The Weekly Examiner

FEBRUARY 4, 1881.

Wrong as Usual.

On Thursday last the *Patriot* announced under an ominous heading, that a decision lately given by Judge Peters in the case of McMicken *vs.* F. and F. McCarthy rendered it "clear that the proceedings recently taken against a great majority of purchasers of Government Lands by the Commissioner of Public Lands, are void."

We knew that our contemporary was dealing with a subject on which he was profoundly ignorant; and as he had promised to return to it on Saturday, we let him alone, confident that his ignorance, coupled with a burning desire to injure the Government, would lead him into the wildest error. We have not been mistaken. In speaking of the precepts he says: "The Attorney General and Commissioner of Crown Lands, if we are correctly informed, either were ignorant of the law or acted in defiance of its plain provisions in the proceedings which they have lately taken against those purchasers of Public Lands who have failed to pay their instalments. They have, we are told, proceeded against the land, and not against the goods and chattels of its occupiers."

What will the public think of the *Patriot's* intelligence when they know that the following words have been inserted in every precept issued by the Commissioner of Crown Lands:

(After reciting description of land.)

"And default hath been made in payment of the sum of , the purchase money and interest now due thereon, of which public notice hath been given, as by the said Act is required. Therefore I, 'The Commissioner of Public Lands,' by virtue of the power and authority in me by the said Act vested, do command you, the said Sheriff, that of the goods and chattels of the said , within your Bailiwick, you do cause to be levied the sum of , and also sufficient to satisfy your own fees and incidental expenses, and in default of any such goods and chattels as aforesaid to satisfy the amount as aforesaid, or in case sufficient shall not be found to satisfy the whole thereof, or if the said be not living at the date hereof, then I further command you, levy on the said land so in arrear as aforesaid."

Judge Peters' decision throws no new light on this subject, every precept issued being strictly in accordance with the Statute. It remains now to be seen whether the *Patriot* will admit its error or brazen it out.

The sale of the land to McCarthy which has been declared void by Mr. Justice Peters was made in 1878 when Mr. Davies was Attorney General.

Since the above was written we are informed that one of the staff of our contemporary was told about its error before its latest article on the subject was written. But it would seem that it could not resist the temptation of making a small, spiteful attack on the Attorney General, and the Commissioner of Public Lands, knowing at the same time that it was publishing what was untrue.

The "Northern Light."

In another column we give the graphic description of a passenger who came from the "Northern Light" to shore. The passenger thinks there is a scarcity of provisions on board, and that "some one has blundered;" and the *Patriot* hastens to say it is the Government. Suppose the passenger to be right, as well blame the Government of Great Britain for the blunder which was made when the noble Six Hundred rode into the Valley of Death. But our reporter was assured by the steward—who should know best—that there is on board the *Northern Light* plenty of provisions to last for a month or more, and plenty of coal,—that plenty of water is being distilled, and that the only necessary they are short of is milk, which is specially needed for the little children. Private letters from passengers on board say they are quite comfortable, and that the chief thing they have to complain of is the weary monotony which is telling particularly upon the nerves of the ladies.

If the Government be blameable in this matter, it is for allowing the *Northern Light* to attempt to cross after the field ice began to make. The *Northern Light* is well enough in the open sea, or where the ice is broken; but in field ice she has, over and over again, been proven to be of no use whatever. As an ice boat she is emphatically a fraud; and, as the event proves, she should have been kept in port until the ice begins to break under the genial influences of spring. But, then, it is easy to be wise after the event.

The Latest Manifesto.

We publish, by request, a manifesto that has been issued by some of the Conservatives of Summerside. In it want of confidence in the management of the *Progress* is expressed. There may be good grounds for these suspicions, but clearly Mr. Brennan has a right to do what he likes with his own. That he should be running a Grit paper on one side of Central Street, and a Conservative paper on the other, doubtless seems strange. But we think Mr. Brennan's conduct can easily be accounted for. It is simply a case of remorse of conscience. With every sensible, clear headed man in the community, Mr. Brennan must feel that the Conservative Party is—despite some faults both of omission and commission—worthy the support of the country; and his present action is simply an early expression of his penitance for the grossly unfair attacks he has made upon it through the columns of the *Journal.* Mr. Brennan, is in short, beginning to see the error of his ways. If our friends in Summerside will but exercise a little patience, they will have the gratification before long of seeing him come round "all right." We earnestly advise him to hasten in the good way of repentance. If he halts, or seems to halt, for any length of time, between the two parties, his fate will inevitably be like that of the man who attempted to sit between two stools.

The Gas Contract.

Our correspondent "Observer" is mistaken in his statement so far as the price of gas is concerned. In the year 1879, the city being short of cash, paid for 10 months gas light only, while in the year 1880, it paid for fourteen months. In the city at present, there are one hundred and twenty six gas lamps, and the contract with the gas company is $28.00 per lamp, which is equal to $3,528 per annum. Under the old gas contract, the average cost was $36·48 per lamp.

Meteorological.

Fifty-nine inches of snow fell during the month of January and a little over an inch of rain, making the total precipitation equal to a little over seven inches. This is a good deal over the ordinary precipitation for the month. And still it snows. From the 21st January, up to date, the barometer has been below thirty inches. This also is extraordinary.

