CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

CIRCULAR OF THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

A species of Blue-book has just been published by the Russian Government, containing a series of diplomatic documents upon the Eastern Question. The earlier of these go back as far as the beginning of 1866, and among the latest is a circular addressed to the Russian embassies and legations abroad, by Prince Gortschakoff, as recently as the 18th October last. This circular is as follows:—

"St. Petersburg, Oct. 18.—You are acquainted with the course followed by the Imperial cabinet in the affairs of the East. You are aware that, so far back as 1863, it called the attention of the Porte and of the great powers to a situation which, in its opinion, became more serious daily. In fact, upon the one hand the Christian populations, seeing the collective action of the great powers, which had become their sole guarantee, paralyzed by the want of agreement, gradually lost their hope of an amelioratian in their fate and their confidence in the support of Europe. Upon the other hand, their desires were raised to the highest degree by doctrines they saw triumph elsewhere, and by accomplished facts in neighboring countries. This twofold current, which acted upon these populations, could not fail to render their position more painful and their resignation more difficult. Partial and successive outbreaks in Syria, the Lebanon, Servia, Bosnia, the Herzegovina, Montenegro, and ultimately in Candia, had occurred to confirm our previsions, and to attest the imminence of a crisis which became aggravated by growing more general. Nevertheless, our warnings have remained fruitless. When recently the rising in Candia revealed the progress of this movement, the Imperial cabinets repeated its efforts with the Turkish Government and the Great Powers. It addressed to the cabinets the invitation to join it in exhorting the Porte not to allow that insurrection to increase, which might be re-echoed throughout the whole of the Christian East, and become the first spark of a general conflagration. In anticipating an explosion by wise concessions to the complaints of the Cretans, by granting equitable satisfaction to the demands of the Servians, reforms which would assure bearable conditions of existence to the Sultan's Christian subjects, it was permitted to hope for an appeasement of men's minds which would leave to time, to the progress of idea, and to the development of interests the peaceful solution of the social and political difficulties of the Eastern Question. Notwithstanding our endeavors, the agreement of the cabinets has remained incomplete, and their language has not produced the desired impression upon the Turkish Government. It has pursued a course of repression with a rigor which has only rendered the struggle more ardent, passions more angry, agreement more difficult, and its partial attempts at conciliation, taking place at the eleventh hour, have lost their opportuneness and efficacy. Under these circumstances, the Imperial Cabinet has not departed from the course it originally adopted. This course was marked out for it by the views governing the policy of our august master, of the traditions of Russia, her interests as a neighboring power, as an European great power, bound up with the repose of the East and the maintenance of the general peace. In her opinion, if there were still any chance averting imminent complications by counsel addressed to the Turkish Government, that task belonged exclusively to Europe, interposing its collective authority between the parties at variance, and speaking to them with firmness in unanimous terms. It this chance were lost, and the crisis become inevitable, the duty and interest of all were then bound to circumscribe it by abstaining from all intervention and preventing it from compromising the general peace. It was this the Imperial cabinet proposed under date of Nov. 16, 1866. Some among the Great Powers have adhered to its views, the first portion of this programme was fulfilled. The result is known. The pressing and reiterated steps of the Imperial cabinet, and of the government associated with it, failed in the face of the resolutions of the Porte. The private attempts at persuasion exerted by our august master during the mission of Fuad Pasha to Livadia met with no greater success. Henceforth the Imperial cabinet considered that nothing remained save to acquit itself of the second portion of the task reserved to the Powers. This was the object of the declaration it has proposed, and which, with those slight verbal alterations suggested by the cabinet of the Tuileries, and agreed to by the cabinets of Berlin and Florence, has just been handed to the Porte by their representatives at Constantinople. While forwarding the text as annexed (already published) I think it necessary to point out the sense we attach to it.

"Our august master desires to release him from responsibility for a situation of which his Imperial Majesty forsees the perils, and which he has done everything to avert. He desires to prevent political rivalries from adding to the already serious complications of the Eastern question that which the present situation of Europe affords. It is with this intention his Imperial Majesty has laid down the principle of non-intervention, which he is ready to observe so long as it shall be respected by the other Powers. This principle, however, can in no case imply indifference. We are unable, any more than the cabinets which have associated themselves with us, to renounce the generous mission their conscience impose upon the Great Powers upon occasions where humanity renders it a law. For the same reason, while abstaining from all isolated action which would aggravate the complications existing in the East, the Imperial cabinet will always be ready to concur in an European agreement for the object of settling them. It is firmly convinced that such an agreement could only have for its aim a work of justice, worthy of Christian powers, conformable to the general interests of peace and civilization, before which all political rivalry and all exclusive views ought to disappear.

"You will be good enough to express yourself in this sense toward the Government to which you are accredited. Receive, &c.

"Gortschakoff."

Shipwreck and Loss of Life.—The Schr. *Susan*, Capt McKeane, from Little Glace Bay, C. B, for Halifax with a cargo of coal, was totally wrecked at Louisburg, on the night of Saturday, the 28th ult, and, sad to relate, all hands perished. The names of the crew are as follows: Albert McKeane, of St. Mary's, captain; John Driscoll, Halifax, mate; Lindsay Smith, of Chester, Henry Eisenhaur, of Ship Harbor, and Samuel Malone, of Halifax, seamen; Thomas Leahy, Newfoundland, cook The *Susan* was 74 tons register, was built at Sheet Harbor in 1845, and owned by Capt. Lang of this city. On the same night the schooner *Julia*, Capt. Edward Fenton, from Sydney for Halifax with a cargo of coal, was wrecked at Liscomb, Guysborough Co, crew saved. The *Julia* was 99 tons register, built at Clementsport in 1854, and owned by Messrs. R. Noble & Sons and Capt. Fenton. The cargo was fully insured, but there was only $1,000 on the vessel.

