NEWS ITEMS.

On the 1st of March the total number of poor in London was 89,529—45,013 in workhouses and 44,516 outside, though receiving help.

Two hundred and fifteen horses were purchased in the Montreal market last week and and shipped to the United States. They averaged $70 each.

Some idea of the extent to which the production of maple sugar is carried on in Quebec may be gathered from the fact that one farmer near Sweetsburg had three thousand trees tapped and another two thousand five hundred.

No furnished apartments can henceforth be had at St. Petersburg unless maps, showing the situation of the rooms and the doors, entrance, &c., have been previously handed to the police. This measure is intended to facilitate arrests.

Diamond-dealers in New York loan dazzling display of gems to ladies secretely engaged in the trade, that they may wear them at parties and thereby emulate other envious ladies to worry their husbands into buying outfits equally costly.

A Berlin illustrated paper represents Prince Bismarck on a steed called Zoll Tariff Reform, which is bolting with its rider. On being asked where he is going to, he angrily replies, "How do I know? Ask the horse." *Grip* might make a note of this.

The plan of throwing verse after verse of a hymn that is being sung by the congregation in large type upon a wall by means of a magic lantern, has been adopted in a Boston church and is found to be a great improvement upon the former plan of singing from books.

Out of 362 members of the present U. S. Congress, 241 are lawyers, 10 are editors, and 10 are gentleman of leisure. In the Senate there are 16 ex-Confederate soldiers and 4 Union soldiers. In the House there are 58 Confederate soldiers and 51 Union soldiers.

The bestowal of a Cardinal's hat on Dr. Newman was due to the influence of the Duke of Norfolk, the premier Duke of England, who was a pupil of his at Edgebaston, and who has a great reverence for him. He had an interview with the Pope some few months ago.

The Pope is making great reductions in his personal household, observing that it is useless to keep up an enormous kitchen where nothing is cooked. His dinner consists of a soup and one plat. Of personal service he requires very little, so that his retainers will be reduced to one-third of their number.

The Essex (England) *Standard* says:—The number of farms for which tenants cannot be found is unparallelled. In this county alone, it is ascertained that there are at least 183 farms over 70 acres each on the hands of the landlords, and that many more will pass out of the tenants' hands next michaelmas.

The New York elevated railways, during the first three months of this year, carried eleven and a half millions of passangers. This is at the rate of forty-six millions a year, or about fifty rides for every inhabitant of the city. The rapid transit problem seems to have met its solution.

The German Commission sent some months ago to Russia for the purpose of observing the plague reports that the disease is infectious but not contagious, and that its ravages have been very much exaggerated. The German quarantine against Russia has consequently been abolished.

A private letter from Sir Samuel Baker states that Cyprus is the most ill-favored pestilential of islands, but that the harbour can, with little difficulty, be dredged of the accumulation of ages. It will then be all that could be wished, and, as a fortified coal depot, will complete our Mediterranean communications.

The Queen of the Belgians while in London visited the Home for Lost Dogs at Battersea. Her Majesty is a great admirer of small dogs, and is used to carry one always in her arms which is arrayed in a coat of the same colour as her dress. Every time the dress is changed by the august lady the dog's coat is also changed by an attendant.

A Liverpool druggist was lately fined for selling castor-oil pills which had "no appreciable quantity of castor-oil" in them, though they contained rhubarb, aloes, ginger, cayenne pepper, soap, and a variety of other ingredients. They seem to have been a popular substitute for castor-oil, and it was stated that 250,000 boxes of them were sold per year.

A Nova Scotia girl emigrated to Vancouver's Island to go into service. She was met on the wharf as she landed by a strange young man, who there and then proposed to her. The girl did not immediately respond, but made a few enquiries, found her singular lover was a man of character, and married him before she had been in the country twelve hours.

The royal plate at Windsor is worth $6,300,000. It includes a gold service ordered by George IV. to dine 140 persons, and a shield formed of snuff boxes worth $50,000. It includes also a peacock of precious stones of every kind, brought form India, worth $150,000, and Tippoo's footstool—a tiger's head with crystal tooth and a solid ingot of gold for his tongue.

Prayer, we are taught, will accomplish a great deal. It lately secured a prisoner's release from a cell in New Ulm, Minn. He was in the habit of being on his knees engaged in prayer when the turnkey locked up at night. One morning he was found in just the same position, but an examination revealed the fact that the form was only a straw man, which had been set up the night before. The prisoner in the meantime had left for less contracted quarters.

Lately, while a travelling menagerie was being exhibited at a village in Thuringia, the leopard tore the bars from his cage, and with a magnificent bound landed among the spectators. He killed a woman and a child and the sight of blood excited him to such a degree that he would not relinquish his prey until beaten to death. Examination proved that the bars of the cage had been previously loosened, and an employe discharged for drunkenness has been arrested.