Salaries.

In reply to a correspondent: The salary of the Governor General of Canada, is $48,666.63, (£10,000 sterling); the Marquis of Lorne receives the same amount as his predecessors; the salary of the President of the United States is $50,000.00 a year. It was raised from $25,000.00 during the last term of President Grant; President Hayes receives the larger amount.

Over 2,000 people of the United States own the pistol with which Burr killed Hamilton, and now the historians are at work to prove that Burr knocked Hamilton down and stove his head in with a brick. A man can't purchase any historical relic now-a-days with any certainty of its retaining its value.

NOTES OF THE PAST MONTH.

By An Observer.

Before entering upon the subjects of the Notes, a few words may be permitted upon the position of a newspaper correspondent, who writes anonymously. Under the shelter afforded by so writing, it would be most cowardly to attack any man's private actions, or his public ones if the proofs of the charges were stated to be matters within the cognizance of the writer alone.

But when a writer wishes to discuss public questions, or the public acts of public men, and the proof or disproof of his statements is to be found in public records, he has a perfect right to adopt an anonymous signature. Nor does he, by so doing, shirk any responsibility for what he says. There are his writings to speak for themselves. Having entered the arena of political discussion, he has no right to complain if, in every legitimate way, his writings are criticized. They are fair game. Let his positions be attacked, his professions of impartiality questioned, his arguments ridiculed—it may be refuted. He will expect all this. So far from objecting to it, it will be a satisfaction to him. If he has been wrong, he should be glad to be refuted; if he has been right he will be glad to see that his blows have told. But to introduce the name of the supposed writer is in no way necessary to legitimate controversy—in no way assists it. To do so is simply a piece of downright impertinence. Suppose that Observer, wishing to refer to the opinions of some of the newspapers of this city, instead of speaking of what the Examiner says, or what the Patriot says, were to drag the names of those reputed to be editors of these papers, or contributors to them, he would show himself very ignorant or very ill-mannered, or both. The case being reversed, the principle remains the same. But the laws of literary courtesy are like those of social courtesy, they rest alone upon the right feeling of the members of the society they are intended to regulate, and in the absence in any particular instance of such feelings, they have no penalties by which they can be enforced, and so one occasionally (though not often) meets with persons whose rudeness though it may be annoying has to be endured. But it does no great harm.

After all, this is a matter very uninteresting to the public. It is the first time any such reference has here been made; and, whatever may be said elsewhere, it shall not be again referred to in these Notes.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

To begin with the latest news. It has surprised no one that the Irish state trials have ended in nothing. Except that the Government might be in a position to say that they had tried ordinary measures in vain, it is difficult to see why they were undertaken Political agitators always gain from an abortive attempt to coerce them. But, meanwhile, though very tardy in beginning, the Government have at last introduced into Parliament, a bill for protecting life and property in Ireland. As there is a good deal in a name, it is not to be called a coercion, but a protection bill. It seems to be virtually a suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, giving the Executive power to imprison upon suspicion. Even the Secretary of State for Ireland, a meek man, of Quaker descent,, seems to have waxed wrothy while introducing the Bill, and to have used many bitter words against the unruly. By far the most interesting thing to watch in its passage, though the House will be the way in which the Government with Gladstone at its head will meet obstruction. After Disræli went to the Peers the late Government was very weak in debating power in the Commons, and obstruction ran riot. Sir Stafford Northcote was helpless. But all the while it was supposed that the great hero of debate sat apart smiling at the affray, and thinking how easily he could crush an opposition so formidable to weaker man. He can now try his hand. One thing we may say, that if Gladstone cannot check it, no man can.

But when obstruction has been overcome, and the coercion bill becomes law, and disorder suppressed, what then shall be done with Ireland? A Land Bill, of course, will be next in order. And will this be a panacea for all the ills of the country? It is to be feared not. There are natural and economic laws which are far more powerful than any that Parliament can make. Whatever the land tenure may be, the moors and bogs of the west of Ireland can never support, except in abject poverty, a crowded population. Even the most favored parts of the rest of the country are not nearly so suitable for agriculture as is England; and nothing is more evident, even in England, than that the day of the small farmer is past and that only large farms, scientifically worked, with a large capital, can at all hold their own. The hand loom weaver would have as much chance against the machinery of the cotton factory as would the small peasant proprietor against the large farmers or against American competition. Nothing is more pitiable than the condition of the small peasant proprietors throughout a great part of Europe, and if the unusual frugality of the French peasant seems to make him an exception, it should be remembered that the yield of agricultural produce through France with her far more favorable climate is nearly fifty per cent. per acre less than in England. And it must not be forgotten what the experience of India, Germany, Austria (perhaps our own Island might be added to the list) teaches—that as the landlord disappears, the sterner figure of the Usurer looms up; his little finger is heavier than the loins of the landlord; his scorpions are worse than the landlords whips. A poor people can, in the older countries, own only very small farms; in the great majority of cases they will soon be mortgaged farms, and then in what way are the people better off than when tenants?

It is said that a system of aid to emigration is to be included in the Government scheme for Ireland. This is its most hopeful feature. When the pressure of population has been relieved, and the fierce competition for land lessened, the question of the tenure will become of far less consequence. When landlords have to seek for tenants, there will be no fear of their oppressing them.