The only Alternative.—Lord Stanley insists upon it that the late so-called Confederate States were entitled to the belligerent right of a separate nationality and there he stands. Mr. Seward insists that said states were nothing more than a league of insurgents, and that they had no shadow of right to any belligerent rights under the law of nations, and there he stands. What, then, is to be done? Clearly, the only alternative left our government is to cut the Gordion knot in the Jacksonian ultimatum of indemnity or reprisals—the cash or the Canadas.—*N. Y. Herald*

In a lecture on newspapers, delivered in Philadelphia, by Rev. Dewitt Talmadge, he said:

"I now declare that I consider the newspaper to be the grand agency by which the gospel is preached, ignorance cast out, oppression dethroned, crime extirpated, the world raised, heaven rejoiced, and God glorified In the clanking of the printing press, as sheets fly out, I hear the Lord Almighty proclaiming to all the dead nations of the earth, 'Lazarus come forth,' and to the retreating surges of darkness 'let there be light!'"

Mr. Spurgeon recently told his hearers that if some of them stayed at home on week days to mind their business, instead of running about to preach in little chappels, fewer would become bankrupt. He also advised his female devotees to stay at home "darning" their husband's stockings occasionally, instead of flocking to indulge in a little "religious excitement."

See to it, all ye nice young men,
When Corns your feet corrode,
That Grace's Salve you surely get
And take to your abode.
If well applied, there is no doubt
But what it will the nuisance rout.

Johnston's Anodyne Liniment is the most deservedly popular medicine of the present day. Its usefullness is not limited to any people or sect.—but it is used alike by the rich and the poor, the educated and the ignorant.

The only thing saved from the general destruction at the Haymarket Theatre in London was the dress of the ghost in "Don Giovanni."

It is stated that 340,000 copies of "No Thoroughfare" by Chas. Dickens and Wilkie Collins, have been sold in England.

LATE EUROPEAN NEWS.

FRANCE AND NORTH GERMANY.

In the audience given by the Emperor Napoleon on Tuesday to Count Von der Goltz, the newly-accredited representative of the North German Confederation, the Emperor spoke as follows:—"In notifying to me the new functions with which you are invested as the representative of the Confederation of the North, you renew the assurances of the friendship of the King of Prussia. I thank you for it. On my part, I embrace the opportunity with pleasure to confirm the good understanding existing between the two Governments. I beg of you to be the interpreter of my sentiments to the King. Having been able to appreciate the high qualities which distinguish you, I do not doubt that you will continue as heretofore to exert all your efforts to maintain between the two countries that friendly understanding which is the pledge of their prosperity and a guarantee of the peace of Europe." Count Von der Goltz was afterwards received by the Empress.

Paris, Thursday Night.—Upon receiving the congratulations of the Papal Nuncio as the skokesman of the Diplomatic Body at the Tuileries yesterday, the Emperor replied:—"I am happy to begin the new year as usual, surrounded by the representatives of all the Powers. I am able to affirm once more my constant desire to maintain the best relations with them. I thank you for the wishes you have been good enough to express in their name for France, my family, and myself." In answer to the Archbishop of Paris, the Emperor replied:—"The prayers you address to heaven for the Empress, the Prince Imperial, and myself affect me deeply. They spring from a noble heart. I know that you do not separate religious interests from those of the country and of civilization."

FENIAN ALARMS AT WOOWLICH.

At Woolwich the same disquieting state of things prevails as last reported. From information received by the Government, there is not the shadow of a doubt but that for the prompt action taken on Friday se'nnight, a night attack would have been made upon the Arsenal, Round house and East Store, containing rifles and Armstrong guns. The intelligence received since shows an increased determination on the part of the Fenians to make raids on the Government stores in all parts of the country where arms and ammunition are kept, and it has been deemed necessary to increase rather than relax the precautionary measures. The Royal Arsenal continues to be guarded day and night with troops, with signals to be in operation for communicating with the different barracks, where additional reserve troops are kept armed and accoutred through out the night. The progress of the special constable movement in Woolwich is extraordinary and unprecedented. The entire civilian adult male population have manifested a unanimous determination to enrol themselves for the maintenance of law and order, and it is becoming an extremely difficult matter to find a man in Woolwich, Plumstead, or Charlton who is not either a special constable or a soldier. On Wednesday the Royal Arsenal presented an extraordinary and animated scene on the occasion of the swearing in of the whole of the *employees*, 9,000 in number, as special constables. In addition to the above 3,000 of the Woolwich Dockyard workmen have been sworn in.

THE CLERKENWELL EXPLOSION.

At the Mansion House, on Wednesday, the Lord Mayor said that the Clerkenwell Relief Committee had already dispensed £1,500 towards alleviating the immediate sufferings of the people injured by the explosion, and £3,000 towards repairing the loss and damage of furniture and tools owned by persons who could but very ill afford to suffer such loss and inconveninence. The committee had a balance of £1,500 in hand, after providing for those causualties, but fresh claims were being made upon them daily.

THE TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER AT FAVERSHAM.

The coroner of East Kent has held an inquest at Messrs. Hall's office, Faversham, touching the death of eleven unfortunate men who were literally blown to pieces by the explosion which occurred at the powder mills on Saturday. The relatives of the deceased men have been anxious to see and identify, if possible, the remains of their friends; but the authorities, knowing that it would be utterly useless for them to attempt to do so, in kindness to them refused to allow any to enter the shed in which the remains were deposited, for nothing could ever obliterate from their minds the shocking spectacle which there presented itself. In a heap in the centre of the shed lay a mangled heap of human flesh, so charred and shattered as to render it almost impossible to bring the mind to believe that it represented eleven men, who had only two days previously been in the enjoyment of the full vigour of manhood and the sole support of as many wives and families. Of these only one retained the resemblance of humanity, and that body was so blackened and disfigured that even the men who had worked in the factory for years, and knew all the unfortunate fellows well, could not form the least idea to whom the body belonged.—The Coroner said that the names of the eleven men who had come to so untimely an end were John Young, aged 42; Edward Young, 45; George Taylor, 67; William Sole, 41; Christopher John Cole, 30; Thomas Bladock, 27; William Austin, 35; William Eley, 37; John Payne, 39; Thomas Back, 29; and Thomas Amos, 40. The cause of the explosion is not known, nor is it likely any information on the subject can be obtained, but there is no doubt of it being an accident.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

