KINGSTON OBSERVATORY.

N. F. Dupuis, A.M., Observer.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 16, 1868.

DAY.	BAROMETER CORRECTED FOR 32°		THERMOMETER.		MAXIMUM.	MINIMUM.
	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 A.M.	3 PM		
Sunday	.....	.....	.....	.....	51.5	39.0
Monday	.....	.....	47.0	56.0	57.0	37.5
Tuesday	.....	.....	51.0	56.5	60.0	40.0
W'dnesdy	.....	.....	53.0	61.0	63.0	47.5
Thursday	.....	.....	58.0	67.0	69.0	50.5
Friday	.....	.....	59.0	64.0	65.5	50.0
Saturday	.....	.....	59.0	66.0	67.5	55.0

The Daily News.

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 18.

☞ SEE FIRST PAGE.

The *Court Journal* has reported that the Queen has sent an autograph letter of condolence to the widow of the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. Inquiries which have been made in Montreal, however, show that no such letter has yet been received by Mrs McGee. Still, the act attributed by the *Court Journal* to Her Majesty is by no means improbable, as under her own affliction she has a heart open to the calamities of others, and, as the records of the press prove, is continually active in relieving the distresses of wives and widows.

Very important papers have been brought down to the House of Commons in relation to the North West territory and the lands of the Hudson's Bay Company. Practically the Imperial government has acceded to the address of the Parliament of Canada, and the Colonial Secretary has promised to bring a bill before the Imperial Parliament with a view to authorize any arrangement that may be come to between the government of Canada and the Hudson's Bay Company. The Colonial Minister has proposed to the Company that in transferring their rights to Canada they might have a reservation made to them of defined portions of land and of a share in the future proceeds of the lands and precious metals of the territory up to a certain fixed amount. In the communications which have been received at the Colonial Office from the Hudson's Bay Company, the latter express a willingness to transfer the rights of government, taxation, and the exclusive administration of justice, to Canada; but insist upon an arrangement for compensation for property to be transferred prior to the transfer. They propose that some conclusive agreement should be arrived at as to the extent, worth and compensation value of the company's claims before the change of government is made; and that as regards Rupert's Land, before such territory is incorporated into the Dominion of Canada, the limits of the company's rights should be ascertained and protected by law.

From the papers it may be seen that the Imperial government is anxious of seconding the views of the Canadian Parliament in regard to the acquisition of the rights of government over the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company, and that it has urged upon the Company to state the terms upon which they would be willing to accept compensation. The Colonial Secretary, however, in regard to the North West territory proper, considers that while it remains separated from Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company's territory, still under the Company's government, it will not be desired of Canada to undertake the government of this more remote country, and he is of opinion that it will be necessary for the public advantage to retain it in the possession of the Crown with a view to its incorporation with British Columbia.

In both these cases, therefore, the considerate yet cautious policy of the Colonial Office may be discerned. The business has certainly advanced a stage, although thus far only the preliminary declarations have been made. The Hudson's Bay Company is now bound to state the terms of transfer and to deal courteously and promptly with the Imperial authorities. Our own government can accept, reduce or reject these terms in accordance with the interests of this country. If a proper sense of the desirability of promoting harmony in the Red River territory prevails in both quarters, it should not be long before a definite understanding can be arrived at. It is to be feared, however, that the tedious delay which usually attends such negotiations will cause the proposed Imperial bill to be deferred to another session of Parliament.

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

Saturday, May 16.— In the Senate it was decided on a division to postpone the consideration of the bills to assimilate the criminal law. The government bills were laid aside on a vote of 25 against 22.

In the House of Commons the government sustained a defeat on the Militia bill. Mr Bowell moved an amendment that it be an instruction to the committee to amend the bill by reducing the salary of the Adjutant-General from $3,600 to $3,000, the amount under the existing law, and the salary of the Deputy Adjutant-General from $1,800 to $1,200. After a discussion in which Sir Geo. E. Cartier and Sir John A Macdonald opposed the amendment, the motion was carried, yeas 61 nays 60. The bill was amended accordingly. On the question of concurrence, Sir Geo. E. Cartier made an appeal to the French Canadian members to resist the reduction of the saleries of the Deputy-Adjutant-General as it would take away one-third of the salaries of the French officers. This appeal to national sympathies elicited much animadversion, and the motion made by Sir George E. Cartier to meet his views was lost in a division, nays 94, yeas 63. Two absent members having entered the House, Sir G. E. Cartier moved his resolution again, altering it simply to read one dollar less; but this was lost, nays 67, yeas 63. Finally the Militia bill was read a third time and passed.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

FROM MONTREAL.

