For a license for distilling and rectifying, or either, by any process, two hundred and fifty dollars.

For a license for malting, two hundred dollars.

For a license for brewing—or for manufacturing tobacco—or for manufacturing in bond, fifty dollars.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EARTHQUAKE IN CANADA.

On Wednesday morning, the 18th instant, a smart shock of earthquake was felt at Montreal and several places west of that city. The Montreal papers say that the time of its occurrence there was 3h. 10m. a. m. The shocks were sufficiently violent to awaken a great many. Dr. Smallwood has favored the *Gazette* with the following report:—

"I had just retired (3 o'clock, a. m., Dec. 18,) to bed from a professional case, and was perfectly awake, when I heard a low rumbling sound proceeding from the west, which I at once recognized as an earthquake. This was followed by a distinct and somewhat strong tremulous motion, which was succeeded in ten or twelve seconds by a second and fainter tremor than the first. Then followed the sound, which passed eastward, the whole lasting, I should say, nearly three minutes. At Point St. Charles the stoves in the upper stories of some of the brick houses distinctly shook, and in Grey Nun Street some of the residents rose from their beds and left their houses in great terror. At St. Laurent, about six miles from the city, the shock and earth sound were distinct and strong. We learn that at Lachine it was not felt. I may mention that at St. Laurent the direction of the earth wave was distinctly heard to pass from west to east."

Quebec.—There was no shock of earthquake here or eastward.

Three Rivers.—Pretty severe shock here.

Berthier.—Slight vibration about 3, a. m.

Sorel and Chambly.—Felt distinctly here at 3, a. m.

Coteau, Cornwall, Morrisburg, Gananoque and Kingston.—Very severe shock reported at all these places.

Belleville.—Earthquake felt here very distinctly about 3, a. m.

Cobourg, Port Hope, Bowmanville, Whitby, Toronto, and all westward stations, say that no vibration or shock of any kind was felt there.

Ottawa.—A severe shock of earthquake was felt at Sandy Hill and Perth. Earthquake felt distinctly here.

At New York, Boston, Portland, Albany and Rutland, nothing was felt; but at Whitehall, Burlington and along the west side of Lake Champlain, the shock was quite perceptible.

Port Hope.—I have just heard that the earthquake was felt in Upper Town about three o'clock this morning. It awoke people in bed.

Sackville, N. B.—Earthquake not felt here, at St. John (N. B.) or at Halifax.

JOHN BRIGHT ON THE IRISH LAND QUESTION.

Mr. Bright has addressed a letter to Mr. H. D. Hutton, of Dublin. It says:—

"Rochdale, Nov. 11, 1867.

"My Dear Sir,—I have read your 'Prussia and Ireland' with much interest, and, as far as you go, I agree with you, but I think more requires to be done. Your plan is to help tenants to buy farms where owners are willing to sell, to lend them money on easy terms, and to take good security. Owners are not very willing to sell, and the process of creating an Irish proprietary, would be very slow. In my speech in Dublin, I suggested another plan, not unlike yours, but more certainly operative. I proposed a Parliamentary Commission, to buy large estates, and to re-sell them to existing tenants, on terms something like those which you propose. A sum of £5,000,000 would secure some large estates, and the process of creating 'farmers owners of farms' would begin, and would go on rapidly. Your plan in fifty years would do much good; mine would do much in five years, and in 20 years would change the aspect of things in Ireland. We want to make the Irish farmer attached to the soil by the tie of ownership rather than by that which now exists, the necessity to have a holding in land that he may live. We want, further, to beget a new and better national sentiment, to convince every Irishman now on the land that we do not intend to drive him across the Atlantic, but to remain a contented dweller on his own soil. I think my scheme would do this. You will see the difference between your scheme and mine—yours is for a long time and for the future—mine is to grapple at once with the desperate malady which keeps your country in a state of chronic discontent and insurrection. Your plan may be more easily secured, but our children will only see much result from it—mine would, I think, restore confidence and banish speedily some of the despair and disloyalty which so extensively prevail. John Bright."

THE VOYAGE OF THE RAFT "NONPAREIL."

Capt. John Mikes and his mate, George Miller, who, with a seaman named Jeremy Lane, undertook the daring and difficult task of sailing the raft *Nonpareil* from New York to Southampton, England, have lately returned to New York. They give an interesting account of their perilous voyage, from which we give a few facts not heretofore published. They left New York on the 4th of June, but after reaching the Lightship, the strong easterly gale compelled them to put back. By the advice of the Captain of Pilot Boat No. 16, they remained at anchor until 6 a. m. on the 12th of June, when they set sail with a favorable wind. Very soon afterward their kerosine stove commenced to leak and took fire. A blanket that was thrown over it to quench the flames also took fire and had to be thrown overboard. They were thus deprived of all means of cooking their food, for the two gallons of sperm oil they had on board were required for their lamp, and for four days they had to live on biscuit. At the end of this time they spoke the Bremen ship *Goshen*, from St. John's for Bremen. The Captain furnished them with a small quantity of sperm oil. Two days afterward the only timepiece on board stopped; they, however, hit upon an ingenious method of reckoning time. Taking one of the empty cans which had contained their preserved provisions, they pierced a small hole in it and filled it with water, and, as this can was emptied so many times between noon and sunset, they found that it required just twenty-eight minutes to empty each can. Thus they had a very good water clock.

The remainder of their voyage was without particular incident. The wind, though fair, was heavy, and the sea rough. They saw twenty-six vessels in all during their voyage, and spoke twelve. The Captain of the *Johanna Welhelmina* sent them a live fowl, which is still alive and in good health, some coffee, tea and other provisions. The Captain of the *Ivanhoe*, from New York to Bremen, was kind enough to put into Dover and send a telegraphic message, at his own expense, to the owners of the raft here. This was the first news received of the safety of the *Nonpareil*. On the 25th July, at 6 p. m., they arrived at Southampton, and were objects of curiosity for many days. They were visited by Mr. Stebbins, President of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Turnbull, of the associated Press, and others. They then took the raft round to Cowes, where Prince Alfred and other members of the Royal Family came on board, the Prince tasting their biscuits and water and pronouncing both excellent. Mr. McGregor, the celebrated Northern traveller, Mr. White, the yacht builder, and others, also visited the little craft, which was subsequently taken to the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, where Mr. Charles Dickens paid a special visit for the purpose of examining it.