Aden, Dec. 20.—The head of the second brigade is expected to arrive here to morrow The Scinde horse and the Bengal brigade will arrive between the end of December and the middle of January. Transports with the postal and telegraph staff, the commissariat, the ordnance, and other stores are passing daily *en route* for Abyssinia. H M. S. Star is engaged in lighting and buoying the Abyssinian coast. The survey is approaching completion. The report that the Egyptian authorities there had received a letter announcing that the captives chains had been taken off, and that there was every chance of their speedy release, are considered probable here. Intelligence from Senafe to the 11th inst., states that the health and spirits of the troops were excellent. The mortality among the horses continued. The 3rd Cavalry regiment had lost upwards of 150 horses. The weather was very cold. The advance brigade was to remain at Senafe until the arrival of Sir Robert Napier. It is reported that the chief of Shoa had surrendered Magdala.

Bombay, Dec. 14, *via* Trieste.—The second brigade of the field force leave Bombay immediately, under Brigadier Welly. The third brigade consisting of H M 45th and the 2nd Native Infantry Regiments, follow in the course of the week. A transport is now under orders to sail for Vingorla to embark 518 native infantry, constituting part of the 5th brigade. The preparations for the departure of the 3rd and 4th brigades from Bengal are being rapidly pushed forward. Sir Robert Napier and his staff sail in a few days. Twenty elephants were embarked on the 7th inst., for Abyssinia, and an equal number will soon follow. The latest news received here concerning the expedition is of a very cheering character. The difficulties in the way of an advance were gradually disappearing, and it had been decided that the expeditionary force should enter Abyssinia by the Sooros Pass to Senafe. Notwithstanding the number of mules sent from Arabia, Persia, the Mediterranean and elsewhere, there not available more than one-third of the number actually required It is believed that efforts will consequently be made to find them in Abyssinia itself. Notwithstanding the efficiency of the Sappers, it is doubtful whether any wheeled carriages can be taken up the torrent beds, which are the only highways into Abyssinia.

Calcutta, Dec. 7, *via* Trieste.—The 23rd Punjaub Pioneers have embarked for Abyssinia. Prior to their embarkation they were inspected by the Viceroy, who addressed them The rest of the Bengal brigade is awaiting orders to embark. The transports are all nearly prepared to sail. The chief part will be towed by steamers.

The traces of the late cyclone are fast disappearing, and the distress resulting therefrom is not so great as was anticipated Above £15,000 has been raised to relieve the sufferers, including the Government grant. The ex-King of Oude is now endeavouring to investigate and clear off his debts. The settlement of the Siam and Casserim frontier has been completed. The treaty concluded by Colonel Fytche, with the Government of Burmah, was ratified by the Viceroy on the 26th ult. The King of Burmae has assented to the despatch of an exploring party to Western China *via* Bharno, and has issued an edict to give it every assistance. Captain Sladen is appointed leader of the party.

FURTHER FROM THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION—AN EMBARRASSING ALLY.

(*Army Correspondence of London Times of Dec. 24.*)

The Egyptians have not only mustered 3,000 fresh troops at Massowah, but have actually taken upon themselves to send a message to Theodore, warning him that if he does not give up the captives, they intend to join in our expedition, and otherwise give us all the aid at their command. They are further going to send to this neighborhood ten frigates, which they most politely offer to place at our disposal, with any number of troops and guns. All this courtsey from a trusty and well-beloved ally may be very gratifying, but just now it is very embarrassing. If a notion that the Egyptians are going to help us, gains general credence in Abyssinia—and unluckily the muster of troops at Massowah and the arrival of a naval squadron will give it coloring—we may find ourselves engaged in a national and religious war, as desperate as semi-savage patriots and fanatics can make it, in lieu of the comparatively easy task to hunt down one outlawed and hated leader overmatched by powerful foes. The very name of Egyptian stinks in Abyssinian nostrils; and Theodore could wish nothing worse for our own, or better for his, than the assistance our kind allies are offering us.

* * * * *

Massowah is full of Abyssinians, some of them messengers recently arrived from Magdala, Debra Tabor, and other places in the heart of the country, and their report is that the people have a notion—the notion which has given us so much trouble and helped to work so much mischief in India—that the English are coming with an army to make them proselytes by the sword, to do by force what the missionaries have failed to do by persuasion. The nation has not, even after the lapse of two centuries, forgotten the cruel persecution of the Portugese bigots, and this notion, now, perhaps, but a vague suspicion, would be at once converted into certainty of conviction if the fanatical followers of Mahomed came into the country with us as our fellow soldiers and allies.

Alexandria, Egypt, Jan. 9—Very late advices from Col. Mereweather of the British Abyssinian expedition have been received here, conveying the rather important intelligence that bands of natives, supposed to be hostile, were prowling around the English Camp at Senafe. In consequence of this manifestation orders were issued for all the European troops temporarily stationed at Annesley Bay and the different points along the line of march from there to the interior to advance to the front and join the headquarter division at Senape.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 27, 1868.

Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?
1 Kings, ch. xxi., v. 19th.

THE APPROACHING ELECTION FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

Mr. Edward Reilly having vacated his seat in the Assembly by his acceptance of the office of Queen's Printer, is now again a candidate for the suffrages of "the free and independent electors" of the Second District of King's County, in the hope that they will again be induced to elect him as their legislative representative in the lower branch of the Legislature; and, until quite recently, as there had been no mention of any intended opposition to "*his claims*"—whatever these may be—to that honor, his hope of re-election, as appears by his own observations respecting it, had grown into certainty. It now seems, however, that, on that head, he had been reckoning without his host, for many of those who, formerly under the influence of false impressions, gave him their support, having, in consequence of a late mournful event, been led seriously to investigate the grounds on which alone he can base his pretensions to the honor he covets, have discovered that these, instead of being such as ought to entitle him to it, are in fact precisely such as should call forth from the whole constituency nothing but feelings of the most indignant contempt for his presumption.

