NEWS ITEMS.

Nearly 4000 persons are engaged in gathering the Hudson River ice crop.

The Emir of Bokhara has sent twenty thousand roubles to Tashkend charities.

An Indian has entered a libel for divorce in the Supreme Court at Bangor, Me. This is the first case of the kind on record in the State.

All rail mail communication with the Province of Manitoba has just been established. Letters from Ontario will now go through in three days.

Lapland suffered dreadfully from the ravages of wolves during the summer. One-third of the reindeers belonging to the Lapp have been destroyed, and nearly all the young ones.

The snow drifts on the railroads in Western New York are said to be enormous, in some places reaching far above the tops of the cars. Houses along the lines are completely covered from sight.

The French wine crop last year fell off 48,700 000 hectolitres compared with the yield of 1877, and 8,093,000 compared with the average of the decade. Causes, phylloxera and oidium.

Edison's First Patent for the electric light was sealed in London on Tuesday week. It is the same which was unsuccessfully opposed by Russel. Edison has two other applications for patents pending.

Russia's system of suppression looks as if torpedoes were under it, and may blow it up. The outbreak of the students, and the closing of the universities, produces a dead-lock between the authorities and the revolutionists.

By a majority of 22 to 12, the Edinburgh U. P. Presbytery have agreed to recommend to the Synod that marriage with a deceased wife's sister be no longer a bar to membership in the United Presbyterian Church.

Human life seems to be cheap at New Haven. A fine of two dollars was imposed last week by the New Haven city court upon Ward, the man who by careless driving ran over and killed Michael Berrigan, a telegraph messenger boy.

The Springfield *Republican* says the amount of cider manufactured in western Massachusetts during the last four months is believed to be unprecedented. It is thought the production will foot up 150,000 barrels and some of the mills are still running

Mr. J. C. Campbell, of Syracuse, N. Y., has invented an apparatus by which the shaft of a cutter can be readily adjusted from in front to one side, or vice versa, as the condition of the roads may require. It is an exceedingly simple and handy invention.

According to Leonard Bacon, the Old Catholic movement led by Dr. Dollinger, has collapsed. A great deal was expected from this revolt from Ultramontanism, perhaps too much; but it was clear to many that it wanted to dwell too near to the old fold to be safe.

The London *Examiner*: "Leo XIII. has, we are informed, decided to take energetic measures in order to prevent the Society of Jesus from interfering in ecclesiastical matters in Belgium and France. Instructions have been sent to the apostolic nuncios on this subject."

The ritualist Order of Corporate Reunion has been joined by many English Ritualistic clergymen, and has now appointed a bishop in the person of a clergyman in the diocese of Rochester, England. Mass in Latin has been privately celebrated by the ladies of this order.

People may live to see a vast inland sea in Africa, in the natural basin to the north of the desert of Sahara. M. de Lesseps's surveyors have found that the country through which it is proposed to cut a canal is of sand and soft earth, and entirely free from rocks or other obstacles.

Electric carriage lamps a French inventor proposes to produce, so that ordinary carriages drawn by horses will be illuminated by electricity supplied by the rotary motion of their wheels, locomotives while in motion will light up the trains they draw, and steamships supply themselves with powerful lights.

The Cornell University campus is now lighted at night by two electric lights which are supplied with electricity from a gramme machine built by Prof. Anthony. The gramme machine is run by water power. The whole campus is so brightly illumined that a newspaper may be read any place within the grounds.

Advices from Glasgow state that there is a fearful amount of destitution existing in that city and applications for relief are on the increase. There are also many skilled workmen who are living on their savings or on money received from benefit societies and trades unions as well as other temporary expedients.

Hard times in Berlin. More than 200,000 persons, according to a statement prepared by Herr Zimmerman, were last year prosecuted for non-payment of income tax, and in the great majority of cases a seizure of the effects of the defaulters yielded nothing. More than 120,000 persons were prosecuted for having failed to pay their rent.

There is no simpler or better remedy for frost bites than the following: extract the frost by the application of ice water till the frozen part is pliable, avoiding all artificial heat; then apply a salve made of equal parts of hog's lard and gunpowder, rubbed together until it forms a paste, and very soon the frozen parts will be well.

The little colony on the banks of Lake Nyassa will be much strengthened by the discovery of coal, just announced by the Superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the Livingstonia Mission. One of the seams is seven feet and another three feet thick. Gold has also been discovered near the lake, but not in quantities which would repay working.

Charles Bradlaugh announces himself as a candidate from Northampton for representation in the British Parliament. He advocates the abolition of the law of primogeniture, resistance to the present extravagant national expenditure, separation of Church and State, the substitution of life peerages, shorter seasions of Parliament, woman suffrage, household suffrage in the British Parliament, and a re-distribution of seats.

