like bully Dix; it was Mr. Seward who had to apologize for the Trent outrage. This official knows very well how easy it is for him to apologize; it costs him but a paragraph or two, while his people are eminently pleased with the part and bearing of a bully. It is their counterpart either as individuals or as a nation. It suits them exactly. Hence they write and publish proclamations, knowing that, being of a domestic character, they cannot be inquired into by a foreign power; that Mr. Seward is the organ of correspondence with foreign nations, and that he will make the proper apology and keep off war. They thus enjoy the pleasure of having bearded the "British lion;" their *eagle* is the bird whose beak and talons metaphorically have pinched and plucked the lion's mane, and they are the great nation that humbled England in the face of the world. These resolutions of Mr. Chandler and this proclamation of Dix are *vox et prætera nihil*—mere bluster. There is no war in them, they are intended to intimidate us.

THE RICHMOND PRESS ON SOUTHERN AFFAIRS.

The Richmond *Sentinel* contains a very important editorial, believed to be from the pen of Jeff. Davis. Secretary Seward is reported to have sent it to all the foreign ministers, as showing the complete exhaustion of the rebellion, and consequently that the rebels are no longer entitled to consideration as belligerents. It says:—

"Our late reverses have done much towards preparing our people for extreme sacrifices if subjugated. The question is simply whether we shall give for our own use, or whether the Yankees shall take for theirs? It would be more glorious to devote our means to success than lose them as spoils to the enemy. Our situation, stripped of our property, but masters of our government, would be infinitely better than if despoiled by the enemy and wearing his bonds.

"Subjugation is a horror that embraces all other horrors. Troublesome times are upon us. Great exigencies surround us. We need all our strength and wisdom. Let there be a conference of our wise men. Let there be a calm investigation of our wants. Then let all obstacles to the employment of all our resources be removed.

"So long as we have a man or a dollar, let the call for them be honored. It would be adding disgrace to our misery if we were overcome without exhausting every resource of defence. If the government determines that it needs our lands, houses, negroes, money, or ourselves, it must have them.

"If Providence condemns us to a master, let it not be a Yankee. Of all people on earth we have most reason to loathe and dread them. If statesmanship cannot save us, it can palliate our misery by saving us from the Yankee. Our people would infinitely prefer a favorable alliance with European nations."

The Richmond *Enquirer*, after commenting on the above, says: "If it be necessary to convince the world that we are fighting for self-government of the whites that we should liberate the negroes, and if that liberation should secure our recognition and the guaranty of England and France to our independence, we believe the people of these States would not hesitate to make the sacrifice. The consequences of emancipation would fall upon the negro. The act would be one of necessity, not of choice, taken against our judgment and convictions, but to save us from the horrors of a prolonged war, and the disgrace, ruin and destruction involved in the success of our enemy."

The Richmond *Sentinel* closes thus: "If France and England will enter into a treaty with these Confederate States, recognising our nationality upon the abolition of slavery in all the States, rather than continue the war, we should be prepared to urge the matter upon our readers. We believe such a proposition would be favorably received and acted upon by those nations, and it ought to be made to them."

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 2nd, in reply to the *Sentinel*, opposes an appeal to the protection of France and England in the present weakness of the South, and intimates that the article in the Sentinel, recommending such policy, emanated from Jefferson Davis and from a panicky mind. It says if alternatives were presented to them of being subjects to these foreign powers, or of returning to the United States, they would choose the former.

The New York *World* lets off the following pyrotechnics about the

OPPORTUNITY FOR DEMAGOGUES.

The Frank, unofficial explanation of the Canadian authorities, and the prompt disavowal by the whole Canadian Press of sympathy with the release of the rebel raiders, have blown to invisible vapour the war cloud which for a few hours looked so threatening on the Northern horizon. Even Gen. Dix's war-horse is hamstrung. The Demagogue's hour has now arrived. Bluster is safe. Threatenings and slaughter may be belched with impunity.

Arise, Walbridge, and bully the British lion!

Squeak up, Wetmore, and deny that Britannia rules the wave!

Arouse thee, Cochrane, and make faces at England's daughter!

Scalp off, O Zachariah Chandler! the lion's yellow mane and make cushions of it for the American eagle.

Busteed, the galorious' where art thou? Do the mountains of Alabama hide thee, thee Sampson of the stump, when, with thy one weapon, proved of old in the battle of Israel, thou shouldst be slaying to death ten thousand of the Philistines over the border, and across the ocean putting forty thousand ditto to flight?

Loyal Leaguers! your beloved Smith is now afar; assemble your cohorts; thump the tom-tom of war; smash the blood-thirsty potentates and bloated aristocrats of Europe into sky-blue fits, or leastways utterly squabosh the blarsted Britishers with a shattering series of resolutions!

Sound louder yet the hogag of war O Whang-doodle of the *Times*, for lo! from afar off, in a blaze of phosphorus, the banner of the *News* is high advanced; and in black mail of battle, armed with carpet-bags, the clans of the *Herald* are gathering, terrible as an army with the itch!

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY AT SEA.

(From the Dublin Mail, Dec. 8.)

On Monday evening the brig Alciope, from Demarara to Liverpool, entered Queenstown harbor. On her voyage from Demarara to Queenstown there occurred on board a dreadful tragedy, by which four out of the nine persons who composed her crew lost their lives. At the time of her leaving Demarara there were on board George Walker, master; John Kelly, mate; Henry West, carpenter; and six seamen, namely, Clement and Frances, both Frenchmen; Francis McAlpine, a Scotchman; Thomas Graham, an Englishman; Miguel Lopez, a Spaniard; and Dan Hill, a negro. The occurrance is still involved in the deepest mystery, and, of course, must remain so until judicially investigated, but the following is the version given by the survivors: Soon after the ship left Demarara several of the men committed some trivial breaches of discipline, for which they were "logged and disrated," but nothing of any importance occurred till the evening of Sunday, 3rd November. On this evening, at 9 30 p. m., the captain was lying asleep in the cabin, when he was awoke by a violent blow upon the head. He thought at once that some passing vessel must have come into collision with his and caused the shock. He sprang off the sofa on which he was lying, and ran up the ladder on to the deck. He called to the crew to know what was the matter, but received no answer. He ran aft and repeated the question, but got no answer. Just then he heard a step behind him, and turning sharply round saw the Frenchman Frances with a heavy hammer in his hand. The moment the captain turned Frances aimed a blow with the hammer at his head, and the captain received the blow on his arm. Frances aimed a second blow at the captain, which missed him, and the captain then ran towards the cabin, Frances pursuing him. Luckily the captain reached the cabin before his assailant, and succeeded in locking himself in, and Frances, after several desperate efforts to break open the door, returned to the deck.

