NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

On no occasion will the names o Old Advertisements be inserte here.

Orphan's Home—Anna J. Eaton.

ADVERTISING AGENCY.—*Messrs. S. M. Pettengill & Co., 34, Park Row, New York, and State Street Boston, General Advertising Agents, are hereby authorized to receive Advertisements for the* OTTAWA TIMES

THE "WEEKLY" TIMES.—This Friday morning the second number of Vol. II., will be issued. The following is a summary of its contents: Seven and a half columns of Editorial and Local matter; City and County Municipal Elections; Educational Reform; The R. C. Temperance Societies; Chaudiere Gold Mines; G. R. Faribault; Death of an Old Member of the Civil Service; Berrigan's Letter; The Colliery Disasters in England; Speech of the Hon. T. D. McGee at the Montreal Protestant Benevolent Society's Soiree; The Civil Service in England; Fenians; Hon. T. D. McGee to Hon. Geo. Brown, Letter No. 4; Letter from Cork; The New Commander of the Western District; Fight with Indians; How He got Drunk; Father Gavazzi; Burning of the Steamer *Fashion*; Cornelius O'Dowd on the Defensive—A Long Range Shot; with all the latest news from Europe by the Atlantic Cable, American Telegrams, &c., &c. For sale at Crane's and Houzer's News Depots; price 5 cents.

The Ottawa Times

City and County Official Paper.

OTTAWA, JANUARY 11, 1867.

For Arrival and Departure of Mails see 1st page.

LORD CARNARVON has transmitted to the Colonial authorities an important despatch relating to the Fenian prisoners, in which, as will be seen, he pointedly rebukes Mr. SEWARD for his over officious interference, and even condescends to read him a lesson which the pompous little Secretary of State will do well to lay to heart for future application. He also, while communicating the intelligence of the commutation by the Imperial Government of the sentence of the Fenian prisoners to twenty years' imprisonment, gives an earnest warning that no such leniency will be shewn to any like offenders in the future—nothing less than the extreme penalty of the law awaits them, and it is well that this determination should be widely known. The despatch will be read with general satisfaction, though the announcement of the commutation of the death penalty, will rob the sentence of the court on the prisoners yet to be tried (should they be convicted) of its due solemnity. But a certainty of twenty years of penal servitude will hardly be esteemed a pleasant exchange for a threatened halter, which, no one believed would be applied, so that the prisoners will not be much elated with the news. It is to be noted that the term of imprisonment is the same as that meted out to the principal Fenian prisoners tried in Dublin a year ago.

There appears to have been an irregularity in the election of Common School Trustees in this city, which will in all probability lead to some future trouble. W. COUZENS, Esq., Local Superintendent of the city, wrote to the Educational Department at Toronto, with reference to the mode of conducting the elections, and yesterday received the following answer from the Deputy Superintendent:

"I have the honor to state in reply to your "letter of the 3rd, received on the 7th inst., "that the school elections must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of "the new Municipal Act, *i. e.* they must "close on the one day."

The poll in St. George's and Ottawa wards was kept open for two days, though there were no votes recorded in the last named; and as in St. George's the unsuccessful candidate voluntarily retired at three o'clock yesterday, it is to be presumed that there will be no further trouble regarding the election there. But in Ottawa ward, where the poll was opened at nine o'clock the candidate first proposed, Mr. McCormick, was declared elected, either at or about the expiration of an hour, when Mr. Hiram Robinson appeared on the scene with some friends, and claimed the privilege of being nominated. The Returning Officer received his nomination and opened a poll; and yesterday, at eleven o'clock Mr. Robinson, having the majority of votes, was also declared duly elected. Both gentlemen claim the seat, and hence the prospect of future trouble. By the Deputy Superintendent's interpretation of the law, the Returning Officer was clearly right in opening the poll at nine instead of ten o'clock, but whether he closed proceedings too abruptly in declaring the first named candidate duly elected, is a question upon which we have no positive information. Should the protest against Mr. Robinson's return be prosecuted, the election for Ottawa ward will in all probability be declared void.

During the recent elections we understand that some of the officers of the Department of Customs and Excise throughout the country have allowed their names to be used as candidates, and in one case at least the candidature has been successful. Under these circumstances it is proper that we should, for the benefit of the parties interested, give a reminder regarding the policy of the Department in such cases. During the administration of the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS an officer of customs in a Western town was elected to a municipal office, and Mr. HINCKS promptly gave him the choice of relinquishing it immediately or accepting relief from his official connection with the government. We have no reason to believe that a departure from such a salutary practice will be tolerated under the present administration, and therefore we counsel the official possessor of municipal honors, for his own sake, to at once throw them aside, unless he prefers them to his position under the government.

