

have everything his own way. Just before the sale commenced, to his consternation, he saw Mr. Astor walking down the wharf. He went up to meet him and said: "Mr. Astor, I am sorry to see you here this morning. I will send a check of \$1,000 round to your counting room if you will go and stay there until after this sale."

In addition to the ordinary legislative proceedings in the way of indemnity, mileage, stationery, and documents, each of the Dominion legislatures has received a great, hideous, sheepskin covered trunk, in which to conceal and convey away what bulky portable property he can plunder in the course of the session. It would be interesting to know by what authority, or law, members obtain these stealings; a statute is necessary also for the stationary, the pearl-handled knives, the snuff boxes, ink stands, and sheepskin covered trunks. If there is one honest man in either house, a fact much doubted, let him ventilate this mean degrading fraud, and put a stop to it. Above all let no respectable man travel with a sheepskin covered trunk unless he is prepared to be mistaken for a member of the legislature escaping with an amount of plunder that ought to send him to the Penitentiary.—Montreal Telegraph.

Sir JOHN FRANKLIN.—Says the Montreal Witness, the steamer "Nimrod," just arrived at St. John's, Nfld., brings some interesting news from the Arctic region. Captain Hall, of Franklin's Exploring Expedition, has determined to continue his efforts through the coming winter, and thinks he has a clue which may lead to the discovery of the remains of Sir John. From some hostile Esquimaux he learned that at about the time of the loss of Sir John Franklin's vessel, some white men carried a dead body on shore, and built a brick vault, which they carefully cemented, and in which they deposited the corpse, afterwards covering the vault with heavy stone flags. This body Mr. Hall believes to be the remains of Sir John, and he intends to satisfy himself upon the point if possible. He has secured many valuable articles formerly owned by Sir John's party.

WHAT DARK DE HOLE.—Two darkeys in the west went out to hunt "possums &c., and by accident found a large cave with a small entrance. Peeping in, they discovered three young bear whelps in the interior. "I look heah, Sam," said one; "while I go in dah, and get de young bars, you just wait for de old bar."—Sam got asleep in the sun, when, opening his eyes, he saw the old bear scouring her way in the cave. Quick as a wink he caught her by the tail, and held on like death. "Hello dar, Sam! what dark de hole dar?" "Lor! bless you, Jumbo, save yourself, honey! If dis tail comes out, you'll find out what dark de hole."

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal writes under date of 17th inst., says:—There is much talk here about the purchase of the Island of Cuba from the Spanish Government, but it is not believed that Congress will vote the sum demanded. There are rumors, as was stated in this correspondence a fortnight ago, that the United States may have an opportunity to annex Cuba without enriching the treasury of the Spanish Queen.

The widow of a former member of Congress at Hallowell, Me., lately married her hostler, who soon after decamped with \$20,000 in bonds, which she had placed in his care.

The New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle, a high authority in commercial circles in the United States, is out in advocacy of a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty.

LARGE LANDED PROPERTIES IN ENGLAND.—There can be no doubt that the ownership of the soil in England is not only accumulated, but tends to still further accumulate in a few hands. "I know," said Mr. Bright in his speech to the electors of Birmingham, "I know the case of a noble personage who is supposed to have an annual income of £120,000. He spends £40,000, and the £80,000 which remain he lays out in rounding his property by buying up every estate which is for sale." Examples of this kind abound. The eastern portion of the new county of Sussex, which contains 800 square miles, is almost entirely the property of two noblemen. The Duke of Richmond and Leonfield. The city of London, a city astonishing through its immensity, belongs to a mere handful of individuals. Such a great lord may possess a quarter as extensive as the capital of certain kingdoms. The wealth of the Grosvenor family shines with a splendor which makes even that of the throne look pale by its side; and it is yet nothing in comparison with what it will be at the expiration of the leases in Belgravia. The domains of Dunley Macleugh Brownlow assume monstrous proportions. "The other day we read in the public journals that the guardians of the estate of Bate, a young sixteen years of age, had expended £2,000,000 in improving the estate of the house of Crichton Mount, Stuart, at Cardiff. We may form some idea of the value of a property when, in order to improve it, and only to improve it, two millions sterling are expended.