Both Capt. Mikes and his mate, Mr. Geo. Miller, appear to be in excellent health, the fatigue and hardships of their voyage having left none of their traces upon them. They complain, however, of the treatment received from the gentleman under whose management the expedition was got up, and accuse him of having broken his promise with them, thus subjecting Capt. Mikes to arrest for debt in England and to other inconveniences.

A book giving a full detail of the voyage, with a description of the raft, is shortly to be published for the benefit of Capt. Mikes and his mate, who have returned poorer in pocket than when they set out.

WHAT A GOOD NEWSPAPER MAY DO.

Show us an intelligent family of boys and girls, and we will show you a family where newspapers and periodicals are plenty. Nobody who has been without these silent private tutors can know their great power for good or evil. Have you ever thought of the innumerable topics of discussion which they suggest at the breakfast table; the important public measures with which, thus early, our children become acquainted; great philanthropic questions of the day, to which unconsciously their attention is awakened, and the general spirit of intelligence which is invoked by these quiet visitors? Anything that makes home pleasant, cheerful and chatty, thins the haunts of vice and the thousand and one of the avenues of temptation, should certainly be regarded, when we consider its influence on the minds of the young, as a great moral and social light.—*Emerson.*

A CALIFORNIA HORROR.

FEARFUL BUTCHERY OF TWO FAMILIES.

A fearful street fight lately took place between the members of two families named Coates (formerly from Wisconsin) and Frost, at Little Lake, in Mendocino county, Cal., which is thus described:—

"It is not known who fired first, and as those who were engaged were mostly killed, and as the spectators dispersed when the firing commenced, all that did happen is not precisely known. Upon the one side were Duncan, Martin Frost, Isham Frost and Elisha Frost. The three last named were brothers. On the other side were Wesley Coates, Albert Coates, Henry Coates, Thomas Coates, James Coates, Abraham Coates and Abner C. Coates. Wesley, Henry and James Coates were brothers. Abner C. Coates was the father of Albert and uncle of the three brothers. Abraham was a cousin of all the others except Thomas, who was his uncle. All the Frosts had pistols and Colt's navy revolvers. Duncan, however, broke his in the beginning of the fight, and did not shoot it. Wesley Coates and Abraham Coates had pistols, Abner Coates had a double shot gun—one rifled barrel and one shot barrel, and Wesley Coates also had a knife. Martin Frost was seen to shoot Wesley Coates, Abraham Coates and Henry Coates. Isham Frost was seen to shoot Thomas Coates, and Abner C. Coates killed Elisha Frost with his shot gun, Abner C. Coates was shot in the shoulder. He was the least hurt of any of the wounded, though his wound is severe. James Coates received a pistol shot in the abdomen, which was at first considered mortal, but there is now hope of his recovery. It is not known who shot him. Duncan was dangerously stabbed and cut about the neck, back and arm. His wounds at first were regarded fatal, but he is said to be recovering. It is presumed that Wesley Coates stabbed and cut him, as a large knife was found lying almost in Wesley's hand immediately after we was killed. The blade of the knife was very bloody. Five were killed instantly, and never spoke, except Albert Coates, who exclaimed, "My God!" and fell and expired. A friend rushed to Elijah Frost instantly, turning him over (he fell on his face), he threw up his hands, gave a groan and died. Abraham Coates survived next day about noon, when he died. The shooting could not have lasted more than a quarter of a minute. It was like, as some of the listeners expressed it, the firing of a string of shooting crackers, the shots were fired in such quick succession."

The scene at the funeral is said to have been very affecting. The parents, children, wives, brothers and sisters of the slayers and slain mingled their tears together over those who a few short hours before were grappling in a fierce combat, but who now were cold and still, and lay peaceably side by side. The sobbing and wailing that rose from the numerous mourners were enough to melt a heart of flint. "My father!" "My brother!" "My husband!" "My son!" and similar expressions were simultaneously ejaculated. Few eyes were dry in the large assembly present. The funeral procession was three quarters of a mile in length. All were buried in the same graveyard a few feet from each other.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD CATASTROPHE IN VERMONT.

Montpelier, Vt., Dec. 11.—One of the most fearful accidents known in the annals of Vermont, transpired to-day at what is known as Harlow Bridge, near Northfield, on the line of the Vermont Central Railroad. The bridge was burned on Sunday morning last, and during the week about 100 men have been engaged in rearing tressel work for temporary use. Most of the employees having dined today at Northfield, were returning to work, about 1½ miles from that town in a passenger car, which was being backed up to the works. By some inconceivable carelessness, the engineer proceeded with them at a rapid rate, and did not check the speed until too late, and the whole car, with its freight of from 70 to 100 men, was backed off the abutment into the river below, a distance of 60 feet, the tender to the engine following.

The number of casualties is appalling. Fifteen men were killed instantly, and three or four have since died. More than as many others were more or less injured, many seriously, and some, it is feared, fatally. The casualties consist of broken arms, legs, hands, dislocations, cuts, burns, and bruises.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Royal Mail Steamer *Merlin*, Capt. Gulliford, arrived at Halifax on the 29th ult. from St. John's, N. F, *via* Sydney, having experienced a very rough passage. She brought twenty-eight passengers.

The *Times* says:—"We understand the Government have contracted with Mr. Cunard for the transmission of our mails by the usual steamer from Halifax for six months from the arrival of the mail next week—making three monthly and four fortnightly trips. The cost will be £4500—half of which is to be defrayed by the Imperial Government and half by the colony."