His Excellency the Governor-General and her Royal Highness have accepted the following engagements at Ottawa for the month of February:—7th, annual concert of the Ottawa Ladies' College; 10th, musical union at the Canadian Institute; 11th, Carnival at the skating rink; 15th, Mons. Deseve's concert; 17th, Governor-General's Foot Guards' concert. Besides the above, there will be, on the 13th, a State dinner, on the 14th a drawing-room, and on the 19th a State ball.

The largest and oldest apple tree in New Hampshire has just been cut down. Its age is stated at 200 years. It measured at the ground 11 feet 8 inches in circumference. Four feet from the ground it measured 17 feet 8 inches in circumference. It was 50 feet high. It has seven large branches, the largest being over 6 feet in circumference, and a smaller one over 3 feet. About forty years ago it bore fifty bushels of apples in one season, and until the present year it has borne fruit annually.

In Gibraltar, Lord Napier and the General became great cronies on the occasion of the ex-President's visit to that place. They rode and strolled about, and had mess-dinners, and there was a review as well as a sham battle. There was some surprise that the General did not wear his uniform at the review. But the American Consul told my correspondent that Ulysses had tired of his uniform and sent it home. However, his horsemanship was a theme of universal admiration. The soldiers did their best in marching and manœuvring. Lord Napier was greatly pleased, and said he had never seen them do so well in his life, and he supposed they were putting their best foot forward for the Yankee commander. It was rather a trial to undergo the inspection of a man who has commanded over a million of men, and taken part, in most instances as commander, in fifty pitched battles.

The General expressed to Lord Napier his high admiration of the troops. He had seen none in Europe so well disciplined. Their firing pleased him. "They had learned," he said, as he watched the manœuvres, "how to fire low and fire slowly."

The Recrudescence of Protectionism.

This is the portentous term by which pedantic economists describe what is known to other people as the demand for Reciprocity in trade. One of the 'burning and shining lights' of the School, in an address just published, which was delivered before the Statistical Society some weeks ago, denounces a Reciprocity policy as 'the most wanton and insane proposal that can be conceived.' Abuse is not argument, and the scornful vehemence of the lovers of 'economics' will not alter plain facts and indisputable figures. Even the insular conceit of Englishmen might shrink from calling all men fools, except the believers in the gospel according to Adam Smith, as by them annotated and interpreted. Seeing that the shrewd and sharp-witted Yankee, the ponderous and deep-revolving German, the quick and ready Frenchman, and pretty nearly the whole world besides, including John Bull's colonial descendents and dependents, are all sailing in different boats from John Bull himself, it would only be decent for that old gentleman to be a little less loud in his outcries that his boat alone will, can, or ever would, should, or could 'shoot Niagara.' It is a hard saying that all people that on earth do dwell, except the twenty-seven millions—'mostly fools'—of the United Kingdom, are blatant idiots in matters regarding Free-trade, Protection, and Reciprocity. For our part we do not doubt the sweeping postulate, but we find every good reason in the trade and commerce of the United Kingdom for altogether disbelieving in the alleged enormous benefits of a one-sided Free-trade, which has taught the foreigner to beat us with our own weapons, by the free use of our own supplies. Free-trade is to be commended as a method of commerce, but it is a delusion and a snare when it it made a fetish of. With Free-trade, as without it, common sense is essential in controlling international trading relations; for if we only keep on mumbling prayers to our idol, while the foreigner is pushing us from his and undercutting us in our markets, we are little likely to witness brilliant results as the reward of our faith. Now that we see the nations of the earth banded together as one man to protect their industries by destroying markets for ours, or to insist upon reciprocal benefits as a return for any trading advantages they tardily offer, we shall have to reconsider matters in the light of facts, away from the misleading will-o'-the-wisps of theory and abstract dogma. Prince Bismark is not an utter idiot, and when he says it will profit Germany more to raise the additional revenue found to be indespensible through duties on certain articles of foreign manufacture than by direct taxation he is likely to obtain a hearing. It is not the Chancellor who proposes to impose taxes on food products or on the raw materials of German industries, though some of the German people have been foolish enough to do that. Depend upon it, Prince Bismark knows what he is about in thinking first of German interests, and allowing the universal cosmopolitan interests to take care of themselves.

Our 'kin beyond sea,' too, are wideawake, and really do not need to have lectures on 'economics' shied at their heads every time one of their Ministers or ex-Presidents steps on the landing-stage at Liverpool. Sooner perhaps than most people fancy we shall see Free-trade an accomplished fact in America, but after the American and not after the Anglican pattern. It is worthy of note that Mr. Evarts, the Secretary of State, has declared openly and categorically for Free-trade as Mr. Bayard, one of the Senators from Delaware, had done before him. These two are of opposite politics, but they agree on this question, and we shall probably, ere many months have flown, find that Free-trade is a great practical issue in the States. But the United States must be allowed to come to it in their own way, after first seeing how their interests will be affected, just as we in England.—*London World.*