In consequence of this opening of eyes and revulsion of feeling, a goodly number of the electors—men of substance, of influential positions, and of unquestionable integrity—having cast about them to see whether there could not be found among themselves any individual worthy of the honor of representing the District in the Assembly, have pitched upon Mr. James R. McEwen—one of many resident within its bounds possessed of these grand essentials of a parliamentary representative of the people—integrity of principle, love of country and honest independence—and having expressed to him their belief that he is a fit and proper person to fill the vacancy in the legislative representation of the District, and declared their determination to endeavour by every fair and honorable means to effect his return, he has agreed to allow himself to be put in nomination, and has issued his Address accordingly.

This Address, like the man himself, is unpretending, free from every thing like bombast or cajolery. It is the language of a plain, honest, and earnest man—addressed to those who know him well, and upon whom it would be as vain for him to attempt imposition as it would be repugnant to the truthfulness of his own nature to practise it if in his power.

What it may be his pleasure to say to the assembled electors on the Nomination Day, we cannot pretend to divine; but should his speech be conceived in something like the following style, we are of opinion that it would be at once truthful and effective:—

Gentlemen,—You are all well acquainted with me. You have a thorough knowledge not only of my present position but of all my antecedents. I am, in every respect, one of yourselves. I was born, brought up, and finally established among you. All my worldly interests are identified in your own. If, therefore, through your suffrages, I become a public man, in regard for my own interest you will have the best security of my regard for yours. I most certainly am neither an accomplished scholar nor a gifted orator. I am nothing but a plain, blunt man who loves his friends and country. Still, however, I possess sufficient ability, coupled with a sufficient knowledge of the general state and wants of the country, and especially of those of this District, to enable me—as it shall, at all times, be my study and aim to do, if elected one of your parliamentary representatives—to deal with every question of general or particular policy in such a way as may be justified at once by the evidence of facts, the verdict of common sense, and the approval of honesty. My simple ambition has been honestly to increase my store, and to bring up my children in the paths of sobriety, rectitude, and usefulness. I have always lived quietly among you, injuring no one either by word or deed. I have never sought to elevate myself by the depression of another. I have never, through the influences of an envious, malignant, and fiendish spirit, misrepresented, traduced and vilified the man whose excellence it was not in my power to reach. I have not, without any provocation, which could be justly so called, and yet with the most bitter and persistent malignity, harassed, thwarted, and literally hurried into his grave a man whose only offence against me was his being, in every respect, immeasurably my superior. And, after having thus got rid of him, I have not, in the moment of my ill-concealed triumph, through the naked affectation of eulogium, coupled with foul and insidious detraction, dared to insult his memory and outrage the feelings of his bereaved and mourning friends. And neither, as if to attain the very summit of baseness and wickedness, have I, after having killed, taken possession. I have not been accessory to the death of a husband and a father; and then seized upon what ought to have been the dower of the widow and the patrimony of the son. Now, gentlemen, in declaring that I am not a man who has been guilty of such moral obliquities as these, I beg you will observe that I do not positively say either that there is such a man, or that, even admitting that there is, he is one with whom you either have or are likely to have any immediate connexion. But this I will say, that, should any such man—you having full knowledge of his being so—peresume in his eager desire for the emoluments of office and the outward honor of position to solicit your suffrages for his promotion, I feel fully assured that your inherent love of honor, justice, and integrity, your natural abhorrence of falsehood, meanness, and malignity, would induce you to give him such evidence of your detestation of his principles and practices as, though it might fail to eradicate his natural depravity, would yet render him, for the future, less confident of the efficiency of wicked machinations, however cunningly devised and speciously practised; and force upon his mind the conviction, however slow is unquestionably at all times, the best policy, and unwilling he might be to admit it, that honesty and the surest means of obtaining permanent success and elevation in life. Now, gentlemen, I have done. You have a full knowledge of my worth, if in your estimation I have any, as well as of my defects; and if, trusting to the one, in despite of the drawback of the other, you choose to do me the honor to elect me, I can confidently promise you that I shall ever be found faithful to your interests and those of the people at large.

With the peculiar resources of Mr. Rielly's mind and the extent of his inventive powers—well as we know "by what bye-paths and indirect crook'd means" he attained his present position—we have so little acquaintance that it would be wholly in vain for us to attempt, as we have done with respect to Mr. McEwen, any anticipatory "deliverance of himself" before the electors. We shall, therefore, leave the matter entirely in his own hands; merely observing that his position on that occasion will bear a striking resemblance to that of Richard, Duke of York, when seeking to cajole the populace of London into a *seeming* thrusting the ill-deserved powers and honor of royalty upon him; and whom, we think, we might with but little impropriety call *his* prototype. Like Richard, he is subtle, sly, and bold and venturous; and it would by no means greatly surprise us if, through the persistent exercise of these qualities, he were to secure his re-election as he first accomplished it. But should he do so, it would be well for him to remember that though craft and malignity may prosper and work their will for a season, as they did with Richard of England and Haman the Agagite, yet, as with these preeminently wicked, and, for a time preeminently successful hypocrites, a period almost invariably arrives when signal punishment, although it may have been long delayed, falls upon them with irresistible power and the most crushing weight.

We have now only two additional remarks to make. These, however, respect two points, concerning which, we think, it behoves us to speak out freely and distinctly.

The first respects Mr. J. H. Fletcher who, it was at one time thought would have been a candidate for the vacancy in question, and who—and we say it without the most distant thought of in any way detracting from the worth of Mr. McEwen—as having been, in a considerable degree inured to the brunt of political storms, as having thereby acquired as much "cunning in fence" as can be possessed by Mr. Rielly and as being a man

"Who, steady to his country's claim,
Has boldly stood in Freedom's name,
E'en to the teeth of tyrant Pride,
And all its tyrant power defied—

would have been better armed than Mr. McEwen to run the election against Mr. Rielly. Mr. Fletcher, however, for good and sufficient reasons, has declined to be put in nomination; but his valuable experience, activity, and resources, will, we doubt not, be honorably employed in support of Mr. McEwen.