From the *Newfoundlander* of the 20th. Dec. we learn that on Wednesday the 18th inst. the brigantine *Rainbow* left this place bound for Baltimore. In reaching up the shore, was run into by the brigantine *W. Greenough*, from Prince Edward Island, bound to France. The *Rainbow* sustained considerable damage, and the *W. Greenough* lost her jibboom in the collision. Both vessels arrived in St. John's on the morning of the 29th.

It will be seen that the imposition of postage on newspapers was only carried by thirteen votes. Had the Maritime members not left, Canada would have been relieved of this obnoxious tax. The heavy duty imposed on printing paper, on which publishers never seek to make any profit, looking to their advertisements for that, ought also to have been watched and cut down. The abolition of the paper duties in England, an old and heavily taxed country, was a great boon.—*St. John Telegraph.*

Accidents.—The St. John *Globe* reports the following:—A lad fourteen years of age named Manning Harley, son of Joseph Harley, living with Mr. George Douthright, at Coverdale, A. C, accidently discharged the contents of a gun in his right side, in the early part of the month, causing instant death....On Saturday evening last as Rev. Judeon Bleakeney was driving up the Bellisle towards White's Point, where he intended to spend the Sabbath with Rev. Mr. Corey, his horse broke through the ice off Long Point Bar, and was lost. The sleigh was smashed to pieces, and the Rev. gentleman also lost a valise containing his best wearing apparel....A man who we are told belongs to Fredericton and named Reed—not John H. Reid—while driving a pair of horses across the ice on Grand Bay on Wednesday afternoon, broke through and lost both animals, they dying on the ice after being taken out of the water alive. It is said that another party while passing over the same spot a short time before with a single team, had discovered the weakness of the ice, the horse's feet having broken through in several places, but with great carelessness neglected to mark the place "dangerous."

Charles Dickens writes:—"I notice that about once in every seven years I become the victim of a paragraph disease. It breaks out in England, travels to India by the overland route, gets to America per Cunard line, strikes the base of the Rocky Mountains, and, rebounding back to Europe, mostly perishes on the steppes of Russia, from inanition and extreme cold."

A Distressing Cough causes the friends of the sufferer as much pain as the sufferer himself. *Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry* will certainly cure coughs, colds, arrest consumption, and that speedily. When did it ever fail?

The earliest French professional fool on record seems to have been named Jean, at the court of Charles the Simple. This fellow's influence was so great that Charles once remarked to him that he thought they had better change places. As Jean did not look well pleased at the proposal, Charles asked him if he was not content at the idea of being a king. —"Yes, content enough," was the reply, "but I should be exceedingly ashamed at having such a fool."

We never mean to lend an influence to make a reputation for a worthless patent medicine, but believe we are doing our readers and the public a favor by calling attention to Blood's Rheumatic Compound. It will relieve pain in any form. —*St. John Paper.*

THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS AND MARQUIS DE MOUSTIER ON THE ROMAN QUESTION.

The prelate whose views on Rome were looked forward to with most curiosity was Monsigneur Darboy, Archbishop of Paris. Of his devotion to the head of the Church, no one doubted; but he is also known for the liberality of his opinions in temporal and his moderation in religious matters. The speech which he has delivered in the Senate was received with much favour and at its close he was warmly congratulated by his colleagues. His views deserve notice. He observed, with reference to the conference, that a government was bound by its signature to protect the rights which it had sanctioned, and that if any one State withdrew the unanimity of the others would be a guarantee for their execution. But, supposing the conference got together, what could it do? There was one of three lines to follow—to give back to the Holy Father the provinces that have been torn from him, to take away the remaining territory, or to proclaim the *status quo*. The first, though most desirable, was hardly possible. If it belonged to the jurist and the theologian to define "right," the politiefan should, also, do so. It would not be difficult to define the rights of the Holy Father, for he was the legitimate owner of what was taken from him by force. But in this world people often found themselves embarrassed in material necessities; facts give birth to interests, and interests come in time to be called rights; and real necessities and facts must be taken into account. In the present instance, he did not know what was practicable; but this would be a matter for the consideration of the Conference. To deprive the Holy Father of what territory now remained to him, seemed immoral, and almost impracticable. They were told that Italy wanted Rome; but if the Pope was forced to quit Rome it would assuredly be a calamity for those who remained there after him. Let the Senate picture to themselves the august Pontiff wandering as a pilgrim. The very earth would tremble beneath his footsteps, and his words would be maledictions. Would they suppose the Pope remaining at Rome? No. Rome was not large enough to contain two sovereigns. He had no intention to make personal reflections; but a King of Italy was too petty a personage to have his seat side by side with the Papacy. The Pope at Rome, and Rome belonging to the King of Italy, was but a dream; 'the very extreme of ignorance.' The Catholic nations would never allow the patrimony of St. Peter to pass, after 14 centuries "into the hands of any sovereign." It was in Rome that the Papacy must abide. Italy only created inextricable embarrassments by clinging to an idea which the will of Catholic nations would never sanction. There remained the third hypothesis, and on this what could the Conference do? Take all? give back all? No, perhaps; but at least it might maintain the present state of things, seek to vivify the Pontifical Government, and find the means of doing so in a good organization of resources. After some further observations, the Archbishop said that the object of those who signed the interpellation was that the Senate should give its vote to these resolutions: 1. That it was desirable, if possible, that the Pontifical Government should be reinstated in its lost provinces. 2. That it was necessary to maintain the existing situation. 3. To examine whether there was such means to restore to the Pontifical Government a powerful vitality by a development of its resources. He hoped the Government would declare that the French troops should remain at Rome until the security of the Holy See should be completely guaranteed.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs believed there was reason to expect much from the good sense of the Italians, and hoped that men, who could give guarantees for judicious conduct would come into power. In such a case it would not be well for the Holy See to count upon a dissolution of Italian unity. It must rather look forward to the possibility of living in a community of ideas with Italy—not with the Italy of Mazzini, nor of Garibaldi, nor of Rattazi, but a new Italy. Nothing was easier to conceive by reference to the past, than an Italian Pope, living in the midst of tranquil people, without forfeiting his independence. What was wanting was not so much a facility of compromise, as sentiments of reciprocal confidence. Hitherto there has been mutual distrust, and there were very good reasons for distrusting Italy. The French Government had not the pretension to impose confidence; it only said that it was necessary to seek out even for the Holy See, new elements of security, and for Italy the means of keeping her from the dangerous line she has entered on. Italy should cease to regard France as a troublesome guardian; because she has rendered great services to Italy all pressure on her part seemed an offence; this was the sentiment of the human heart. It was for this reason that the best counsels of France could not carry with them the same authority as those of Powers less committed towards Italy; hence the idea of a conference. The French Government desired to place the Roman question in the hands of all parties. It was religious and political. Formerly a Congress composed exclusively of Catholic Powers was spoken of; but it was easy to understand why such a Congress was not possible. Moreover, at that moment the intervention of France sufficed. And, besides, a Congress of the great Catholic Powers would have done no more than France had done alone. France might have limited her invitation to the great Powers only, but three of the great Powers were not Catholic, and the fourth—Italy—was an interested party.