Captain Walker then armed himself with a revolver, and, on going on deck, found four of the crew there, namely, McAlpine, Lopez, Graham and Hill. There were missing, John Kelly, the mate, Henry West, the carpenter, and the two Frenchmen, Clement and Frances. The four men whom the captain found on the deck were unable to give the slightest explanation of the extraordinary occurrences which had taken place, and stated that they were roused from sleep by hearing a noise on deck, and had come up to see what the matter was. A search was instituted for the missing men, and near the entrance to the cabin was found the dead body of the carpenter, whose brains had been dashed out, evidently by a blow from some blunt instrument. A little way from the carpenter's body lay the mate, whose throat had been cut from ear to ear, and who was also quite dead. The terrible deed had evidently been committed but a short time previously, as the bodies of both the unfortunate men were still warm. Clement and Frances could nowhere be found. On the first appearance of dawn, the captain and the four sailors went to the forecastle, and finding it closely fastened from the inside concluded that the missing men must be inside. The door was broken in with a sledge hammer, and on the captain and his followers rushing in they found the two Frenchmen inside armed with heavy hammers. After a brief but desperate struggle the two men were overpowered, disarmed, and placed in irons. The tragedy did not, however, end here. On the second day of their confinement the captain, on entering the forecastle, found both of his prisoners dead. Frances's skull was fractured and Clement presented the appearance of having died from taking poison. It is said that Francis himself dashed out his brains by striking his head against the side of the forecastle.

The vessel was then navigated to Queenstown by the survivors. The other three sailors, it is said, refused to sleep with, and closely watched the movements of the Spaniards, who they suspected as the accomplices of the two Frenchmen in their attempts to murder the captain and crew, and get possession of the vessel. On the arrival of the Alciope in the harbor, the captain came on shore and lodged and information, setting forth the facts detailed above. Warrants were granted against the four sailors—Lopez, Hill, Graham, and McAlpine; and they, as well as the captain himself, were taken into custody. They were brought before a magistrate on Monday night and remanded. They were again brought up at the Queenstown petty sessions on Tuesday morning, the presiding magistrates being Captain Seymour and Mr. Scott. The prisoners having been put forward, Captain Seymour said that in a case of such importance the bench had determined on remanding the prisoners for eight days, in order that the Castle authorities might be communicated with. Mr. O'Brien, solicitor, who appeared for the captain, contended that his client had committed no crime, and that being the case there was not sufficient grounds for his being kept in custody. Capt. Seymour said that, although there was no charge at present against the captain, the bench, considering that four lives had been lost under very mysterious circumstances, could not possibly discharge any of the survivors. Although the remand was nominally for eight days, the captain would not, in all probability, be in custody for anything like that time, as the moment the bench heard from the Castle they would proceed with the investigation. The prisoners were then removed in custody.

A DOMESTIC TRAGEDY.—The town of Grossenhagen, near Dresden, has been the scene of a shocking tragedy. A widow and her daughter were tried on a charge of having stolen certain articles of small value from their landlord. The accused confessed their guilt, and manifested such sincere repentance that the Tribunal acquitted them. On the next day, when the widow's eldest son entered her bedroom, he was horror-struck to see the floor covered with blood, and on going to the bed he found his mother and younger brother lying insensible, and each bleeding from a deep cut in the arm. He procured medical aid, and both soon recovered consciousness. The mother then explained that, being unable to bear the disgrace of having been tried on a charge of theft, she, her younger son, her daughter, and a young man who was betrothed to the latter, had all resolved to die together. Her daughter's lover had accordingly opened the veins in their arms. She had soon after fainted from the loss of blood, and knew no more. As neither the young man nor his betrothed were to be seen, search was made for them, and their bodies were found at the bottom of a well in the garden. The mother and son are likely to recover.

TRUE HEROISM.—Lieut. Buttrick, of the 59th Massachusetts Regiment writes:—"In the battle of September 20 there was a young man killed, a member of the 57th Regiment, who used to live in Concord. His name was Broad. He was never in a battle before, as he has been connected with the ambulance train. He met his death in this way: There was a man struck by a solid shot, it cutting one of his legs nearly off. The poor fellow was bleeding to death, but if brought off would in all probability get well. Broad was the only man who would volunteer to go out and fetch him in. It was almost certain death for any man; but, said Broad, 'I have neither wife nor child to suffer if I am killed;' so out he went, and picked him up, put him on his shoulder, and brought him in safely, though the bullets flew like hail around him. He came in so promptly that we all thought he had escaped the bullets. But alas! poor Broad was a wounded man. He laid his burden on the ground saying, 'I may have saved your life, but I have lost my own.'—He was shot through the bowels, and soon after died."

A COOL CUSTOMER.—About three months since Dr. Allan, 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 attending to the duties of his office. Some of the members objected on the ground that the municipal act declares a seat vacant if a member absents himself for three months without leave of the Council. The doctor, however, holds on to the place, and intends to run again at the next election.—*Toronto Leader.*

The Cape Breton *News* gives the following details of the recent casuality which occurred near Sydney, C. B.—the loss of the schr. *Star of the East*, with all hands: "The five dead bodies washed ashore were brought hither on the 24th, namely: those of Capt. Bregg and his two sons, David McLeod, and Ranna McKenna. The mortal remains of these five men were interred in one grave in the Wesleyan Cemetry. The scene at the grave was most solemn, impressive, and suggestive of sympathy and sorrow for the four widows and their orphan children, deprived of their husbands and their fathers. There still remain at Mainacieu two bodies unclaimed, supposed to be strangers and passengers. The circumstances of the loss of the vessel are unknown. None was spared to tell the tale of suffering and destruction. None but the All seeing Eye witnessed the loss of the gallant little schooner on the dreary shore of Port Nova. All conjectures about the time and the cause of the disaster appear to be fruitless. It is probable, however, that the vessel had been blown off the land a week or ten days before the day that she was discovered a shattered wreck on the shore. It is assumed further that the Captain on a change of wind, set sail for the coast, and whilst running in on the land—during the heavy, squally, thick weather of the preceding week—the vessel struck on the rocks, and became an immediate prey to the fury of the winds and waves."

