

to retire from any participation in the active duties of the Lodge, but I assure you such is not my intention, and it did not require this incentive (valuable as it is) to increase my zeal in doing all in my power to advance the interests of our Lodge, and of promoting the general welfare of the Craft.

On behalf of Mrs. Fraser and myself, I heartily thank you for the expression of your good wishes for our welfare and happiness, and we earnestly hope that you may, individually as well as collectively, enjoy every earthly blessing, and we fully reciprocate the hope that when our probationary state is over, we all, at last, may meet in "the house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

I remain,
Right Worshipful Sir and Brethren,
faithfully and fraternally Yours,
GEORGE FRASER, P. M.
Halifax, N. S., 12th February, }
A. D. 1869, A. L. 5869. }

Dominion and Foreign News.

The Dominion Parliament is expected to meet on or about the 8th of April. Preparations are being commenced in the Legislative Halls at Ottawa.

Snow storms have been prevailing at Quebec, and Montreal. In some places snow has fallen to the depth of eight feet—deeper than it has been for the past twenty years.

A large number of petitions from French Canadian exiles in the United States were presented to the Quebec Legislature, asking for the same privileges as emigrants if they return.

A delegation from Newfoundland on Confederation business is shortly expected at Ottawa. Members comprising it will probably take passage by steamer City of Halifax, and proceed by same steamer to Boston, en route to the Capital.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Newfoundland Assembly has passed an address in reply to the Lieutenant Governor's speech affirming Union, by twenty to eight. The Council was unanimous.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16th.—The Legislature of British Columbia, after a long debate, decided against Confederation. The vote stood 11 against to 5 in favor of it.

The appropriation for the enabling of female emigration to British Columbia was unanimously passed by the Council.

New Brunswick.

ROBBERY IN ST. JOHN.—The warehouse of Messrs Oulton, Bros., was robbed on Tuesday last. Although a gas lamp stood immediately in front of the building the robbers deliberately bored some thirty auger holes in the door, and were thus enabled to knock a panel out without difficulty.

ADVICE FROM THE WEST.—The St. John Journal publishes extracts from two letters, recently received from young men formerly of St. John, now in Chicago. They both speak discouragingly of the idea of leaving New Brunswick for the West. Mr. Gilmour, formerly connected with the Journal, writes:

I understand there are a number of young men in St. John who intend coming out here in the spring. I would advise them, by all means, to seek some other place than this, for Chicago is now over-run with young and old, seeking employment in vain. Getting discouraged at their ill success, they may be seen hanging around billiard-rooms and bar-saloons, spending their last dollar, having no knowledge where the next one is to come from, and probably caring less. For men of capital or tradesmen this place presents a grand field, but it is entirely overstocked with persons of a different class.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—We learn from the St. John Telegraph that the Hon A. C. DesBrisay has resigned his seat in the Executive Council of New Brunswick, owing to a disagreement with his colleagues in reference to the disposal of the Surveyor General's office. It is alleged that Mr. DesBrisay claimed the office for the North Shore Counties. The Government, therefore, is now composed only of the following persons:—Hon. A. H. Wetmore, Attorney General; Hon. John McAdam, Board of Works; Hon. J. A. Beckwith, Secretary; Hon. W. P. Flewelling, Surveyor General; and Hon. B. Beveridge—barely a quorum of members. The seats vacated by Messrs. Skinner, Chandler, Sutton and DesBrisay remain to be filled.

The United States.

THE NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED.—The formal casting of votes for the new President took place on the 10th inst. All the States voted for Grant for President, and Colfax, Vice President, excepting New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Georgia, and Oregon. The result was announced by the President of the Senate, Hon. B. Wade.

The following is a copy of the President's Commission:

Be it known that the Senate of Representatives of the United States of America, being assembled at the Capitol in the city of Washington, on the second Wednesday, being the 10th day of February, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, the underwritten President of the Senate, did, in presence of the said Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and count all the votes for a President and Vice President, by which it appears that Ulysses S. Grant was duly elected, agreeably to the Constitution, President of the United States for four years, commencing on the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Senate, this 10th day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine.