Two names, the one eminent in the literary, the other in the scientific world, are in the obituary of the past few weeks. It is always hard to judge the position of a contemporary writer. Time has often played sad havoc with reputations great in their own day, and brought honor to those of whom their own age thought little. But it may well be that, high as is the position that Mary Ann Evans (George Elliot) has already gained, her reputation will grow with time, and her novels take their place in the very highest rank, alongside of those of Scott himself. In thinking of the fresh, natural, beautiful creations of her magic pen, of the deep and wide sympathies that she has shown for so many different characters, one would almost dare to suggest a comparison, in some particulars, with Shakespeare himself. Her earlier writings—"Janet's Repentance," and "Mr. Giefil's Love Story"—are very good; but "Adam Bede," the "Mill on the Floss," and perhaps, "Romola," are the ones in which her splendid genius shows at its best. Daniel Deronda will probably always divide the critics. Its didactic purpose is rather too obtruded for a perfect work of art. Perhaps the best thing to say of it is that it stands at the head of all other fiction of the day, except George Elliot's best.

Frank Buckland, the naturalist, has passed away. The son of a famous geologist (Dean of Westminster), he inherited a love for science, and devoted his life specially to the study of the food-fishes. In this study he achieved great success, and his discoveries and observations have been of the utmost practical value. It may be interesting to note that the success of the effort made a year or two ago by one of our fellow townsmen to introduce frozen salmon into the English market was, to a great extent, due to his valuable aid.

In a day when the votaries of science and religion are too often at war, it is pleasing to know that Buckland was a fervent believer in revealed religion, and that his profound scentific knowledge did not blind him to the presence and work of the Creator.

It may be as well, under this heading, to notice Great Britain's difficulties in South Africa. There are two little wars on hand—with the Dutch Boers and with the native Basutos.

Some distance back from the east coast, on the north western frontier of the province of Natal, are the Drakenberg mountains. Two large rivers—the Vaal at the north, the Orange River at the south—take their rise in these high lands, and flowing some distance east in separate courses, meet about the centre of the Continent. In the territory included between these two rivers lie the Basuto land and the Orange River Free State. Across the northern coast is the Transvaal district. The Orange River State is still an independent Republic. Until lately annexed, the Transvaal was so also. The history of these little Republics is not uninteresting. As is well known, the Cape, though discovered by the Portuguese, was first settled by the Dutch East Indian Company about the year 1652. But in 1686 a number of Huguenot refugees, driven from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, joined the Dutch Colony, which ever since has had a strong French element. The Dutch during the next hundred years spread themselves over a considerable part of the country. The Colony was taken from the Dutch by the English in 1806. About 1837 some of the Dutch entered Natal, and after a war with the Zulus, settled in the country. A few years afterwards it was seized by the British. Exasperated by the emanipation of their slaves and other grievances, many of the Dutch joined the Orange River Republic, which had been settled about the same time as Natal, and others went further north and established the Transvaal Republic. This latter country never succeeded so well as its sister republic. It was in constant war with the neighboring tribes, and in constant danger of destruction by them. The great diamond discoveries made a few years ago of course brought a crowd of unruly adventures from all parts of the world and increased the complications. So by way of settling them the all-devouring Britisher again came forward and annexed the Transvaal. The Boers protested and threatened at the time, but to no purpose, and so on the 16th of December last they proclaimed a Republic at Heidelberg, with Kruger and Pretorius as President and Vice-President. They are brave and stubborn soldiers, and the small British force on the spot has not hitherto been able to cope with them. But re-inforcements are being hurried forward and the Gladstone Ministry expressed in the Queen's speech their unequivical determination to suppress the revolt. So there can be little doubt as to the final result. The inhabitants of the Orange River State are threatening to assist their fellow countrymen. Should they do so, the result may be the annexation of their territory also.

The Basutos, a tribe hitherto friendly have been justly enraged by the orders given for their complete disarmament; but the Colonial forces seem quite able to suppress them without assistance from the Imperial Government.

EUROPE AND THE EAST.

Here the great question is that of the Greek boundary. Somewhat inconsistently, it would seem, the Powers are endeavouring to induce the two parties to submit their disputes to arbitration. But both decline, and both give a very sound and logical reason. Turkey says, you have already arbitrated and given an award against me. Greece says, you have yourselves given me this frontier, why do you wish to reconsider of your own judgment? Meanwhile, Greece is increasing rapidly her army, and has voted a war budget. It may, possibly, but very improbably, be that the cloud will blow away. It may be that Greece, if she make the attack, will be left unaided, and so, without much difficulty, be driven back. But there is too much reason to fear that in the coming spring, one of the greatest and bloodiest wars of these later days may begin on the Greek frontier.

The Christmas and New Year's holidays have brought quite a lull in French politics. The municipal election have been generally favourable to the Republicans. In Germany, the movement against the Jews is in no way losing its force; and many of the race are preparing to leave the inhospitable fatherland.

Russia has a little war on hand with a tribe in Central Asia, and it is reported that the Russian General has been repulsed with heavy loss, but the news is uncertain. The quarrel with China is still pending, sometimes the news is very warlike, then again it grows peaceful. There have been coquettings between Russia and Japan, and Japan is by no means friendly towards China. Meanwhile at home the condition of Russia is anything but prosperous. Her finances are as badly embarrassed as those of Italy, almost as badly as those of Turkey, and in some districts the people are actually suffering from famine.