The other respects what we are given to understand is being had recourse to, as an electioneering dodge, by Mr. Reilly. According to our information, he is endeavoring to persuade the electors that the office of Queen's Printer was *forced* upon him by the Government—*said we not well that he seems to have taken Richard the Third of England for his prototype*?—and moreover, that, either as bound to it by the Government, or of his own free will and generous accord, he allows Mrs. Whelan one half the profits of the office. We have only time and space to say, of this report—that, if Mr. Reilly is acting in the manner stated by it, he seems bent upon pursuing to the end the same crooked and nefarious practices which have given him his most questionable postion; and that, his assertions, as respects both particulars, are altogether false, and can most easily be proved to be so.

FENIANISM AND THE IRISH DIFFICULTY.

In our Island community there may perhaps be two or three Fenians—not more, we should think, if so many. But, at the same time, the fact is not to be disguised that there are many Fenian sympathizers amongst us; and we are not surprised at it, the general impression among such men concerning the principles and object of that organization being of a very vague and erroneous character.

These sympathizers—at least the better-informed and more intelligent portion of them—have their minds deeply impressed with the fact that, after a rule over Ireland by England of six hundred years, the result has been anything but a union of heart and spirit between the two peoples; and, at the same time, they ignore this other fact, that, in the course of the last forty or fifty years, the policy of British Governments, with respect to Ireland, has undergone great improvements, that civil rights have been extended, odious penalties have been removed, religious distinctions which formerly existed have been effaced, and a better and milder spirit has taken possession of British legislation as respects Ireland.

When we say there are many Fenian sympathizers amongst us, we wish it to be clearly understood that we are very far indeed from meaning that there are to be found in our community any individuals who sympathize with the perpetrators of the recent most diabolical Fenian outrages which have occurred in England. There is not, we are certain, either at home or abroad, a single honest-hearted Irishman who has heard of these enormities that does not feel the utmost abhorrence of them. What we mean is this: that the greater part of the Irish amongst us, having as immigrants, brought with them, or as having been born here of Irish parents, having inherited, not only a strong and tender attachment to the soil of Old Ireland, but an almost inextinguishable aversion to the Government which they believe, and not without abundant reason, to have ruled through centuries, disastrously for their Father Land, on becoming aware that preparations of a most imposing character were being made for the liberation of their native soil from the dominion of "the stranger" have, as under such circumstances is most natural, rejoiced in heart at the new-born hope of the realization of their country's independence; and have, perhaps, secretly, but earnestly, prayed that success might crown the enterprise.

Of the real objects of the Fenian organization and of the true characters of its leaders, they have, however, had no just conception. Fenianism does not simply aim at the redress of grievances; it contemplates the subversion of all existing institutions; it aims at the overthrow of public order and the peace of society. There is a wide difference between their designs and that which was the aim of the great agitator, Daniel O'Connell. He was loyal to the throne, steadfast in his attachment to the Constitution, and the material instrument or mere physical force he held in abhorrence. What he sought to accomplish was a repeal of the union, and an Irish Parliament, whereby it was his belief all the wrongs of Ireland would be redressed and the country raised to an exalted degree of prosperity. What the Fenians wish is to establish a Republic after the American fashion in the place of the existing monarchy, get rid of the Church as a costly superfluity, and divide the land in such a manner as might seem good to themselves. Agreeable, however, as all this might be to the individuals engaged in effecting it, there is a vast majority of the Irish people to whom it would not be agreeable. As respects that majority, it is justly observed that they do not want a change in the form of Government; they are loyal to the throne, and they feel their account in it; the destruction of the tie that binds the two islands together would produce an annoyance to England; but it would be death to the industry of Ireland. The first to suffer would be the dupes who are doing the work of unseen Fenian leaders.

The next session of the British Parliament, it is believed, will be entirely devoted to the affairs of Ireland; and it can not but be the hope of every lover of both Ireland and Britain that every thing possible to statesmenship and wise and enlightened legislation will speedily be effected, in order to allay present discontent and hatred, and render the union of mutual interest and affection to both countries.

The "Irish Difficulty," we apprehend, will be found to be chiefly in the Irish Church, "as by law established," and the Land Tenures. The English papers express a hope that Lord Derby and his colleagues may hit upon a happy mode of terminating the strife with satisfaction to both sides; but, at the same time, they admit there is small ground for hope to rest upon. Any proposal, it is said, that would imply the surrender of the land in perpetuity to its occupants would be vehemently opposed by the proprietary; and the two millions of Protestants in Ireland would be very much inclined to dispute the correctness of the surrender of the Church Establishment.

As respects the Irish Land Question, it appears to us that Mr. Bright's is the most feasible plan that can be devised for its solution. It scarcely, if at all, differs from that of our own Land Purchase Act. He proposes a Parliamentary Commission, to buy large estates, and to sell them to existing tenants. A sum of £5,000,000, he says, would secure some large estates, and the process of creating "farmers owners of farms" would begin and go on rapidly. "The object," he further remarks, "is to convince every Irishman now in the land that we do not intend to drive him across the Atlantic, but to induce him to remain a contented dweller on his own soil." By this means, he thinks, confidence may be restored to Ireland, and the despair and disloyalty, which so extensively prevail throughout the country, be fairly banished from it. To do this would, however, require a compulsory Act; but we do not think that the British Parliament, with its present earnest desire to redress the grievances of Ireland, would hesitate to have recourse to such a measure.