Interview with Pius the Ninth.—Those who have seen the Sovereign Pontiff deliver his benediction to Rome and to the world at Easter from the Laggia, officiate at the *grande masse* at the high altar in St. Peter's, or assist at any other public ceremony or festival—such lucky ones will doubtless forever preserve a lively recollection of the grandeur and religious solemnity of the occasion. But to see Pius the Ninth aright, to understand his true character, and appreciate it, you must strip him of his vestments of purple and gold, and imagine him simply clad in a long habit of creamy white, seated in a cosy armchair at a table covered with papers and documents, in a room in the Vitican, small and plainly furnished. Into such an apartment I was introduced, and it was here I spent the delightful half hour which I shall always remember with the deepest sense of pleasure and gratification. It was late when I entered—past four o'clock—and the lamp in the centre of the table gave a dull light to the rooms though quite sufficient to enable me to observe every feature and every little movement of my august host. All the world has seen the Pope's photograph; but though his photograph resembles him in a certain degree, yet there are few sun-pictures which ever do justice—though they are sometimes impartial—and in the present case you lose the whole benevolent expression of the eyes which ever light up the dignified countenance. To describe His Holiness as I saw him: He looks about 70 years old—his age is 75—middle sized, and though rather inclined to curpulency, yet of a frame still retaining all its muscular power. Little tiny, dumpling hands, white as snow, and little tiny feet, of which any lady would be proud. A face one cannot look upon without loving—so mild is it and benevolent; the large dark Italian eye being softened by the constant affectionate smile playing about the mouth—a smile not assumed and put aside at will, but one of real Christian hope and resignation, ever present, ever suggestive of the true character of the man. When one thinks of the trials and sufferings, political and corporeal, endured with manly fortitude by His Holiness for the last twenty years, one cannot help admiring the spirit which has sustained him and followed him all through his career. It also makes us contemplate what would have been the present state of the Roman Catholic Church had a man of less courage and determination or a spirit less mild and conciliating, been at the head of her government during these critical years.—*Cor. Irish Times.*

Punch gives a domestic scene called "The Tables Turned," in which a little girl and her mamma are in the drawing room, a nurse just entering. Nurse—Did you ring, ma'm? Naughty little girl—No, I rang. Take mamma away, please. She's very cross and disagreeable."

Two butchers' shops, for the sale of horse-flesh as an article of human food, have been opened in Paris, which brings up the number of these establishments in the city to seventeen or eighteen. For "prime cuts" the modest price of twenty-two sous is demanded per pound.

A young man who received a "blowing up" from his sweetheart, calls her a wind-lass.

CHARLES DICKENS AND THE STORM.

HOW HIS AUDIENCES CONDUCT THEMSELVES.

Of Dickens' third reading at New York, on Thursday night, the *Tribune* says:—

A silly, infatuated snow storm, if it thought itself a match for Charles Dickens! How it howled as it saw the thickening carriages, and the merry, crushing crowd! How maliciously it lay in wait round the most advantageous corners, and hoped, by pouncing out with a screaming whistle and its hands full of snow balls, to drive back the bright-eyed, rosy, laughing girls and sweet-faced women clinging in mock terror to lovers' and husbands' arms! An ignorant, pompous, hard-headed storm, that had no notion what all these people were after, and was made angrier and angrier by seeing that the worst he could do only made the drivers whip up their horses, and the lovers and husbands cheer up their bright companions, and the pretty little feet trot along faster and faster, and his worst fury vain to keep the people away from Charles Dickens and Steinway Hall! If, as we hear from several sources, Dickens is reading much better here than he did in Boston, it is also true that he read last night better than he has thus far read in New York He seemed in unusual spirits, and threw himself with all his force into every part. The reading consisted of the chapters of Nicholas Nickleby relating to the hero's life at Dotheboys Halls, and that loveliest of domestic fairy tales, "Boots at the Holly Tree Inn." It is plain that Mr. Dickens, like all great actors, is very much affected, by his audience. Those who heard him in Boston say that after the first night the people acted on him more and more, like a wetter and wetter blanket, and that, though he struggled manfully against the tide, nothing but a vigorous dash for New York at the end of the week saved him from being utterly drowned and lost to us forever.