In Afghanistan, affairs seem tolerably quiet. A British army still occupies Candahar. The Queen's speech promised its removal as soon as possible. But it is easier to get into a rat trap than to get out of it.

UNITED STATES.

The United States are pointing with justifiable pride to their population, as shown by the last census returns. It amounts to about fifty (50) millions. Of the increase of the last decade, nearly twenty-five (25) per cent is due to immigration. The census of the British Empire will be taken during this year; and with it, of course, that of Canada. It will be interesting to note the comparative ratio of increase of our own country and our neighbours to the South of us. It will probably be seen then there will be nothing discouraging in the comparison; but we must wait for figures.

It is very likely that Tariff Reform will soon be a live question in the States. Free Trade, unfortunately, has, as yet, no chance there; but, without abandoning their beloved protection, there is much that can be done to relieve some of the many restraints which their present tariff inflicts upon commerce.

The question of polygamy promises to be a somewhat embarrassing one to our neighbors. Mormonism does not really spread much; but the conscience of the people is vexed at the thought of its peculiar institutions being tolerated. But the strong national love, (admirable in so many ways), for freedom of opinion and action, will probably outweigh other considerations; and the error be left to cure itself in the best possible way; namely, by proving its inferiority and evil when left to itself.

There is, however, a modified form of polygamy, which is threatening to be a terrible social evil in the United States. A Wesleyan Minister has lately published some statistics, taken from official sources, which show the following lamentable state of affairs. The proportion of divorces to marriages was in Massachusetts 1 to 15, in Vermont 1 to 13, in Rhode Island 1 to 9, in Connecticut 1 to 8, in part of Ohio 1 to 6. In all cases where the divorce rate is high, the birth rate is low. No apparent material prosperity can compensate for such disturbances of the very foundation of the social structure, as are here shown to exist.

CANADA.

The starting of a second Syndicate, with new proposals for building the Canada Pacific Railway, on apparently easier terms, was a clever move. But it has probably failed to do all that its friends hoped for. Its members could safely make magnanimous offers—the prospect of their being accepted was very shadowy. At any rate, they kept a very safe line of retreat open. Mr. Blake, with an unnecessary amount of argument, demonstrated the self-evident proposition that Parliament was perfectly free to accept the new offer. But if Parliament had seen fit to do so, it would thereby have expressed its want of confidence in a Government which had brought forward an important measure and had seen it rejected. A change of administration must have followed. Mr. Blake has most decisively committed himself and his party to give up, for an indefinite period, the portions of the road north of Lake Superior, and west of the Rocky Mountains. So the new Syndicate could feel certain that, if ever called upon to do the work, it must be by a Government that would require them to build only the prairie section. True, in his lengthy amendment, Mr. Blake stated that the alternative of not building certain portions should not be accepted. But as that alternative was an integral portion of their offer, if it were cut out, the new Syndicate would have been perfectly free to decline touching the Contract at all. Their position was a remarkably prudent and safe one.

The scene when the vote was taken on the first amendment to Sir Charles Tuppers Railway resolution was to use a mild term, a very excited one. But a good deal of allowance may be made for a Parliament that has seen the sun rise after a long winters night. With the mingled strains of the Marseillaise, Rule Brittania, and God Save the Queen, the members kept themselves awake, and took vengeance on orators who had no pity.

Professor Hind, who was examined as an expert before the Halifax Fisheries Commission, and who prepared the analytical index to its documents, is making startling charges against the evidence furnished by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Professor Hind has been for some time endeavoring to get an official investigation of his charges. He has so far succeeded as to have the matter referred to in the Parliaments at Westminister and Ottawa, and in Congress at Washington. It is not necessary to suppose that conscious guilt is the only reason which would lead the winning side to object to re-open the question. Even the other side might very well prefer letting the matter rest. But if there are any grounds for the charges, they, of course, should be investigated. One's first impression on reading Professor Hind's pamphlet is, if the statements put in as evidence were so absurd as he says; if the falsifications were so gross and glaring, how in the world did they escape the notice of the keen lawyers who conducted the case for the Americans. Had they exercised the commonest care for their client, they must have seen what are now announced as remarkable discoveries.

If the reports of the prospects of the oil wells in Cape Breton are at all trustworthy, an era of prosperity will soon open up for that Island. The oil is said to be most abundant and to be worth $25 a barrel. Companies of wealthy and influential capitalists are to set to work in the spring.

OUR OWN PROVINCE.

Ill natured critics have said that while at other times the people of Charlottetown are as peaceful as the rest of the world, they develop, when shut up for the winter, extraordinary pugnacity, and are then always ready for a fight. But we must not attribute the greatly increased interest shown in the last civic elections to this cause, but may fairly hope that the citizens are not going to neglect their duties to their city as they have done in the past.