A gentleman of Irish extraction living at Dresden, while intoxicated, stripped himself and jumped into the river, vowing he was tired of life and would there and then end it. The water was not deep, but it was terribly cold, and the man relented it and climbed out. Instead of dressing himself, he ran just as he was to his house, but his wife had barred the door and refused to let the poor shivering wretch in until he had pledged himself never to taste whiskey again.

Lord Chelmsford is one of the most expert players at the game of Kreig-spiel in the British army. He is a great tactician on paper, and devised a system of manœuvres in an ememy's country which was so highly thought of that it was to have been put in the regulations for officer's drill. The recent disaster under his command has been a great triumph to military men of the old school, who have objected to proficiency in science and languages being made the test of efficiency in the field.

The following nationalities live under the sceptre of the Czar of Russia:—Great Russians, Little Russians, White Russians, Poles, Finns, Estons, Samoyeds, Laplanders, Ostiaks, Tunguz, Yakuts, Kamtchadales, Tartars, Bashkirs, Kirguiz, Kalmuks, Tcherkessi, Ossettini, Lesguini, Armenien, Lithauer, Tchuvashi, Ugalenzi, Coloshen, Tchukchi, Grusim, Koriaki, Eskimos, Yucagniri, Lopari, Truchmen, Korels, Vaguls, Tchapogiri, Tchechenzi, Gypsies, Hebrews, and Mennonites. Each of these speak its own language, which is foreign to all the others.

The pope has written a letter concerning the Education question, on which some lay great stress, as it directly confirms the impression that the Pope understands the liberty and dignity of the Papacy to consist in removing from Rome all means of practicing and propogating whatever the church holds at heretical, and that his gradually increasing insistance on the restoration of the temporal power is promoted by an equally increasing conviction, that until the Pontiff regains earthly sway it will be impossible to prohibit liberty of worship and instruction. Thus he declares in this holy city and religion of Christ ought to reign sovereign, and the universal teacher of the faith ought to have power to close access against impiety, and to maintain the purity of Catholic teaching.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

MR. EDITOR,—For the life of me I cannot conceive why the *Reporter* folks should be so busily engaged every week in trying to whitewash certain members of the present Dominion Government, beslobbering them in the most sycophantic sickly manner, unless it be with the object of trying to make political capital with Mr. Tilley's friends, in case of another election, which to say the least of it, is a course very humiliating, and will fail in its object—for every body can see through it. Mr. F. if you wish the *Reporter* to be of any use to you at all, you had better try and arrange for a little more *back-bone*—for you have none at present—and as to your brother [for you are both one] give over your fiddle-faddling—try and be a man—a *Grit* if you like. These are not the times for Fisherism. That day has gone by. Then there is another matter. Our friend tries to justify the action of the McDonald Government in the Tilley Governorship appointment, forgetting the treatment that Uncle Charles received at the time and against which no persons were more outspoken than the nephews. The meanness of that act ought to keep our friends quiet, if they have any family pride or pluck at all. Judge Fisher was all but appointed, before the ship went down; but, not having a life preserver beside him to keep him afloat, while somebody else had half a dozen of them,—that is the way it was done. Brothers, do you forget that? Leave off your muddling then. All things to some men will not do in your case. York wants and will have for her representative in the next Dominion Parliament, a square, straight forward man—an independent man—one who will never play second fiddle to any body. At all events we do not want a man who all along professed to be a Liberal in politics, now giving himself up soul and body into the hands of the old Tory element, and asking the people to run with him in that pursuit.

A LIBERAL AND ANTI-HUMBUG.

Fredericton, April 17, 1879.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., APRIL 19, 1879.

The Late Session.

The work done and the demeanour of the members during the first session of the new House have left a good impression. The session compared favorably with several sessions in former Local Houses, in the absence of acrimony and in the good feeling pervading the Government and the Opposition ranks. The leader of the Opposition and his two Lieutenants were not, certainly, sparing in exposing and denouncing the iniquities of the Government, but the strong impression they had of all their political transgressions did not lessen the esteem in which they held each individual member of the Government, or cause them when in addressing the Government members in their private capacity to depart from the rule of strict courtesy. It is very convenient to be able to separate the acts of the statesman from those of the private individual, though the strict moralist may be puzzled how to reconcile personal rectitude with political iniquity. The absence of bitterness might be owing to the fact that party lines were not strictly drawn, and that a number of the members were undecided whether to give their permanent sympathy or support to the Government or Opposition. The Government, judging by the vote that was given in their favor on the want of confidence resolution—stood a little stronger at the end than in the beginning of the session, but, if strong external influences had not been brought to bear their majority might have been a very narrow one, to say the least. The chances are, now, in favor of the Government commanding a majority in the remaining sessions of the present house. They can hardly now be condemned for the acts of their predecessors though as their successors they have been held responsible for them, or, for the manner of their reconstruction, or the financial management in the past, or for their action regarding the Chatham Branch Railway; they have been absolved for the conduct in the past—they commence with a clean sheet, and will be, (or, not to speak so confidently) ought to be, judged by their passing management of the affairs of the Province.