B. F. WADE,
President of the Senate.

General Grant made the following characteristically laconic reply to the Committee appointed to present the above:—

"Gentlemen,—Please notify the two Houses of Congress of my acceptance of the important trust to which I have been elected and of which you have just notified me, and to say to them that it will be my endeavour to so discharge it that they, and those who elected me, shall have no reason to regret their action."

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—An immense mass-meeting of citizens, in favor of the freedom of Ireland and the liberation of American citizens, held prisoners by England, took place last night at the Cooper Institute. Mayor Hall presided. The remains of the assassin Booth have been given up to his friends, by direction of the President, and removed to Baltimore, and buried near the grave of his father.

Feb. 18.—A Richmond Jury, composed half of whites and half of colored people, has given a negro \$1,000 damages against a Railway Company, for putting his wife in a second class car, by force, after selling her a first-class ticket.

Feb. 19.—The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has reported against the ratification of the proposed Treaty with Great Britain on the Alabama claims.

The next monthly statement will likely show a considerable reduction in the public debt. The President and his family will vacate the White House on the third of March, and will probably leave Washington on the 5th.

Feb. 20.—A despatch to the British Minister at Washington announces the release of Castello and Warren, implicated in the Fenian movements.

Feb. 20.—A despatch from Washington says that President Johnson will refuse to sign any bills passed by Congress unless the Senate consents to act on his nominations.

Feb. 22.—The Alabama treaty is likely to be discussed at some length in the Senate, and its consideration will probably be postponed until after the 4th of March.

Anniversary of Washington's birthday, business generally suspended.

The woman who sought to shoot President Johnson had only an empty pistol. Her name is Anne O'Neill. When found concealed in the White House she said: "I have been delegated by the Almighty to kill the President of the United States." The pistol it is supposed some wag had prepared for her.

FLOUR FOR HALIFAX.—A Portland paper says that there is a very large quantity of Ontario flour now stored at that port, awaiting shipment to Halifax, per steamers *Carlotta* and *Chase*.

LABOR IN THE MARKET.—The Philadelphia Ledger says: A few days ago, a gentleman advertised in this paper for a clerk, and requested applicants to address their notes to him at the Ledger office. By the close of the first day on which the advertisement appeared, there were four hundred and eighteen applicants for this one clerkship.

Mrs. Samuel Colt has erected a memorial church on her grounds at Hartford, in memory of her husband, and it is called the finest church in America. It is small but gorgeous, and in many respects unique. The lectern, for instance, is of gold plate set with carbuncles, and the tiling and various other parts are imported.

The United States Senate after a sitting of nearly twenty-four hours, recently, adopted the amendment to the constitution proposed by the House of Representatives, providing that "no discrimination shall be made in the United States, among the citizens of the United States, in the exercise of the elective franchise, or in the right to hold office in any State, on account of race, color, nativity, education or creed."

The legislatures of at least three-fourths of the States must ratify this before it comes into effect.

CUBA, Feb. 15.—Captain-General Dulce, of Cuba, on Saturday issued a proclamation rescinding his previous amnesty and establishing the former censorship of the press. Persons violating the press law, and all political prisoners, will be tried by court martial.

Feb. 17.—A Havana despatch says Gen. Dulce continues active measures; permission to carry arms has been revoked, and all arms have been ordered to be delivered up to the Government in four days.

Feb. 18.—The Cuban news this morning does not announce any apparent change in the situation on that island. The revolutionists seem to be gaining ground, as they have been doing since the movement began, and the Government continues to increase the rigor of its administration over the territory it still holds.

The American Consulate at Havana has sent to Washington asking protection for American citizens.

Feb. 20.—Advices from Cuba are contradictory, but there seems no doubt that the revolutionists are steadily gaining ground. It is said that the Government force now on the island numbers seventy thousand men.

Feb. 21.—The iron-clad "Victoria" is under orders to sail for Havana. By a recent decree of the Colonial Minister all restrictions are removed from the offices of commercial brokers in the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico.