The City report is a very full document, and at first sight a clear one, but a closer examination, shows some difficulties, these however, may be plain enough to a good accountant. The state of the finances as shown by the Report is not very flourishing, but there are some favourable points. Of course the worst thing is the large deficit—the gross expenditure having exceeded receipts from all quarters by $7,800, about 25 per cent of the nett income for the year. It does not make matters brighter to observe that the expenditure contains at the most only two or three extraordinary items (and every year brings its own extraordinary items), while the receipts include over $5,000 of the assessment of 1879. The new mode of collecting rates has worked very well, but by so doing it leaves very few arrears of 1880 for this year. So that the receipts for 1881 will miss an item that helped to swell those for 1880. But the Amended Act of 1880, gives the present Council power to levy a poll tax, and an income tax, so there can be no excuse for allowing the revenue again to fall short of expenditure.

The school expenditure is the largest item in the city accounts; nor does it represent the whole cost of our schools. The Government salarics and supplements amounting to $,6000 must be added. This will show their total cost to be, in round numbers, $15,500. The number of enrolled pupils being 1,367, gives the cost per head last year $11.35. Perhaps the amount expended on the West End building (abstract K) can not fairly be considered as current expenditure. Deducting $3,000 for this, (the amount is $4,000—but there will always be some outlay on buildings) the per capita cost will be about $9 It is difficult to see how this expenditure can be lessened. The salaries of the teachers are certainly not excessive, and all other expenses seem moderate. While, however, the total expenditure cannot be lessened, the cost per head may be reduced by increasing the number of pupils at the schools. In the number attending there has been a diminution. This however might have been expected. After a first rush there comes a re-action, if there is after this a steady, even though slow increase, the symptoms will be favorable. But if there is no increase or a continued decrease, it will show that at the critical point the turn was in the wrong direction.

From Abstract F (page 35) it will be seen that the cost of gas to the city was last year nearly fifty per cent. greater than in 1879. The figures are for 1879 $2,764; for 1880, $3,910—an increase of $1,200. As there have been few additions (if any) to the number of the street lamps, and no more light comes from them, it would be well to have this large increase accounted for. If part of it is saved by the lamplighter's wages, there will be between $700 or $800 still left.

Our local legislature meets on the 1st of March. There do not seem to be any very important questions just now in local politics. Matters of finance are foremost. Ontario is mooting the the question of having her legislature meet ordinarly only once in two years. A good deal might be said in favor of this plan. Should Ontario adopt it and find it to work well, we probably should all follow her example.

Anonymous Letters.

Anonymous letters, written to private parties on private matters, are generally only fit for the waste basket or the fire, and are not deserving of any thought on the part of those receiving them. They are the only weapons of cowards of the deepest dye, and are dictated by "Envy, hatred or malice." Even when some part of the charges alleged or the insinuations made, is true, the spirit shown in such letters is mean and contemptible in the extreme. But when such productions contain charges utterly devoid of truth, no words can be found sufficiently strong to stigmatize the writer. Several of these letters have been lately received by *ladies* of one of our churches, and we have a *shrewd idea as to the author.* We have one of these letters before us, in which bad spelling abounds. The admixture of religious phrases and holy names in an epistle of this nature seems to us blasphemous. We have only to add that, should more of these letters be sent, we will do all in our power to verify our suspicions, and will publish the name of the author.—*Com.*

His text was "What doest thou hear, Elijah" He divided it into two heads. "First, my brethern," said he, "let us consider what Elijah did hear; and, secondly what he didn't hear."

Says the New Orleans *Picayune*: A man troubled with sleeplessness can cure himself by pretending to do duty as a night watchman.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

A NIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Ottawa, Jan. 27, 1881.

After recess Mr. Casgrain continued his remarks for about half an hour. Mr. C. speaks fluently both in French and English, and on this occasion made a good speech from an Opposition standpoint. Mr. Wade (Digby) followed in a brief but effective speech, dealing out some heavy blows, straight from the shoulder, against the member for King's N. B. Mr. Glen then gave his maiden speech, followed by White of Renfrew in favor of the Government Railway Policy. Mr. Joseph Rymal next rose. He spoke on opening, of the Allan Contract, saying that he was sorry Sir Hugh Allan was not able to raise the money, as it would have saved the country a great deal of trouble. He said he believed the Government should build the road as a Government work. With the 100,000,000 acres voted last year, there was more than sufficient means to build the whole road, equip it thoroughly and run it afterwards. Referring to the Contract he wanted to know the difference between a Contract firm, and a firm Contract. In justice let it be known that this is not one of his best jokes. He denounced the "Document." He berated the Government and lauded the personnel of the Syndicate. He said he was no opposed to building the road.

It is now 20 minutes after 2 o'clock in the morning. The galleries that were so closely packed all the early part of the night are gradually thinning out. By actual count, there are still remaining 93 persons besides those on the floor of the House. Many of the members are beginning to look wearied and sleepy, still the speaking continues "turn about"—first an Oppositionist, then a Ministerialist, according to an arrangement made by the Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition in the early part of the evening.

DALTON M'CARTHY

rises to speak. Speaker Blanchet, still wide awake, listens—or appears to listen. Mr. McCarthy proceeds. He goes largely into the legal aspect of the question. He discusses the Contract from a purely business standpoint. Mr. McCarthy, though a comparatively young man is one of the leading lawyers of the Dominon. In Parliament he speaks but seldom. His style is easy, fluent, argumentative. Notwithstanding the thorough mastery of the subject which he displays, in reference to the proposition under discussion, before his speech is ended the House grows impatient. Mysterious noises are heard, first on this side, then on that. Desks squeak and groan, like a ship in a storm. From one corner of the room comes a faint, plaintive sound, like singing in the distance. The impatience and noises increase, and the speaker's last words can scarcely be heard, owing to strange sounds, in which applause was only one of a variety of noises.