The French journals chronicle the finding of about 10,000 pieces of Roman money, principally of the reign of Augustus, Tiberias, Claudius and Nero, in the bed of the river Mayenne at St. Leonard. Their presence is explained by the fact of a dangerous ford having formerly existed at the spot, and the custom of travellers to throw in votive pieces of money before crossing.

An experiment is to be made to introduce the white fish of the great American Lakes into the Lakes of Scotland and Cumberland.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE.

The New York Mercantile Agency have published their review of the business operations of the year 1864, showing a gratifying state of commercial prosperity, notwithstanding the drain on the country's resources of men and money to feed the war. The New York *World* says of the report and the tables accompanying it:—

"Of course they are not strictly accurate—no tables of the kind ever are; but they are enough so to give an approximate idea of the business of 1864, as compared with former years. It seems the number of failures during the past year was only five hundred and ten, and the liabilities of the defaulting firms are less than nine millions of dollars. This is in striking contrast to 1861, when the number of bankrupts was some six thousand, representing liabilities of nearly two hundred million dollars.

"Despite the enormous inflation of the currency, and the reckless spirit of speculation it has engendered, legitimate trading has so far been very profitable. While prices are constantly advancing we will have apparent prosperity, such as this exhibit shows, but when the time for contraction comes, as come it must, chaos will be upon us. The only hope for the future is in the limited credit now given buyers. A cash business will save us much bankruptcy, but it cannot prevent the awkward discovery which must come some time—that riches in greenbacks means poverty in gold. We do not know how terribly the war has exhausted us until peace comes."

IMPENDING EXECUTIVE CHANGES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Gossip has for a day or two past been again busy with changes in the cabinet; but not till this morning have the rumors assumed a definite aspect. Mr. Fessenden is to retire almost immediately from the Treasury Department, and will be succeeded by Senator Morgan, of New York; and Mr. Seward will be appointed to the place made vacant by the resignation of Senator Morgan. Mr. Seward himself is understood to desire the change, and it will relieve the President of much embarrassment in arranging matters to suit the radicals. Mr. Seward desires to go back to the Senate, because he believes that from the halls of Congress the olive branch should now be held out to the South; that the armies of the South are so far overcome that the great work of pacification and reconstruction should be entered upon by practical men. He is strengthened in this view by the intelligence from Georgia, which leaves little doubt of the early return, *pro forma*, of that State to the Union, on the basis of the Constitution. It is further understood that with the fall of Charleston and Wilmington, which are looked for in the course of a few weeks, and the evacuation of Richmond, which is expected at no distant day, Mr. Seward will take the ground that offensive warfare ought to cease, that time ought to be given for reflection to the whole Southern people, and that every effort be made to again open the channels of trade in all directions. The raising of the blockade, except as against a few points, is also a part of his programme. In short, that Mr. Seward will endeavor to enact before the world the *role* of the "Great Pacificator," and claim in history that exalted honor.

Mr. Seward's successor in the State Department will be Charles Francis Adams unless, to avoid his old trouble, Mr. Lincoln shall appoint some less prominent statesman, Mr. Everett, for instance. It is well understood that Senator Morgan has Presidential aspirations, and already has considerable strength, while Mr. Adams is, fortunately or unfortunately, in the same category.

SOUTHERN ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACK ON WILMINGTON.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Dec. 31.]

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 30.—Gen. Bragg has issued a congratulatory order on the defeat of the enemy's grand army before Wilmington, paying a merited compliment to Generals Whiting and Kirkland, Colonel Lamb and the officers and men engaged. The enemy's attack on the first day lasted five hours; on the second day seven hours—firing altogether, over twenty thousand shots from fifty kinds of vessels. The Confederates responded with six hundred and sixty-two shots on the first day, and six hundred the second. Our loss is three killed and fifty-five wounded. The ground in the front and rear of the fort is covered with shells, and is torn in deep pits. Two guns in the fort burst, two were dismounted by ourselves, and two by the enemy's fire, yet the fort is unhurt.

Our readers must not imagine that this is the end of the attack on Wilmington. No such mammoth expedition, fitted out on so grand and formidable a scale, is going to return without accomplishing results more important than that which they have secured. Another effort will be made, and one as stubborn as that which has failed so signally in the past ten days. Many have asked the question, what is the enemy about—what do they mean? Some suppose already that the attack on Wilmington was a feint. If a feint it was a formidable one, and very fatal to the enemy. There is no doubt in our mind but they intended their landing to be a *permanent* one, and had no idea of re-embarking until Wilmington was in their possession. One of the prime causes of their abandonment of the beach where they had secured a landing is traceable to want of water. No army could live upon that beach unless supplied miraculously with water from a source other than that within their reach upon that shore; again, they found a gathering of men upon their right, left and front, men who, in many a hard fought battle-field, had proven themselves no mean foemen. They found their advance checked in all directions by veterans of more than a score of battle-fields confronting them. And under these circumstances it was but reasonable that retreat, the best policy, was adopted. We only regret that their hearts failed them so soon. Had they remained one more night they would most likely have arrived at Wilmington as guests at the military prison.

ARMY NEWS.—The Savannah correspondent of the *World* hints that General Sherman will march first to Augusta and then to the rear of Charleston, when, with Dalgren in front, he will lay siege to the stronghold. Despatches captured on a rebel soldier divulged the intention to send the rebel rams out of Charleston harbor at once, thus taking advantage of the absence of our ironclads. This led to promptly sending all the monitors to Charleston harbor, where they now are, (5th inst.)