Montreal, May 18.—The river has risen considerably in consequence of the late heavy rain.

The fever hospital in the rear of the Montreal General Hospital is now completed. It is a substantial brick building, fitted up with the most approved appliances for the health and comfort of patients.

A project is on foot for converting the Victoria Skating Rink into a gigantic swimming-bath during the summer season. If the scheme proves successful, the bath would be the largest in the world, being one hundred and seventy-five feet long by seventy-eight wide, with a daily supply of water for twelve hundred bathers.

A soldier is now in hospital, one of whose feet was amputated in consequence of being frozen, and the other, which was also frozen, has completely decayed away.

There was heavy rain last night, and this morning the temperature is cool.

Horse Stolen.—The Chief of Police received information on Saturday afternoon of a dark bay horse with black mane and tail, 15½ hands high, having been stolen from Ottawa on the morning of the same day.

Boat Accident.—Three young, men named Rogers, Parsons and Mulholland, were out in a small boat on the lake during the rough weather last night, and when off Cedar Island about 9 o'clock, the boat capsized, and they were obliged to swim to the shore, leaving the boat to its fate. The young men had started from Garden Island, and the boat drifting back to that place their absence created considerable alarm among their friends, which, however, subsided on their appearance in town this morning.

Frontenac Lead Mine.—In the course of last week the lead mine in the township of Loughborough in this county, was visited by Principal Dawson, F.R.S., of McGill University; and by Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, F.R.S., also by Captain Plummer, of the Bruce Mines, and by Mr Robb, Mining Engineer. It is understood that Dr. Hunt visited the mine with a view to prepare a report for the Geological Survey. We are glad to note that the mining developments of this locality are attracting the attention of scientific men.

Horse and Buggy Supposed to be Stolen.—Intelligence was received this morning by the police from Belleville that a man by the name of Joe Gingras, alias Narcisse Caron, had left that place with a hired horse and buggy on Friday morning last, and had not been heard of since. The investigation of the police here resulted in discovering the horse and harness at Mr Fairfield's, Bath Road, about eight miles hence, where it had been left, but the buggy has not been discovered, nor has the whereabouts of the man been ascertained.

Fire Alarm.—The fire alarm on Saturday night was false, occasioned by the reflection in the atmosphere of fire in the country to the west. Probably some farmer had availed himself of the leisure time after spring work to burn up brush heaps in clearing waste land.

The Country and the Crops.—From all parts of the country the accounts are most cheering, and it is the universal opinion among farmers that so fine a spring has not been experienced for very many years. The fine condition in which the crops were got into the ground, and the recent genial showers, leave little doubt but that the labours of the farmer will be crowned with an unusually large harvest. Nothing but a protracted drouth during the summer can prevent this consummation, of which there appear no indications at present.

Police Court, Saturday.—There was nothing of interest before the court this morning, a couple of drunks being the only cases—John Gibson, of Storrington, and Jacob Webber, a shoemaker from the United States, who were fined $2 each.

Police Court, Monday—John Doyle, remanded from Friday, was discharged on his own recognizance, nothing further having transpired respecting the larceny of the gun. Mary Robb was charged by the Licence Inspector with illegally selling liquor at her shop, corner of Sydenham and Ordnance streets, and fined $20 and $2 costs. A complaint was made against Mary Carruthers, the woman who was fined last week for keeping a brothel, by Mrs Murphy, for using threatening and abusive language to her. The complainant not wishing to press the charge, the prisoner having promised to behave in future, the magistrate dismissed the case after cautioning the accused, who paid the costs. Ann Moran, an unfortunate vagrant, was sent to gaol for one month at her own request. Several cabmen were summoned for leaving their cabs unattended on the wharf on the arrival of the steamer Passport on Friday last. Thomas Gallagher, John Rice, Patrick Corrigan, James Eves and John Hermiston, appeared to answer the charge. The two first were fined $1 each, Corrigan and Eves were dismissed, having satisfactorily accounted for their absence, while the last was allowed until to-morrow morning to produce a witness to prove that he was in attendance upon a fare at the specified time.