The audiences in Boston were irreproachable in decorum. They came with meek punctuality, the ladies with their knitting and German grammars, the gentlemen with the *North American Review*, and the children with Our Young Folks; they sternly frowned down applause, and if any ill-bred person laughed, he was very properly insulted, and held up to public ridicule in the evening paper next day; they grew stiller with each successive reading, until on the last evening the loveliest and most embarrassing silence reigned in Tremont Temple for the whole two hours. The audience was perfect in discipline, perfect in decorum, but, like perfect people in general, it was disagreeable to know. When Mr. Dickens was pathetic the Bostonians became critical, and counted their tears; when he was funny, they hesitated to laugh till they saw whether the best people were laughing, too; and in fine, not only were all the seats reserved, but the people who sat in them were fifty times as reserved as the seats. The reason why Mr. Dickens read so much better here than in Boston is simply that his audience is thoroughly sympathetic with him. We regret to say that it is not at all a well behaved audience. It has never done coming in. It walks in at all stages of the performance with a lady on its arm, and the offence is not lessened, but rather aggravated, by the fact that all the ladies are pretty, and wear enchanting bonnets, because the whole assembly is seized with a desire to turn round and look at them. The audience snickers right out whenever it wants to. It has repeatedly stopped Mr. Dickens in his very funniest moments, by laughing out as loud as it could, and making the reader laugh too, than which, of course, nothing could be more reprehensible. But, somehow or other, all this bad behaviour does not in the least damp the spirits of the reader. With a generous consideration for human weakness, he reflects that they cannot help laughing and crying when he is working his spells, and he accordingly works them with a will. The more they laugh, the funnier he gets: the more they cry, the more tears he wrings from them; and so far from being displeased with conduct for which our Boston neighbours, if they could only see it, would have nothing but reproof, he actually gets into higher spirits, and leaves the stage with a step that seems as if he were leading off in a contra dance, with the whole audience for partners.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.

A WAGON RUN DOWN BY A RAILWAY TRAIN—THREE PERSONS INSTANTLY KILLED.

On Saturday evening last, at about half past seven o'clock, a frightful occurrence transpired at Tecumseh Station, on the line of the railway, eight miles from Windsor. The Night Mail Train, leaving Windsor at 7.20, when near that place, ran into a wagon which was occupied by a farmer, his wife and their son, aged about ten years, smashed the wagon to atoms, and killed all three persons. One of the horses was also killed. We are informed that at that particular crossing a man is always stationed to watch the trains as they approach, and warn back any teams that might be coming. At this time he seems to have been out of the way, perhaps keeping indoors, owing to the coldness of the night. The farmer and his family were so muffled up that they could not have heard the sound of the whistle, and thus received no warning until by one crash they were hurried to their account! The woman was horribly mutilated and totally unrecognizable by any one, and her husband was completely beheaded, the head being hurled several yards distant from the body, which was shattered and broken in many places. The boy received such injuries that he expired in a short time after the accident. The family were of French origin, but their names we could not learn up to the hour of going to press.—*Canadian paper.*

RUSSIA PREPARING FOR WAR.

The movement of the various divisions of the Russian army westward, which we noticed the other day has been completed; and the Government is now in a position to send 200,000 men to the Turkish or Austrian frontier at a few days notice. 45,000 men are stationed between Dunaburg, Polotsk and Witepsk, 20,000 at Borizov and Orza, 18,000 at Minsk, 50,000 in other parts of Lithuania, and 70,000 at Tcheringov, Zytomir, Kiev, and Ostrog. Speaking of these warlike preparations, the *Goloss* says: "Our Government may continue to circulate peaceful phrases among the public in Paris, London, and Vienna but we know here that war is imminent."

Americans taking Advantage of the Anglo Abyssinian War.—*Wilkes' Spirit* says:—"We are credibly informed that a party of Americans in this city some months ago, sent agents out to Abyssinia to obtain commissions and letters of marque from King Theodore, on which to make an Alabama venture against British commerce. Theodore, as a recognized Prince, has an undoubted right to issue such commissions and such letters, and our Government would sink to depths of unspeakable contempt, if after what we submitted to from England, we should fail to throw around American citizens who accept such commissions in the Abyssinian service all the protection due to regular prisoners of war. The first step necessary to such protection is the recognition of Abyssinia as a maritime belligerent. This cannot be done too soon, for we know not at what hour some of our adventurers, armed with commissions from King Theodore, and fired with the certainity of fortune, may intercept one of the rich Cunarders off the Hook, and after sending her to the bottom, present her chronometer to the Smithsonian Institute."

Concerning Chignons.—An English Chancery suit, recently commenced, has developed some facts concerning the construction of chignons, and other hirsute deceptions. Thus it appears that mohair, or the hair of the lama goat, is largely used for head-dresses, moustaches, and waterfalls. It is first boiled until all the animal matter is extracted, then washed in a hot bath of salt and water; then is plunged into a bath prepared with sulphate of copper, where it remains twenty-four hours; then it is boiled in catechu liquor, to which, after a while, sulphate of iron is added; finally it is washed in warm soap-suds, and then dried.

A Frenchman who had purchased a country seat was complaining of the want of birds in his garden. "Set some traps," replied an old officer, "and they'll come." I was once in Africa and there wasn't supposed to be a woman within two hundred miles. I hung a pair of earrings and a collar upon a tree, and the next morning I found two women under the branches.

An old copy-book belonging to the first Napoleon has turned up. Strange coincidence that the last boyish theme is on geography, and the last subject a desigination of St. Helena, viz., "a little island."

The latest style of bonnet has turned up at Richmond, Indiana. It is described as consisting of two straws, tied together at the top of the head, and red tassels suspended at each of the four ends of the straws. Price, nineteen dollars.

A Kentuckian, who had, after a protracted courtship, made up his mind to propose to a young lady, carried his resolution into effect. The lady with some hesitation replied:—"I am partially engaged, but mother wants to marry."

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

EROM EUROPE.

London, Dec. 23—midnight.—The Italian Parliament by a recent vote refused to pay the interest on the debt of the Provinces formerly belonging to the States of the Church, which debt was assumed by Italy when those Provinces were annexed to the Kingdom. The French Government has sent a despatch to Florence protesting against the actions of the Legislatif.