A NEW THING UNDER THE SKIN.—From the days of Adam, how to prepare our food of no small interest. We ought, perhaps, to say from the time of Eve, or the culinary department could not have been developed without the presence of the "use-keeper." In all those dreary ages, meat and vegetables had to be plunged into pots of boiling water, or covered up with ashes in a hole in the ground, or soiled with less red oven. But steam, that is subtle all things, has at last subdued this department. We were invited last week to a dinner, all of whose dishes, soup, fish, three kinds of meats, five of vegetables, and puddings, were cooked in one dish at one time, and a better dinner we never ate.

Zimmerman's Steam Frying Apparatus is the name of the new invention. Three tin cylinders are put together, the upper two perforated. In the lower is a little water. Above it in a dish is placed meats, fish, and vegetables, at itself according to their need of cooking. In the upper one are the puddings. The steam from the lower basin passes through the upper dishes, and cooks each article without any sensible mixing of flavor. The water slowly becomes a very rare soap. It is a very remarkable invention, and will inevitably find a place in every household.—Zion's Herald.

THE ABBYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—From a letter from Zula, under date of the 31st Oct., of the return, two days previously, of Colonel Morewood and his party from reconnoitering the country to the southward, after a severe march of 150 miles. In the country they traversed—now for the first time visited by Europeans—they found but little water, and that in wells. In parts the passes were through beds of torrents, with huge masses of rock on every side, and a landing pier at Zulla, 350 yards long, was finished, and a great portion of tramway had already been laid down. We may expect, therefore, to hear of it having been completed to the foot of the mountains very shortly. Troops were arriving daily, and Annesley Bay was rapidly assuming an aspect as Bombay Harbor. Of Theodoro there is no intelligence; but the rebels lie between Zulla and the sea, and he is virtually sovereign over but a small portion of the country now.

Intelligence from Massachusetts announces that more than one hundred villages, including Hall (?), have tendered their services to the British expeditionary force. The tribe of the Gallas have joined Gobazey. The latter is reported to have captured Magdala.

ROBINSON CRUSOE ON THE STAGE IN PARIS.

Robinson Crusoe, forced into the shape of a French operatic libretto, with music by M. Offenbach, has been produced in Paris. Robinson Crusoe, the final letter of whose name, it may be observed, is always observed by the French with an acute accent, derives social elevation from the authors of the libretto, who, not content with the poor but honest parents bestowed on him by Defoe, have made him the son of no less a person than Sir William Cruso, and have moreover blessed him with a sweetheart, gilded by her godfather and godmother with the singularly un-English name, Ednaige. Happy as he is with his father, his mother, sweetheart, and the servant Suzanne, who is a general favorite of the family, the perverse Robinson resolves to see foreign parts, and would take with him one Toby as his travelling companion. Suzanne, however, who intends to marry Toby, prevents this latter part of the young master's intention from being carried out, and accordingly Robinson departs alone. The portion of the navigator's life which he passed in utter solitude is skipped over; and when we find him on his island he is attended by his faithful black, Vendredi, whose name all our dictionaries will never persuade us to accept as an equivalent of that for "Man Friday." Under the tuition of his white patron, the young savage progresses in civilization, and is gilded by Robinson on the sweet Ednaige, whose value in the mind of her adorer has increased in direct proportion to her distance. It may be accepted as an axiom that on the stage, whatever number of miles a man may be supposed to travel, he never gets rid of his friends by leaving them at home. Ednaige, Toby, and Suzanne, who have all set out in search of Robinson, are brought ashore by treacherous sailors on the very island where the lonely man resides. At first the prospect of the faithful Ednaige and her companions is not encouraging, inasmuch as they come into collision with a tribe of savages, happy in the possession of a European cook, who, having failed to make his fortune elsewhere, has comfortably settled down among the "Pieds verts" as a dresser of human flesh. Names in this piece have a tendency to be strange throughout, and we remark that this artist is called Jins Cocks, a combination which seems to be derived in some fashion from the "gin cocktail" of our Transatlantic cousins, and to be suited rather to the keeper of a modern American bar than to the chief-de-cuisine of a tribe of savages in the 17th century. To Jins Cocks is awarded the honor of cooking Toby and Suzanne for the repast of the grand chief, who moreover orders Ednaige to be burned to a stake as a sacrifice to the deity of the island. All the intended victims are saved by the valorous Vendredi, who frightens the cannibals away with the report of his pistol. The devoted black hopes to share with his master the affections of the rescued maiden, and when he is informed that this arrangement is impossible, he transfers his attention to Suzanne, to the no small annoyance of Toby. However, all go to Europe, there to settle domestic difficulties as best they may.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.—It appears that the Pacific railroad will not have to wait for the complete overland connection to be made paying investment; but is in its beginning financial success. This is especially true of the Western half, where there is already a large settlement along its route—for it is along the mountains, whence the passenger and freight had to be transported to sea, and wagons, the business has been so large during the past summer as to bear comparison with the best roads in the country, and profitable as almost to challenge belief. The inevitable traffic of such a line, when completed, will obviously require a double track at an early day, and even twenty tracks within the next twenty years. Who is to carry an emigrant, can be transported from New York to San Francisco, or one hundred dollars may be carried to the coast of the El Dorado of the West, and the Great Port on the North Pacific Ocean will become second only to New York.