Richmond papers say that Hood recruited his army largely in Tennessee, and that he has driven southward over ten thousand hogs and some six hundred head of beef cattle, with flour enough to last his army at least six months.

It is stated that Capt. Collins was detached from the command of the *Wachusett* at his own request; that he has not been censured either by the President or the Navy Department for his action in the *Florida* case; that he has not been ordered before a court martial, and that no charges have been preferred against him.

DUTCH GAP CANAL.—The New York *Herald*, speaking of the Dutch Gap Canal, says eight regiments, white and coloured, have been at work on it since August last. It is 522 feet long, the greatest width excavation 122 feet, and depth 45 feet. The width of the canal proper is 65 feet at the top and 45 at the bottom. At high water the depth will be 16 feet. Even if the canal cannot be completed, owing to the rebel batteries, a great deal has been gained towards enhancing the commercial prospects of Richmond when it goes into the possession of loyal hands.

The *Tribune's* Army of the James special despatch says the Dutch Gap Canal is regarded as a complete success, the result of the explosion of the bulkhead being all that was expected. A dredging machine will now finish the work. Sixteen feet of water has been in the canal since the 16th of last month.

It took six tons of powder to blow up the canal. The rebels have 20 cannon ready to bear on the upper end of the canal if it is ever finished, and the channel above is filled with torpedoes, which will have to be removed before gunboats can ascend.

THE SAVANNAH COTTON.—The Savannah correspondent of the New York *Times*, of Jan. 5, says that most of the old merchants there have not identified themselves with the rebellion, and are anxious to have Government leave them enough of their cotton and rice to pay off their northern creditors, to whom they owe heavily. If the Government seizes all their property they will be ruined and their northern creditors lose their money.

It is rumored that seventy-three thousand bales of cotton, in and near Savannah, are to be sent direct to England for sale on account of our Government by agents acting under direction of Simon Draper. The New Yorkers are endeavoring to have it sent to that city and sold there.

Other reports say that it is marked for British owners, and owned under the British flag.

MATTERS IN MAINE.—Maine has contributed the past year to the military service 18,994 men. Since the commencement of the war one-tenth of the population of the State, or more than 61,000 of her sons, have been in the military and naval service. The debt of the State, as represented by loans, is $15,337,000, of which debt $2,965,000 has been created the past year. To provide for the liquidation of this debt, the establishment of a sinking fund, by setting apart a fixed sum annually, is proposed.

The loss of revenue to Maine by existing State banks surrendering their charters, by quitting the field or transforming themselves into national banks, will not be less than $80,000 per annum.

Governor Coney in his message to the Legislature approves of the movement to abrogate the Reciprocity Treaty with Great Britain, it having proved detrimental to two of the leading interests of the State, viz., her lumber and her agriculture, in which so large a portion of her population are engaged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The statement in the foreign news by the Asia, that the Mexican President has issued letters of marque and reprisal to Americans against French ships, which is not believed here in government circles, will probably bring out a proclamation from President Lincoln, warning our people not to engage in business upon such papers, on pain of being treated as pirates.

Lieut. Col. Nordheims, acting chief of the signal corps, had his annual report privately printed at the press of the signal corps, and issued it in advance of the report of the Secretary of War, whose report it should have accompanied. For thus publishing his report on his own authority, the Lieut. Col. has been dismissed from the service.

VERY LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The steamer *Franconia* arrived at Halifax from Boston on the 12th, bringing papers of the 10th.

The Raleigh Confederate of the 3rd says that on the 22nd ult. a fight took place at Shoemaker's Gap, between Captains W. Price, Ross, and Gartrell's companies, and some deserters, tories, and robbers. They attacked our forces from ambush, but were speedily routed and severely chastised. They lost fourteen killed, four hundred and four prisoners. We lost none killed or wounded.

The Columbia Carolinian says Gen. D. H. Hill passed down the South Carolina Railroad yesterday, under orders to report to Beauregard at Charleston.

The same paper notices the arrival at Selma, Ala., 20th ult., of a detachment of 400 or 500 "galvanized Yankees," on their way to the front. They were strong, able-bodied soldiers; mostly foreigners. Capt. Clark, one of the officers who had charge of them, informs us that almost any number could be obtained, but that only those were accepted who had no families in the North and no ties to attach them to that section. They will be distributed through Irish regiments of the Army of the Tennessee to fill up the depleted ranks.

The Charleston, C. S. Mercury of the 29th ult. says all was quiet on Wednesday, with the exception of a few shots fired between 11 and 12 o'clock from Battery Wagner. The firing from the latter seemed to be directed seaward, and is believed simply to be of an experimental nature. The fleet remains unchanged. We have nothing additional or definite from the line of the Savannah Railroad.

The Wilmington Journal says Bragg has written a letter breathing a spirit of Christian hope. He says there is no cause for alarm. There is no enemy between Wilmington and Fort Fisher. With his present force he thinks he will be able to resist a further attempt on Wilmington, and closes by asking for the prayers of Christians for himself and army.

The Richmond Examiner of the 6th says the reports of Sherman having crossed the Savannah river are confirmed. He is believed to be marching on Grahamsville.

The Whig of the 6th says a large number of deserters and lawless men are roaming over the upper counties of Georgia, committing depredations upon the inhabitants.

The Mobile Tribune learns that on the 10th ult., a party of Yankee raiders, 1300 strong, reached West Pascagoula and were embarked on launches. They destroyed several ferries and did other damage.

Resolutions have been introduced into the North Carolina Legislature of opposition to the habes corpus, to imprisonment, to conscription, to the surrender of State officers, and in support of State negociations for peace.

As Mr. Carter, in a speech, said, if the gentlemen in that Legislature and in Congress could not protest against another illegal suspension of this privilege, the time had come when by the laws of nature we would be justified in starting a new revolution.