Florence, Dec. 23—evening.—In consequence of the adverse vote at the conclusion of the debate in the House of Deputies last week the members of Cabinet have tendered their resignation to the King, but wait the judgment of his Majesty on their acts. The New Ministry, it is reported, will be organized under Marshal Durand.

Paris, 23—evening.—It is rumored that Ratazzi will resume the premiership of Italy, and will form a new cabinet hostile to France......The French Government is seriously considering the necessity of ordering the troops of the French expedition remaining at Civita Vecchia to return to Rome....M. Accolas, and other members of a secret political society, which has held its meetings in this city, have been sentenced to imprisonment.

London, Dec. 24.—The Fenians are still active. The newest sensation is an effort made last night to destroy the Gas Works at Glasgow. Attempts had been made the night before to destroy the Gas Works at Warrington near Liverpool. In both places the efforts were unsuccessful. The authorities in those cities are doubly watchful, and no further trouble is apprehended.....Despatches received from various parts of the kingdom report everything quiet to-day.... Despatches received from Naples mention that the eruption of Mount Vesuvius is continually increasing in power and splendour. Immense sheets of white, yellow and crimson flames rise hundreds of feet above the crater. At night the Bay of Naples is lighted up for miles. Lava is pouring down the mountain side in immense quantities and large stones are occasionally thrown out of the mouth of the volcano. A deep rumble like reverberating thunder is heard from time to time as in the bowels of the earth, and many of the people in the vicinity have left their homes fearing an earthquake or other calamity. No such eruption has probably occurred in Vesuvius for centuries, and the spectacle is regarded as one of the most magnificent and sublime ever witnessed in nature.

London, Dec. 25th.—The precautions of the Government against the Fenians continue very extensive, and unusual preparations have been made to-day which indicate that the authorities are in possession of information that a general attempt is to be made by the Fenians to rescue the prisoners confined in various parts of the United Kingdom for complicity in the late outrages both in England and Ireland. In addition to the regular police force special constables are everywhere on duty, and other precautionary measures have been adopted by the Government, which it is hoped will result in the preservation of order.....The *Times* of to day has an editorial on the subject of the Abyssinian war, which it fears will be protracted until next year. It blames Sir Wm. Napier, the Commander of the English forces, for the delay which the expedition has encountered, and says nothing can be done during the present season.

London, Dec. 25.—The Russian Government have addressed a note to the Government of France protesting earnestly against the shifting policy of the latter upon the Eastern question.....Advices from China by the overland Mails and Telegraph report that the Rebels are meeting with success in their operations against the Imperial Government. Tonnage was scarce at the various Chinese ports, and Exchange in England had declined. ....To-day being observed as a holiday there was no money or flour market.

Paris, Dec. 26th.—Mr. E. Gould Buffum, an old American journalist, committed suicide here day before yesterday by taking opium.

London, Dec. 26.—The expected rising of the Fenians did not occur yesterday.

London, Dec. 26.—Mr. Edward Thornton, the newly appointed Minister from Great Britain for Washington, will sail in a few days for America, to enter upon the duties of his mission.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The report that the French Expeditionary Corps remaining in Italy is to be reinforced is confirmed this morning by the *Patrie*, which states that the French Government has issued orders for the departure of 20,000 more troops for Civitia Vecchia.

London, 27th—noon.—Consols 92½; Five-Twenties 72 1-8. Corn 45s 9d. Wheat 13s 7d *a* 15s 2d; Barley 5s 3d; Oats 3s 8d; Peas 46s; Beef 112s; Pork 67s 6d; Lard 49s 9d; Cheese 52s; Bacon 41s; No. ½ D S Sugar 25s 6d; Rosin 6s 9d *a* 11s; Tallow 43s 9d; Turpentine 27s; Refined Petroleum 1s 3d½; Clover Seed 46s; LinseedCakes 110s; Whale Oil 39*l*; Sperm 112*l*; Linseed Oil 37*l*.

London, Dec. 27.—Another of those fiendish outrages which have characterized the operations of the Fenians has just been perpetrated at Dublin. Telegrams from there received to-day give the following particulars: —An unusually large number of letters have recently been received at the Post Office at Dublin, directed to prominent officials, and each one of these letters were loaded with explosive materials, designed to kill the person addressed. Several of them exploded before their real nature was ascertained, but up to this time no person has been killed. One of the policemen of the city was horribly mangled by the explosion which occurred when he opened one. It is not known how many of these dangerous missives have been despatched. Considerable excitement prevails both in Dublin and elsewhere throughout the country on the discovery of this, the latest Fenian outrage. The authorities are actively investigating and will no doubt probe the matter to the bottom. The London *Times* this morning has an editorial article on the Fenian question. It says that no less than 30,000 special constables have been sworn; and are now serving in London. The writer calls attention to the grave public danger, and calls on the Provincial cities and towns to emulate the precautionary measures of the metropolis.....A despatch from India announces the departure from Bombay of Gen. Napier to take immediate command of the expedition now advancing into the interior of Abyssinia.....It is reported that the Sublime Porte has offered to the Cretans an antomonous government and has named Prince Christian as its head.

Paris Dec 27.—The *Moniteur* to-day contains an official notice to the effect that the Coupons on the Italian Bonds will be paid.

Paris, Dec. 27, (even).—The Pope has enjoined the Rothschilds against paying the Coupons on the Italian Bonds in that city.

Berlin, Dec. 27, (even).—A general Council of the Zollivereın, in which all the States of North and South Germany are to be represented for the first time since the late war, will be held in this city in the month of March.....Prussia to-day commenced withdrawing her troops from all parts of Saxony except the Fortress of Konigstein.

Florence, Dec. 27.—It is said that General Menbrea has declared his intention to dissolve the National Parliament now in session on the 15th prox, and make an appeal to the country, should another vote unfavorable to the Ministry be adopted before that time.

Vienna, Dec. 27.—By the re-arrangement of the Austrian Cabinet, Baron Von Beust ceased to be president of the Ministerial Council, but retains the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs, which he has held all along in connection with his former position.