Mrs. A. A. A's Worlds Hair Restorer and Zylolabial or Worlds Hair Dressing are unequalled and so acknowledged by all who use them or restoring, invigorating and glossing hair, rendering it soft, silky and healthy, disposing it to remain in any desired position; quickly cleansing the scalp, arresting the fall and imparting a healthy and natural grey hair to its original youthful color. They act directly upon the roots of the hair, giving the natural nourishment required, so that the hair is complete without the Zylolabium or hair dressing. It cleanses the hair and imparts to it a most delightful fragrance, and is suited to both young and old. The Restorer Reproduces. The Hair Dressing cultivates and beautifies. If your hair is thin try it, if scurfy try it, if harsh try it, if lustreless try it, if none of these try it, for all who use it will preserve their hair through life. For sale by all Druggists.

ACROSTIC. Gently it penetrates through every pore, It alleviates all ills through every door, It wears its beads with every wind and spray, Cutis Burns, from inflammation soon are freed, Eruptions, at its presence disappear, Sins lose each stain, and the complexion's clear! S. ALVE, such as GRACK's every one should buy, All to its wondrous merits testify, Let those who doubt, a single box but try, It wears its beads with every wind and spray, E ven unbelievers would laud Grace's Salve!

Honor to Whom Honor is Due. It has been said by a few unfortunate mortals who have striven in vain to gain position of honor and distinction, that they were not sufficiently appreciated. While such may sometimes be the case, it is generally to be observed that the deserving worth is cordially accepted and honored whether applied to religion, politics, the arts, or invention. Next to religion, invention or discovery has the highest position, for it welds a mighty influence; through its channels nations have overlapped, as if by magic, the bounds of separation, and, united by electric wires, can converse together at momentary will. Indeed, the diversified efforts of man's genius in these respects are a source of admiration and gratitude to the whole human race. In medicine, science has revealed during the last quarter of a century, many hidden truths, which had before been considered to be impossibilities. The malignity of pestilential disease is now in a great measure bereft of its terror, and even the "insatiate acuter," consumption, is arrested, in his deadly march, and oftentimes overthrown. Undoubtedly the great rallying power in the treatment of this and other pulmonary diseases, is Dr. Wiegand's Balsam of Wild Cherry; and the foregoing allusions are applicable to the memory of its illustrious discoverer. The proof of the efficacy of this great remedy is in its undying reputation. It has stood the test of time, and its fame as a curative of "Throat and Lung Complaints has extended to all climes.—Canada Christian Advocate.

Prepared by SETH W. FOWLE & SON, 18 Tremont Boston, and for sale by Druggists generally. W. R. Watson General Agent for N. E. Island Jan 16

Latest by Telegraph.