Sixty bills were passed through the Legislature and have become law. A glance at their titles shows how large a proportion recompanies and individual interests. The late to municipal matters, to incorporation of measures of general provincial importance were comparatively few. Among them is the act relating to Free Grants of Crown Lands, which under judicious and liberal administration may prove most beneficial and while relieving present distress lead to considerable settlements being made, also the acts relating to the Supreme Court, appointing a new and sixth Judge, and to facilitate the business of the said Court. If the Attorney General is appointed to the new judgeship, his leaving the government would lead to modifications in it, which would not strengthen it in the house or the country But if reports are true Mr. Fraser will continue to the administration, the benefit of the strength that his personal popularity gives it as the able lawyer from Westmorland, Mr. Palmer to wit, has the favor of the appointing powers in Ottawa. Another measure is the act appointing a Solicitor General (at a salary of $1200,) which may lead to the reduction of expense in the conduct of the criminal business of the country, and which bestowed on the member of King's, Hon. Mr. Crawford, who has long sat or "served in the forecastle" of the government without post or emolument, is a graceful recognition of his services.

The act relating to the inspectorship of schools is also among the general measures; it reduces the number of inspectors from one to each county to seven who will receive a salary of $1200. If, it leads to the appointment of a class of trained and more efficient inspectors, who will be able to devote their whole time and energies to the discharge of their important functions it will tend to give the people of the Province the full benefits that the School Act was intended to bestow.

ANNIVERSARY OF YORK DIVISION No. 2.—The members of York Division No. 2, celebrated their thirty-second anniversary last Monday evening in the Temperance Hall. At their invitation the members of the Golden Rule Lodge of Templars were present. At eight o'clock, J. L. Marsh, Esq., took the chair, and addressed the meeting a few words fitting for the occasion. Appropriate speeches were made, readings were given, and songs were sung, greatly to the gratification of the audience, and the meeting broke up about ten. "Old York" No. 2, is gaining strength with years. At the next meeting a large number of new members will be initiated.

A special meeting of the City Council will take place on Monday evening, when the following business will be transacted; the ordering of assessment for redemption of debentures for Exhibition Building, and the issue of debentures for Exhibition Building aid, appointing officers for ensuing year, and ordering payment of aid to St. John sufferers and the issue of debentures therefor, &c.

The East.

The Eastern Question is still far from settled, and it is doubtful if there will be a long interval of peace before war breaks out again. Russia's military chiefs, feel like the half repentant Macbeth who having gained his throne by blood, sustained himself on it by murder, felt that "in blood he had stepped in so far, returning were as tedious as go o'er." The prize, Constantinople, was so near within their grasp, that they feel exceedingly loth to put themselves out of reach of it. They do not wish to withdraw their armies from Eastern Roumalia across the Balkans, and are bent on defeating any scheme which would leave that newly created state under the protection of the great powers who are parties to the Berlin Treaty. The mixed army occupancy proposal has been rejected by Italy, at the supposed instigation of Russia whose chief desire to prolong their hold of Roumelia, and are even proclaiming their willingness to fight in order to maintain it. They probably find in studying the position of their great and chief antagonist some encouragement. They see, that England is committed to a war in Afghanistan, and has to face a disastrous state of affairs in South Africa, that there is trouble arising for her in Egypt, owing to the action of Khedive which may compel her to look after her interest in the Suez Canal, and protect her route to India, and they see also that her trade is depressed, they may have arrived at the conclusion, that she is not in a position to undertake a great war, or that, her people are not now in a temper that would dispose them to back up with enthusiasm the Beaconsfield government in enforcing the carrying out the arrangements in the Berlin Treaty regarding the time when Russia should vacate Eastern Roumelia. If England does not insist on the stipulations being fulfilled to the letter, Russia will claim to have acquired a right to maintain her army in that State, and it will never be dispossessed there except by force.

With regard to the trouble in Egypt, to which reference has been made, it is reported that the Sultan has commanded the Khedive to reinstate the ministry whom he deposed, in order to form one more subservient to his views, who would in his interest, overrule the decisions of the British and French commissioners who are keeping a strict supervision over the finances of the country in order to protect foreign stockholders, and that there is strong likelihood, that the Khedive, if he interposes objections will be deposed, and that his his uncle, Halini Pasha will be appointed his successor. French and English papers deprecate hasty action on the part of France and England. The *Times* of a late date says;—