There appears to be a favourable prospect for a lively trade in manufactured lumber between Canada and England. At a recent dinner given by a large building firm at Dundee, the chairman said:—"When he occupied the chair on a similar occasion last year he prophesied that, though the Americans could supply them with very excellent and cheap wood, they would not be able to give them finished works; but the first thing he noticed on entering the room was that a partition had been made of Canadian doors, the wood being excellent, the workmanship unsurpassed, and the price lower than could be taken for British workmanship." It appears that the spool and bobbin factories at Elgin, in Albert County, and St. Martin's, N. B., have done something in small wooden wares, including the export of broom handles Enormous exports are sent to Great Britain in this line from the United States, a recent shipment being that of 100,000 broom handles. The wooden boxes in which English wine merchants supply their goods to their customers are largely made in and exported from the United States. The pieces are put together, like those of shooks, and they are nailed together on the other side of the Atlantic, as required. Lumber and mill-owners should consider whether they could not secure a share of this trade and of the endless line of small wooden wares into which Canadian wood is manufactured in the mother country.—*Ex.*

The report of Professor Hinds as to the feasibility of navigation in Hudson Bay during the summer, and by its means finding an ocean outlet for the great north-west, has been republished by the Government here, and is attracting a large share of attention, Professor Hinds is perfectly certain of four months' uninterrupted navigation in the summer, and with the vessels which are now used in the seal fisheries off Newfoundland in the early spring, there is reason to believe another two months might be added. If this is practicable, a "Canadian Archangel" will spring up, either at York Factory or Port Nelson, and a thorough readjustment of ocean freight will ensue. The Nelson River, emptying into Hudson Bay, drains an area of some 300,000 square miles of fertile land, at present unsettled and untilled. Port Nelson, a Hudson Bay port at the mouth of this river, is 80 miles nearer to Liverpool than New York; whilst its distance from the most fertile tracts of the north-west territory is no greater than that of Toronto from Quebec. During the past summer a survey has been in progress of the basin of the Nelson River, and the conditions of the country for railway connection. The report is looking forward to with considerable expectation, as on it will depend, in a great measure, the probabilities of testing the proposed scheme of making Manitoba and the north-west possessors of a seaport on their own soil.

Autumn Sessions have not in general been of good omen to the Cabinets which have felt it necessary to recur to them. In November 1852 the first Derby-Disraeli Government called Parliament together only to be ejected from office before Christmas. The next autumn meeting took place in 1854, and when the House met again after the Christmas holidays, Lord Aberdeen's Administration was driven from power. No further extraordinary Session occurred till the end of 1857, when Lord Palmerston demanded a bill of indeannity for the suspension of the Bank Act, which, of course, he obtained; but in the following February, although disposing of an overwhelming majority, he was turned out upon the 'Conspiracy to Murder Bill.' During his subsequent tenure of office from 1859 to 1865, Parliament was never called together before the usual time, and no autumn Session was held until 1867, when Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli were obliged to submit their Abyssinian War policy to the sanction of the two Houses. Before the ensuing Easter the Government, which meanwhile had passed into the hands of Mr. Disraeli, received a blow from Mr. Gladstone's successful motion about the Irish Church from which it never recovered, although its final extinction was deferred until the general election of November 1868.

English photographers avoid the strain on the sitter's eyes, which usually results in a ghastly stare, by having a clock-face as the point to which they are directed, the eyes being allowed to travel slowly from the figure XII, all around. The rotatory movement of the eyeball in adapting itself, step by step, to the figures upon so small a circle at such a distance, is so excessively fine as to cause no interference with the photographic process. The eyes are excellently well defined, even to the iris, and the pictures have a marked superiority over those previously taken in the manner in which the details of the eyes are reproduced. The sitters have expressed themselves as not having had any strain upon their eyes.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1 1879.

Parties and Papers.

Responsible Government can only be carried on by parties. Government by party is the great preservative of the liberties of the people. A well organized able opposition is one of the best safe guards that the people have against the abuse of power, by acts tyrannical, corrupt and extravagant, by a government. However strong the support that a government may have at its back and beck, while it is exposed to the keen criticism of an outspoken opposition, it is constrained to keep a little within bounds, and to modify its course. It must always fear that, as long as the opposition is strong and spirited, that the popular vote which placed it in power, may shift and turn against it.

