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HIGHWAYS IN NOVA SCOTIA.—We are informed that on Tuesday evening last, at about half-past seven o'clock, as Dr. Barton, Chiropractic Physician, was returning to town from a visit to a patient at Beaver River, he was attacked in the woods near Chocogogin River by two men (unknown to him), one of whom made a blow at him with a cudgel. The doctor, however, evaded the blow, which struck the side of the covered carriage, in which he was driving, with such force as to break some of the wooden bars which support the cover. As his horse taking fright, started, he overheard one of his assailants tell the other to fire, and stooping forward in the carriage, saved himself from being struck by a pistol ball, which perforated the back of the carriage and passed over his head.

We understand that a few weeks ago, Dr. Harris of Beaver River, was waylaid and attacked at night near the same place by some unknown persons, and saved himself by striking his assailant with the butt end of his whip and starting his horse.—*Yarmouth Herald.*

TONONTO, Jan. 4.—Review of the year's business in Toronto is very encouraging. Trading and industrial operations largely increasing. Money superabundant. Commercial progress and success everywhere apparent.

Another train up on Grand Trunk near Widdien Station. Collision between two freight trains; one of them completely wrecked; one van smashed; four cars thrown over an embankment. No one injured.

QUEBEC, Jan. 4.—Ice bridge formed between Orleans and North Shore.

MONTREAL, Jan. 4.—Severe shocks of an earthquake were felt last night at Hawkesbury and Point Fortune on Ottawa River, near Montreal.

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—A sharp earthquake shock occurred last evening, about half-past six o'clock; lasted fifteen seconds, and damaged property to the value of \$100,000. It was felt at Senator Miller, of Cape Breton, will be appointed Clerk of the Senate.

Thermometer this morning twenty-two below zero.—*Tel.*

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Conference of powers on the Eastern question has been indefinitely postponed, as the plenipotentiaries refused to take part in it and the absence of one of the plenipotentiaries of the treaty of Paris would render meeting useless.

The conspiracy at Madrid has been found to be a very deep one, implicating a great many persons, and there are fears that the same attempt may be made again.

A despatch from King William states, the bombardment of Fort Avon silenced the enemy's guns.

The railway Station at Noyes was shelled and the French artillery at Bondy dislodged—Prussian loss was three cannons, 100 men, and 1000 horses.

Paris, and a dozen shells were thrown on Tuesday into Belleville.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The intensely cold weather causes fearful mortality among the German wounded. Nearly all the occupants of fifty six carriages killed, who were crowded at the assault on Belfort, on the 21st of December, were frozen to death before the trains reached Chateaufort.

Another unsuccessful attempt has been made on the fortifications of Belfort, in which the German besiegers lost 1400 killed and wounded.

Troops are concentrating in southwestern Russia. The Marquis of Huntingdon has been appointed Chief Secretary of Ireland, and Mr. Fortescue President of the Board of Trade.

The report that a Commissioner was to be sent to the United States to settle dispute about the Fisheries, has been refuted.

The Prussian Government explains the sinking of the British colliers in the Seine by stating that they were fired at to bring them to.

The Sultan and Khedive are again on angry terms.

Sexton Mercadante, the composer, is dead.

Field Marshal Moering, of Austria died yesterday.

Victor Emmanuel has left Rome.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—A petition has been presented to the House of Commons, requesting the Government to charge suicidal apathy amidst terrible complication of European questions and aggressions of Prussia.

A severe engagement, in which the French were successful, preceded the evacuation of the town of Gray by the Germans.

The reports that the German army of the Loire has retreated on Grin are apparently confirmed.

The Government at Bordeaux has designated Favre to represent France at the Conference.

It has been determined at Versailles to continue the bombardment until peace has been declared or Paris capitulates.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The petition calling on Mr. Gladstone to resign has received many signatures.

It is intimated that the Tories will support a large increase in Army and Navy appropriations.

Complete details of the funeral of the late General Prim in Madrid.

At Bordeaux, Gambetta spoke to a hundred thousand people, and assured them the motto of the Republic was "war to the bitter end."

King William addressed the troops at Versailles on Sunday.

The Parisians, weary of inaction, are urging Trochu to attempt another sortie.

The greatest wants felt by the Parisians are lack of fuel and milk. For want of the latter, children are dying daily.

Complete details of the cold are constantly made.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—A Versailles telegram of yesterday says:—The bombardment of the forts east of Paris continues with such effect that fort No. 2 only replies to the German guns.

BORDEAUX, Jan. 4.—Gen. Faidherbe sends the following to Minister of War, under date Jan. 3rd:—"We have fought a battle near Bassanure, which lasted from eight in the morning to six in the evening of Monday. We have driven the Prussians from all their positions and the villages occupied by them. The enemy's losses are enormous, and ours are serious."

King Amadeus made his entry into Madrid on Monday, and was received most enthusiastically by the people.

## UNITED STATES.

MR. NATHAN'S MURDERER DISCOVERED.—The intelligence that the murderer of Benjamin Nathan has been discovered, is clear and convincing, and that he is now in the hands of the authorities, though arrested for a different offence, cannot be read without a thrill of excitement by even the most apathetic and incredulous.