The unequivocal attitude assumed by the Sultan relative to the Khedive is doubtless au advantage which England and France will be able to turn to account, but we cannot as yet discern any valid reason for England's abandoning the policy of extreme caution in regard to Egypian affairs. We are not concerned as a nation with the solvency of Egypt; but we are vitally concerned in its tranquillity and good government. We cannot view with indifference the Khedive's return to a system of corruption and oppression, or sanction the dismissal of his European Ministers and the practical rejection of all external control; but we shall certainly hesitate to participate in the subversion of his nominal authority until every other means of settling the difficulty have failed. The difficulty would not be overcome by substituting Halim Pasha for Ismail as Khedive, on the mere nomination of the Porte. Ismail would very probably resist, and there is no force at hand to compel submission. The proposal for a joint expedition by England and France is manifestly premature, and could not fail to cause grave and well-founded misgiving in both countries. Their interests in Egypt are neither co-extensive nor identical. If a display of force were resolved upon England might find her influence directed to secure good government, while France would be occupied with even greater energy in defending the claims of foreign creditors. It would be difficult in the face of such divergence to maintain a common and united policy. For these reasons we think it still premature to conclude the welfare and tranquility of Egypt require the deposition of the reigning Khedive.

The Zula Campaign.

News from the seat of war in South Africa. of the dates of 30th March and 1st of April, via London, 17th inst., of the advance of the relieving column to Ekowe, have been received. The column moved along the coast road where there is little brush. under the guidance of one John Dunn. who, it is stated, was formerly King Cetewayo's adviser, and reached (30th March) after the first day's march Inyoni River, a position nine miles north of the Tugela. The force was not molested, but the Zulus, who are swarming in the country, watched the advance from the distant heights. One officer who is supposed to have gone beyond the guards of the camp was missing in the morning, and, it is thought, that he was cut off by the Zulus. From the position on the Inyoni, signals from Ekowe were discerned, by which Col. Pearson intimated to the commander of the column, that the enemy was concentrating around his fort. It was computed that 15,000 of the Zulus were beleaguring it, but there is no knowing how many thousands more are lurking around under cover. Fighting was expected to commence on the 1st of April, so that in a day or two, news will be received stating whether or not the column has been successful in relieving Col. Pearson. According to the telegraphic despatch, which is not clearly understandable, the plan for the relief of Pearson, is to force a passage through the English lines to Ekowe, to change garrisons, the 1st Batt., of the 60th Rifles being detailed to relieve the long imprisoned force, and to provision the fort amply, to form another post on the Inyoni heights, and make a grand advance on Undine, which, we suppose, is Cetewayo's strong hold, and before which the great body of his force will be gathered. News has also been heard of the successful repulse of 20,000 Zulus also attacked the entrenched position held by Col. Wood. The loss of the British was 77 killed and wounded; the slaughter of the black warriors who were completely defeated and pursued for a considerable distance was enormous.

Another War.

Chili formally declared war against Peru on the 6th of April. The cause of the hostile declaration, is not stated in the despatch. Except merchants perhaps, and unfortunate persons who have loaned money to some of the republics, very few know anything or have any interest in what is going on in that part of the world. As revolution, civil war, for war external is their normal condition, there is nothing surprising in the announcement. It is stated on the authority of the Consul General, that the Argentine Republic will not be drawn into the war on the Pacific coast, which must be soothing intelligence to persons in London pecuniarly interested in the solvency of that State.

SOMETHING NEW.—A fine display of Photographs will be seen on and after Monday April 21st, at the entrance to Schleyers Studio. Owing to the rush for Photographs for the last six weeks, Mr. S. has been compelled to have Mr. Getchell remain until Saturday 26th inst. This is your last chance.

A Word for some Members

In an article a few weeks since we attempted to describe some of the characteristics of the more prominent speakers in the House of Assembly. The list might have been extended we might have mentioned the senior member of Carleton Mr. White, who speaks in a deliberate way, which seems to carry weight, who views both sides of a question, and balances his opinion with great care; Mr. Gillespie of Northumberland who is famous for putting blunt questions, and seasoning his speeches with a kind of broad humor; Mr. Thompson of York, who expends more physical energy in addressing the house than any member, who ever had a seat in it; Dr. Vail of Kings whose style is distinctly the reverse. There are several members whose speaking it is difficult to characterise. Mr. Killam for instance, speaks on questions in which he is interested, and with which he is thoroughly acquainted in a full and business like matter; Mr. Morton has a good faculty for stating a question; Mr. McManus can make a good speech on occasion, and spice it with a touch of humor. Then Mr. Colter of York, who though he has not come forward to the rank of those members who speak fluently in all questions has the making of a good general speaker, and is a very practical one. Though no member can cut a figure in the House unless he has the gift of the gab, he can make his mark in committee, and in carrying through measures entrusted to his care. Mr. Colter has already shown that he is an useful member in whose hands it is safe to place local bills. And we may state that during the session he was instrumental in introducing and carrying through no less than seven of those bills, viz., an act relating to the Administration of Justice in the County of York, an act to amend chap 4, section 42 of the Consolidated Statutes relating to highways, an act relating to the assessment of the Islands in the river St. John; an Act relating to the collectors of rates and constables, in the County of York; an Act to allow the Warden of the County of York to revise the list of non-resident electors' instead of the Sheriff and bills to allow the County Council of York to define the goal limits and appoint parish officers.