Party government, in theory, appears perfect, but in practical working it does not always appear to be that admirable thing which its greatest advocates declare it to be; the quintessence of political wisdom in working order. If the end of all good government is to ensure the wellbeing, prosperity and happiness of the people at large, with least possible friction and cost. it is not always so clear that party government attains. The ideal of good government would, we think, be government by the best minds of a nation, who, uninfluenced by private, interested and ambitious motives, would study out and carry into practical legislation, the measures which would give the best possible administration of affairs with the least possible taxation, which would best advance the people on the paths of enlightenment and progress, and the fiscal policy that would put the commercial, manufacturing, and producing interests on the soundest basis, and who would be advised by the representatives of the people actuated by similar motives. But, if it will be conceded that this is a general but correct discription of what good government should be, then government by party in its practical working, falls very far short of that ideal. Instead of the public good being the aim of parties, it is the desire for power that appears to dominate over every other motive. Attack is made on the party in power, for the sake of attack. Opposition is given for the sake of opposition. It is sufficient for one party to hold one set of opinions on any subject to cause the opposing party to take up and press diametrically opposite views. It seems astounding that men of good intelligence, swayed by ordinary pure, if not very exalted motives, should on any question take such extremely erroneous and vile views, as to lay themselves open to the charges, that the party opposed to them, is sure to press, of stupidity, gross carelessness, and corrupt intentions. Though it serves the purposes of government by parties, it is not in the nature of men or things that on any question one party should be all right and the other party all wrong. The real truth of any matter most probably lies between the two parties, and is touched by neither. When parties are closely divided, when power appears to be within reach of the party that is out, and to be slipping away from the party that is in, the less likely will it be that either party will have any controlling motive save the desire for the possession of power, or any interest in any question effecting the public, except so far as it further its own interests.

The bitterness of parties striving for power and their practical indifference to any thing that does not strengthen them, makes it very difficult for any member of any party to maintain, amidst the worly warfare, a judicial attitude, and it exposes him to the imputation of seeking to break loose from party ties, if he dares express any opinion on any subject which does not chime in with the opinions held by his party. This bitter intolerant spirit is the death of all free independent truth seeking thought, yet, this free independent truth seeking thought is the one thing needed to establish politics on some sure foundation to make them worthy of the pursuit of men who have something higher in view than their own personal interests, and who do not think that patriotism and the public good are mere catchwords, and to prevent politics from degenerating into a mere scramble for power and place.

This bitter, intolerant spirit is intensified in the papers which are indentified with the contending parties. To deny point blank the assertions of any opponent is the roll of the party journal. Impassively convinced of the superiority of its own intelligence, its own correctness, and its own veracity, it denies all those qualities to its opponents, and in charging them roundly with stupidity, incorrectness, falsehood, instead of elevating it only discredits the party which it professes to serve, and degrades the profession of journalism, of which it conceives inself to be a "burning and shining light." Such a journal cannot intolerate the expression of free and independent opinion in any paper, if such opinion appears to it to run counter to the views formerly expressed by such paper on any party question. It cannot conceive that there is such a thing as an honest desire for truth, or right for truth, or right's sake, and that any expression of opinion outside party lines is only a sign that such paper is shewing a disposition to jump over the imaginary fence that separates it from its own party, who for the time have the power to dispense favor. While such intolerant party papers wield great power, so long will a country remain in political thraldom, so long will it be unable to break out into free life and pursue a course more consonant with its true interests.

In Canada, as we all know, party spirit is very strong and domineering. It is not surprising that (as the *C. Spectator* says) there should be a disposition in some quarters to break away from party lines, to cease to be either a Conservative or a Grit—a reader of the *Mail* or the *Globe*—and resolve themselves into a new, independent and political party.

There is great excitement amongst the shippers of Toronto, owing to the action of the English Government, in placing an embargo on a shipment of 287 head of cattle belonging to T. Crawford & Co., arriving at Liverpool. The cattle were condemned and slaughtered because there were symptoms of pleuro-pneumonia in the drove. T. Crawford & Co., who loose the entire shipment, say that a number of American cattle were added to their shipment at Portland, which may account for its condemnation. Other shipments will likely meet the same fate. The dealers in Toronto condemn the British Government for shutting out Canadian cattle, because there is disease among the cattle of the United States. The trade, it is said, is at present at a standstill.

The stockholders of the Royal Canadian Insurance Co., and those doing business with it in this city, will be gratified on learning that its directors have been able to declare a dividend of 5 per cent. which will be payable on and after 1st of March. This favorable state of affairs is, we understand, greatly owing to the sound direction of Mr. Davidson their able Manager of the Company.

Disastrous Fire in St. Stephen.

The most disastrous fire since the conflagration of May 14, 1877, that has occurred in St. Stephen, broke out on Sunday morning last, in the Dry Goods Row, so called, situate on the western end of Water Street. The fire, it is supposed, commenced in Alexander Johnston's liquor store, and was caused by some defect in the stove or flue. The steam fire engines of St. Stephen and Calais had their steam up promptly, and were worked energetically; a hand engine, also, was brought to play, but the bitter cold, and the vehemence of the wind, froze the hoze, and gave such fury to the flames that the efforts of the firemen proved unavailing to stop the spread of the fire. When the flames reached the brick partition wall of Messrs. Cullinen's store, they were stayed and the probable destruction of the whole southern side of Water Street averted. The thieves were at work during the confusion and excitement of the removal of the goods from the threatened stores, and unceremoniously appropiated Ulster coats and watches, and rigged themselves out in new hats and boots. When morning broke, the ravages of the fire were stayed, but it had made a clean sweep of the two story store occupied by Mr. McElroy, as a liquor store, the building, one half of which was owned by Alex. Johnson, dealer in groceries and liquors, the other half of which, was unoccupied, by John Murphy, of Portland, Me., a two story building in which were the Dry Goods Store of Smith & Murray and the Jewellry Store of Geo. K. Pinder, the old Victoria House, occupied by Andrew DeWolfe, as a Grocery Store; J. W. Clark's Crockery Store, a two storey building, another two storey building occupied by C. O. Barker as a Soe Factory, and by Miss Cavanagh, Milliner; C. W. Smith's Bookstore, and Cullinen's building occupied by Geo. W. Sloat as a Boot and Shoe store.