London, Jan. 2. Last night, near Cork, a party of Fenians attacked the house of Mr. Charles Matthew, brother of the late Father Matthew. The family of Mr. Matthew, were apprised of their danger time to successfully repel the attack. Quite a large force was quickly gathered, and concealed in the mansion and on the premises, and when the murderers came up they were met with a galling fire, and fled. Several were wounded, but were carried off by their comrades. The motive for the assault, whether for murder of plunder, was unknown. On New Year's Day all the Ambassadors of Foreign Powers now in Paris were received in a body by the Emperor at the Palace of the Tuilleries. The Papal Nuncio, speaking for the diplomatic corps, assured the Emperor of their good wishes for himself and the Imperial family. The Emperor, in reply, said he was happy to again begin New Year as heretofore, surrounded by the representatives of all the Great Powers, and to once more represent by actions which now existed between France and their respective Governments. The Archbishop of Paris, who was present, hoped that God would preserve the Emperor's health as a guarantee of peace, and said the promotion of religious and moral ideas in France was the only safe basis of the Throne. To this the Emperor responded in these words:—"The wish deeply touches me; believe me the interest of the religion of a country, and civilization, are inseparable."—In a public speech yesterday Victor Emmanuel declared that it was the unanimous desire of Italy that Rome should be the capital of Italy, but the subject demanded patience on the part of the people.

London, 3, (eve). The examination of Desmond, Allen & others, alleged to be implicated in the Cork and Dublin jail explosion, has resulted, so far, in producing no satisfactory evidence as to their criminality, and leaves the affair almost as much a mystery as it was before the examination took place. The magistrature thought that the Conference on the East, recently held in St. Petersburg, by the leading diplomatists of Russia, has a far more significance.

St. John, Jan. 9. Lord Stanley, on remembrance of the Sublime Porte, prepared despatch protesting against alleged intrigues of Russian agents in Roumania. Oats 31s. Gold 136 1/2. No lives lost. Gold 137 1/2.

St. John, Jan. 9. The London Journals comment on resolutions recently adopted by House of Commons on question of citizenship, and abatement of British claims, and acceptance of vic expressed by President Johnson's annual message, are urged with singular unanimity. Gold 136 1/2.

St. John, Jan. 11. English troops still at Senafe. Natives friendly. Bismarck's policy that war with France this year was a phantom; urged hearers to dismiss fear. Gold 137 1/2.

St. John, Jan. 11. The London Journals comment on resolutions recently adopted by House of Commons on question of citizenship, and abatement of British claims, and acceptance of vic expressed by President Johnson's annual message, are urged with singular unanimity. Gold 136 1/2.

St. John, Jan. 11. English troops still at Senafe. Natives friendly. Bismarck's policy that war with France this year was a phantom; urged hearers to dismiss fear. Gold 137 1/2.

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16.

No notices can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guarantee of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

ABYSSINIA.

ABYSSINIA, the acknowledged Ethiopia of the ancients, is now arresting the attention of a large portion of the civilized world to an extent quite unanticipated a few years ago. In all probability highly interesting events will transpire in that country during the present year. Probably this ancient kingdom is viewed now with more interest by the civilized nations of the earth than it has been since that eventful and interesting period of the past, when the Queen of Sheba came to prove Solomon with hard questions, at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bore spices and gold in abundance, and precious stones." It has been a question with learned men whether this is really the country from which this celebrated woman came, but tradition favors the opinion that it is, and as such it seems now to be regarded. It is not without cause that reference is made to this country in the New Testament also, as is the case of what is recorded of the Eunuch unto whom Philip the Evangelist was sent, who was a person of great authority under Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians." It is interesting to note, too, that in both instances this nation was governed by a woman; and now, curiously enough, when again brought prominently to the notice of the world, it is at a period in history when the mightiest and most powerful nation of the earth is governed by a queen, and Abyssinia by a king, who at least claims to be a lineal descendant of that same remarkable woman who came from "the uttermost part of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon."

The Government of England has just sent an expedition to this country, which is as remote and almost as unknown to the great body of the people of Great Britain as the North Pole, and it may be thought of it only as a country situate in the distant regions of the Mountains of the Moon, where brave and intrepid travellers have discovered the sources of the Nile. A reference to the map shows this kingdom to be situated in East Africa, having Nubia on the North; the Red Sea on the N.E. and East; Berbera and Machidas on the South, with the eastern range of the Mountains of the Moon, and to a great extent a large and unexplored country on the West. It lies between the seventh and sixteenth degree of north latitude. Hence the necessity of selecting troops for the present expedition who have been accustomed to warm latitudes. The population is probably about 3,000,000. In the time of Solomon it is quite likely that Abyssinia bore rule over a wider extent of country and a greater number of people than does King Theodore in the present time. Since the period when this country is first mentioned in history up to the present time, it would be interesting and instructive to notice the many mighty nations which the stream of time has swept into oblivion, and the great and