There cannot be a question as to the wisdom of the course pursued by Mr. HINCKS in the case referred to, nor any doubt of its being a precedent worthy of imitation. The active engagement of customs or excise officers in the municipal politics of the localities in which they are charged with the performances of responsible government duties, is calculated only to produce results of a most mischievous kind. No municipality in the country is so bereft of local talent as to be compelled, for very destitution thereof, to fall back upon the government officers who may happen to be stationed within them for the time in the discharge of duties, which to be well done must be done in the spirit of the strictest impartiality and without even the suspicion of favoritism. There are always plenty of men quite willing, and perhaps as able to perform the duties pertaining to members of the village, town or city corporations throughout the country; and therefore, there cannot exist any necessity for the officers in question taking this additional responsibility upon their shoulders. When taken at all, the step is one of their own choice, without any special reason for the public benefit, and as will readily be seen, is fraught with consequences injurious to the public interest. Even if nothing worse than the suspicion of partiality in the discharge of official duty, on account of presumed obligations imposed by the "vote and influence" of some not very scrupulous observer of the tariff regulations were the result, it would be the undoubted duty of the department to take prompt measures for the removal of all cause of such suspicion; and we hope that in the case to which we have referred, the matter will be settled by the withdrawal of the party from one or other of his obligations, and that in future officers of the revenue throughout the country will hold themselves above the temptation of seeking for municipal honors, and beyond the petty entanglements of local politics.

The city of New York has long enjoyed an unenviable reputation as being the worst municipally governed on the continent; but the recent message of Mayor Hoffman goes far to prove that like many other reputations, it is well founded only to a very small extent. In the matter of taxation, a very important item, New York escapes with a lighter load than many of its neighbors, while its parks and other public institutions are "got up" in a style with which those of other cities cannot compare. The rate of taxation in New York is stated to have been last year $2.30 on the hundred dollars, while that of the cities named below was very much higher, as will be seen by the following figure:

New York	$2.30	Rochester	$5 62
Philadelphia	4 00	Utica	5.61
Brooklyn	3.41	Albany	3.76
Syracuse	3.72	Troy	2.50

Of course the taxes in these cities are levied on an assessment of actual value, and to make a comparison with the rate imposed here, we must convert our annual value into the actual. On the scale of six per cent., that fixed by the old law for establishing annual value where there was no rental, we find that the taxation of Ottawa last year was only at a rate of $1.53 on the hundred dollars, or one third less than that of New York. But it is to be borne in mind that generally throughout Canada, and most especially in Ottawa, actual rental very far exceeds six per cent. of the actual value of the property rented—so far perhaps as to justify us in saying that the taxes here, except on the hitherto favored occupants of their own property, were fully as high if not higher than those which last year prevailed in the empire city. If the rent represented nine per cent., on the actual value, then our rate would have just been the same as that of New York; but we believe that in most cases in this city the rental is considerably in excess of that figure, and therefore we are a higher taxed people than the Gothamites.

While speaking upon this question of taxation, we may as well record our dissent from the theory of late advanced in the defence of the irregularities of last year's assessment, that the terms of the act confined the assessors to the rental in one case, and to six per cent. on the actual value in the other. We admit the truth of this assertion so far as it goes; but we do not believe that it accounts to any considerable extent for the patent inequalities recently exposed through our columns, and we desire to impress upon the council the duty of seeing that the carrying out of the new assessment law is not marred by an inefficient system of valuation. Whether the valuation be made at a high or a low rate is of little consequence, provided it be equitably done, and in this respect we hope the council of 1867 will leave no room for complaint.

Per Provincial Line.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM

To the Ottawa Times.

FROM TORONTO.

Fenian Prisoners Not to be Removed Until all are Tried.

Opening of York and Peel Assizes.

A Notorious N. Y. "Herald" Reporter.

Two Young Men Drowned at Kingston.

Two Young Ladies Drowned at Bath.

TORONTO, Jan. 10, 1867.

The order for the removal of the Fenian prisoners to Kingston has been countermanded. Everything was in readiness last night for conveying them to the Penitentiary, when an order came from the Solicitor General at Cobourg, directing their detention here until after the trials of the other prisoners. It is rumored that they will appear as witnesses.

The York and Peel Assizes commenced today, Judge Morrison presiding. His lordship, in charging the grand jury, said he was happy to inform them that the calendar was very light, there being only three names of criminals on the docket. In addition to those, however, there were a number of persons charged with invading the Province in June last.

True bills having been found against them by the last grand jury, their cases would not come before the present grand jury. After a few remarks regarding the duties of grand juries His Lordship concluded, and the jury retired. The notorious correspondent of the New York *Herald*, Leahy, has arrived in order to falsify reports as usual.

The prisoners to be tried to-morrow are John Smith and Timothy Kerby.

A despatch from Kingston says two young men belonging to that city, were drowned last evening at five o'clock, while skating towards the upper end of the city from Garden Island, named Camp and Taylor, between 16 and 17 years of age.