There was between $28,000 and $29,000 insurance on the burnt buildings, distributed among the Etna, Shawmut, Queen, Commercial Union, National, Eartford, North British and Mercantile, Imperial, and Western offices.

The *St. Croix Courier* says that Dry Goods Row, which is altogether composed of wooden buillings, and to the rear of which there was no access in case of fire, was regarded with distrust by the Insurance Companies, who consequently charged excessive rates. Most of the occupants, however, were insured, and individual losses were not so great as might otherwise have been. Some of the proprietors will commence re-building at once, and they will no doubt, take care to make their new buildings as fire proof as possible.

The French Crisis.

The crisis in France, which last week appeared to be safely tided over, has broke out afresh. President McMahon has not been thoroughly in accord with the dominant republican party. If he had been a ruler of the hard fibre and ambitious views of a Napoleon, as fortunately he was not, he would have plunged France into civil war in the December of 1877, rather than succumb to Gambetta and his party, and the more active spirits of the extreme left. But he has shown himself determined not to give way to the demand made upon him to remove the General's holding the highest commands of the army, and has resigned the Presidency, and is succeeded by M. Grevey, President of the Senate, who possibly may only hold the high position temporarily. The resignation of McMahon is looked upon as a blow given to personal power, and a triumph for republican principles. A short time will show whether the republican party is disposed to pursue their victory with moderation; whether the more moderate Gambettatists will be able to keep the Extreme Left in check. The extremeists appear not to be willing to let bye-gones be bye-gones, but to be determined to bring the De Broglie Cabinet, who precipitated the crisis of the 16th May, which kept France in an agony of fear and suspense for half a year, to book, and to impeaah them It may be that the Dufaure Cabinet will be forced to resign, and a thorough Republican one be formed. During her long and bitter agony, which may be said to have commenced in 1789, the people of France have learned to moderate their political passions, and there is room to hope that the present crises will pass off without exciting bad blood, or an outburst of revolutionary violence, and will result in nothing worse than the consolidation of the Republic. But it may be supposed, the Bonapartists are now on the *qui vive*.

Latest despatches announce that Gambetta has been elected President of the Deputies by 314 out of 405 votes: and that it is uncertain whether Dufaure, President of the Council, will retain office.

The Result of the Aldermanic Elections.

The elections for Aldermen went off very quietly on Monday. There was, contrary to anticipation, no contest in Wellington Ward, as Messrs. Cliff and Estey withdrew, leaving Messrs. Simmons and Vandine unopposed.

In St. Ann's, Mr. Dykeman re-considered his determination not to offer, but to late, as Messrs. Simmons and J. B. Gunter carried the Ward. The contest was pretty hard in Carleton and Queen's Wards. The total result was as follows:—

WELLINGTON WARD.

J. W. Simmons, Joseph Vandine, } Unopposed.

ST. ANN'S.

Geo. H. Simmons,	108
J. B. Gunter,	98
W. G. Dykeman,	72

CARLETON.

T. W. Smith,	124
J. S. Beek,	104
J. F. McManus,	65
Joseph Dougherty,	17

QUEEN'S

John Moore,	120
Alex. Burchill,	102
Daniel Lucy,	66

KING'S.

Marshall Richey, Geo. N. Babbitt, } Unopposed.

Half of the number of Aldermen returned, viz., Messrs. Geo. H. Simmons, T. W. Smith, James S. Beek, John Moore and M. Richey sat the Board last year two, Messrs. J. W. Simmons and J. B. Gunter are ex-Aldermen, and three, Messrs. Vandine, Burchill and Babbitt are elected for the first time.

We have received from the American News Co., New York, through Mr. M. S. Hall, the January number of "The Original Chatterbox," a magazine for children. As its name would imply, it is filled with lively tales and stories, interesting sketches from history, and natural history, and short poems, which are adapted to amuse, instruct and please the young. It is illustrated also by wood cuts, which illustrate the text and please the eye. The "King of the Juveniles," is only 10 cts. per number.

The trial of the directors of the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank, on charges of fraud, theft and embezzlement, resulted in the conviction of Lewis Potter, of the Glasgow shipping firm of Potter, Wilson & Co., and Robert Sumner Stronach, manager of the Bank. The other directors were found guilty of uttering false abstracts of balance sheets. The sentence of the prisoners, a dispatch from Edinburgh, Jan. 31st, says wil be pronounced to-day.