FROM CANADA.

London, Ca., Dec. 23.—The office of the Grand Trunk Railway in this place was entered by burglars yesterday morning. The safe was blown open and a large sum of money stolen.

Ottawa, Dec. 23, 1867.—The Privy Council have appointed Mr. Smith, Controller of St. John, Secretary to the Minister of Marine.... Privy Council met to day. Present: Sir John McDonald, Hon. Messrs. Tilley, McDougall, Archibald, and Mitchell. Other Ministers are out of town.....The Address of Parliament on Hudson Bay territory will be forwarded immediately to Colonial Office.....M. Lemesurier has been elected Mayor of Quebec by an overwhelming vote. His opponent was M. Cauchon, the late Mayor, President of the Senate, &c.

Quebec, Dec. 24.—Two ship-yards have been re-opened in this city, their proprietors having provided against interference by the Ship Carpenters' Union.....There is some excitement in Montreal in consequence of contradictory reports of the loss of the steamship Hiberian.

Kingston, Dec. 24.—To-day a man named Salond, while crossing on the ice from Wolf's Island to this city, broke through and was drowned.

Montreal, Canada, Dec. 26.—Some uneasiness was occasioned here yesterday by reports which had been in circulation for some time past of the proposed Fenian uprising on Christmas day, and of a scheme to blow up the English Cathedral. Threatening letters were received by the Police authorities, and as a matter of precaution, men were sent to guard the Water Works, and troops were kept in readiness to move when called upon Nothing, however, of an unusual character occurred to disturb the festivites of the day.

Quebec, Dec. 27.—Parliament opened today; Col. Blanchett was elected Speaker.

FROM MEXICO.

Havana, Dec. 26.—A despatch from Mexico states that the revolution in Yucatan is assuming large proportions. Santa Anna had been proclaimed Dictator by the Revolutionists, and was expected hourly to arrive from Havana with men and a million of dollars. The fort and town of Sisal were in the hands of the rebels, but the port was blockaded by two Mexican gunboats. A number of officers who formerly served under the Emperor Maximilian had arrived at Sisal from Matamoras.—On the 16th an engagement took place between the Mexican gunboats and the batteries on the shore. The coast of Yucatan, in the vicinity of Sisal, was diligently watched to prevent the landing of troops coming from any foreign country to aid the rebellion. When the steamer left Vera Cruz on the 20th, the Mexican steamer *Tobasco* was ready to sail for Sisal on the next day with an expedition to establish the authority of the Mexican Government at Sisal. She had on board 500 or 600 men, and several pieces of artillery.—Santa Anna is in the city of Havana. Many ex-Imperialist officers have arrived here. They all seem to be busily engaged.

FROM THE WEST INDIES.

Havana, Dec. 16.—Recent arrivals here report that there had been a desolating conflagration in Gaudaloupe Island, but no particulars of it are given.....An earthquake visited Antigua on Nov. 18, causing great loss of life and property....The American wife of Senor Hernandes and her child were burned to death at Guachoco.....The commercial feeling in Havana is very insecure. The condition of several merchants is critical, and some bankrupts may be expected.

Havana, Dec. 17.—Advices from St. Thomas to the 7th inst. have been received. The transfer of that island to the United States will probably be made on New Year's day, but the date has not been positively fixed....The Government architect had examined those edifices which were left in a dangerous condition by the earthquakes, and had ordered the demolition of the English mail offices, Lloyd's building, Dormal's Hotel, the Hjardemaal, the New Town and Butcher's Gate, and the warehouse of Morrison, Mera & Co.....Up to the 7th inst. five hundred shocks of earthquake had been felt.... Divers were busily engaged in the bay, and 200 packages were daily raised from the wreck of the steamer Columbia.....Business had been generally resumed and no more failures were reported. Rents of corner lots were greatly increasing.....Advices from St. Domingo report that two million dollars had been realized from the last loan made by the Dominion Government in Paris.....Merchants who refused to take Government paper as currency had been fined two hundred dollars each.....The principal of a large provision house, called the San Ciprian, has absconded, leaving liabilities to the amount of $700,000. Assets small..... Later advices from St. Thomas state that the city is crowded with shipwrecked sailors. The inhabitants are returning to the island, and confidence is restored. Capt. Samuels of the New York Submarine Company, writes that between earthquakes and hurricanes, as well as cholera and yellow fever, the place presents a dreadful appearance.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 6, 1868.

OUR DISTRICT OR COMMON SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

We are not one of those who fancy, or appear to fancy, that, because they are privileged to occupy "chairs editorial" they thereby acquire such increase of sapience as qualifies them to come before the public and demand to be received as infallible popular guides; and who, whatever may be their natural dulness, positive ignorance, or educational deficiences, believe or seem to believe, that, because they are recognised as members of "the self-ordained, self-installed, self-consecrated priesthood of the press," they have had cast over them such mantles of inspiration as have imparted to them power and right to deal authoritatively with every question, whether moral, political, or philosophical, which directly affects, or has any relation to, the interests of the community in the midst of which they dwell. But we certainly are one of those who are fully persuaded that, in their editorial capacities, they lie under a binding, a sacred—though tacit and unwritten —obligation, not only to their immediate patrons and friends but to the public at large, to regard themselves as watchmen on the walls of the social and political Zion of the State, bound not only to give warning when they see any danger approaching, but to make known any signs of dilapidation or imperfection, which, in the exercise of their assumed inspectorial care of the fortress, they may have discovered in its strength or construction. Such self-constituted watchmen are, not infrequently, it must be confessed, very far from being gifted with that superior perspicacity, comprehensiveness of intellect, and profound professional wisdom, which alone could entitle them to entire and unlimited trust and confidence on the part of the public. Of them, however, generally speaking, we think it may be said, with as much truth as it has been of governments, that they are as good as the communities in which they exist deserve. Chameleon-like, they take their hue from the colours which surround them, whether they be bright and beautiful, or dark and saddening. In a corrupt community, or a community tending to corruption, the newspaper, representing that which sustains it —public opinion—may be the most powerful accelerator of such a tendency. But, in such a community as that in which we have the happiness to live, the newspaper press, in accordance with the sentiments and opinions which happily prevail, is at once the palladium of freedom, the upholder, not only of the laws, but of the rights and liberties of the people, the friend of virtue and knowledge, the enemy of vice, tyranny, and corruption, and the earnest indicator and director, touching every necessary step in the way of progress or improvement.