mighty men of renown, whose "vaulting ambition did over-leap itself," and in doing so particularly to notice the unerring arm and hand of Him who "Ever busy, moves the silent spheres." Yes, with what mingled feelings of reverence and awe does the student of the past ponder over the desolations of Empires, once so renowned for all that has been considered great among men, but which have for ages been consigned to perpetual silence. How instructive, too, is it to ponder over the circumstances which have buried their cities, and covered their towers by the drifting sands of a once rich and verdant but now waste and desolate country. In some instances, the silence of once populous kingdoms has become so profound that even a remnant has not been left to chant their dying requiem. The wild beasts of prey, the vulture, the cormorant, and the other doleful creatures, alone remaining to howl or screech their funeral dirge.

But Abyssinia is still powerful enough to raise the great British lion from his lair, and force him to vie for ancient hills; and we have no doubt but that his roar is yet to be heard for good in that ancient land.

Opinions of the Press on the New Dominion. ANY one who carefully reads the various opinions of the Press on the New Dominion of Canada cannot fail to notice the opposite views put forth; the oddity of some of the witticisms indulged in, and the earnestness which characterizes both parties in the expression of their sentiments. For the information of our readers we shall occasionally note and reproduce some of these for their consideration.

The London Times, in commenting on the Speech with which Lord Monck opened the first Parliament, recently held at Ottawa, after referring to the various and important matters referred to by him, adds: "All is yet like Eden, where the happy pair had nothing to think of but the first wants of nature. Lord Monck trusts that the new Nationality will extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific; but political faith over-reaches itself in a conception so vast and so loose." But the Times is of opinion that the New Dominion will grow, flourish, and yet become prosperous, if prudence and wisdom guide her council.

The first matter of legislation which has awakened the newly married Provinces to a sense of new wants, has been evoked by that ever trying question,—"Ways and Means,"—which is unpopular in some particulars, to all classes in the Maritime Provinces; nor is it on the whole received with general favor in Quebec or Ontario. Among the objectionable features of the new Tariff the Morning Chronicle says: "Why it is worse than folly to charge a duty of fifteen per cent on printing paper, and postage on newspapers. Reels are said to become used to skinning, but Bluenose finds the operation of having his pelt taken off anything but agreeable," and expresses his fears that when the Tariff comes up for amendment in March, that it will then be found that only the thin end of the wedge was inserted in December.

The Nova Scotian continues ably to plead for Repeal, and concludes an article in its issue of 9th December, thus:—"Repeal, then, at all hazards. If all Nova Scotia must be beaten, let her be beaten in a good cause, and not after a cowardly attempt to shrink living issues."

The Union Press, on the other hand, says that Mr. Howe and the other Antis accepted the situation when in Ottawa, and argue that it will become agreeable enough to them all after a time; and while admitting the difficulties incident to, and inseparable from, such a radical change, look more hopefully into the future; and viewing matters from the same stand-point from which Lord McAulay does the increase of taxes in Great Britain, anticipate corresponding results,—and among the measures destined to expand and develop the resources of the Dominion, the Intercolonial Railway stands forward in the first rank.

From all we can gather from our numerous exchanges on this subject we are of the opinion that the Northern or Major Robinson Route will be adopted. This route, we are convinced, from our own knowledge of New Brunswick will commend itself the more it is considered; and in the Hon. P. Mitchell it has an able and persevering advocate; and we are pleased to notice how consistently the Montreal Gazette pleads for the Northern line, from which the following it an extract:—

"The Act of Confederation provides that the work must be commenced by the first of January. But a few weeks have to elapse, and a number of urgent reasons exist for immediate action. Justice to the Maritime Provinces demands it; good policy towards Nova Scotia prompts it. The latter Province, now disassociated with the Union Act, needs to be convinced that its interests will not be neglected. The recent changes in the tariff are not popular in either Province, and the immediate commencement of the road will give employment to large numbers of persons who would otherwise seek a field of labor in the United States. It will give an impetus to business generally, and keep the population in the country. It will do much to induce Newfoundland and Prince Edward Islands to seek admission into the Union. These Provinces are looking with anxiety to the working of Confederation, and no means should be overlooked which will have a tendency to conciliate them. The immediate commencement of the Road will show a desire to carry out the provisions of the Act of Union, will remove any cause for distrust, and will make the Union popular with all classes."