St. Dunstan's T. A. Society Concert.

St. Dunstan's neat and comfortable hall was filled on Thursday with an audience that ought to have cheered the most sensitive of performers, it was numerous, disposed to be pleased, and liberal in its applause. What caused the concert to fail of being a perfect success? The horrid and prevalent "epizootic" that laid up three fair and sweet soprano singers, and a fine tenor, and touched with a suspicion of huskiness some of the voices of actual performers. Considering the drawbacks, the concert went off wonderfully well. The opening choruses "Joy, Joy, Freedom to-day," and "Away, Away," were sung with great spirit, and showed no sign of amatuer trepidation, Miss Martin's magnificent alto was clear, ringing, and swelling, and albeit there was some "discrepances," as Mr. Considine would say, in her singing of "Daybreak," she showed she could be mistress of her art, while her "dear, little Shamrock," was a real gem, and vastly delighted, as may be supposed, her audience. Luckily "the epidemic" had no power to paralize the deft fingering of the fair performers on the piano, and Miss Nealis and Miss A. McDonald in the "Vienna Galop," and Miss F. O'Connor in the "Ballad of the Weaver," were heard at their artistic best as far as such peices could display their powers. The recitations, "The Ruined Cottage," and the "Drunkard's Warning" were rather sombre performances and calculated to induce melancholy feelings. The comic song "Mrs. Grubbin's Boarding House," sung with a Dutch accent by Mr. A. Martin, who was invested and stuffed out in a rig, the most curious part of which was a scarlet vest and badly bagged breeches, tickled the audience vastly, and he answered the encore by a song that was incomprehensible. We liked Mr. Hildebrand's solo "Silver Bells," with the chorus, and Mr. T. Martin's "Minstrel Boy." The pleasing quartette, "Peace on the deep," by Misses LaForest and Martin and Messrs. Martin and O'Connor brought the concert to a close.

Last *Royal Gazette* contains the governmental notice of the resignation of the Hon. Benjamin Stephenson as a member of the Executive Council of this Province. Mr. Stephenson will be a nominee of the Government for the position of Speaker in the new House. It is generally agreed that the Government could make no better nomination. If he rules from the chair as well as he will look in it, he will make an admirable presiding officer.

Leading Jews in Great Britain have purchased Palestine. The secretary of the Association, which is backed up by the Rothschilds and other financiers, announces that the undertaking meets generally with the approval of the Jews of the whole world. The plain of Philestia is its best part, the soil being of a rich brown loom without a stone. It is now, as it has always been, a vast green field—an ocean of wheat without a break or fence. Its extraordinary fertility is shown by the fact that it has produced the same succession of crops year after year for forty centuries without artificial aid.

Consecration of Bishop Bond.

The report of the illness of the Bishop of Fredericton turned out, fortunately, to be untrue, His Lordship, along with the Bishops of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Niagara and Algoma, took part in the imposing ceremonies which took place last Saturday in St. George's Church, Montreal, on the occasion of the consecration of Bishop Bond. A hundred clergymen wearing their surplices, beside the Bishops, sat in the chancel. The morning prayers were read by the Bishop of Nova Scotia, and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Ontario, "on the necessity of the order of bishops in the church, and how they should be esteemed by the people." At the conclusion of the sermon:—

The Bishop of Fredericton took his seat in the centre of the chancel and the Bishops of Quebec and Algoma presented the Bishop-elect saying, in the words of the service.

"Most reverend father in God we present unto you this godly and well learned man to be ordained and consecrated bishop."

The Bishop of Nova Scotia had previously read the commission, and the bishop-elect had retired to the vestry and put on the bishop's robe, Canon Evans acting as his chaplain. After the prayer the six bishops advanced and put their hands on the head of the bishop-elect, who was kneeling before the chancel, the senior bishop saying.

"Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a bishop in the Church of God now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And remember that thou stir up the Grace of God which is given thee by this imposition of our hands, for God hath not given us the spirit of fear but of power, and love, and soberness."

Bishop Bond then entered the chancel and sat with the other bishops. The communion was then administered.

After the service the clergy and delegates were entertained at luuch in the Windsor Hotel by the newly consecrated Bishop, one hundred and ninety-four persons including laity and clergy, being present. The health of Bishop Bond was proposed in graceful terms, by the Bishop of Fredericton.

On Monday morning the House of Bishops assembled and elected the Bishop of Fredericton Metropolitan Bishop of Canada.

W. C. T. U. LECTURE COURSE.—The Reform Club Band (owing to sickness among its members) did not enliven the dull interval between the opening of the doors and the appearance of the lecturer last Tuesday evening, and the seats were very slowly taken by the audience. The public, we are afraid, do not fully appreciate the efforts of the ladies in providing them with intellectual fare. The lecturer, Rev. G. G. Roberts, was introduced by Miss Hatt, who intimated that the next lecture of the course would be delivered by Rev. Mr. Read, subject: "Glances in and around Boston."