A despatch from Kingston also says two young ladies, named Miss Brethen and Miss Huffman, were drowned yesterday, about four p.m., near Bath, by falling through the ice. The body of Miss Huffman was recovered.

—In 1859 Russia had 75,431,000 inhabitants; in 1860, 77,674,000; in 1861, 77,328,000; in 1862, 78,384,000; in 1863, 79,283,000; in 1864, 80,284,000; in 1865, 84,275,000, and in 1866, 82,275,000.

—In one of his recent sermons Brigham Young invited the attention of his hearers to the text which says: "In that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread and wear our own apparel, only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach. The government of the United States," the elder continued, "do not intend that that prophecy shall be fulfilled, and the Lord Almighty means that it shall."

LOCAL NEWS.

FURNITURE SALE.—We beg to remind our readers of the sale of furniture, at Mr. McCartney's British Hotel, Wellington-street, this morning, at 10 o'clock. There will be no postponement, and the entire stock will be positively sold without reserve.

SCHOOL INTELLIGENCE.—By a letter from the Department of Public Instruction, it is understood that Ottawa should belong to the Circuit Board in which it is geographically situated; and that it is the duty of the County Council to determine the limits of each circuit.

A NEW DRESS.—Our able contemporary, the *Morning Chronicle* of Quebec, has recently come out in a full suit of brim-new type, which fits him well, and greatly improves the mechanical appearance of the paper. We are glad to note such substantial signs of prosperity with our *confrere* of the ancient capital.

A SOLDIER'S BURIAL.—The remains of the young bandsman, Van Buren, of the 100th regiment, who died in the military hospital on Wednesday morning, were buried yesterday afternoon with military honors. The deceased, we believe, was formerly of Kemptville.

THE MARKETS.—Of late, our provision market has been generally well and abundantly supplied with all sorts of provisions. Yesterday it was not quite so well attended; prices ranged according to our last quotations, except potatoes, which are 45 cts. The hay market was very full, and with a little more snow, it will come in from a greater extent of country.

VOLUNTEER INSPECTION.—On Wednesday evening, Brigade-Major Jackson inspected companies Nos. 1 and 2 of the Ottawa Provisional battalion. After having put the companies through the usual military evolutions, the Major spoke in very flattering terms as to the marked progress made by both officers and men since their last inspection, and very properly enjoined upon them the necessity of persevering in their duties until they arrived at that point of perfection necessary for a perfect military organization.

OTTAWA WARD.—It is stated, but we do not vouch for the truth of it, that neither of the candidates for school trustee in Ottawa ward was ambitious for the office, and that they tossed up which should have it, when Mr. McCormick was the winner. Mr. Robinson's friends, however, would not abide by the terms of the contract, and insisted upon his running, which he did, and then he became the winner by some fifteen votes, but not until Mr. McCormick had been declared "duly returned." The latter gentleman "protests," and there is—a muddle.

POLICE COURT.—Mary Milford, a soldier's wife, whose conduct has been such as to cause her frequent expulsion from barracks, was again brought before the police magistrate on a charge of drunkenness. Constable Ritchie testified to having found her on the previous night on the street insensibly drunk, where in a little time she must have been frozen to death. Fined $2 and costs or two weeks in jail at hard labor.—Timothy Murphy, drunk and disorderly; case adjourned till this morning—Ellen Roche charged Mrs. Mary McQueen with refusing to pay her wages after turning her away from her service, because she remained three hours on an errand; case dismissed without costs.

TEMPERANCE DRINKS.—Messrs. Swales, Brown & Co. have just got into effective operation at Hochelaga, a large establishment for the manufacture of those excellent flavored, healthy and purely temperate beverages, extensively sold throughout Europe. Their works are styled the "Belfast Ginger Ale Works," and they are now prepared to fill orders for any of the following celebrated beverages:—Ginger Ale, Lemonade (English), Double and Single Ærated Soda Water; Seltzer, Lythia, Pullna Vichy and Kali or Potass Waters; Tonic and Quinine Bitters; Sarsaparilla, Winter and Summer Nectar. We hope to see an agency opened in this city for the sale of the above and feel confident that the undertaking would prove a success.

ELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES—SECOND DAY.—The only wards in which the elections for school trustees were continued the second day were St. George's and Ottawa wards. *St. George's Ward*—In this ward the poll was closed by the retiring of Mr. Mills, about three o'clock, when the vote stood: for Wilson 106, for Mills 79; majority for Wilson 25, who was then declared duly elected. It is said that more interest was shown in this election than was ever before known. We would fain hope, from this, that a corresponding interest may be manifested on the subject of educating those who, in a few short years, will be our law makers and our public officers. *Ottawa Ward*—The poll continued open in this ward until eleven o'clock, when there having been no votes polled, the poll was closed. The vote stood: Robinson 25, McCormick 10. Mr. Robinson was thereupon declared duly elected. We understand that Mr. McCormick has entered a protest.