This discovery is due to the skill and determination of the well known counsel and advocate, Count Joannes. Following step by step, with remarkable perseverance a clue that had fallen into his hands, he seems to have entirely cleared up the mystery. The assassin entered Mr. Nathan's house as a burglar, for the purpose of plundering it. Mr. Nathan was asleep. The noise of the intruder awoke him. Supposing it to be one of his sons, he said: "Harmless, is it you?" These were his last words. The robber at once became a murderer, striking the old man dead with the iron dog, or as he called it, the "rump."

Mr. Nathan was killed in the building, and the fire to find his home in flames, which had progressed so far that he was unable to get out. Two children, occupying the same room, escaped with difficulty. But two others of the children, who slept in a room on the second floor, were still in the building, and Mr. McFarlane rushed through the fire to their rescue, and when he had opened the door a volume of flame burst forth and overpowered him. No assistance could be rendered from outside, and the unfortunate man perished with his wife and his wife, with one of her children. Mr. McFarlane was a sober, industrious man, and much esteemed by his neighbors and acquaintances.

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On the Railroad, snow ploughs were employed all day, but notwithstanding this there was much delay. The early train from Sussex, left without a snow plough, and arrived at Hampton on time; but it could not force its way through the deep cuttings at this side of Hampton, until released by a train which left the city. It is said that it was from a. m. to 4 p. m. on the road between Lawlor's Lake and the city—the distance is about five miles. This also delayed the through trains. On Western Extension, the delays were not so serious, but the St. Stephen train was delayed some time, and the train from Woodstock several hours. Snow on the post roads was completely blocked up. A gentleman who left his house on the Manawagomis Road, about three miles from the Suspension Bridge, at five o'clock on Friday morning, on most urgent business, did not reach the city until half-past eight. The storm preceded very widely. It snowed in New York on Wednesday, in Portland on Thursday forenoon, and all over the Province on Thursday. In Halifax it snowed and rained alternately. In Cape Breton there was a heavy rain storm.—Freeman.

HOUSEBREAKING.—The *Globe* has the following account of the attempted burglary on the premises of the Water Commission, in Wentworth Street:—Some bold housebreakers, about 8 o'clock this morning, entered the premises of E. C. Lockhart, Esq., but in his attempts to open a close fitting door, near Mr. Lockhart's sleeping apartments, awoke Mr. Lockhart. She awoke her husband, and by this time the robbers had made their way into the room. Mr. Lockhart on seeing the man enter, made an alarm and he made off. A light having been procured Mr. Lockhart examined the premises, and found that nothing had been taken away. The party opened the gate to the backyard with a key, and removed a pane from the lower part of the door. By this means he was able to remove the window stop and open the window. From this he proceeded through the kitchen and up stairs. His plans were well designed, so that he is such a customer as housebreakers should take every precaution to guard against.

ONE OF THE SADDEST SIGHTS to be witnessed in a civilized community might have been seen yesterday in connection with the drunkenness of youth. On Rocky Hill, between 11 and 11.30 a. m., several lads were seen quite drunk, with cigars in their mouth, and scarcely able to get along. They ranged in age from 12 to 15 years; and on King's Square, between 7 and 8 o'clock, a boy of 15 years was being dragged home, apparently being too far gone in liquor to take care of himself. Tel. of Tuesday.

And yet the sale of the poison which degraded the lads is sanctioned by this christian Province; the vendors are respectable, and every thing that is good and moral in the sight of the law.

PORTLAND.—The Committee who have in hand the proposed new scheme for the government of the parish, have decided to submit their plan to the public at a meeting to be held at the Portland Temperance Hall this week. They have set the property qualification for the voters at £200, and ward elections will be adopted. It is proposed to divide the parish into four wards.—*Nes.*

The Annual Meeting of the Bible Society will be held at the Mechanics' Institute this evening, (Friday) at 6 o'clock.

THE DOVER TRAGEDY.—The following particulars of this melancholy event have not hitherto been published here. They are taken from the *Moncton Times*:—

A very sad occurrence, involving the loss of three lives, a father and two children, took place at Dover, in this County, on Monday night last.—Some time in the night, Mr. Bedford McFarlane awoke to find his home in flames, which had progressed so far that he was unable to get out. Two children, occupying the same room, escaped with difficulty. But two others of the children, who slept in a room on the second floor, were still in the building, and Mr. McFarlane rushed through the fire to their rescue, and when he had opened the door a volume of flame burst forth and overpowered him. No assistance could be rendered from outside, and the unfortunate man perished with his wife and his wife, with one of her children. Mr. McFarlane was a sober, industrious man, and much esteemed by his neighbors and acquaintances.

Bismarck has issued an order which commands that all the trees in the national forests of France in the districts surrounding Paris and Versailles (extending to a circumference of over fifty centimetres) shall be levelled to the ground and sold on the peasant's use as a lumber and fuel. This order also carries the way for the Prussian armies, who can thus perform their movements unimpeded.

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