Szegedin.

An appeal to the charitable is being made on behalf of the sufferers by the disastrous flood, which overwhelmed the town of Szegedin, Hungary. Efforts are being made in England and the United States to relieve them. Rev. Gustavius Alexy, a Hungarian clergyman in New York, has addressed a letter, praying for help to the destitute, to the ministers of the various denominations of the Christian Church in America, and intimating, that, contributions, which, whatever their amount will be thankfully received, may be sent to Rev. Howard Crosby D. D., 616 East 19th Street New York.

A Hungarian correspondent of the Edinburgh *Scotsman* writing on the 19th of March, from Budapest, says:—

Szegedin was the first industrial town of Hungary, and its eighty thousand inhabitants were considered the worthiest representatives of that real Hungarian type which is fast disappearing in the other parts of the country. Patriotic and hospitable to the extreme. the people of Szegedin are renowned for their industry and intelligence. In less than fifteen years this town, which was a little more than a large village, became the first provincial town of Hungary, and a prosperous future seems to be in store for it. Alas! all this belongs now to the past. Of its 8000 houses only about 300 remain standing; its flourishing manufactories and warehouses, its excellently-organised schools, are entirely destroyed and many highly-respectable citizens, renowned for their probity as well as for their indefatigable perseverance, have become waifs and strays, dependent on the charity of their countrymen, and many of them even broken in health and spirits. Through a terrible fatality, the catastrophe came with such unexampled quickness that the 70,000 persons (about 10,000 had left the town at the first sign of danger) who had remained, could save nothing but their lives, leaving behind their fortunes and their property. One speaks of several hundreds who have lost their lives, but as yet the statistics of the victims are incomplets, the swampy flood, which is but slowly falling, covering as yet those it has buried under its cruel waves.

The re-vote of $2000 passed in Supply towards the erection of a fence around the Normal School Building will soon be applied to its purpose. The work of putting up the said "fence" will be proceeded with, as soon as the state of the ground admits of laying the stone foundation. We believe that the design choosen is very handsome. The ornamental railing set in the stone base will be of a flowing and flowering pattern. The erection of this handsome fence with the laying out the grounds it will enclose will be a great improvement, and like a fine frame around a picture, show off the building to the best advantage. It is to be hoped, that the city authorities will co-operate in the improvements which are to be made around the Normal School, and that they will see that part of the ornamental fence on Phœnix Square is properly protected. If they bestowed some care, and expended a little money in making the square something like a square, instead of leaving it an open and unsightly space, they would deserve the thanks of the citizens, and do something to beautify the city of which they are the guardians.

The citizens of Fredericton, thanks to the enterprise of Mr. M. S. Hall which, we hope, will be well rewarded, will have an opportunity to hear "the new world renowned" Mrs. Scott Siddons the most accomplished of dramatic readers. Those who remember this lady's first appearance in Fredericton a few years ago will eagerly crowd the City Hall to-night. Since the beginning of the year Mrs. Scott Siddons has read before charmed audiences in the principal cities of the United States and Canada, and all the critics are agreed, that she has not only progressed as a reader, but that she is more "attractive" bewitching" and "beautiful" than ever. They also all agree to praise, "the Creed of the Bells," in which she imitates with wonderful effect the tone song, alto, tenor, and bass, of the several bells, her dramatic rendering of the Manaic, and the great power displayed in the piece the Senator entangled, and the exquisite feeling with which she gave "Curfew must not toll to-night." Mrs. Siddons sweeps easily over the gamut of feeling, and is equally successful in tragedy and comedy.

One of our prominent citizens is taking around a Petition for the laying down of a platform out to the Railway Station. We notice that a large number of those that have signed the petition are defaulters to the city, and if they would only step up to the Treasurers Office and pay their taxes, this, as well as other necessary improvements, could be carried out by the Council.

The four new stores which Mr. Sharkey has erected in the course of the winter, are finished according to modern requirements, and are now nearly ready for occupation. The plate glass windows each 11 feet high by 7 feet nine inches broad, are at present a public attraction, and set off the fine front of the block.

Canadian papers give the current rumors regarding the mevements of the Governor General and Princess Louise, after the prorogation of Parliament, which we copy below. There will be, it is said, also, very gay doings in Halifax during the summer, but there is no word yet of their Excellencies intention to visit New Brunswick, which if carried out will not likely be later than the last of July or beginning of August; if so, Mr. J. H. Reid's scheme of holding a grand Provincial Exhibition, to be opened by the Marquis of Lorne in person, is disposed of for this year.