SOCIAL MEETING.—On Wednesday evening, Mr. P. A. Loftus, contractor, as is customary with him, met with his employees and several invited friends at Mr. Samuel Gouldthrite's, where he entertained the party with an oyster supper. After the cloth was removed, Mr. Loftus' health was proposed, and drank in a bumper, and to which he replied. Songs, toasts and speeches whiled away a most agreeable evening. It was pleasant to notice the good feeling and perfect understanding which appeared to exist between Mr. Loftus and his men. During the evening one of his old hands, (and some of them are of two years steady standing) said: "Sometimes you appear rather rough, when matters don't go right, but then it's all over in a minute, and after all we rather like to hear you scold a bit, for then we know that work is on hand and must be put through." Mr. Loftus, it seems to us, takes the right method of getting along with his men, and a re-union, such as he gave them on this occasion, only serves to strengthen the good meaning man, in persevering on all occasions to obtain his employer's object, and seeing that his interests are never lost sight of.

—The penal law of Alabama, which punishes horse and mule stealing with death, took effect on the 1st of January.

—The total number of disasters to Canadian shipping on the lakes during the year 1866 is 68, of which 11 were steamers, and 57 sailing vessels. Three steam and eight sailing vessels proved a total loss. Number of lives lost, 12.

—A telegram from the Plains says that Sweetwater Station was burned by the Indians on the 1st of January. A party of telegraph men went there yesterday, and found the mutilated body of one soldier and a telegraph operator.

—The total amount of tobacco annually produced throughout the world is estimated as follows: Asia, 309,900,000 pounds; Europe, 281,844,500; America, 248,280,500; Africa, 24,300,000; Australia, 714,000; making in all 995,039,000.

THE BALL LAST NIGHT.

At an early hour last evening the new large hall of the Russell House was thrown open for the sixth annual ball of the Central Hook and Ladder Company. Gowan's full quadrille band occupied the gallery at the south end of the hall, the front of which was festooned with the national banners of Old England; in the centre a miniature hook and ladder was placed, surmounted with the word "Central." The hall is the largest and finest for such purposes that has ever been erected in this city, and was well lit up. At midnight it was a pleasing sight to see the throng as they whirled through the mazy dance. The gay uniforms of the members of the different fire companies—most prominent amongst which were those of the Centrals and their old friends, the Chaudiere—mixed with various hues of the lighter and still more beautiful dresses of the ladies, were delightful to look upon. To say that Mr. Gouin supplied the refreshment table in an excellent and bountiful style is almost needless, for his fame as a public caterer is too well known to render extra comment necessary.

The committee of management exerted themselves in a most praiseworthy manner to make their friends and patrons comfortable. It is almost unfair to particularise, but the energy and exertions of Capt. A. Matthewman and Mr. Arthur Lang, for the successful carrying out of this most agreeable party, are deserving of special mention. There is a peculiar style of music, as well as the manner of performing it, for quadrille purposes, and this Mr. Gowan seems to perfectly understand, for better music could not be desired by the most ardent devotee of Terpsichore than that furnished on this occasion.

We congratulate our gallant firemen on the success of their annual ball, and can only express a desire that they may long continue to be deserving of that popularity with the citizens of Ottawa that their exemplary conduct has already gained for them.

IMPORTANT DESPATCH FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sentence of Death Commuted to Twenty Years' Imprisonment in the Cases of Lynch and McMahon.

The Montreal *Gazette* of yesterday publishes the following:—

(COPY.)—Canada, No. 108.

DOWNING STREET,
24th November, 1866.

MY LORD,—I have received your telegram stating that you have reserved the sentences of the Fenian convicts, and referring me to Mr. Seward's communication to Sir F. Bruce upon the subject. I have also received your despatch of the 3rd November, and the reports of the Fenian trials.

Mr. Seward, I observe, applies for a record of the judicial proceedings, and I infer from the papers before me that this request has been granted. I approve of your having done so; at the same time, having regard to all the circumstances, I am anxious to guard myself from assenting to the proposition that this request could have assumed the form of a demand, founded upon strict international right. An application by the prisoners' counsel, through the United States Consul in Canada, who has had all facilities granted him, might have secured for Mr. Seward all that he desires, and would have been more in accordance with ordinary usage.

But whilst thus ready and anxious to afford the convicts in question every chance of interposing any plea for delay or extenuation, which may fairly be open to them through the proper authorities of their country, I am bound to protect the administration of justice in Canada from any claim of supervision which might, on a first perusal of Mr. Seward's words, be thought to attach to them. Such language might possibly be construed into a claim on the part of the United States government to investigate into and to sit as a Court of Appeal upon the judicial proceedings as carried on in Canada, and with all the safeguards and sanctions of English jurisprudence.