And, as respects the Church Question, we are of opinion, with Mr. Gladstone, that it can be reasonably and equitably settled in no other way than by recognizing the religion of the great majority of the Irish people, as that of the great majority of the Scottish people has been recognized. When a difference of the kind arose between the English, as Episcopalian Protestants, and the Scotch, as Presbyterian Protestants, the Scotch were allowed to have their own way; and that allowance has brought about so happy and peaceable a state of things in Scotland that scarcely any reasonable man would wish to disturb or undo it. In Ireland an opposite rule has been adopted; a small portion of the people are members of the Episcopalian Protestant Church, and the natural endowments of the country are given exclusively to the religion of that small number, comprising amongst themselves almost the whole wealth of the country, while the multitude of the poor of the country are left to shift for themselves. Was ever religious inequality exhibited in a more glaring form? or, was ever any species of tyranny more galling or unjust? To the country which has imposed and sustained it, it is disgraceful in the extreme; and it is scarcely too much to say that it is almost equally so to the people who have so long endured it.

"Now, gentlemen," said Mr. Gladstone, in the speech to which we advert—a speech made to his constituents at Southport, on the 19th, ult.—"we would not endure that in our country. If there were a Roman Catholic country, with a dominant Roman Catholic majority, endeavouring to enforce upon us the simple converse of that which we enforce upon Ireland, to apply against us the principle which we now apply against them, I ask you whether we should patiently bear or not? No, gentlemen, we should not bear it. We may, perhaps, by some practices in the methods and expedients of politics, show a greater aptitude than our Irish brethren in choosing out for ourselves effectual ways and means in applying a remedy to the evil, but if that evil had been felt by us as it has been felt by them, a remedy in one shape or another should and would have applied and done it long ago. Now, gentlemen, I must express my firm conviction that principles of religion must be established in Ireland, and that it is in vain to look to a true union and harmony between that country and this, until the Legislature of the country shall have made up its mind to govern so as to attain that great consummation. It may involve a sacrifice of our pride, there may be difficulties to encounter on the way, and there are those who will tell us that it is hostile to religion. *I, for my part, believe that nothing ever was, or ever will be, hostile to religion which is agreeable to justice*; but let me commend this subject to your deep, earnest, and serious reflection, for, rely upon it, you have got this before you; it faces you, it confronts you, it stops you in the way, it will pursue you wherever you go. Ireland is at your doors; Providence has placed her there; law and legislature have made a compact between you; you must face these obligations, you must deal with them and discharge them. As to the modes of giving effect to this principle, I don't enter upon them. *I am of opinion they should be dictated, as a general rule, by that which may appear to be the mature, well-considered, and general sense of the Irish people.* But, as to the principle itself, I entertain a depth of conviction in regard to it, and a strength of assurance that it will come up and meet us at every step of our future progress until we have dealt with it effectually, that will not suffer me to be silent in your presence, but urges me again and again to beg you to lay to heart the considerations that are connected with the complete and effectual settlement of this great and pressing question."

In these sentiments, most heartily do we concur; and most sincerely do we wish that they may find such liberal and enlightened acceptance in the Imperial Parliament as may speedily lead to their practical adoption.

Still, however, were the Irish Church and Land Questions both happily settled, something more would be required to give entire satisfaction to Ireland; but that, as we see it suggested in a late number of the *News of the World*, might easily be accomplished by the sending of a Royal Prince to live in Ireland—to hold the Court there, as representative of his illustrious parent, bring Protestants and Catholics into happy association, patronise an opera, encourage the native arts (and there are arts of music, decoration, &c., in which the Irish excel) make Ireland, in fact, what England is—a Royal place; and the agents of sedition would be at once and for ever discomfited. In such case, if the Prince (Prince Arthur, the Queen's third son, is meant) should happen to bestow his affections upon an Irish lady, and desire her hand in marriage, what is there that should cause the banns to be forbidden? The fair descendant of some great old Irish king would bring a wonderful amount of sympathy and heart allegiance to the Court. There would be no cry for separation; all Ireland would rejoice in the Union; grievances would gradually disappear; abuses would be corrected; wrongs redressed; and no grim Transatlantic adventurers would be able to disturb the country's peace.

This suggestion, lightly as it is made, is one which well deserves the most serious consideration of the British Government; and, so much is there in it to recommend its adoption, that we should not be at all surprised to see it speedily and happily carried into effect—so far at least as respects its first stages.

SUPREME COURT.

From the Patriot of Thursday.

On Wednesday, Donald McIntosh, a servant man in the employ of W. Ellman, Esq., of Crapaud, indicted for stealing sundry articles belonging to his employer, was tried and found guilty. In the case of the Summerside Bank, *vs* Thomas Crabb, the Court refused the application to put off the trial till next Term. An exception was taken to the *jurat* in the defendant's affidavit, which stated that the affidavit was sworn to at Charlottetown, but did not set out that Charlottetown was in Queen's County. This objection being afterwards waived, leave to amend was moved for on the part of the defendant, but was refused on the ground that witness, defendant's son, was, to his father's knowledge, living in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, U. S. and might have been sent for in time for the trial. Besides, in a case where there was suspicion that the application was made for the purpose of delay, the applicant should disclose the nature of the evidence which the absent witness could testify, in order to get his case postponed. On Thursday, Thomas Fennessey and James Kelly, two lads against whom indictments for larceny had been found, were put upon their trial and acquitted. The principal witness against them was a youth named McLeod, an accomplice, who turned Queen's evidence. For the Crown, the Attorney and Solicitor General; for the prisoners, C. Palmer.