The advanced state of public opinion in Prince Edward Island is certainly, in the first place, to be attributed to the improved and enlarged facilities which our System of Free Education has afforded for the acquisition and extension of learning and knowledge; but amongst the real educators of the people—neither overlooking the faithful and needful labours of our ecclesiastics, nor depreciating the, in one sense, humbler, but certainly much more difficult and scarcely less important labours of the schoolmaster—we think we may justly claim for our Island newspaper press the merit of having been—in a degree which, comparatively speaking as respects the numerical extent and normal condition of a people, has seldom been surpassed,—an educator of the people, a family friend, a dispeller of darkness, and a diffuser of light throughout the land. We are thus free and liberal in this commendation of our Island press, because we have no idea of including ourself in the number of those to whom the praise belongs. To the late editor and proprietor of the *Examiner*, we may, however, be permitted to observe, a very large share of such commendation is undeniably due; but this assertion is now made without the slightest design of in any way disparaging the talents or merits of the editors of our other Island journals.

This acknowledgment, we would most cheerfully have made at any time; but, at present, when our object is to incite and promote, on the part of and through our Newspaper Press, a cordial discussion of a subject, concerning which it is of paramount importance to our community that it should be carried to the utmost verge of common agreement—we mean Education, as imparted, or rather, perhaps, as it ought to be imparted, through the instrumentality of our Common or District Schools—we are encouraged by the reflection to hope that these gentlemen, acceding to our simple and unpretending invitation, will be found willing to enter upon the enquiry, and to lay before the public—with nothing but a direct view to the common good, and without one feeling of either professional or party jealousy—such practical suggestions anent State Education, and for the improvement of our system, as they may believe it would be well that our legislators should take into consideration when engaged in framing the new School Act, which has been promised to the people as one of the fruits of the approaching legislative session.

Our system of State Education is, with the exception of that of Scotland, undeniably the wisest and the best that exists within the bounds of the British Dominions. It is based on principles purely secular, and is a complete acknowledgment of the duty of a State to educate its people. It is open to all; to the lowest as well as to the highest in the community; and in the language of Disraeli, its grand object is to make every man who grows up amongst us as *effective* a being as education can constitute him—to secure to the people at large, such an amount of education and such a degree of enlightenment as shall enable them to fulfil the great functions which devolve upon them as members of the State.

Such being our view of the fundamental principles of our Common or District School System, we will not, we trust, be suspected of any desire to depreciate it as a system, when we candidly avow our opinion that unsoundness and decay are now visible in its organization, and call loudly upon our statesmen and legislators for a "re-edification," if we may so speak, of the institution.

In fact the present state of our School Act is confessedly such, that it may very aptly be compared to a garment which has been so often patched, and with shreds of hues and textures so various, that it is scarcely possible to tell either what was the quality of the original fabric, or the purposes for which the vestment was at first designed; and which, through the very attempts which have been made to repair it, is become so rent and tattered as to be no longer adaptable to any purpose of personal comfort or economy. Our legislators have, therefore, at length wisely determined to throw the abused and deformed Act entirely aside, and to replace it by a new one, by which, whilst carefully guarding against the defects which have been superinduced upon the old one, they will endeavour to give a more efficient and extensive application to the admirable principles of our system of State Education.

Of the ability of our leading statesmen to frame such an act—and upon them undoubtedly the duty of doing so will principally devolve —we entertain not the smallest doubt; and neither do we question the willingness and anxiety with which the Legislature will devote themselves to their auxiliary duty in their consideration of the measure when submitted to them. But we do entertain a belief, a steadfast belief, that our local Government would act most wisely, if, imitating as it were at a distance, the late action of the Imperial Government in appointing—for the especial purpose of being put in possession of certain data whereon to base the provisions of their contemplated measure of a uniform system of National Education—a Royal Commission to make inquiry into the revenues, administration and management of the great Public Schools of England, they were in due time before the meeting of the Legislature, to institute an Educational Convention, with a view to their having laid before them, as the result of its deliberations, such well digested suggestions, in the form of Resolutions or otherwise, as might materially aid them in the framing of that important measure: such Convention to be composed, firstly, of the members of the Board of Education and the School Visitors; and, in the second place, of a select number of our best and most experienced teachers, as well a clerical representative of each of the leading religious denominations in the Island; and all the *recognised* editors of our Island Press, every one of whom, there is abundant reason to believe, would be found well qualified to take part in the important deliberations of such a body; the whole to be under the Presidency or Moderatorship of the talented, the experienced and much respected Secretary of the Board of Education, John McNeill, Esquire, than whom, we sincerely believe, our whole community does not possess a gentleman better qualified to discharge the duties, or more worthy of the honor of such an appointment.

It has been very justly said that the wisest princes need not think it any diminution of their authority, or derogation from their sufficiency, to rely upon counsel; and we, therefore, trust that our Government, acknowledging the justness of the observation, will (how uncalled for soever they may deem our intervention in the matter) feel no disposition to throw upon us an imputation of unpardonable presumption, because we have thus humbly and respectfully sought to direct their attention to a source whence, if they apply to it, they cannot fail to derive—as must be evident to all—most essential service in their endeavours to promote the interests of education.

Having already said that the Scotch Parochial System of Education stands higher than any other in the estimation of the most enlightened British statesmen of the present day, and being besides persuaded that our own, which, we think, fairly ranks next to it, might easily be