I am satisfied that no such claim could be intended. It would be indeed a pretension that the United States government would probably be the first to regret, not only because a nation so jealous of its own honor would scrupulously abstain from any request, a compliance with which would be inconsistent with the rights and dignity of an independent State, but believe, the practice and jurisprudence of the two countries on such a question are, I because almost if not quite identical. After a careful perusal of the trials in Toronto, I am convinced that not the faintest shadow of an imputation can, in the opinion of any reasonable person, rest upon the perfect fairness of the proceedings or the justice of the verdict.

Not only was there no curtailment of that full measure of liberty and means of defence, which is so essential an element in the criminal jurisprudence both of the United States and of Great Britain, but every privilege that could be conceded to the prisoners appears to have been allowed.

The case of the Crown was temperately stated, the whole court concurred in the delays which were asked and granted, and I observe that even the prisoner Lynch bore witness to the fairness and impartiality with which his case was tried.

Her Majesty's government are requested to grant an amnesty to these prisoners. They have carefully considered the question. They cannot shut their eyes to the very heinous character of the offence. It was neither more nor less than a wanton and lawless attack, with the avowed object of carrying fire and sword into an unoffending province.

It has indeed providentially proved to be as fruitless in its result as it was wicked in its design, which not only contemplated murder and rapine in Canada, but the possibility of embroiling two friendly nations in an unnatural war.

Her Majesty's government are not insensible to the resentment which the people of Canada must feel.

They have submitted, and submitted cheerfully, to great sacrifice of their time and their professional avocations. Property has been destroyed, trade injured, and I grieve to think, valuable lives have been lost.

Nor again have the course which the associates and sympathisers with these unhappy criminals adopted, the language which they are reported to have held, and the idle threats of retaliation said to have been used by them, rendered it easier either for the Canadian people or Her Majesty's government to overlook the grave character of the offence.

But taking into account the fact that nearly six months have now elapsed, and that nothing has occurred in the interval to detract from the complete success which crowned the efforts of Her Majesty's troops and of the Canadian volunteers in suppressing the Fenian invasion, and readily accepting the opinion of yourself and your advisers in favor of clemency, Her Majesty's government are disposed to hope that the ends of justice and wise policy may be secured without recourse to the extreme penalties of the law.

I have, therefore, thought it my duty to recommend to Her Majesty to extend her prerogative of mercy to the prisoners Lynch and McMahon, now lying under sentence of death, and to commute that sentence to twenty years of penal servitude or imprisonment as the law of Canada may warrant you in assigning.

It is only to be hoped that this act of clemency on the part of Her Majesty may not be misunderstood, and that the punishment to which the capital sentences have been commuted may be of sufficient severity to warn others of the still graver consequences to which they will inevitably render themselves liable by a repetition of such insane and criminal proceedings.

But if unhappily this hope should be disappointed, all such persons must be prepared to be visited with the extreme penalty of the law.

I have, etc., etc.,
(Signed) CARNARVON.

—The Pope has decided to abandon the temporal power to the municipal authorities of Rome, and it is stated he has declared his intention to his Cardinals.

TELEGRAPHING EXTRAORDINARY.

(From the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.)

It is an old saying that telegraphy has annihilated time and space, and we have become pretty much used to it; yet the people at large do not fully realize how completely this is done by means of Mr. Hicks' repeaters. Since the introduction of these ingenious instruments telegraphic power has doubled its sway. With a repeater at each five hundred miles, it is well known that an unbroken "circuit" could be worked round the globe; in fact, we ourselves have had the pleasure of talking *tete-a-tete* with San Francisco from Buffalo more than once, and we remember, and gloat over with secret satisfaction, the amount of hand night-work we used to save ourselves when in the "brass-pegging," "wire-pulling" business, by hitching together, during the small hours of the night, Chicago and New York, or St. Louis and New York, thereby allowing them to transmit *direct* messages we should otherwise have had to repeat. O the sweet stolen snoozes! the awakenings to hear "New York say 'O. K.—go ahead another;' and the relapses into forgetfulness again! Though, on the other hand, we would occasionally be startled to our feet by hearing Chicago profanely suggest—"Buffalo, why in h— don't you adjust there?" But now out of the fraternity, we make bold to tell these things. The telegraphic business is undoubtedly the most romantic on earth. Nevertheless, those accustomed to it, regard it is about as matter of fact a way as other people regard their employments. These remarks are preliminary to the prosing of the subjoined telegraphic conversation, which last night passed between the city of Chicago, our Buffalo, and the Atlantic cable station at Heart's Content, Newfoundland, a distance of over twenty-two hundred miles. We presume the wires were connected by repeaters at Buffalo, Albany, Boston, Portland, and thence northeast to the far off little station where the mighty sea serpent thrusts his head (or his tail, as the case may be) into the telegraph office:

Jan. 3rd, 1867, 11:50 P. M., Buffalo time.

