER, 100 bbis APLES, 30+ boxes DIGBY HERRING,—landing from Annapolis. For Sale by LORDLY & STIMPSON.

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WITH NEATNESS AND DESPATCH.

The above Frinting Establishment is one of the branches of industry of the H. I. S. Instituted for the comployment of friendless hove, teaching then trades, and affording them the peans of gaining for themselves an house living, the Managing Committee solicit the custom of the gentlemen and mer cleants of Halbita.

HOUSE AND SHOP FURNITURE! VARIETY HALL.

The Subscribers beg to call the attention of their friends and the public generally to their stock of FURNITURE. Having made some alterations in their business, they are now prepared to offer their stock for general inspection Among their latest immortations are

SUPERIOR SINGLE, AND DOUBLE IRON BEDSTEADS AND STRETCHERS,

STREIGHERS, SHOWN BEDSTEADS AND STREIGHERS, Felt Druggels, Heart Bage, Coe Matting, &c., different qualities and widths, Also from Instant-Twenty up round end Wooden Bedsteads, Bareau, secored sizes, juinted; also, Maligany and Waltur Vouceron, marble tops and plain; Manoquay and Waltur Street, and String and Resident Spring-seat String and Resident Charles, and Roch King Charles of and Wood Sand String and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles and Wood Sand String and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles and Wood Sand String and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles and Wood Sand Strings and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles (Park Strings) and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles (Park Strings) and Resident Charles (Park Strings). The Resident Charles (Park Strings) and Resident Charles (Park Strings).

FEATHER BEDS, BOLSTERS AND FILLOWS

Borted sizes; American Green Cane of Reins, and PHLLOWS,
American Green Cane or Rocel Blinds, all widths; Wash Stands,
assorted sizes; Cloth and Towel Stands; Hall Hat Stands; Hound and Square
Tables; Centre, Leaf, Tellette, Dining and Extension, in various wouds and
well assorted; BHED CAGES, a heautiful assortment; nests of Tabs, dozeno
Buckets, Brooms and Cother Pine, Travelling Tranks and Valies; Brass-mounted and Partel BLAKESS; Looking Chesses, and an englies variety of articles
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of Capence, to parties living in the city classed at this place are sent home free
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