The net proceeds of the fair in aid of the Cretans recently held in Boston amount to $21,000.

Lieutenant Fletcher, of the 15th Regt., his wife and her brother, with a soldier servant, were drowned in Bermuda, while out boating recently.

The foundation stone of the Keble College was laid at Oxford, England, April 25, with considerable ceremony. It is to be raised as a memorial to the author of the *Christian Year*.

Inquest at Frankford.—The result of the post mortem examination on the body of Jane Ann Huff, by Drs. Oronhyatekha and Day, established the fact that an abortion had been committed by mechanical means, and that the injuries produced caused inflammation of the womb, which led to her death. From evidence given at the inquest the coroner felt justified in issuing a warrant for the arrest of Dr. Rowe, of Frankford. The Dr. was brought to the house where the inquest was being conducted, but under some pretence left the room, and although the constable immediately followed, the Dr. had managed to escape. The jury completed their investigations, and returned a verdict, finding Dr. Rowe guilty of murder, and the girl's mother *particeps criminis*. The mother was brought to Belleville and lodged in gaol to-day. Efforts have been made to discover the whereabouts of Dr. Rowe, but up to the present no trace of him has been found.—*Belleville Intelligencer.*

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

(Continued from First Page.)

The amendment was lost on a division and the bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr Rose the House went into Committee on Ways and Means. The committee reported the following resolutions:—

"That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the year ending the 30th day of June, 1867, the sum of seven millions five hundred and two thousand nine hundred and twenty-four dollars and four cents be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

"That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the year ending the 30th day of June, 1868, the sum of seven millions nine hundred and one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five dollars and one cent be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Mr Anglin complained that the Bank of Montreal allowed no interest on the government balances, while it charged a large interest on $2,500,000 due to it by the government. He also complained of the large amount of the balance.

Mr Rose replied, insisting that it was a sound principle not to allow any bank to speculate with public funds. The banks could not pay interest on government balances unless they were allowed to speculate with the public money thus deposited. As to the amount it would be extremely unwise to allow any balance to run down, so that the government could not, without borrowing, meet demands that might be made upon it. It might at any time be called upon for large payments on account of subsidies, the railway obligations of the maritime provinces, and on other accounts, and unless a considerable balance was kept at the bank embarrassment would be the result.

Mr Anglin supposed the bank used the government money in its business, and should therefore pay something in the way of interest.

Mr Holton said the great cause of complaint was that the government had any balance at all in the Bank of Montreal, while at the same time it was a large borrower from that institution. The government had borrowed $2,500,000 at 7 per cent. and if $1,500,000 or $1,800,000 were left on a permanent deposit without interest, we would, in fact, be paying 12 or 15 per cent on money that it was pretended we borrowed at 7 per cent.

Mr Rose, in reply, said we would have to meet demands amounting to $6,000,000 between this and the 1st of July, and it was absolutely necessary that a considerable balance should be at the disposal of the government in order to satisfy these claims which might be made at any time upon the government.

After some further discussion the resolutions were adopted.

Sir John A. Macdonald announced that he hoped the state of the public business would allow the House to be prorogued on Wednesday.

After the noon sitting the Speaker read a message from the Governor General transmitting despatches and correspondence on the North-west question in reply to an address of the House.

Mr Holton asked whether the government intended to bring this matter under the consideration of the House this session?

Sir John A. Macdonald said that it might stand as a notice.

Mr Holton did not think the matter should be allowed to pass over. This was a reply to the most grave proceeding it was possible for this parliament to take; a proceeding taken on the assurance of the hon. gentlemen opposite that grave reasons of state existed, which could not be disclosed to the House, why the address should be taken through the House with the greatest possible celerity. What had happened now? We had been subjected to the greatest humiliation which any English colony had probably ever suffered. We had been told that we had acted ignorantly. He believed it was the duty of the government at the earliest possible moment to indicate what course they had proposed to invite parliament to take in vindication of its dignity.