Chicago to Heart's Content—Hello! shake hands. What is weather there? San Francisco line is down, or would put him on—Indians at work.

Heart's Content to Chicago—Weather very cold; wind northwest, blowing a gale. Cable asking for weather from you. What's your time? Our's is 1:25 a. m.

Chicago to Heart's Content—You come well—cold here, no snow. Our time is 11:15 p. m.

Hearts Content to Chicago—Valentia says: "Fine and frosty—time 5 a. m. 'The Anglo-American Company's staff grand your band.' Also our staff—London fellows have gone to bed. Good morning.

Chicago to Heart's Content—Wish I could go. Chicago and the West send greeting. Good night.

Note.—When it was 1:25 in Heart's Content and 11:05 in Chicago, it was 11:50 in Buffalo.

Verily, the world moves.

AMBER.

This word is derived from the Arabic. The well known substance so called is a fossilized resin of certain unknown coniferous trees, of the fir or pine genus. Great virtues are attributed to it by the ancients. Pliny tells us that Sophocles held amber to be the petrified tears which the birds of Meleager dropped to the memory of that great hero of mythology. Amber has been among the moderns a subject of great discussion. The mystery in which it was involved was increased by the circumstance that Hebrew and Arabic characters were oft n found engraved upon it, in a perfectly legible state. Dr. Thomas, of Koenigsberg, has given us the explanation of this singular fact by stating that the pieces of amber so engraved were neither more nor less than seals. Many of them are preserved in the Museum of Portici, but chiefly brought thither from Herculaneum. It is certainly astonishing, that having lived so long as we do, the Romans should not have followed up the idea and invented some sort of printing process for their writing. Never was there a broader hint given to man, and yet it took a thousand years to bridge over the gulf which lies between seals and moveable types. The largest known deposit of amber lies on the Prussian coast of the Baltic; it is found in a bed of lignite, which is supposed to extend far under the sea. Another deposit of amber lies almost horizontally on the outskirts of Dirschheim, at a depth of only four feet from the surface. Pieces of amber are often found lying on the coast after a storm; thus, on the 1st of January, 1848, upwards of 400 kilos of this substance were thrown out of the sea within a very small space. Amber has been known from the highest antiquity, and important medical properties were attributed to it; even now it maintains its place in our pharmacopoeas, together with the oil distilled from it, as a stimulant, an astringent, and an anti-spasmodic. Amber necklaces have been found in Celtic tombs, both in England and Brittany. Regnard tells us that in his time the Margrave of Brandenburgh presented the Emperor of Russia with an arm-chair entirely of amber, and the Dauphin with a mirror of the same material.

DISASTERS IN 1866.

It appears that during 1866 there were 85 railway accidents in the United States, in which lives were lost, and in them 115 persons were killed and 607 wounded. This is a great improvement over 1865, when there were 183 railroad accidents, in which 325 persons were killed and 1,427 wounded; and it exhibits a less number of killed and wounded by such accidents than any year since in 1861. These accidents, however, do not include anywhere persons injured by their own carelessness. There were 23 steamboat accidents during 1866, on the various rivers and lakes in the United States, by which 633 persons were killed and 156 wounded. This is a less number than occured during 1865, for which year the report is 32 accidents, in which 1,788 persons were killed and 265 wounded, but it is a larger number than was reported for any previous year since 1854. These reports do not include loss of life by disasters at sea, nor during naval engagements.

During December there were in the United States 60 large fires, in which the aggregate loss of property was $6,635,000. This is a greater loss than occurred in any month since July, when there were 36 fires and a destruction of property valued at $14,705,000. For the year 1866 the entire number of large fires reported was 501, and the total loss of property $66,410,000, as compared with 354 large fires and a loss of property valued at $43,139,000 during 1865. The losses for 1866 by fires in the United States have been greater than for any previous year, the total loss for the last twelve years being $280,998,000, a yearly average of $23,416,500. The losses for 1856, it will thus be seen, are nearly three times the annual average.

—Ship-carpenters are wanted at Chicago, where the wages are $4 per day.

—A negress in Austin, Texas, has sued a white man for breach of promise.

—They have fine fresh strawberries in Savannah.

—The debt of the city of New York at the close of this year amounts to $31,551,089.

—The largest diamond in America, valued at $20,000, is on exhibition at New Orleans.

—Four inches of snow fell in New Orleans on the 2nd—the first since 1852.

—There were two hundred arrests in New York on New Year's day for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

—A bad tempered woman in Toronto, on last Saturday, in a fit of frantic rage, threw a kettle of boiling hot water over a neighbor's child, a little girl, scalding her in a frightful manner.

—John Nichols and his wife died on the same day, (Dec. 24,) in Danvers, Mass., after a married life of fifty-seven years, spent in the same house in which they died.