The committee on resolutions, in the North Carolina Legislature, to initiate negotiations for an honorable peace, report that while every effort was being made to strengthen our armies they should be accompanied by some manifestation of an effort and desire to secure an honorable peace. Commissioners having heretofore been refused by the United States on the grounds of recognition of the Confederacy, this object is sought to be removed in the resolutions by appointing Commissioners on the part of the States whose civil existence and authority have never been denied. These commissioners are not to have powers from the States, but only to be tendered by the President for a peace conference.

The Mobile *News*, of Dec. 19, says:—Commodore Semmes, of the Alabama, arrived in our city yesterday morning from the Trans-Mississippi, having made his way into the confederacy, as we learn, through Mexico. His arrival was so unexpected that few of our citizens were aware of it in time to welcome him as becomes his deeds and fame. He was met, however, at the depot by a large number of officials, and escorted by the splendid command of University Cadets to the residence of his family. The Cadets presented a magnificent appearance, and as his presence became known, large crowds gathered all along the line of march to catch a glimpse of the old hero who has so gloriously upheld the honor of our flag in every quarter of the world.

CORRESPODENCE.

From our Own Correspondent at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jany. 18, 1865.

DEAR EXAMINER—

Stirring times are expected in the Metropolis this winter—to commence with the meeting of the Legislature, which takes place on the 9th proximo. Rumors of dissolution, and of the anticipated defeat of the Government on the Confederation question, are current in all directions; and sapient would-be politicians, with whom all countries abound, and who are but little capable of understanding any question, will inform you in confidence, that "Tupper is doomed," and that his Government is tottering. The general opinion, however, in well informed circles, is, that the measure will be submitted to the House early in the Session. If a majority of the representatives sanction the scheme, there will be no appeal to the people on the question; if otherwise, the Government will advise a dissolution. In the city, the Confederation fever has somewhat subsided, except among those who have made themselves conspicuous as opponents of the measure, and who, in a certain circle, continue to "agitate, agitate, agitate." In the country, however, the case is different. Public meetings are being held throughout the various Counties, and the people flock from all quarters to hear the details explained to them. In general the scheme meets with favor; but among the more ignorant the bugbear of taxation looms up as an unsurmountable obstacle to Union. From the best information obtainable, however, I think there is no doubt but that, on an appeal to the people, the parties who go to the polls on the Confederation question will be triumphantly returned.

Meanwhile, Confederation has developed a rather novel state of things. As you are aware, the *Morning Chronicle*, the organ of the Liberal party, has, ever since the Report of the Quebec Conference was made public, teemed with articles in favor of Confederation. Its editor was the Hon. Jonathan McCully, one of the Delegates from this Province. Last Wednesday morning, however, people were surprised to read a notice in the editorial columns to the effect that the editorial management of the paper was changed, and that henceforth the proprietor (William Annand, Esq., M. P. P.,) would resume control over the paper, which would in future "reflect his own views and opinions." The announcement was certainly rather a singular one, more especially as it was well known that the aforesaid Annand was one of the most rabid opponents of Confederation, and had figured conspicuously at the meetings held in opposition. Various conjectures and rumors were in circulation, but all suspense was put an end to the next morning, when the *Chronicle* appeared with an editorial article "pitching into" Confederation and every one connected with the scheme, not even sparing its ex editor, the Hon. Jonathan McCully. The surprise of the uninitiated may be imagined at taking up the *Chronicle* on Tuesday morning and finding that Confederation was the hobby, in praise of which it devoted columns, and on perusing the same sheet on the following morning to be assured by the editor that the Delegates were a parcel of scheming politicians, and the Union scheme itself a delusion and a snare.

Mr. Annand's letter dismissing Mr. McCully from the editorship, and the latter gentleman's reply thereto, have since been published, and the revelations made therein are truly disgusting to those who believe that politicians striving for the reins of Government are inspired by motives of patriotism. The truth of the old proverb, "when rogues fall out," &c., was never better illustrated, and the proverb is applied to this precious transaction by all parties. Mr. McCully talks dolefully of the service he rendered the paper in the "dark days" when he and others were in the cold shades and hankering after the "loaves and fishes," and by times grows indignant, blusters, is eloquent and pathetic; while Mr. Annand, in his answer, clearly proves that the general opinion relative to this remarkable individual, that "he never opens his mouth without putting his foot in it," is not far from correct. Mr. McCully has carried his talents and grievances to the *Journal*, which will henceforth appear under the title of "*The Unionist.*" The opinion is pretty general that the coming Session of the Legislature will be a "spicy" one. Truly

"We are living, we are living
In a grand and awful time,"

as the religious poets express it. But of Confederation more in my next.

The weather has been very changeable. To-day is clear and frosty, with the sun shining brightly, and no snow on the ground. What is a Nova Scotia winter without *snow*? The young men and maidens are waiting anxiously for the descent of the fleecy covering, which is to them the harbinger of sleigh-rides innumerable on moonlight nights. Skating parties are much in vogue, and it is not uncommon to see hundreds of both sexes, with the magic steel in hand, or strapped round the body, wending their way of an afternoon or evening to the ponds, or waiting at the Ferry Landing for the boat which quickly conveys them to Dartmouth, the lakes at the latter place being almost always in capital order.

The Government have lost the Annapolis Election. Although by some it is regarded as showing that the Administration has lost ground in the country, the matter may be thus explained. The School Bill was the great secret of the defeat, it being immensely unpopular with the country people, involving as it does the only true system—compulsory taxation for the support of educational institutions. To their shame be it said, the Liberals have made of this Bill, so palpably suited to the requirements of a country like Nova Scotia, a party cry, and the result has been the defeat of the Government candidate. It is but fair to add, however, that much apathy regarding the contest was manifested by the Conservative portion of the electors.

The Steamship *City of Petersburg* arrived here a few days since from Wilmington, via Bermuda. This vessel has had a very narrow escape from destruction. On the run in she was chased by the Yankee cruisers and abandoned, after being run ashore; but the pursuing party did not dare to venture near enough to effect the capture, in consequence of the forts at the mouth of Wilmington harbor, and the vessel was recovered next morning. She ran out with a valuable cargo, which was left at Bermuda. The profits of this enterprise are immense, as I am assured that the captain nets something like $1,000 by the trip. The *Tallahassee*, perhaps you have been previously informed, has been transformed into a merchant vessel, and now runs the blockade regularly under the name of the *Chameleon*.