It is expected that Parliament will be prorogued about the 15th of May. His Excellency and the Princess will on the 24th of May, the Queen's birthday, attend the grand review at Montreal, in which the Thirteenth Brooklyn Regiment and two or three Vermont corps will take part. The programme of the Montreal reception is already published The "Masque of Welcome" will be produced at the Academy of Music on a grand scale. The author Mr. F. A. Dixon, formerly tutor to Lord Clandeboye, Earl Dufferin's eldest boy, is now in Montreal drilling the principal characters. Additions of great merit have been made to the piece. A new scene devisby the Princess has been added. It represents the vice-regal life under the old French *regime*, and the language and songs are French throughout. In those days the Governor dwelt in the Chateau St. Louis, at Quebec, and once a year received the homage of the Seigniors. His Excellency sat in a state chair surmounted by the *fleur de lis* and the arms of His Most Christian Majesty. Round about stood his staff and the high officers of the Court. The Seignior, attired in evening dress and wearing a sword, was ushered in by the Clerk of the Roll, and having delivered up his sword to that function ary, knelt before the Governor and repeated the ancient oath of fidelity and allegiance, after which a memorandum of the ceremony was drawn up by the Attorney-General and countersigned by the proper officers. This over, the Governor led the way into the ball-room, where the company danced the stately dances of the period until far into the night. This is an outline of the scene with which the Princess is credited. Many of the old French songs will be introduced, and the costumes will be faithfully reproduced. From Montreal it is thought the Marquis and Princess will proceed to Quebec, where the Duke of Argyle will arrive in the second week in June for a four months' visit to his son and royal daughter-in-law. A week later they will greet Rear-Admiral the Duke of Edinburgh at Halifax, who will succeed Admiral Inglefield in command of the North American squadron. At Halifax the party will be joined by Lord Wharncliffe; Lord Colin Cambell, the Marquis' brother; Mr. Eustace Balfour, who will marry Lady Elizabeth, the Marquis second sister, in a few days; Earl Percy, heir presumptive to the dukedom of Northumberland and husband of Lady Edith, the Marquis' eldest sister; and probably Lord Rosebery and wife.

History of Acadia.

The "History of Acadia," by James Hannay Esq., is work that has been long promised, and will no doubt be eagerly sought after. Like some great works this history has a history. The little dog "Diamond" tore up, in a few minutes play, papers containing abstruse mathematical calculations, that had for years absorbed the mind of the mighty Newton; a careless housemaid swept into the fire the MSS of the History of French Resolution, by Thomas Carlyle; the great fire of St. John, destroyed the larger part of the MSS of "the History of Acadia." It is gratifying to know that Mr. Hannay showed pluck equal to that evinced by his great proto type Carlyle and instead of cursing his fate and succumbing to the blow, sat down and re-wrote the matter which the burnt pages contained. The History comprises a period of 160 years, from the settlement of the de Monts on the Island of St. Croix in 1604 to the Treaty of Paris 1763, which put the final seal to the close of French domination in Canada, and in Nova Scotia, first called Acadia, opens with accounts of the voyages of the first discoverers of America, and of the French adventurers who discovered and settled in Canada, and Acadia, and of the aborigines in the latter country.

The book throws no new light upon the story of Acadia, presents no new and startling facts and episodes, but gives a very interesting account, as full as the subject will bear, of the incidents, in most part petty, that make up the history of Acadia. Mr. Hannay says that he has avoided grandiloquent writing, which is well, but he might also have avoided the use of inelegant and slipshod expressions and phrases, (of which several examples could be given) which are out of place in a book which the author no doubt expects, will always be quoted as the standard work on the subject of which it treats.

The Czar of all the Russia's had a very narrow escape for his life on Monday morning. He was walking near the Imperial Palace, a man named Skoloff or Salvogiff, fired a pistol shot within two paces of him, and another as his Majesty walked towards him, missing completely both times, and then ran. An officer with sword drawn, pursued, and three men, among whom was a detective joined. Skaloff fired once or twice again, his last shattering the jaw of the detective. He was then kocked down by a gentleman who held him until he was secured by the officers. St. Petersburg was illuminated in token of joy at the escape of the Czar, and many missives of congratulations from crowned heads and governments in Europe and United States, reached his Majesty a few hours after the attempted assassination.

The inference is drawn that, this attempt on the life of the most absolute and despotic monarch in the world, is a sign of the deep discontent and restlessness pervading all ranks of society in Russia, of which there have been many indications lately, which is the truth.

THE YOUNG BULL CONCERT.—The Concert on Monday night was not so well attended as it might have been, but the audience who assembled had good reason to be pleased with the entertainment. The appearance of little Masters Eddie and Morris was quite attractive. Eddie played several duetts, waltzes, galops, medleys, with Mrs. F. W. Bull in capital style, but his powers of instrumentation were more clearly appreciated in his single performances of the "Trombone March," medley and airs from Moody and Sankey. He really has a wonderful touch for one so young, and a great natural gift. He took off that nondescript military man, "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines" to a marvel, and little Morris was very comical indeed as "Admiral Dot" and the "Little Shoemaker." Mrs Phair sang several songs, and her "Coming thro' the Rye" was enthusiastically encored.