At 10 minutes to four Mr. McCarthy sat down and Mr. Millar got up. Then followed quotations on Constitutional law, extracts from the speeches of Lord John Russel and Disræli, Lord North, and other British statesmen. The philosopher of Bothwell went on and on and on. After half an hour or so, noises increase. It mattes not to the member for Bothwell, noise may come, and noise may go, but he goes on forever. At long last, not however on account of the impatience of the House as manifested in a variety of ways, but of his own free will and accord, Mr. Mills subsides at 10 minutes past 5 a. m., by the clock.

Mr. Tasse was the next Speaker. His speech was carefully prepared and well delivered. He accused the Opposition of changing their policy as they changed their leader. He criticised the Railway speeches of Messrs. Blake and Laurier. Mr. Tasse is a young man of more than ordinary ability. His speech, especially as a literary production, was one of the ablest of th session.

Mr. Weldon next took the floor. He complained that emigration had not flowed into the North West. He referred, as usual, to the terms of Union. Verily the old anti-Confederate feeling has not not yet died out in New Brunswick. There is no part of the Dominion that has less reason to complain of the results of Confederation than that Province. The National policy, too, is largely benefitting New Brunswick, notwitstanding the statements of her representatives to the contrary. None so blind as those who will not see. He bestowed unstinted praise upon the institutions of the United States. He referred to the new Syndicate, but was not prepared to endorse it or any other Syndicate. Evidently he wishes to see the road built as as a Government work. The Intercolonial cost over $40,000,000, and the average deficit for operating it for the five years of the McKenzie administration was $1,539,923.

Mr. Domville spoke next. He showed that New Brunswick was progressing. In 1851 the value of its cereals only amounted to $670,000; in 1871 the amount from this source footed up $1,100,000. He pitched into his opponents from New Brunswick, and ridiculed the everlasting wail of lamentation that is heard from that Province, session after session, from the months of New Brunswick Grit whiners and grumblers.

Loud cries of "Question, question," "Call in the members," were then heard from both sides of the House. The Speaker rose to put the question. Members began coming in, while the galleries again filled up. About 200 persons, among them a score or more of ladies, were present to witness the division on Mr. Blake's amendment.

On the vote being taken the Yeas stood, 54; Nays, 140—showing the almost unprecedent majority of 86 out of a House of 194.

This ended one of the most lengthy and important debates that has taken place in Canada since Confederation. The House then adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock, when members, reporters, pages and all went forth, rejoicing that a long weary night in the Commons had been, at last, brought to a close.

To the Public.

The Summerside "Progress" has recently been purchased by W. A. Brennan, Proprietor of the Summerside "Journal," who now professes to have disposed of it to a Company, designated the "Progress Publishing Company." This Company we believe to have no existence and we therefore adopt this method of giving publicity to our entire want of confidence in the "Progress" under its present manager. We consider the scheme to be nothing more than a deceptive stratagem to secure control of the press and deceive the Liberal Conservatives; we therefore feel constrained to repudiate it in toto as the exponent of Conservative views in this county:

D. Rogers, J. A. Reid, Wm. G. Strong, Cornelius Howatt, F. W. Strong, H. C. Mills, C. E. Strong, F. McNeill; D. Campbell, D. A. Compton, G. L. Webber, D. C. Brown; John Grady, W. S. Green, Alex. Green, Fred. Parsons, John Green.

Great Discovery.

A COAL BONANZA AT MONTAGUE.

A seam of what appears to be Anthracite Coal, of the best quality, was found lately while sinking a well on the premises of Mr. James Campbell, Hotel Keeper, Montague.

The enterprising village of Montague is in a ferment; and it is said that Mr. Rowe, ex-M. P. P., is about forming a Syndicate to work the mine. A branch line of railway to Cardigan will be part of the project.

The *Transcript* says: "It is alleged that some New York brides, after having found just the right place for their wedding gifts, have been dismayed by receiving a bill for them, the wicked shopkeeper having deliberately attempted to show them the meanness of friends who pretended to be liberal.

The "Beauharnais" is the latest hat for ladies. We infer from the name that they captivate the boys.

Perils of the Gulf.

A FIFTY MILE TRAMP—ALL NIGHT ON THE ICE.

THE PASSENGERS' NARRATIVE.