Sir John A. Macdonald did not consider that there was any humiliation in the action that had been secured in the Imperial parliament whereby the surrender of the north-west territory would be obtained. The result was one which must be rejoiced in by every one who desired to see that end attained.

M. Chauveau presented reports from the select committee to whom was referred the papers and correspondence with regard to the honours conferred by Her Majesty on members of this House. The committee, after reciting at some length the facts connected with the conferring of the honours in question, and the subsequent correspondence, stated their opinion that the notice in the "London Gazette," of the 17th December, was open to serious misconstruction, inasmuch as it did not state that the names of Messrs. Cartier and Galt were left out at their own request. They said the House and country had since learned with satisfaction that Her Majesty had been pleased to raise Mr Cartier to the dignity of a baronet of the United Kingdom. This gracious act would remove any misconstruction of the notice of December so far as Mr Cartier was concerned, but the committee could not but feel that it rendered the position of Mr Galt still more subject to misconstruction. They, therefore, recommended that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, setting forth that the notification in the "London Gazette" on the 17th December, was liable to serious misconception in regard to Mr Galt, and praying Her Majesty to cause such remedy to be applied as may remove the grievance justly complained of by him.

M. Chauveau, seconded by Sir John A. Macdonald, moved that the report be concurred in. Carried on a division.

On the question of the reception of the report of the committee of the whole on the Militia bill,

Mr Pope moved that the bill be referred back to committee to the consider the following resolutions:—

First. That it is inexpedient and unjust that staff officers should receive a large amount of pay, while battalion and company officers, who have the responsibility of maintaining the strength of the force, receive most inadequate remuneration.

Second. That no money be paid to staff officers untill a provision be made for the payment of all officers of the force on a just and equitable basis, according to their respective ranks.

Mr J. S. Macdonald opposed it.

Messrs Galt, Dunkin, Irvine and Holton supported the amendment.

Objection being taken to the amendment on the ground that it involved an additional appropriation,

Mr Galt moved an amendment to the amendment, that the bill be referred back to the committee for the purpose of so adjusting the expenditure for militia purposes, that officers of the service militia and volunteers, when employed as such, may receive such allowance as will distinguish between their respective ranks, and that of the men. He said he offered this amendment believing that the government wished to take the sense of the House on this point.

Mr Holton seconded the motion.

Sir G. E. Cartier contended that this amendment was the same in substance that the House voted down a few days ago. The bill provided that a detailed account of all money spent on such works should be laid before parliament each session. If then parliament did not approve of these expenditures his hon. friend opposite could move a want of confidence in the government.

After some remarks in French from Messrs. Masson (Terrebonne) and Langevin, the amendment was put and lost. Yeas 49; nays 90.

An address to Her Majesty in accordance with the report was then adopted, to provide that no sum shall be expended in such works until a separate estimate for each work shall be submitted to parliament, and the amount to be expended each year shall be voted from time to time.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the government were willing to take the sense of the House as to whether they desired an additional sum for the payment of military officers, but the course taken was not a correct one. The only proper course would be to move an adjournment of the debate, the House understanding that those who voted against adjournment expressed their desire that the government should bring down an additional estimate. With this object he would move an adjournment of the debate. (Cheers).

Sir Geo. E. Cartier repeated the same opinion in French.

Mr Mackenzie and Mr Holton said they would not vote for an additional expenditure, but would vote for an adjournment, so that the House might get back to the motion of the member for Compton (Mr Pope). They wished a readjustment of expenditure, not an addition.

The motion for adjournment of the debate was then put and carried—yeas, 106; nays, 32.

The House adjourned at 1:40 a. m.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE ALFRED.

Sydney, March 31.

Scarcely had the inhabitants of New South Wales and the adjacent colonies recovered from the shock produced by the news of the blowing up of Clerkenwell prison, when another and yet more startling development of Fenianism occurred in their very midst, in the shape of an attempt by an avowed Fenian upon the life of their royal guest, Prince Alfred of England. Although the would-be assassin has failed to accomplish his purpose, the Prince having already been pronounced out of danger and in a fair way towards perfect recovery, the mere fact that any attempt of such a character should have been made upon Australian soil has produced the most intense excitement. The career of the colonies, up to the present time, has been one of uneventful prosperity. There have occasionally been political squabbles, and now and then a pretty loud murmur against the home government; but all troubles and grievances have been speedily adjusted and settled, and the Australian people had flattered themselves into the illusion that the animosities and national enmities of the Old World would never appear among them. But any vain dream of this nature has now been rudely dispelled, and the people of the colonies have consequently been thrown into a state of exaggerated alarm and distress, which would be ludicrous but for the possibility that it may have some very serious results.