Manners and Customs was the theme of the lecture of the evening, and the lecturer in beginning with the life of our first parents in the Garden of Eden, and portraying the life of the people before the flood, passing on to Abraham and the patriarchs, and the wandering Bedouins of the Desert, dwelling for a short time in Egypt, and from thence travelling over to Greece and depicting Spartan manners; and visiting Rome to describe the manner of life of the citizens of the mistress of the world, and from thence crossing over to the British Isles, to look on rude barbarian pagan ancestors, and then transporting himself to Peru to picture a state of society where the extremes of autocracy and magnificence and of poverty and enslavement met, traversed in time and space, a vast field. He touched briefly on some modern phrases of manners and customs. He also gave some curious particulars concerning marriage and burial customs in different countries.

L. O. A. LECTURE.—On Wednesday evening, Fred M. Sproul, Esq., of Hampton, delivered the third lecture of the L. O. A. course in the Orange Hall, before a highly respectable and most attentive audience. The subject of the lecture, "the Loyal Orange Association, its aims and results," was of particular interest to the body before whom he lectured, and he dealt with it in an able and comprehensive manner. Mr. Sproul seemed filled with his subject, in fact, and spoke without paper or reference to notes. The next lecture will be delivered by William Wilson, Esq., on Weneaday evening, February 12th, subject, "What the revolution of 1690 secured for the Anglo-Saxon race."

We are pleased to read in the *Morning News* the following item of news:—

A grand concert is to be given during the session of the Legislature by the officers of the 71st battalion; the proceeds to be devoted for procuring the new regulation helmets.

We venture to say that there will be a perfect rush to hear the gallant officers of the 71st Battalion. We never had any doubt of their ability and readiness to "face the music," if called upon to serve their country, but had no idea that they were able and willing to face the music on the platform to amuse the leiges.

MARKET.—There was a number of country teams in Phœnix Square, and a good market, this morning. Hay sold from $7 to $10 a ton, beef from 3 to 5 cents per lb, mutton from 4 to 5 cents, turkeys 8 cents, geese from 40 to 60 cents each; ducks 60 cents and chickens from 30 to 35 per pair; butter 14 to 16 cents; per lb., eggs 18 to 20 cents per dozen, potatoes from $1.00 to $1.25 per barrel.

Canada prides itself on the impartial administration of justice within its borders. The judicial machinery is framed for the punishment of offenders of all classes and creeds. In Ontario the culprits are found outside the halls of justice and in our city slums. But in Manitoba they occasionally find the offenders within the judicial courts. At Winnipeg the other day, the bailiff and the County Court clerk had a conflict. The bailiff, armed with the law and a particularly good revolver, demanded certain documents, which the County Court clerk refused to deliver. Thereupon the bailiff winged the clerk with a shot from the revolver through the right arm. One of the worst features of the affair is that the bailiff admits that he was drunk, and says the revolver went off of its own accord.—*Ex.*

Advices from Manchester, Salford, Birmingham, Burnley, Merthyr, South Durham, Stockport and Wolverhampton state that unprecedented distress in those localities continues to increase and is attributable to the prolonged severe weather, stagnation in the iron trade, extreme dullness in most branches of the coal and coke trade, depression in other trades and notices to workmen. Many of these notices were issued to bring about reductions in wages. Hundreds of families are on the verge of starvation and the workhouses are full to overflowing. The charitable societies are hard at work and collecting boxes have been placed in many places of business and public resort.

There is a low comedian at the Newcastle Theatre who takes off Lord Beaconsfield to the life. The Premier is introduced into the pantomine in frock-coat, love-locks and all, and makes a telling speech about the Berlin Treaty and peace with honour. But the performance is not popular in Newcastle. There is a very strong Gladstonien element there. When Mr. Eldred (the comedian in question) says, "at least I've done more for England than hew timber," he is received with a storm of hisses. The Conservatives in the audience cheer lustily, and there is soon a pretty row: straws show the direction of the current. Why does not Mr. Gladstone try Newcastle as a constituency, failing Edinburgh and Leeds.—*World.*

The Traveler's Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., (which now does the whole accident business), issue general accident tickets insuring $3,000 in event of death by accident, and $15 per week for disabling injuries, and which are made out from one to sixteen days, at twenty-five cents a day, or extended to one month for $4.50. The accident ticket has become very popular for short trips for business or pleasure, they will become more popular when the benefits they confer are more fully known. Instances are numerous in the States where the trifle of twenty-five cents invested in an insurance ticket, has made comfortable provision for families which otherwise would have been left utterly destitute. For further particulars see adv. Accident Tickets may be procured at Mr. J. L. Inches' office, Queen Street.