—Wm. B. Ogden, Thomas Havre, Henry Greenbaum and Mr. McClay, as a committee of the citizens of Chicago, have left for New York with the flag of the new British steamship *Chicago*. The flag will be presented when the steamer reaches New York.

—Milwaukee is gratified, and with good reason, over her grain trade the past season. Her wheat receipts for the year amounted to 12,654,448 bushels, while those of Chicago during the same time were but 11,950,991 bushels, a difference in favor of Milwaukee of 713,457 bushels.

TELEGRAPHIC.

(Per Atlantic Cable and Montreal Line.)

The Proposed Arbitration.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The *Times* says it rests with the United States government to accept the principles of arbitration. It thinks that if the law officers of the two countries could meet together, they would be able to frame a satisfactory case for arbitration in a few hours.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 9.—Cotton dull to-day. Sales not over 8000 bales.

London Money Market.

LONDON, Jan. 9—Evening.—Consols closed at 91. 5-20's, 72¼; Ill. C., 81; Erie, 45.

Reform in England.

It is reported in well-informed circles that the British ministry have decided upon resigning in case of too great a pressure being brought to bear upon them by the friends of the Reform movement. It is stated that they have indicated a desire to grant considerable concessions, but are greatly opposed to the extreme measures advocated by the Reform leaders.

The Difficulty between Turkey and Italy.

LONDON, Jan. 9—It is denied that the Turkish government have arranged affairs satisfactorily with the Italian government, relative to the late firing upon by the former of one of the steamers of the latter power. The Italian government insists upon full and ample reparation for the outrage.

The French Army Reorganization.

PARIS, Jan. 9—Evening.—A report is current that one of the branches of government has decided to favor the proposed reorganization of the French army. It is thought that, in consequence of the opposition manifested to the measure, both by the people and several leading statesmen, the Emperor will not favor its presentation by his war-minister, to the Corps Legislatif.

The French Abandon Corea.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Reports from Hong Kong state that the French fleet in Corea is about to leave those waters for the winter, without being able to obtain redress from Cochin China.

Change in the Reform Programme.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The leaders of the Reform movement have decided not to make the proposed demonstration upon the meeting of Parliament by the introduction of mass petitions, but will adopt the less turbulent course by permitting it to come up in the usual course of legislation.

The "Times" on the President's Impeachment.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The *Times*, in a leading article this morning, says that the proposed impeachment of the President of the United States shows that a revolution is passing in the Union. It also points out the dangers which may follow so questionable a precedent.

The Greek Uprisings.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—Noon.—Reliable advices have been received here that the plot of the Greeks in the Mediterranean islands to assert their independence is a leading rapidly. Formidable popular uprisings have occurred in other islands, and the Greek cause has suddenly brightened.

New Turkish Minister to Washington.

FLORENCE, Jan. 10.—It is stated that Rasheen Bey, the present minister of the Turks to this country, will shortly be withdrawn, and sent to represent his government at Washington.

LATEST AMERICAN DESPATCHES.

(Per Montreal Line.)

Stephens still in New York.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The Fenian chief Stephens, is reported by the *Evening Express* as having changed his residence three times within a few days, in order to conceal himself from exasperated Irishmen. A prominent member of the Fenian Brotherhood had a lengthy interview with him. During the conversation Stephens stated that he was in dread of the Irish people in this city, and that he would sooner give himself up to the British government, and let it hang him, than surrender himself to them.

Surratt to Arrive this Month.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Secretary Welles today received a telegram by cable, from Admiral Goldsborough, stating that the steamer *Swatara* left the European squadron yesterday for the United States, with Surratt on board. The prisoner is expected to arrive here by the last of January.

Testimonial to Mrs. Lincoln.

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Last Monday morning a gentleman arrived from France, who quietly proceeded to the residence of Mrs. Lincoln, and without pomp or speech presented her with a letter on behalf of 30,000 French people, in token of respect for Abraham Lincoln.

The French Troops Leaving Mexico.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The *World's* Galveston despatch of the 9th says: The entire French army is moving towards Vera Cruz. Marshal Bazaine has issued orders that the last French soldier shall be embarked by the 3rd of March.

From Chili.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The steamer *Rising Star* arrived this morning with late reports from Chili, which state that the Chilians have refused the proposed mediation of England and France. Ex-President Pezet of Peru, and his cabinet, have been sentenced to fifteen years' banishment as traitors, and fined 50 per cent. of the $3,000,000 paid to the Spanish minister in 1865.

Cholera Among U. S. Troops.

The cholera has broken out among the United States troops cantoned at Nicaragua, on their way to California. Forty-six had died at last accounts.

U. S. Mediation in South America.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The *Herald* calls attention to the adoption by the House last December of a resolution recommending the Executive Department to offer its friendly offices to promote peace and harmony in South America, and thinks this explains the secret mission of the Assistant Secretary of State.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The *Express'* financial article says: The demand for money was active, and the market stringent at 7 per cent. Gold, heavy and lower, opening at 33¼ and falling to 32¼.