Matters generally are pretty dull. Our merchants expect nevertheless to do a great Spring trade, and it is an undeniable fact that Halifax is increasing in prosperity with each successive year. The Province, too, is sharing in the general prosperity, and ship-building, especially, is increasing rapidly. All we want is a good class of emigrants, and under Confederation this desideratum would be attainable. B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR;—As attention has been called to a communication of mine, which appeared in the last week's *Islander*, by one of your covert correspondents, who, no doubt, has, on different occasions, had to endure extreme mortification, and who dreads another and similar infliction, but who has only courage to fight behind a hedge or tree, allow me, for the information of your readers, and without further noticing the production of the billious "Pro Bono Publico," to give you the origin and part of the substance of my letter to the *Islander*, with a few additional remarks.

In the editorial of the *Islander*, of the 6th inst., the editor, after courteously alluding to my opposition to the "proposed Confederation," thought it not beneath his dignity to "indulge a hope" that I would "define the principles" that I conceived to be "just," and on which I would agree "to support Confederation."

In reply to that invitation, I wrote my letter of the 11th instant, wherein it was stated that "I must decline from committing myself to any particular principle." I did not hesitate, however, to indicate terms which—had they been offered us—would not have been so decidedly objectionable as those contained in the "official Report." You are well aware, Sir, that if we go into Confederation on the terms offered us, we give up to the General Government our revenue with its natural increase, and also the large increase that would be derived from assimilation to Canadian taxation, amounting to nearly £100,000 a year, to commence with, and probably to £150,000 a year in 10 or 15 years hence. In return for this great sacrifice we are to receive a fixed sum—not to increase—of about £46,000 a year, equal to 11s. 6d. per head for our 80,000 inhabitants. Had the offer been to have given us a *yearly* increasing amount as the inhabitants increase and our wants increase, that is to say 11s. 6d. per head on our future population, and had the Conference proposed that we should have performed for us an act similar to what the General Government of Canada lately did for the Lower Canadians, namely, to have given a grant of money—say £200,000—for the purpose of buying out the balance of the lands now in the hands of the Proprietors, had these offers been made to us, the scheme, in a financial point of view, would not have been so decidedly objectionable as it stands at present, although still subject to very grave objections. And had the Constitution provided that while each Colony should be represented in the Lower House by population, in the Upper House or Legislative Council the representation from the several Colonies should have been equal, and not to have exceeded 5 or 6 members from either, we should then have a prospect of being able to exercise a legitimate influence in one Branch of the Legislature in return for the surrender—I may say—of our Constitution. This, I maintain, is nothing but "just," and I hesitate not to say that any representative of one of the Maritime Provinces that would not insist on this is derelict in his duty to the Colony to which he belongs. If an example on this point is needed, I would state the fact that Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware, these seven States, with an aggregate area of only 43,446 square miles among them, and a population of only 3,000,000 in the whole, still each of these individual States sends the same number of representatives to the Senate as the great State of New York, which is much larger than the other seven put together, having an area of 46,085 square miles and about 4,000,000 inhabitants. While on the other hand, that no injustice be done to New York, that State alone sends a larger number of members to the House of Representatives than the whole of the above named seven States put together. By this means justice is done to the whole, and the influence of each of the several States, be it small or large, is brought to bear upon the general legislation of the country. Just so should the representation be in each branch of the Legislature of the proposed Confederation. Anything short of this would not only be an act of injustice to P. E. Island, but to each of the Maritime Provinces. And as the Canadians make a profession of fair play by holding out a bait to the leading members of the minorities among the politicians of the several Colonies, let them give the more tangible proof of their desire to do justice by offering to give the whole of the Maritime Provinces, who may be considered as minorities, their legitimate influence in the general representation, similar to that which the United States—that great Confederation—gives to each of the lesser States, some of which are smaller than P. E. Island.

In my last letter to the *Islander* I stated reasons for believing that for many years to come Canadian expenditure was about to be enormously increased; one contemplated item alone—canal accommodation on a more extended scale—was estimated to cost some $50,000,000, that, with several other items of extra expenditure, such as "gunboats on the lakes," fortifications, standing army, Intercolonial railway, three Governments and Parliaments instead of one, opening of the Northwest Territory to Red River, nearly 1000 miles beyond Canadian settlements. All these put together and we may safely set down another $50,000,000 as contemplated *extra* expenditure, the funds for which would have to be borrowed, and reckoning the interest at 6 per cent, would entail an annual additional expense of $6,000,000, or nine shillings, P. E. Island currency, per head on every man, woman and child in the Confederacy. True, after the completion of the canals—calculated to be finished in six years—there would be tolls receivable that would go towards paying the interest on the amount borrowed. Do I hear any one complain that 6 per cent is too much for money borrowed in England? I would reply that the Canadian Government cannot negociate a loan on better terms, for if they throw 5 per cent bonds into the market with interest payable every six months they are sold at a large discount. Mr. Galt, the great Canadian financier, in a speech to his constituents says:—

"According to official advices from England, since intelligence had reached that country of the probability of Union being effected here, our securities, which had been greatly depressed, had risen no less than 15 per cent, our 5 per cents being now quoted at 90 to 92. That might be received as an indication of what the monied world conceived to be the greater security Canada would enjoy under a Union." Notwithstanding this rise in the value of their securities caused by the probability of Confederation, and the consequent revenues of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island being made available to assist their straightened finance, their 6 per cents in the English market, are scarcely quoted at par being from "98 to 100," while their 5 per cents are quoted at from 88 to 91 in the English papers, and when we remember that for several years prior to 1854 there had been an annual average expenditure in Canada over receipts of 2 and $3,000,000, and that with a tariff double that of ours, the prospect of Confederation to P. E. Island, who has nothing whatever to gain either by going into the Union, or by Canadian internal improvements—the prospect I say is to us of so gloomy and foreboding a nature that I shall not be at all surprised if our Legislature, by an overwhelming majority, decide that it is not expedient for P. E. Island to enter the Confederation on any terms, no matter how flattering.