On the evening of the same day, the case of Michael Traynor, *vs.* the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, came on, and occupied the whole of Friday. This was an action to recover the sum of £120 insured on a house belonging to the Plaintiff, which was partially destroyed by fire in March, 1865. When notified of the loss, instead of paying the amount of the policy, the agent had the building repaired at the Company's expense. Traynor refused to accept the house as repaired, on the plea that it was not equal in all respects to the one partially burnt. Evidence was adduced on the part of the Plaintiff, that the repairs were done in a slovenly and unworkmanlike style, that some of the burnt logs were left in the building, that new ones were placed over them, that the space between the new and burnt logs was five or six inches wide, and the shingles were roughly put on, that daylight could be seen through them in several places, and that the window sashes were not pairs, &c. The defence was that, two years ago, the repaired house was in every way better than the original one, which was twenty-six years old, and with the land had only cost £50. The Court held that in choosing to repair a building partially consumed by fire, rather than pay the amount insured thereon, an Insurance Company could not use charred wood for wood that was not charred, nor substitute shingles for clapboards. Before undertaking the repairs, the Company must know that in many particulars they would have to replace old with new material, but they could not thrust upon the insured a house in any respect inferior to the one he had lost. Verdict for the Plaintiff £120. For the Plaintiff, E. Palmer, J Hensley and J. Longworth; for the Company, C Young and E J. Hougson. The case of E Weatherbe *vs.* James Wisener, was taken up on Saturday. After examining some of the Plaintiff's witnesses, the deft. confessed judgment for £17 10s. in one suit, and nominal damages (1s.) in the other. In the afternoon, Edward Palmer, *vs.* the Government, was called for trial. This was an action brought by the Plaintiff to recover the amount of an account for drawing contracts for building and repairing wharves, bridges and certain other public works in the years 1864, 1865, and 1866, and which the Government refused to pay on the plea that these services formed part of Mr. Palmer's duties as Attorney General, and were covered by his salary. This was denied by the counsel for the Plaintiff, who quoted the Statute in which the duties of the Attorney General are enumerated to be Crown prosecutions, give opinions, to put marginal notes to the Statutes, or *any other miscellaneous services performed by him for the Government in his official capacity.* The clause here placed in italics was that on which the defence mainly relied. It was also shown by reference to the Statute Labor Act that the Road Commissioners were as much officers of the Government as the Attorney General, and that upon them by law devolved the task of drawing all contracts relative to the expenditure of the public money on the roads, bridges and wharfs within their several districts. In 1863, by a resolution of the House of Assembly, all contracts of this kind for sums over £50 were placed under the control of the Superintendent of Public Works, which relieved the Road Commissioners of a certain portion of their duties. Mr. McLeod contended that the Government had no right to thrust upon Mr. Palmer work which the laws of the Colony expressly imposed upon the Road Commissioners, and if they did so they should pay him as they would any other Attorney. The performance of the services, and the reasonableness of the charges being admitted, the jury, under the direction of the Court, returned a verdict for the Plaintiff for £75 5s. 2d. the full amount claimed, leaving the question of law, viz. whether the drawing of the contracts in question was or was not a part of Mr. Palmer's *official* duties as Attorney General, to be argued before the Judges. For the Plaintiff Messrs. C. Palmer & McLeod; for the defence, the Attorney and Solicitor General.

John Hayden, indicted for stealing a horse belonging to Robert May, Esqr, of Rose Bank, near Southport, was tried on Monday. The evidence was clear and conclusive. The prisoner, who is an intelligent looking man, and very respectably connected, stated his own case to the Jury. Verdict, guilty. The Summerside Bank *vs.* Thomas Crabb, was then called on, and occupied the remainder of Monday and the whole of Tuesday. This action was tried by a special Jury, and brought by the Plaintiffs to recover from the defendant £113 odd, which they allege was lost through his carelessness and neglect as Postmaster at Summerside. Our readers will remember hearing in August last of the loss of a sum of money which was mailed in Charlottetown and addressed to the cashier of the Summerside Bank, who received the letter of advice, but not the remittance. Some of the Pitts' witnesses swore that the package containing the money was carefully tied up with the Summerside letters, put into the bag for that office, and securely tied and sealed in the presence of Mr Lund who said that he delivered the Mail Bag to Mrs. Crabb as he had received it. Evidence was also adduced to show that the Post Office at Summerside was conducted generally in a loose and careless manner, but we think this part of the case was not very stong. A good deal, too, was made both in the direct and cross examinations of the fact that the Post Office was held in or adjoining the Bar Room, with the same entrance to both. Before the present loss occurred, a separate entrance was provided for the public, though the Post Master himself enters the office through the bar room as formerly. On the occasion when it was alleged the money was lost, the Steamer reached Summerside some time after midnight. It was in evidence stated that Mrs. Crabb received the Mails from Mr. Lund, put them into the office, locked the door, and took the key up stairs into her bed room, where her son George found it when coming down at six in the morning to open the Mails. On taking up the bag he noticed that it looked as if it had been interfered with, and he went at once and asked his mother if she opened it, to which she replied that she had not. The defendant's counsel ably contended that when delivered into the Summerside office, every diligence and precaution which the law required for the safe keeping of the mail bag had been used, and that this being the case if the money reached the office, and was stolen therefrom on the night in question, the defendant was not liable for damages. It is but justice to Mr. and Mrs. Crabb to say that not a shadow of suspicion rests upon them, nor did the Plaintiff's Counsel in any way implicate them in the transaction. Indeed they acquitted both, but laid considerable stress on the fact which came out in the trial, that one key opened the bar room and the Post Office doors, and that an exactly similar key had been missing for several months before the money was lost. This coupled with another important fact, viz, that the Postmaster's eldest son, who had previously stolen a large sum of money from his father, and was at this time living at home, was urged as reasons why the Defendant should be more than ordinarily careful in the discharge of the duties of his office. After about four hours' deliberation, the Jury, who were the sole judges of the question of negligence, reported that they were unable to agree upon a verdict. For the Bank, E. Palmer, J. Hensely, C. Palmer and M. McLeod. For the Defendant, Haviland, Brecken, Longworth and Hodgson.

At the hour we write, (4 p. m, Wednesday), the case of James Jenkins and another *vs.* the Government is going on.

From the Patriot of Saturday.

In continuing our synopsis of the proceedings of this Court, we have to make one or two corrections in our notice of the case of the Summerside Bank *vs* Thomas Crabb. The defendant's bedroom, in which the P. O. key was kept, was situated on the ground floor, and not up stairs The one key which opened two doors, opened the bar-room and hall doors, and not those of the bar-room and post office.