The subject for last Monday evening's discussion—"Would a Railroad in P. E. Island be practicable?"—was opened by T. Kirwan, Esq. The debate was vigorously sustained and continued to a late hour. The question was decided in the affirmative. The subject for next Monday evening will be—"Would Vote by Ballot at Elections be a desirable reform in P. E. Island?" Alex. McRae, Sec'y. Summerside, Jan 5, 1868.

Summerside Debating Society.

The subject for last Monday evening's discussion—"Would a Railroad in P. E. Island be practicable?"—was opened by T. Kirwan, Esq. The debate was vigorously sustained and continued to a late hour. The question was decided in the affirmative. The subject for next Monday evening will be—"Would Vote by Ballot at Elections be a desirable reform in P. E. Island?" Alex. McRae, Sec'y. Summerside, Jan 5, 1868.

THE weather for the greater part of past week has been of such a character as to give little or no support to the doctrine advanced by some that each succeeding winter is milder than its predecessor in this Island.

D. CRAWFORD will preach (D. V.) in the Christian Meeting House, Summerside, on Lord's Day next at 11 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening.

In consequence of the telegraph not being in working order, there has been no word of the arrival of the English mail at Halifax. A Colonial mail was received on Tuesday, from which we give the latest telegrams. The Supreme Court was opened in Charlottetown on Tuesday last. We understand that there are a large number of criminal and civil cases. The roads are very good at present, notwithstanding the heavy drift we have had. The Congregation of Lot 14, &c., may expect Mr. Nelson, Probationer, one week sooner than the time specified in the published minutes of Presbytery; that is, he will preach there (D. V.) on Sabbath, the 26th inst., as well as the four following Sabbaths. Alex. Falconer, Pby Clerk. ANOTHER LAND PURCHASE.—We understand that the Government has completed the purchase of the Rev. George Townshend's property upon Lot 43, which consists of about 3,000 acres—the price paid is, we believe, \$6, an acre. We sincerely hope, for the sake of the Government, and of the people upon the Estate, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council will not fix prices for the sale of the land such as will render the purchase just made more than self-sustaining. It would be well to avoid, if possible, a difficulty such as is now experienced in reference to the Solkirk Estate.—Isl. In the city market, the supply of turkeys, geese and fowls is falling off, and the price of beef is, in consequence, advancing. Island flour is plentiful, but oatmeal is scarce and in great demand. The quantity of hay brought in equals the consumption. A good article brings from 3s. 6d., to 4s., per cwt. Wood is limited and dear. Pork was a shade higher this week. In the grain trade there is not much business doing yet. Oats were selling for 2s. 8d., yesterday.—Patriot. The Nomination Day for a Candidate to fill the vacancy occasioned in the Second District of King's County by Mr. E. Reilly's acceptance of the Queen's Printing, will take place on the 28th January.—Herald.

JOSEPH BERTRAM, Esq.: DEAR SIR;—I herewith send you a copy of a letter which I lately received from a native of Eromanga. If you think it would be interesting to any of the readers of the Journal, you may publish it. I am, D^r Sir, Yours &c., R. GORDON. DEL'S DAY, EROMANGA, June 16, 1867.

My word to you Miss Robelt, with my love to you Miss Robelt. Long ago me not see the word of Jehovah in this land. When me went to the land of light me see the word of God. Afterwards we came back to this land. We speak to the people here the truth, but they would not believe the word of Jehovah. Teachers came to preach the word to them, but they did not wish the word of Jehovah, and took them from the earth. They thought then there was an end to the word of God. Another came, thy brother to teach us the sure word of Jehovah, and two others also now with him. Now a few men, women, and children tunk upon the word of God. Love to you Miss Robelt, My word to you is ended, JOE. *He has been in Sumoa.