Your obdt. servant,
GEO. BEER.

Charlottetown, Jany. 21st, 1865.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 23, 1865.

CONFEDERATION IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

DURING the past week, Hon. Edward Whelan held five Public Meetings amongst his constituents in the above District, called by him for the purpose of explaining the principles of the proposed Union of the Colonies, and accounting for his own connection with the late Quebec Conference. The meetings were all well attended, and in some places by larger gatherings than he ever addressed there before. The Meeting at Grand River School House, Lot 56, and that at Morell were especially crowded.

MEETING AT GRAND RIVER SCHOOL HOUSE.

Mr. Whelan did not arrive at Grand River, which was the first section of the District selected for his explanations, until about 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening. The Meeting was then convened—the Hon. James Dingwell, M. L. C., in the Chair, and W. E. Clark, Esqr., of St. Peter's, was engaged in addressing the audience. He promptly and courteously gave way to Mr. Whelan as soon as the latter appeared, who, after a few moments' delay, entered into a review of the whole question—stating the great advantages of Confederation, and explaining away the objections urged against the measure. He occupied about two hours and a half with his address, and was followed by Mr. Clark, who, in opposing Confederation, confined himself almost exclusively to the financial aspect of the question—repeating the objections urged by Mr. Palmer and Mr. Beer with regard to taxation, revenue, and cost of Union, and dealing in the most extravagant suppositions regarding the future. The Chairman, and one or two other gentlemen, appeared to be somewhat apprehensive of the proposed Union, but were not prepared to condemn it in toto and prematurely: and a resolution which Mr. Clark had prepared condemnatory of it, was rejected, and the following one unanimously adopted—Mr. Clark himself seeing the propriety of supporting it, as he did by seconding it and voting for it:—

Moved by J. C. Underhay, Esqr., and seconded by W. E. Clark, Esqr.:—

"*Resolved*, That this Meeting, duly considering the important influence the proposed Union of the British American Provinces will have on the future prosperity of this Island—feel satisfied to leave the matter in the hands of their present Representatives, confident that they will not give their support to a measure of such importance until the people of this Island shall have an opportunity of fully considering the advantages likely to accrue therefrom, nor until they shall have an opportunity of passing their opinions thereon at a General Election."

Mr. Whelan thanked his friends for the handsome expression of confidence conveyed in the foregoing resolution; and the thanks of the meeting having been tendered to the chairman, the Hon. James Dingwell, who spoke at some length in the spirit of the foregoing resolution, and who was loudly cheered, the meeting then separated, giving, at the same time, hearty cheers for Messrs. Whelan and Clark. The Meeting was, on the whole, a most gratifying one to Mr. W., and shewed clearly that he held the same high position that he ever did in the estimation of his constituents at Grand River and neighbouring settlements.

MEETING AT BAY FORTUNE ROAD.

Mr. Whelan's next Meeting was held at the house of Mr. Wm. Larkin, Birch Hill, Bay Fortune Road, on Thursday afternoon, 19th instant. His reception here was of the most rapturous description, and included nearly every elector in this rapidly growing and prosperous settlement. The Chair of the Meeting was occupied by Mr. —— Robertson who has lately settled there; and Mr. Whelan explained for about an hour his views on Confederation, nearly to the same effect as he did at the Grand River Meeting. Mr. Clark followed with his objections, but certainly appeared to make less impression on the minds of those who heard him than he did at the previous Meeting. The public feeling was decidedly in favour of the proposed Union—the people merely asking time for reflection; not one besides Mr. Clark seeming disposed to condemn it. The following resolution was adopted with the utmost enthusiasm, by acclamation:—

Proposed by Mr. James Curren,—seconded by Mr. William Walsh:—

"*Resolved*, That this Meeting, having heard with much pleasure the explanations of their esteemed Representative, the Hon. Edward Whelan, regarding the proposed Federation of the British American Provinces, feel inclined to look favourably upon the Scheme; but feeling the important influence the measure will have on the future welfare of this Island, deem it just and advisable that before entering into the Union every possible opportunity should be afforded of making the public conversant with the nature of the proposed alliance; and confidently rely on the present Representatives of the District not assenting to the consummation of the measure, until an opportunity will be afforded the people of Prince Edward Island of expressing their sentiments thereon at a General Election."

After giving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the most enthusiastic cheers for Mr. Whelan, the Meeting dispersed—Mr. W. remaining a short time to rest amongst his friends, several of them accompanying him on his journey to the Head of the Bay.

MEETING AT THE HEAD OF ST. PETER'S BAY.

On Thursday evening, Mr. Whelan held another Meeting at the House of John Sutherland, Esqr., (Mr. Whelan's Colleague, and who, he regretted, was prevented from taking part in the meetings on account of ill health.) The attendance was not so large here as on former occasions, owing to the fact that Mr. Whelan could not be present, from unavoidable circumstances, at the time appointed, and many persons went away; but still there was a very considerable gathering; and all the electors present seemed disposed to give the most favourable consideration to the Union question, only desiring time to think more about it.

John McIntyre, Esq., was appointed Chairman; and Mr. Whelan then addressed the Meeting for nearly an hour, condensing his views in order to present the subject in all its bearings. Mr. Clark was again the only speaker in opposition, and confined himself to the same objections as he did at the other Meetings. It is only due to Mr. Clark and Mr. Whelan to observe here, that throughout the whole of the meetings not one unpleasant word passed between them. All their discussions were characterised by good temper and courtesy; and it was apparent that when all the meetings closed, they were on more cordial terms of friendship than when they commenced the contest.

The discussions having been closed, the following resolution was carried unanimously—Mr. Clark, in proposing it, clearly perceiving that it was useless to offer a resolution condemning the measure, which the people would not be willing to accept; even Mr. Sutherland, who entertains strong objections to the measure, was quite satisfied to leave it an open question with the people, in the spirit of the resolution as follows:—

Proposed by W. E. Clark, Esqr.,—seconded by Mr. Anthony McCormack:—

Resolved, That this meeting, having their attention directed to the subject of a Federation of the Colonies, believe that the whole question requires the most earnest and patient consideration, and that no action should be taken upon the question by the Legislature of the Colony until an appeal be made to the Country in the usual constitutiona way.