Vennor predicts cold and wintry weather at the close of April. He says:—"Summer, at any rate up to the middle of July, will give abundance of rain and with a temperature below the average. August, September, and October will be the finest months."

On Thursday morning, the following gentleman were sworn in Attorneys—Geo. P. Thomas, John McAllister, Francis Duffy, Edmund G. Kaye, Adam A. Rankin, (St. John)—Denis B Gallagher (Woodstock.

We see by the *News of the World* that American Early and Late Rose Seed Potatoes are being sold by D. Brinksworth & Sons, Reading, Berkshire, England, at $30 and $35 a ton respectively.

Close of the Legislature.

At noon on Tuesday, the Speaker was in the chair, about twenty-two members were in their places. At the same time the Lieut. Governor was driven up to the Legislative Assembly Building, in front of which there was neither band or guard of Honor to salute him. Soon after, in the assembly room a premonitary knock was heard, and the Sergeant-at-Arms having ascertained the cause, announced to the Speaker, a message from the Upper House, and having received his Honor's assenting nod, proceeded to admit the Usher of the Black Rod. "Black Rod," whose presence on the floors of the House always creates a lively interest, having bowed with a grace peculiar to himself, announced that His Honor the Lieut-Governor desired the presence of the Speaker and the Members of the Honorable House in the Legislative Council Chamber. Black Rod having bowed himself out, the Speaker, in hat and gown, and the begowned clerks, and the members proceeded to the Chamber both by the outer and inner staircases to the Chamber above. In the Chamber His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, in simple black, sat on the throne; on his right stood Col. Saunders who acted as Secretary. No dignataries of the Church, the Bench, or the Schools were present; the bevy of beauty which graces the opening of the Legislature was absent at its close. The Assistant Clerk having read the title of the Bills (of which there was a goodly number,) to each of which the clerk recited His Excellency assent, according to the formula, the Lieut.-Governor proceeded to read the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I congratulate you upon the zeal and diligence with which you have discharged your labors during the session now closing.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for the snpplies you have so readily voted, and I assure you it is the intention of my Government to regulate Provincial expenditure with as strict a regard to economy as shall be found consistent with the just requirements of the public service.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemea of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The state of public business enables me to release you for the present from further attendance upon your legislative duties, and I sincerely trust the blessing of Divine Providence may rest bounteously upon you in the discharge of the business of your ordinary avocations, and upon the people at large.

Agricola.

A correspondent who signs himself "Agricola," writes to the *Daily Telegraph* in order to correct the unfair impressions which the report of the Committee of Agriculture are calculated to convey. We copy the letter in full:—

The report of the Committee on Agriculture laid before the House, on Saturday, is in my opinion calculated to make an unfair impression. In justification of this assertion I submit the following remarks. The Secretary for Agriculture has acted under the directions of the Government in all important matters, particularly in those alluded to in the report, such as the sale of stock in 1875, the importation of wheat and sheep in 1878, and in the management of the Exhibition in October last. This he stated to the committee. The sale of stock in 1875 was made in accordance with the terms of sale, and the bonds mentioned were duly executed. It is true some of the societies were not able to pay in full as the amounts fell due. The only balances now owing are on the horses, and every disposition has been shown by the societies, who purchased the horses to pay the full amount. I may allude to this matter again and show how much money has been saved to the Province by the course adopted, instead of ruining the societies by harsh measures. Complaint is made that the seed wheat was not distributed in several counties applying for it. This is certainly not correct, as every county in the Province received its fair proportion, except the Grand Lake district in Queen's County, while the western district of that county did not purchase all that was sent to it. There were no applications received that were not complied with, except the one from Grand Lake, and that could have been remedied, if notice had been given, as it was lying in St. John instead of Indiantown. Instead of a very considerable quantity of the wheat remaining unsold, there were only about 73 bags, all of which were engaged before the report was written, of which some of the committee were aware. The comparison of the exhibitions of 1864 and 1878 does not convey a fair estimate of the facts, as the cost of the building is included in the latter and the receipts from the track and sports in the former and not in that of last year. The statement of the cost of the office of the Secretary for Agriculture is also misleading, as the expense of printing the annual report, between $700 and $800, is included in that of the Secretary, while it is omitted in that of the old Board. The facts are that the Board cost nearly double that of the Secretary for Agriculture. The books on cattle were not distributed at the will of the Secretary for Agriculture, but under direction to the members of the Legislature and the societies. The chairman of the committee was made aware of those circumstances before the report was prepared.