After being jammed in the ice for eight days, we left the "Northern Light" on Saturday last at 8 o'clock, a. m. Our party consisted of 14 passengers and 8 of the crew. The land seemed to be about twelve or fourteen miles off. As a party sixteen passengers had safely reached the shore on the Monday previous we thought our chance of doing so was fairly good, but we were doomed to disappointment. We made good progress the first six or seven miles, but we then met with large drifts of broken or lolly ice, which was very difficult to get through. By this time the weather changed from fine clear sky to overcast and dirty looking, the wind still keeping N. E. Before two p. m. it was snowing hard, and the land was lost to our view. We

PLODDED ALONG MANFULLY,

every man doing his duty. We were delayed considerably by the broken ice, which seemed to stretch along as far as we could see. It now became a serious question whether we would make the shore that night, and a great deal of valuable time was lost by every other man having a different opinion as to where we were and in what direction the land lay, while the second officer, who was *supposed* to be in charge of the expedition, seemed ready to do anything but exercise his authority in the proper manner. We tramped about first in one direction, then another, till five o'clock found us fighting our way through broken ice trying in vain to find a solid field. There was now nothing left for us to do but pass the night on the ice, so we chose a pan of solid ice, turned the boat up on one side, packed around her some snow and large pieces of ice and then commenced our terrible night watch. What we all suffered during our fourteen hours in darkness no one but those who have ever been so situated can form the least idea of. Some of us had to

KEEP ROUSING UP

a few who would persist in crawling into the shelter of the boat and going to sleep—a sleep from which they would never be awakened in this world but for the watchfulness of the others. Every man did his best to cheer up the others, the best of us at this encouraging work were the Wyse Brothers, two of the steamer's crew, who are deserving of every praise for their perservering pluck during the whole trip.

DAYLIGHT

was at length seen slowly coming and our spirits rose accordingly. After a fervent offer of thanks to the Almighty for our deliverance so far, we started for Cape Bear, now plainly seen about a mile and a half away. We soon found it utterly impossible to make any headway through the broken ice, which was crowding in towards the S. W., so eight or ten of us started for the board ice with paddles, oars, boat hooks, &c., and after half crawling, half swiming, we reached the solid ice. Others followed till only six were left in the boat, and they were rescued by men from Guernsey Cove in a dory. The whole of us were soon

COMFORTABLY QUARTERED

in the different houses there and receiving every care and attention possible from the kind and hospitable people of the Cove, notably among them being Mr. and Mrs. Munn, and Mr. James McKay and family who were unremitting in their kindness to those who were fortunate enough to be quartered there. Some of the passengers are frost-bitten but not seriously, and it is simply miraculous that we are all alive and well after coming through that fearful twenty-six hours on the ice. Had the wind hauled to the N. W. and severe frost set in there is hardly a doubt that not one of the twenty-two could have lived through the night,—cold, wet and hungry as we were. That

"SOMEBODY HAS BLUNDERED"

is the general opinion among the passengers who were almost obliged to leave the "Northern Light" and tramp twenty-five miles during the day and fully as much in the night, with nothing to eat or drink, simply because there was not sufficient food on board to keep them any longer.

The writer was given to understand before he went on board at Pictou that the vessel carried food for the average number of passengers and crew for *four months.*

There is great room for improvement in the ice boats that are carried by her, which are far too heavy and cumbersome. Before closing this brief account of our trip, I would like to render, in the name of all the passengers, the hearty thanks to everyone belonging to the steamer, captain downward, for their uniform kindness and consideration to the passengers, and suggesting to the "powers that be" the great necessity of a light and strong dory stationed at such a place as Guernsey Cove for the assistance of ice boat crews from the "Northern Light," and also suitably rewarding the brave men along that coast who are always ready and willing to risk life and property in such rescues as that of Sunday morning.—*Patriot*

Presbytery of P. E. Island.

New London North.—The ordination and induction of the Rev. Mr. Mason delayed on account of a want of completeness in the observance of certain formalities, is appointed to take place in the church at Long River, on Wednesday, the 9th instant, at eleven o'clock, a. m.

A public meeting will be held in the church at Summerfield on the evening of the same day at 6.30 o'clock, to be addressed by members of Presbytery on topics suggested by the ordination and induction of a Minister.

The Rev. Mr. Archibald will preach on Sabbath next, the 6th instant, and make intimations with reference to the ordination of Rev. Mr. Mason.

Deep Snow on the Plains.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 25.—The most disastrous snow blockade experienced on the plains for many years was opened to-day by the arrival of passengers four days late from Denver. The worst trouble was met with on the Kansas Pacific Railway, west of Fort Wallace, 400 miles from Kansas City, where for over fifty miles the snow and sand had drifted into the cuts, forming a substance which a snow plough with six engines could not cut. For over sixty hours three passenger trains were literally lost in the drifts, but provisions had been made before leaving Kit Carson and no suffering occuredr as was the case during the great storm of 1875, at which time passengers were twenty-one days between Kansas City and Denver.

From passengers who arrived to-day it was learned that thousands of head of cattle have perished from cold and hunger west of Wallace, many being encountered in the large cuts by the snow ploughs, where they had taken shelter from the wind, only to be buried by the snow.

Along the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway the storm also did great damage, and trains have been from forty to sixty hours late. At times the wind blew with great violence, and, with the thermometer ten degrees below zero, it was impossible to make much headway. Railway officials say the backbone has been broken and that traffic will now be resumed.

The funeral of the late Dr. O'Conner, Vicar-General, took place on the 21st, at Ottawa. The cortege was one of the largest ever seen in the Ottawa district, and occupied three quarters of an hour in passing a given point. It was nearly two miles in length. The various Roman Catholic societies attended in a body, also the College cadets. A grand Requiem Mass was sung in St. Patrick's Church, Bishop Duhamuel officiating and Rev. Father Dawson preaching the sermon. A large number of Protestant citizens were noticed in the procession, and one acted as pall-bearer.