James Jenkins and another *vs* the Government, was an action to recover the sum of £49 14s. for extra labor and expense alleged to be incurred about building a Powder Magazine in Victoria Barracks. In 1866, the Plaintiffs, bricklayers by trade, entered into a contract with the Government for the completion of this work. The Magazine was to be a square flat roofed brick building, with an outer wall 18 inches thick. Inside was a second wall, 14 inches in thickness, 5 feet high and arched overhead. For the purpose of ventilation, an aperture or open space of 9 inches was left between the two walls. It was in evidence that the contractors followed the plan and specification to the letter, but that as the mason work was completed the arch tumbled down. In rebuilding it, the Superintendent of Public Works ordered the space between the walls to be reduced from 9 inches to 4½. The defence was that the work was not properly executed, nor supported by the outside wall as it should have been, and that that was the reason it did not stand. The Plaintiffs admitted that the inner and outer walls were not connected, but that was no fault of theirs. They built the arch according to agreement, and did not feel themselves bound to supply any omission or defect in the plan and specification. The alteration afterwards made in the building by the Superintendent of Public Works was proof that the plan was defective. On the other hand the defendant's counsel contended that it was the duty of the Plaintiffs to strengthen the inner wall, by projecting the bricks at the spring of the arch against the outer wall, but this would not only vary the contract but increase the cost of the work beyond what the plan and specification led the contractors to understand at the time they tendered. Verdict for the whole amount claimed. For the Government, the Attorney General, Solicitor General and J. Longworth; for the Plaintiffs Messrs. C. Palmer and McLeod.

The case of Wm. McGill *vs* John Currie, occupied all day Thursday. This was an action to recover damages for a breach of contract and the balance (£148) of an account stated between the parties. With the exception of the price of iron, four barrels of flour and commission on the Invoice of imported goods, the correctness of the account was admitted. With respect to the claim for damages it was in evidence that in January, 1866, the defendant entered into agreement with the Plaintiff to build a brigantine of about 200 tons, binding himself under a penalty of £100 to have her finished by the 25th of July following. The vessel was not launched before the 8th of November, nor delivered till two or three days after. McGill admitted that he gave the contractor up to the 1st of September to finish her, while the contractor and some of his witnesses swore that no specific date was named, but that the extension was in general terms to the fall. Evidence was also adduced to show that shipping was dull in England in 1866, that the Plaintiff had abandoned his original idea of sending the vessel home at midsummer with a cargo of deals, and led the defendant to understand that all he wanted was to have her in time for the fall shipment of oats However, she was not ready for sea till the 1st of December. The Plaintiff proved, that in consequence of the delay in finishing the vessel, he was not only unable to ship a deck load, but had to pay a heavier rate of insurance and higher price for oats than he would have done had she sailed earlier in the season. The Jury struck the charge for commission out of the account, awarded special damages for the increased insurance consequent upon the detention of the vessel, and by a majority of 10 to 2 returned a verdict for £232 4s 18d For the Plaintiff, Palmer and McLeod; for the defendant, Hodgson and Hensley.

On Friday forenoon, Roderick McKinnon, indicted for forging a note of hand, was tried and convicted. The prisoner is quite a young man, and not by any means an expert in his criminal art. The names of the witness, endorser and both makers of the note were forged, but in such a clumsy way as to excite suspicion at first sight The spelling was incorrect, and small letters were used instead of capitals, Months was written "mounts" For the Crown, the Attorney and Solicitor General; for the defence, Brecken and Hodgson.

In the evening the last Record case on the docket, John Haszard *vs*, the Charlottetown Mutual Insurance Company, was called. At the close of the case the Jury returned a verdict for the full amount claimed by the plaintiff. The nature of this action is fully explained in the Company's annual Report, published in some of the city papers.

The Petit Jury was discharged yesterday. The appeals, summary suits, and arguments, will probably occupy the the Court the greater part of next week.

Says the Kingstone *Whig* of 8th inst:—"The Hon. Mr. McGee is spoken of in connection with the filling up of the vacant seat in the Cabinet, caused by the death of the Hon. Ferguson Blair, but altogether without any authority. The names of the Hon. G. Alexander, of Oxford, and Mr. Cowan, of Waterloo, are also mentioned in connection."

CHARLOTTETOWN DEBATING CLUB.

On Friday evening last Mr. A. McNeill opened the question, "Would the Government be justified, under the present Land Purchase Act, in remitting the future instalments due from the tenants on the Selkirk Estate, assuming that the instalments already paid in are sufficient to make the estate self-sustaining; if not, should a new Act be passed for the purpose of remitting all moneys paid, or to be paid after the estate has been made self-sustaining." The subject was ably and warmly discussed by many present, all of whom agreed that there was some difficulty in ascertaining what was the legal construction of the Act: whether according to its wording and intention the purchase of each estate was to be self-sustaining, or whether all purchases collectively under the Act, should be so. The sense of the meeting having been taken, it was decided by a majority of two, that under the present Act the Government would not be justified in remitting the future instalments, nor should they pass a new Act for that purpose.

The subject for next evening's debate will be, "Is the present policy of England toward Ireland the best calculated to promote the happiness and contentment of the Irish people and secure their attachment and loyalty to the British Crown," to be opened by the secretary.

R. R. FitzGerald, Sec'y.

ST. DUNSTAN'S TEMPERANCE SOCIETY DEBATING CLUB.

On Monday night last Mr. W. C. Grant opened the subject, "Should imprisonment for Debt be abolished in this Island," on which a lively debate ensued, and although the majority of speakers were in favor of imprisonment, still the greater number at the meeting were decidedly opposed to it.

On Monday evening next, the 27th inst., the following subject will be debated:—Is the unlimited taxation proposed by the City Fathers in their Bill as laid before the House of Assembly last session, necessary to the maintenance of the Corporation. As this is an important question it is expected that the meeting will be well attended by our citizens. The usual fee will be charged to defray expenses.