We are in receipt of D. M. Ferry & Co.'s illustrated, descriptive, and priced catalogue of Garden, Flower, and Agricultural Seeds. Ferry & Co. possess one of the largest, if not the largest seed establishment in America, and occupy extensive premises on Woodward and Grand River Avenues, Detroit, Mich. Their selections of seed numbering about 1000 varieties are of the very choicest kinds; they import extensively from England, France, Holland, Germany, &c. The catalogue is a phamplet of 144 pages, and, besides illustrated descriptions of many fine varieties of vegetables, and of common and rare flowers, gives valuable suggestions as to the best mode of culture of vegetables, of laying out gardens, and sowing and cultivating flower seeds. D. M. Ferry & Co. send free of postage and express charges, careful selection of vegetable seeds, from $1 to $10. Those desiring more information should send to Detroit for a catalogue.

THE BIG 4.—The concert given by the combined Amateur Minstrel Troupes on Thursday evening in the City Hall, drew a large, though not crammed audience, who showed themselves excellently well pleased with the entertainment given them. The songs, sentimental and comic with their choruses by the colored gentlemen of the circle were given with feeling, expression, and spirit, and the jokes local bits of the double end men, when taken, were received with uprarious hilarity. The funniest piece of the evening, the broadest burlesque, was the "Skidmore Guards," by the members of the troupe. The very clever clog and jig dancing by Messrs. Hammond and Armstrong was loudly applauded and encored. The entertainment closed with the farce the "mischievous nigger," which part was cleverly assumed by N. Sutherland. This piece rather dragged at times, a few more rehearsals would have made the performers more "au fait" in their parts. But on the whole, "Big 4" was very successful.

Owners of wharves at the lower end of the town must be aware that they are violating a city ordnance, in strewing with refuse of lumber, and otherwise disfiguring and cutting up "Fenety Avenue."

Opening of the Navigation

We are indebted to a gentlemen for the following table of the dates of the opening of the river since 1825 which, at this time, may be found interesting. Judging by the strength of the ice and the state of the atmosphere, 1879 will be one of the latest years in the last half century.

1825,	open for navigation,	April 15
26,	"	" 17
27,	"	" 6
28,	"	" 20
29,	"	" 17
1830,	"	" 18
31,	"	" 10
32,	"	May 3
33,	"	April 10
34,	"	" 11
35,	"	May 1
36,	"	April 28
37,	"	" 17
38,	"	May 1
39,	"	April 25
1840,	"	" 16
41,	"	" 27
42,	"	" 24
43,	"	" 26
44,	"	" 14
45,	"	" 23
46,	"	" 6
47,	"	May 2
48,	"	April 19
49,	"	" 8
1850,	"	May 2
51,	"	April 16
52,	"	" 26
53,	"	" 17
54,	"	May 7
55,	"	April 28
56,	"	" 25
57,	"	" 18
58,	"	" 22
59,	"	" 16
1860,	"	" 23
61,	"	" 20
62,	"	" 18
63,	"	" 22
64,	"	" 20
65,	"	" 6
66,	"	" 14
67,	"	" 23
68,	"	" 22
69,	"	" 23
1870,	"	" 30
71,	"	" 16
72,	"	" 16
73,	"	" 22
74,	"	" 20
75,	"	" 28
76,	"	" 23
77,	"	" 13
78,	"	" 19

At a meeting held at Toronto last week, the question of establishing a Sugar Refinery at Toronto was discussed. It was shown, that, in that city a Refinery might be carried on advantageously, but for one impediment, the regulation in the tariff, by which packages containing sugar, are only exempt from duty when imported from the place of production to Canada direct. It was suggested that the packages of sugar might be imported in bond, via New York, if arrangements could be made to that effect. Could the Sugar Refinery project mooted in Toronto, have any connection with the bill introduced by Mr. Marshall in the House of Assembly last week, to incorporate the Canada Sugar Refinery Company in St. John. He, as was remarked, knew very little of the bill that had been put into his hands, but it appeared that there were several men of capital in Canada interested in it. To be sure he was constrained to allow the title of his bill to be changed to that of the New Brunswick Sugar Refinery, but a change of title need not prevent its being a Toronto enterprise in the main. In St. John, the promoters would escape the duty on sugar packages, and "the deadly hostility of the great Redpath firm." With a refinery into St. John, and another at Halifax, the Redpaths at Montreal would not be able to make enormous profits, the price of sugar would be kept at a reasonable price.

The wretched state of the streets is a subject of public comment. What do the City Fathers mean by permitting them to be in the condition they are? Why are piles of dirt covered frozen snow allowed to rest on parts of the platform? Why are not the gutters cleared, and the drains opened, and the middle of the roadways cleaned of the filth and mud? The Road Master should set a few men to work; and with the aid of the city horses, which need employment, the streets might be easily and quickly scraped and made respectable.

The Paris correspondent of the Edinburgh *Scotsman* wrote, the latter end of last month, that the French Government had come to the wise determination to renew the Commercial Treaty with England. In connection with this subject, he mentioned that the French Chambers of Commerce presented an address to M. Guiard the Minister of Commerce, in which was laid