The Loss to the American Navy during the War.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The *Express* publishes a list of 109 vessels of all sorts which were put under the British flag or sold abroad during the war, and says that during five years 1,061 American vessels were thus transferred.

Investigation of Mr. Ashley's Charges.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The *Post's* Washington despatch says: The judiciary committee have agreed to secrecy during the investigation of Mr. Ashley's charges against the President. All correspondents publishing the proceedings will be called to account.

—A marketman in Harrisburg has manufactured a sausage fifty feet nine inches in length.

—The present population of Wisconsin is estimated by its State Treasurer at one million.

—A lady slipped in the street at Covington, Ky., last Saturday, and killed an infant she was carrying in her arms.

—Twenty wreckers on Roanoke Islands, Va., have been arrested for plundering the steamship *Sheridan*, of $160,000 worth of goods.

—A Lafayette, Ind., angel, at a fair last Saturday night, spat in a young fellow's face, whom she charges with insulting her. The young man says he never before saw, and never spoke to the gentle creature.

—Rev. Daniel T. Wood, Middletown, Orange County, N. Y., writes:—"By the use of Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer and Zylobalsamum, my hair has greatly thickened upon my head, and put on a very lively, healthy appearance. The same is true of my daughter; her hair had become thin, and came out constantly, until we thought the head would be almost bare. Her hair has handsomely thickened up, and also has a healthy appearance. We are thankful to you, and feel that we have full value for our money." Sold by all druggists. Depot, 193 Greenwich St., New York.

"ARE YOU A MASON?"

Rev. Mr Magill, Rector of St. Paul's Church, in Peru, Illinois, being asked the above question by a lady, responded as follows:

I am of a band
Who will faithfully stand
In the bonds of affection and love;
I have knocked at the door
Once unlatched and poor,
And there for admission I stood.

By the help of a friend
Who assistance did lend,
I succeeded an entrance to gain;
Was received in the West
By command from the East,
But not without feeling some pain.

Here my conscience was taught
With a moral quite fraught—
With sentiments holy and true;
Then onward I travelled
To have it unravelled
What Hiram intended to do.

Very soon to the East
I made known my request,
And "light" by command did attend;
When to I I perceived,
In due form revealed,
A Master and Brother and Friend.

Thus far I have stated,
And simply related
What happened when I was made free,
But I've "passed" since then,
And was "raised" up again
To a sublime and ancient degree.

Then onward I marched,
That I might be "Arched,"
And find out the treasure long lost;
When behold! a bright flame,
From the midst of which came
A voice, which my ears did accost.

Through the "vails" I then went,
And succeeded at length,
The "arcanum sanctorum" to find;
By the "Signet" I gained
And quickly obtained
Employment which suited my mind.

In the depths I then wrought,
And most cheerfully sought
For treasures long hidden there;
And by labor and toil
I discovered rich spoil,
Which are kept by the craft with due care.

Having thus far arrived,
I further continued
Among valiant Knights to appear;
And as Pilgrim and Knight
I stood ready to fight,
Nor Saracen foe did I fear.

For the widow distressed
There's a chord in my breast;
For the orphan had helpless I feel;
And my sword I could draw
To maintain the pure law
Which the duty of Masons reveal.

Thus have I revealed
(Yet wisely concealed)
What the "free and accepted" well know,
I am one of the band
Who will faithfully stand
As a Brother wherever I go.

MURDER OF MRS. WILLARD, EDITRESS OF THE SUNDAY TIMES, BY A POLICEMAN.

The Refusal of His Hand Prompts the Deed—Suicide of the Murderer.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.

Last evening Mrs. Frances Gray Willard was assassinated in her boarding-house in Seventieth street by Thomas M. Burke, a member of the metropolitan police, and who is supposed to have been a rejected suitor for Mrs. Willard's hand in marriage. It appears he followed her to her boarding-house and entered the parlor with her. They were heard disputing, she appearing to wish him to leave her. This he declined to do, when she left the room. He followed her, and fired a pistol at her twice, one ball lodging in the region of her heart, and the other grazing her shoulder. She died almost instantly.

Burke then shot himself in the head, was removed to an hospital, and soon died.

Mrs. Willard was forewoman in the female department of the *World* newspaper composing room, and fashion editress of the *Sunday Times* and *Messenger*. She had charge of the Ocean Lodge table at the great Masonic fair, and intended to be at her post last evening. A number of her Masonic friends, in reward for her arduous labors in behalf of their fair, had made her the recipient of a superb diamond ring. She was a writer of rare ability, and highly esteemed by the journalists of New York and elsewhere. She was a native of Middletown, Conn., about thirty years of age, and a widow.

A POPULAR DANISH STORY.

In the village of Ebberup, in Funen, l