Plans and specifications for the new legislative buildings are coming in from different parts of the Dominion. We can only suppose for nobody knows, that there are some fine designs among them, which, followed, would give the Province splendid new structures of which it would be proud. Still, it would be a mistake to erect too palatial a structure, to dominate, like the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, over everything. Buildings something in keeping with their surroundings are what are wanted. As the Government are still receiving plans, &c., it shows that they do not think that a Maritime Union is possible for a number of years, or at least that they do not contemplate making, or listening to, any overtures to bring it about.

KILLED ON THE TRACK.—About half past ten on Wednesday night the body of John Morris, laborer, was found lying in a frightfully mangled state, lengthways on the track of the St. John and Maine Railway, near Bogg's crossing, between Fairville and South Bay. From testimony given at the coroner's inquest, it appears that Morris was under the influence of liquor, and lay down on the track, and used abusive language to a man who endeavoured to persuade him to rise from his dangerous position. The usual signals were given, and the engineer whistled breaks down. No blame is attached to the railway employees.

THE NEW PHASE OF THE MCCARTHY MURDER TRIAL.—The Osbornes have been released from goal on their own recognisance, and have commonced a prosecution against Annie Parker for perjury. It is asserted that they have clear evidence that Annie Parker and a gang of roughs, with whom she was intimate were the murderers of McCarthy. The examination of Annie Parker, who acts as her own counsel, commenced in Moncton, on Thursday, before Justice Wortman; but no new, or interesting facts have been brought out.

Mr. John Connoly is just finishing a new building on Regent Street, which will be occupied as a store and dwelling house.

Many methods are being devised for rendering aid to the unemployed in England, and some of these might offer suggestions for like schemes in this city. A church association in Manchester has hit upon an excellent device for rendering assistance to poor women. The ladies purchase materials and cut out garments for distribution among the poor, and then hire needy women to make them at low wages. The sewing women work from 11 to 4, are given a good dinner and paid an English sixpence for a day's work. The advantage of this system of relieving the poor is that it brings them out of their own homes into a room which belongs to the ladies, and where the latter can exercise some beneficial influence upon the poor women whom they thus gather together. None but the really destitute care to work for such low wages, and the fact that they are thus willing to help themselves is proof that they are at least deserving of assistance.

A new field for English manufactured goods has been opened, and the prospect has given some encouragement in the mother land. The Russian Minister of Finance, having in view the encouragement which the Czar is desirous should be given to the slowly developing Siberian trade, has resolved, for a time, to allow all foreign goods, except "books, patent medicines, lithographic stones, spirits, and printed matter," to enter the provinces of the Obi and Yenesei free of import duty. Some vessels have succeeded in taking out cargoes of English goods to the mouth of the Obi in less than three weeks, and have returned to Europe with cargoes of wheat. Thus far the Germans and Swedes have been the most strongly represented on the Siberian coast, but English merchants are now entering into the trade, especially as the war between Russia and England is dying away.

Australian preserved meat is being placed on the English markets at extremely low rates, and in these present hard times is competing with Canadian and American meat. The trade, which is of very recent origin, has attained large dimensions, and promises to take still more rapid strides in the future. New South Wales, which only exported £172 worth of tinned meats in 1862, now sends abroad an annual quantity estimated at a thousand times that value. Victoria in 1866 did not send away £2,000 worth of tins, or about 120,000 lbs., while ten years later over 6,400,000 lbs. were exported, valued at £167,000, and these figures were less than half the total export of 1871. Queensland, which has turned her attention principally to the export of wool, is beginning to do a fair trade in fresh tinned meats.

A novel association has been incorporated in New York City. It is called "The Business Men's Society for the Encouragement of Moderation," and its proposals are to encourage moderation in the use of alcoholic beverages, to promote a knowledge of science and statistics relative to the manufacture of alcoholic liquors, to disseminate among the people useful information regarding the principles of moderation, and the means of carrying such principles into practical effect. There are three kinds of pledges, of three colours—red, white and blue. The white pledge is the main one. The signer pledges his "sacred honour" not to drink during business hours for a certain specified time. The blue pledge is not to treat anyone or to be treated by anyone. The red pledge is total abstinence.

No story concerning hard times in England conveys so vivid a picture of the want of confidence in the future, and the hoarding of ready cash, as the announcement that art treasures are being sold for a song at Christie's rooms in London. Two or three years ago hundreds of pounds were given for a trifling sketch by Turner, or even some modern fashionable painter, such as Milais. But old pictures and bric-a-brac are now at a discount. A painting described by Godfrey Kneller, representing a court beauty, recently went for $5. Another rare work, a Somersetshire landscape, by Barber, of Bath, was sold for $12.50.

A new plan of mobilisation has been adopted for the German army. Only twenty-four hours are to be left to the men of the reserve and the landwehr for the settlement of their private affairs when once they have received the order to join their regiments. This order is given irrespective of Sunday or holiday or of day or night.

A distemper has broken out among the horses in the vicinity of Berwick, Kings Co., Nova Scotia. Eight have died at that place during four or five weeks. The animals show symptoms of colic, and the poor brutes die in about twenty-four hours.

Edward Hanlan, the Canadian oarsman