The usual thanks having been voted to the Chairman, and the usual cheers given with a hearty good will, the meeting separated—Mr. Whelan pronouncing a few words of thankfulness for the cordial reception accorded to him.

We must defer until our next an account of the Meetings at Morell and St. Andrew's on the following day. The account would occupy more space than we can give at present. The Meeting at Morell was the largest—was attended by every influential person for many miles around, including the Protestant and Catholic Clergymen, and had many features of unusual interest. It was unquestionably highly favourable to the Union project, and gratifyingly warm in its reception of Mr. Whelan. In short, all his Meetings were great successes, and shew that the Second District of King's County is sound to the core, and in no humour to be tampered with by conceited fellows in Charlottetown, who have vowed to shear the hair from off their *handsome* faces if they fail to drive Mr. W. out of the district. He invites an election, so that they and others may have a chance.

A FRENCH CANADIAN VIEW OF MR. PALMER'S "SITUATION."

The following is the substance of an article (in French) upon the recent ministerial crisis in this Island, which appeared in the *Journal de Quebec*, of the 5th instant:—

Either Col. Gray was not truly Prime Minister of Prince Edward Island, or, having passed a portion of his life in the Indian Army, he has not very exact notions upon Constitutional Government and the distinct attributes of the Chief of the Cabinet and those of his colleagues.

According to the spirit and practice of the British Constitution, all power being given by the Chief of the State to the Prime Minister to form a Cabinet, upon him, consequently, rests the entire responsibility.

In the event of differences, if the difference arises between the Sovereign or her Representative, usage and reason demand that the Prime Minister should do that which Colonel Gray did; and his resignation draws with it the resignation of the entire Cabinet. But if the difference should be with one of his colleagues, and such as to necessitate a rupture, the Prime Minister calls upon this colleague to send to him his resignation, in order that he may place it before His Excellency. If not understanding the Constitutional rule, he refuses, the Prime Minister should in this case require the Lieut. Governor to dismiss him; and if the Lieutenant Governor should refuse, then, and then only, should he send in his own resignation.

This mode of proceeding, so reasonable, would have been altogether to the advantage of Colonel Gray. If the Lieutenant Governor had granted the dismission of Mr. Palmer, the Government had remained homogeneous, and the honor of the Cabinet was saved; if he refused to dismiss Mr. Palmer, he had declared in so many words that he was indifferent to the honor of his Government, and hostile to Confederation; and he who hopes to rise had placed himself in antagonism to the Imperial Government, whose sentiments upon Confederation are known to our readers.

We are convinced that Mr. Dundas would have thought twice before assuming this attitude; but why did Colonel Gray fail to put him to the test? (*mais pourquoi le Colonel Gray a-t-il manqué l'occasion de le mettre en demeure?*) This we cannot tell from the facts before us. We should not be astonished if Lieutenant Governors were hostile to a Constitution which takes from them, at a single blow, with the direct sanction of the Imperial Government, six Colonies, that is to say six degrees, which they hope alternately to ascend in the gubernatorial hierarchy. One cannot but recall the statements, rather singular under the circumstances, made by Sir Richard McDonnell, at the Montreal dinner, in reference to the future Constitution, when we know, in all their details, the proceedings of the Convention.

It is singular that Colonel Gray, who enumerates the causes of complaint against Mr. Palmer, and even gives one of his speeches, to prove that he was favorable to Confederation, has not mentioned the most important fact, the signature of Mr. Palmer to the Report of the Quebec Convention. Had he forgotten it? It is possible, indeed probable, that he had; but then he could have called to his assistance the Electric Telegraph. It appears as though there had been complete carelessness throughout the affair.

The journal from which we translated on Tuesday, (*The Examiner*,) supposes it possible that Mr. Palmer will himself form a Cabinet. If he succeeds, we should conclude that men who understand grammar are scarce (*clair-semé's*) upon a soil which is so fertile in other respects, in *smaller grain*, (*Oats*), to use the language of the *great* Attorney General.

AN ENGLISH (LOWER) CANADIAN VIEW OF MR. PALMER'S "SITUATION."

WE find in the Quebec *Morning Chronicle* of the 4th instant the following scathing remarks on Mr. Palmer's extraordinary conduct in reference to the Confederation question:—

It can hardly be a matter of surprise that the conduct of the Hon. Edward Palmer, Attorney General of Prince Edward Island, in reference to the Convention and Confederation, should have caused unmitigated disgust in the minds of his colleagues and of that of every honorable man conversant with the course he has chosen to pursue. It will be seen, from the correspondence between His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Island and the Hon. Colonel Gray, that the Prime Minister has felt it his duty, as a gentleman and a man of honor, to decline to sit at the same Council Board with Mr. Palmer. This person was one of the Delegates from Prince Edward Island to the Conference at Quebec, and proceeded with the other representatives of the Maritime Provinces to Montreal and subsequently to Toronto. At the *dejeuner* given in that city on the 3rd November, by arrangement with his colleagues, he spoke upon the subject of Confederation, expressing himself most desirous of seeing the union of the Provinces speedily accomplished. It turns out, however, that while Mr. Palmer was thus insultingly deceiving the Canadian public and the members of the Conference, he was writing private letters and sending to the papers of the Island communications in which he declared "that he was so disgusted with the scheme that he could sit by the waters of Babylon and weep, did he suppose the people of this Island would be taken in by it."

Mr. Palmer admits that in Toronto he spoke in favor of Confederation, and declared his hope of seeing it accomplished, as reported by the *Leader*; but alleges as a justification of the duplicity, that at such a meeting "controversy was neither invited nor expected, and would have been deemed out of place if introduced; and where it was invariably the good fashion, during the whole tour, for *every one* who was called upon to return thanks for the princely hospitality shewn us, (the Delegates) to reciprocate, as far as possible, what was most pleasant and agreeable to their kind hosts."

Col. Gray treats this paltry subterfuge with the contempt it deserves, considers it in the light that any gentleman must view it, and that he