On Thursday evening last, the 9th inst., the members of Britannia Lodge, No. 1, B. O. of G. T., met in their Lodge Room in Scott's Hall, in Charlottetown, and after initiating some twenty new members, male and female, closed the Lodge and adjourned with a select number of guests to the "Rocklin House," where a grand Supper was prepared for them by Mr. Simon D. Fraser. Supper being over they returned to the Lodge Room, and were entertained by Speeches from the Rev. Mr. Falconer, D. Laird, Esq., Messrs. G. P. Tanton, J. W. Falconer, and others; and music by Mrs. W. Stevenson and Mr. Montgomery. Judging by the happy looking countenances all present enjoyed themselves, "without the aid of wine." Such social gatherings as these help to keep alive an interest in the Temperance cause, which is steadily gaining ground in Charlottetown.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for Dec, is on our table. Its contents are "Linda Tressel, part III." "The Church,—Her Tastes and Prospects;" "Nina;" "Sir Charles Wood's Administration of Indian Affairs;" "The Conversion of England;" "Cornelius O'Dowd;" "Garibaldi's Pio Nono;" "Cheap Nobility Warranted;" "Growing Old;" "Grimm's Law;" "Brownings, Part XII;" "The Government and the Press;" "Index;" "Nina" is the title of a poetical effusion of more than average merit. An Index for the past Year contains all the subjects of interest which have engrossed the attention of the world during that period. This No. which concludes the year fully sustains the high character of their old Magazine, and it should be read by all who have a taste for instructing and reliable literature.

THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW for December has also been received. The contents of this No. are—1. "Relations of Heathenism and Judaism with Christianity." 2. "Modern Provençal Poems." 3. "Ralph Waldo Emerson." 4. "The Natural History of Morals." 5. "The Military Systems of Europe." 6. Population of Italy in 1867." 8. "The Social Sores of Britain."

We understand that an accident has happened to the Submarine Cable, severing all connection with the outer world for the present, other than by the slow and uncertain ice boats. This is particularly unfortunate at the present season, as we fear it will be impossible to repair it until the Spring. The loss of this connecting link with the main land, even for a time, will be greatly felt by the public at large, and will be a severe inconvenience to the business men of the Island.

We learn by our exchanges that the Rev. Dr. McCurdy, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Chatham, died at his residence during the past week. At the age of 23 Dr. McCurdy took charge of St. John's Church in Miramichi, and ministered there for a period of 35 years, until his death.

A WANT SUPPLIED.—By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that Mr. J. A. Boyer intends opening a Singing Class in this place. Mr. B. is a good Musician, and we would advise all those who have a desire to become adepts in the study of the "Divine Art," to meet him in the Grammar School on next Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, and hear for themselves.

THE weather for the greater part of past week has been of such a character as to give little or no support to the doctrine advanced by some that each succeeding winter is milder than its predecessor in this Island.

D. CRAWFORD will preach (D. V.) in the Christian Meeting House, Summerside, on Lord's Day next at 11 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening.

In consequence of the telegraph not being in working order, there has been no word of the arrival of the English mail at Halifax. A Colonial mail was received on Tuesday, from which we give the latest telegrams. The Supreme Court was opened in Charlottetown on Tuesday last. We understand that there are a large number of criminal and civil cases. The roads are very good at present, notwithstanding the heavy drift we have had.

The Congregation of Lot 14, &c., may expect Mr. Nelson, Probationer, one week sooner than the time specified in the published minutes of Presbytery; that is, he will preach there (D. V.) on Sabbath, the 26th inst., as well as the four following Sabbaths. Alex. Falconer, Pby Clerk. ANOTHER LAND PURCHASE.—We understand that the Government has completed the purchase of the Rev. George Townshend's property upon Lot 43, which consists of about 3,000 acres—the price paid is, we believe, \$6, an acre. We sincerely hope, for the sake of the Government, and of the people upon the Estate, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council will not fix prices for the sale of the land such as will render the purchase just made more than self-sustaining. It would be well to avoid, if possible, a difficulty such as is now experienced in reference to the Solkirk Estate.—Isl.

In the city market, the supply of turkeys, geese and fowls is falling off, and the price of beef is, in consequence, advancing. Island flour is plentiful, but oatmeal is scarce and in great demand. The quantity of hay brought in equals the consumption. A good article brings from 3s. 6d., to 4s., per cwt. Wood is limited and dear. Pork was a shade higher this week. In the grain trade there is not much business doing yet. Oats were selling for 2s. 8d., yesterday.—Patriot. The Nomination Day for a Candidate to fill the vacancy occasioned in the Second District of King's County by Mr. E. Reilly's acceptance of the Queen's Printing, will take place on the 28th January.—Herald.