Since his arrival in the colonies the Prince, in pursuance, probably, of instructions from home, has adopted a course of conduct singularly well fitted to win the attachment of a free and practically democratic people. Instead of hedging himself round with courtly formalities, he has mingled in the freest possible manner with the colonists, and has behaved so very much like a man wholly dependent upon popular favour as to excite no little surprise. He has allowed himself to be approached by almost any one who was decently dressed, and had never been a "a lag" ("lag" is colonial for convict.) On several occasions he has even permitted a newspaper correspondent to ride in the same carriage with him; and, more wonderful still, he actually appeared at a ball a few nights before he was shot without gloves, and danced, regardless of the programme laid out for him by the managers, with a young lady who, although very pretty, had the ill luck to be only the daughter of an ironmonger, and consequently to be generally snubbed by the feminine aristocracy of Sydney. He has also accepted the innumerable "bores" which form the natural penalty of high and exalted position, and has lent the influence of his presence to further the interests of all sorts of charitable institutions.

The people here are especially indignant that the attempt on the life of the Prince should have been made upon an occasion at which his good nature alone and not any consideration of public necessity or propriety induced him to be present. For some time efforts had been made to establish a permanent institution at Sydney, to be known as the Sailors' Home, for the benefit of distressed seamen, without, I believe, regard to nationality. It was at length determined to endeavour to raise the necessary funds by a picnic, and the presence of the Prince was secured to lend *eclat* and tone to the affair, and of course to enable the managers to dispose more readily of their tickets. Everything up to the time of the attempted assassination went off admirably; the tickets sold like wildfire, and on the morning of a sunny autumn day the beauty and wealth and fashion of Sydney gathered at Clontarf to amuse themselves as people on such occasions generally try to do.

The spot selected for the picnic was one of the most charming and lovely to be found in any part of Sydney harbour, and every preparation had been made to insure the enjoyment of the pleasure seekers.

About half-past one the Prince arrived in a special steamer, and the people collected at the wharf and cheered lustily, while the Prince smiled and bowed his thanks. Immediately upon landing he was conducted to the luncheon tent, and in company with the Governor of the colony, Lady Belmore and several others, partook of some refreshment.

Leaving the tent, the Prince led Lady Belmore to a special pavilion which had been erected for the use of the elite of the party, and then sauntered away with Sir William Manning (an old resident of Sydney) to enjoy a walk about the grounds. As he went along he met a gentleman named Allen, with whom he shook hands and chatted for a few moments, and then handed an envelope to Sir William Manning, saying that it contained a donation to the Sailors' Home.

Scarcely had he finished speaking, when a man, whose name is now known to be O'Farrell, was observed to run quickly across to where he was standing, and fire with a revolver at the Prince, who immediately fell forward, crying out "Oh, my God, I am shot; my back is broken."

Sir William Manning turned hastily round upon hearing the report of the revolver, and seeing that the man who had just fired had pointed his weapon towards him (Sir W. Manning,) he stooped to get out of the line of fire and in doing so fell. This time, however, the revolver snapped, and while O'Farrell was again levelling his pistol at the Prince, a gentleman named Vial, who had witnessed the whole occurrence, ran up and pinioned his arms to his body, thus changing the direction of the weapon, which, however, exploded, the bullet hitting a Mr Thorne in the foot.

Meanwhile, the report of the revolver had drawn together the picnickers from all parts of the grounds, and a scene of confusion ensued which no words can depict.