NEW YORK BLACKLEGS.—The following incident on the Hudson Railway, taken from a correspondent of the *Examiner*, shows up the trickery of New York sporting characters:—

Above Fishkill, I think it was, I noticed a

young man with blue spectacles, just across the car from me, busily practising away at the swindling trick with cards known as "Three-Card Monte." In a few moments he was joined by three others, of various degrees of loaferish appearance, who went through the customary process of winning and losing, arguing and quarrelling, by which, time out of mind, such sharpers draw the attention of the crowd. They did manage to gather quite a large number of spectators, among whom was one well-dressed youth who was green enough to lose twenty dollars "on his opinion," but the rest did not seem inclined either to bite or be bitten. In the same seat with the first gambler was a well-dressed gentleman, of middle age, on whom the crowd then made a most persistent onslaught in the way of badgering him to make a bet on the game.—So offensively troublesome did they become, that their intended victim was compelled to "speak out" in self-defence, and he did so thus: "Gentlemen, I am a Christian, at least I hope so, and I would not bet one dollar on your game for a hundred thousand! That's my answer."

The answer was spoken in a loud, clear voice, heard all over the car, and above the jabber of the sharpers. It vanquished them at once and utterly, and they became suddenly silent. At the next station, which was reached in a few minutes more, the whole gang—"dealer," "bully," "respectable bystander," and "old farmer"—left the train, and we saw their faces no more.—Whether I make it sound so in this description, or not, the incident was more than a little striking. The occupants of the car received a brief and unexpected, but not by any means "dull" sort of sermon. I made the acquaintance of the gentleman afterwards, for I had not thought him a man likely to be troubled by sharpers, unless they were hard pressed for prey.

The railway officials on the train seemed to take the operations of these thieves quite as a matter of course, and made no effort to put a stop to them. Certainly, respectable passengers on a respectable railway route should be protected from the assaults of such men as these.—Even the greenhorn who lost his money has reason to complain of such management.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

OPENING OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

ENGLAND.—London, Feb. 16.—The formal opening of the new Parliament, which was postponed last year in consequence of the resignation of the Disraeli Ministry, took place this afternoon. The members of the House of Commons were summoned to attend the Bar of the Chamber of Peers, to hear the Royal Speech. The Queen was not present, but her Majesty's Speech was delivered by a Royal Commission, and was read to the assembled House by the Lord Chancellor. The Speech is in substance as follows:—

The Queen assures the Lords and Commons that the relations of Great Britain are at present on an excellent footing. The hostilities which threatened to break out in the East have been prevented by the Conference of the Great Powers at Paris.

Hope is expressed that the negotiations with the United States will place on a firmer and durable basis the friendship which should ever exist between England and America.

The disturbances in the colony of New Zealand are to be regretted; but the Queen is sure that prudence and moderation on the part of the Government, will prevent a recurrence of such unhappy events.

The estimates which will be laid before the House by Her Majesty's ministers, are framed on a basis of economy, coupled with efficiency in the administration of the public service.

The continued suppression of the Writ of Habeas Corpus is regarded as unnecessary. The ecclesiastical arrangements for Ireland are to be considered by Parliament. The legislation for their final adjustment will make large demands upon the wisdom of these Houses. On this subject the Queen concludes as follows:—"I am persuaded that careful regard will be had to the interests involved, and to the welfare of religion, and that through the application of the principles of equal justice to the question before them, Parliament will secure the undivided feeling of the people of Ireland, on the side of loyalty and law, efface the memory of past contentions, and cherish the sympathies of an affectionate people."

Feb. 17.—The address in reply to the Queen's speech was agreed to unanimously in both Houses of Parliament.

In the House of Commons last evening, Mr. Disraeli expressed his sorrow that the ratification of the Convention with the United States was not announced. He hoped, however, for a speedy completion of the treaty. Mr. Gladstone was sure that the negotiations would end in the same spirit in which they commenced. The final issue would doubtless be satisfactory to both countries.

March 1st has been named for the opening of the debate on the question of the Disestablishment of the Irish Church.

19th.—The "Times" in an article on the Alabama Claims Treaty, says the want of a definite basis of arbitration will reconcile England to the rejection of the Convention by the United States. This point should be kept clearly in view in the event of offers for further negotiations. England now awaits proposals from America.

The "Times" continues: "We have done our best; we have gone to the very verge of national humiliation to secure the settlement of the questions at issue. We shall now wait for propositions from the new administration under Gen. Grant. It is admitted that the claims are a fair subject for friendly arbitration."