Charles IV. of England.

The eighth Stewart King of England, Charles IV. by the grace of God, has ceased to live. He never reigned. The death, in the eighty-second year of his age, of Charles Edward Stewart Count D'Albanie occurred suddenly on board a steamer coming from Bordeaux on the night of Christmas Eve. His corpse was taken on shore soon after the death and temporarily interred in a graveyard on the banks of the Garonne, preparatory to being brought to Scotland to be placed by the side of his brother, John Sobieski Stolberg Stewart, at the burial ground of Eskdale, on the estate of Lord Lovat. Under medical advice the Count D'Albanie late last year went for his health to Biarritz, where several friends had gathered, and he had benefitted by his sojourn there very considerably. His father, James Stewart Count D'Albanie, is generally believed to have been the legitimate son of Prince Charles Edward Stewart the 'Young Pretender,' as he was called, by the Princess Louise Clementina Sobieski, of Stolberg. The story goes that he was born at Sienna, in 1773, and as the English authorities had offered a reward of £40,000 for the "Pretender's" head, his infant son was secretly committed to the care of Admiral John Carter Allen, Admiral of the White, who died on the 2nd of October 1800. The late Count, who suffered a considerable reverse of fortune on the death of his wife, Miss Beresford, bore his loss manfully, accepted his fate, and lived in comparative retirement in South Belgravia for nearly twenty years. The likeness both of himself and his brother to the royal house of Stewart was very marked. They were noted also for their great and varied accomplishments, their personal bearing, their grace and charm of manner, their innate dignity and the right royal manner in which they patiently accepted poverty and sorrow. In Scotland they were always received with that consideration which was thought due to their position. The late Count was a writer of no mean power, both in prose and verse, and a man of exquisite taste. His reading had been extensive; he spoke fluently and perfectly seven or eight languages; he was remarkably well informed, having a large fund of anecdotes, and though constantly receiving tokens of reverence and honor from kind and devoted friends, was averse to all marked attentions. Of most dignified mien and carriage, he usually appeared in public in an undress dark military cloak of a foreign type, with the numerous orders on his breast, having personally, when a mere youth, received that of the Legion of Honor from the hands of the great Napoleon on the field of Waterloo, for marked valor and bravery. His numerous Jacobite relics, many of which, of singular interest and value, have been exhibited at the South Kensington Museum, have been left by testamentary disposition to his only son, who was married May 19, 1874, to Lady Alice Hay, a sister of the late Countess Fife and of the present Earl of Erroll. And now Long Live Charles V.

Intelligent Horses.

I have my opinion, founded upon close and varied observation, that horses can and do convey to each other very exact intelligence by the various sounds they produce, from the proud, sonorous neighings of a full spirited horse, down to the whinnyings and snortings and other little sounds with which all keepers of horses are familiar. Once, in a long stable containing twenty stalls in a row, a horse at the one end was dying. Near the other end was a horse of a timid disposition, which showed marked signs of dread and extreme nervousness, as though conscious of what was going on, trembling from head to foot, and streaming with perspiration. I feel convinced that intelligence of what was passing had reached this horse, and that, being of a nervous temperament, the poor animal had been troubled to the painful extent we had witnessed. Another example of a different kind. It often happened that I was away from the company for weeks and months at a stretch; and on some of those occasions I had to return along the road by which the circus was coming, thus meeting the vans one after the other all down the line. When yet there was some distance between myself and the nearest van, my horse would scent or see the head van-horse and salute him with a loud neigh. This would be at once answered by the van-horse, which seemed to pass the signal to the rear down the line, where it was taken up from horse to horse to the very end, and perhaps three quarters of a mile away. Then, as I rapidly drove by and met the vans, each horse would turn toward mine as he passed, greeting him with a friendly and joyous neigh; apparently holding a short conversation in passing, as though welcoming each other after a separation. For it must be noted that it was only after a long absence that such demonstrations took place.

A Clergyman Loses his Education.

(*From the Cincinnati Enquirer.*)

One of the strangest cases known in medical history—in fact, there are but about one half dozen such cases reported in the world—has just been presented by the Rev. Marcus Ormond of Pensylvania, who is among friends in Rushville. He was, a few months ago, among the most eloquent and profound expounders of the Gospel in the Presbyterian Church, and on returning to his home in Pennsylvania one day he found that his house, library, and everything he had had been consumed by fire. A day or so afterwards he was stricken with brain fever. He recovered his health, but his memory was literally wiped out. His Greek, Latin, and English were all gone. He had no language, and didn't even know his letters. His wife at once began to teach him the alphabet, and he can now read a little. He seems to be cheerful and contented, lacking nothing but what he once learned at school. He is, in appearance, a gentleman of intelligence. He hopes to again get back to where he jumped off so suddenly.

General Butler has recently expended $10,000 in repairs on his yacht, the famous America. She is now thirty years old, but there is not a wrinkle in her keel or a gray hair on her deck to show for it. Since the people of Massachusetts have weakly preferred another man for Governor, the General will be still more at liberty to enjoy that life on the ocean wave which—in summer—is so congenial to one of his free and fearless spirit.

The most afflicted part of the house is the window. It is always full of panes, and who has not seen more than one window-blind?—Thomas Edison.