Late despatches from China report that

collision took place at Swatow between the Chinese inhabitants and crew of the British gunboat "Grasshopper." The fight was obstinate and bloody. The sailors fought desperately, but were overwhelmed by the natives, whose numbers constantly increased, and were compelled to return to their ship with eleven of their number wounded. Many Chinamen were killed and wounded in the affray.

Feb. 21.—The "Standard" regrets the rejection of the Alabama Convention, after protracted and laborious negotiations. It says the advances for a new treaty must come from the United States.

The "Times" says that the present treaty has testified the amity of England; its failure does not endanger the friendly relations between the two countries, but will rather serve as a warning in arranging the points of a new Convention.

A letter from the west of Scotland, dated 25th January, says: They have had no winter there this year, and at that time the birds were singing the buds bursting, and snow-drops and spring shrubs were in bloom. There was, however, a good deal of apprehension that such a mild winter would be followed by a long cold spring season.

The fate of Dr. Livingstone still excites some apprehension. The guide Mouza, who, it will be remembered, declared that he had seen the death of the doctor, and assisted in burying the body, and who was imprisoned by the Sultan of Johanna for propagating the report, which was believed to be a falsehood, has been recently liberated, and been handed over to Dr. Kirk.—Mouza still persists in the truth of his original statement.

THE OCEAN STEAMSHIP RACE.—By a telegram from Queenstown on Friday last, we learn that the steamships *Russia* and *City of Paris*, from New York, had arrived at that port, the *Russia* at 6:30 and the *City of Paris* at 5 o'clock, a.m.

Both steamers left New York at same time, on Wednesday, 10th inst. The *Russia* is of the Cunard, and the *City of Paris* of the Inman line.

At a chapter of the Knights of the Order of the Black Eagle, a Berlin telegram says, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales received the chain of the Order which had formerly been worn by the Prince Consort.

THE EASTERN DIFFICULTY.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—M. Walewski has reached Paris on his return from Athens, with the reply of the Greek Government to the resolutions of the Conference. The Conference will meet again to receive the response of Greece.

18.—Conference of the Great Powers met in Paris to-day, to receive a communication from Athens, of which M. Walewski was the bearer. The reply of the Greek Government to the propositions of the Conference was satisfactory, and a resolution was adopted, that Greece having yielded, the Great Powers reserve to themselves the right to protect the lives, property and interests, of the Christian inhabitants of Turkey. The representatives of the Powers finally gave their signatures to the protocol, and the Conference dissolved.

The following official news has been received in London. All the insurgent chiefs of Crete have submitted to Turkish authorities. The Island is now quiet.

SPAIN, Feb. 17.—Considerable excitement was created in Madrid, on Monday, by an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate General Prim. Three arrests have been made.

Popular demonstrations have again been made in favor of the freedom of religious worship, and also for the abolition of capital punishment.

The people gathered on the streets of Valladolid yesterday, and protested against military conscription.

Active preparations are going on for the immediate embarkation of 6,000 more troops for Cuba. Don Escudero will go out with the re-inforcements, with instructions from the Provisional Government.

Madrid, Feb. 19.—Advices state that the Minister of the Spanish colonies has issued an important decree, to take effect in all colonial ports of Spain. It establishes a uniform system of legal jurisdiction, abolishes Ecclesiastical Courts, and makes various modifications in the Financial Administration of the colonies. The Cortes have requested Minister Serrano to rearrange the Cabinet. All the present members are likely to continue in office.

AUSTRIA.—Trieste, Feb. 21.—A terrible disaster occurred yesterday on board the frigate *Radetzky*, while cruising on the Adriatic. An explosion took place in the powder magazine making a complete wreck of the ship and causing great loss of life. Most of the officers and crew were instantly killed or blown into the water and drowned.

JAPAN.—Feb. 15.—News has been reached from Japan, via Shanghai, that the Mikado had received the ministers of foreign powers at Jeddo with great ceremony, and showed an earnest desire to maintain peaceful relations. The ministry issue instructions countering the recent order for warlike preparations.

"CITY OF MANCHESTER."

WHOLESALE.

ANDERSON, BILLING & CO.

Have received as above:
GREY DOMESTICS (several qualities),
SCARLET FRENCH DELAINES,
FINGERING YARNS, and
HABERDASHERY,
(ASSORTED),
Which they offer low at their Warehouse,
95 & 97 GRANVILLE STREET,
Jan. 15.