O'Farrell struggled hard to get free from Vial, swearing fiercely and loudly, and in the tussel the identity of the combatants became a little confused. When, therefore, the bystanders, who had now discovered that the Prince had been shot, rushed in and separated the men, they were uncertain as to which of them was the assassin, and while the majority of the crowd pitched upon the right man, Mr Vial was also seized upon and very severely maltreated. After a while the police succeeded in getting hold of O'Farrell, but not before he had been terribly and brutally beaten. The people called savagely out, "Kill him!" "Hang him!" "Lynch him!" and fought desperately with the police to possess themselves again of his body, the poor wretch getting a dozen kicks and blows for every yard the police progressed down to the wharf. The police, however, at last succeeded in getting to the water, and here a last determined effort was made by the mob, who had been yet further infuriated by a speech which was made by one of their number appealing to them not to let "the assassin leave the ground alive." But the police were again victorious, and O'Farrell, bleeding and unconscious from the injuries he had received, was conveyed to Sydney and lodged in Darlinghurst gaol.

Meanwhile the Prince had been raised from the ground and conveyed to his private tent. He was evidently in great pain, and once or twice asked the gentlemen who were bearing him along to carry him more slowly and gently. Although very weak from loss of blood he did not become unconscious, and noticing that the people crowded around the tent he desired a gentleman to assure them that "he was not much hurt, and would be better presently."

An examination of the wound, however, showed it to be a very serious one, and, indeed, it is strange that the bullet, entering where it did, an inch or two to the right of the spine, about the middle of the back, did not produce instant death, or, at any rate, more serious results than it has done. In describing the sensation he felt when the bullet struck him the Prince said it seemed to him as if he were lifted from the ground.

Towards evening he was placed in a litter and taken by water to Sydney, where a carriage was waiting to convey him to Government House. The best medical aid in the city was of course obtained, and although for several days the physicians were unable to extract the bullet, and the Prince was unable to lie down lest it should change its position, no unfavourable symptoms occurred, there was no appearance of hemborrhage, which was naturally the chief danger, and at last the necessary operation was successfully accomplished. It has now been officially announced that he is out of danger, and for the past few days he has been out through the streets in a carriage, guarded by a strong escort. Even with youth, robust health, and a strong constitution in his favour, it is singular that he has escaped so lightly as he has.

It is almost impossible to describe the excitement in Sydney the night of the attempted assassination. The cafes and saloons were crowded with people, whose sole topic of conversation seemed to be the disaster to the Prince. The theatre and all other places of amusement were closed; the evening papers hourly issued extras; and immense crowds gathered round the bulletins giving an official account of the condition of the Prince that were posted up in various quarters of the city.

Arrangements were made for all sorts of meetings to express the indignation felt by the various classes of the community. The first one that came off was a general meeting of the citizens of Sydney the following day at the Pavilion, a temporary building, accommodating about four thousand people. The place was of course crowded. Since that there have been meetings of every description, of Catholics and Protestants, Masons, Odd Fellows and Foresters; of native Australians and colonists; of American, Hungarian, Polish, French, Welsh, Swedish, Chinese, Spanish and Italian residents, and innumerable others besides.

The day after the picnic Henry James O'Farrell was arraigned before a special court in the debtor's prison, Darlinghurst gaol, Mr H. H. Voss presiding as magistrate. Most of the members of the suite of the Prince, together with the Governor and several of the ministry, were present.

The prisoner, who was dressed in the prison uniform of white canvas, presented a very horrible and repulsive appearance. The left side of his face was frightfully swollen, and the right side cut and bruised in several places. His right eye was black, protruding and closed, and his left livid with bruises and only partially opened. His nose was considerably swollen and distorted, and the skin down the front of that feature cut open. His lips were also swelled. A very few witnesses were examined, and their evidence gave the same account of the affair as that detailed above. The Superintendent of Police testified that after he had been taken into custody the prisoner had said, "I've made a mess of it, and all for no good, but it can't be helped now," adding subsequently, "I am a Fenian; I've done my duty and am not afraid to die; and may God save Ireland." It was also testified that in addition to the revolver with which he shot at the Prince, and which was found on the picnic ground, another six shooting revolver, loaded, was found upon him after his capture. The weapon which he fired was an American revolver, bearing the names of Smith & Wesson, Massachusetts.

After the testimony had been taken the prisoner was told to stand up, and was then asked if he had anything to say. He replied, without hesitation, "I have nothing to say but that the task of executing the Duke was sent out and allotted to me." The Crown solicitor asked him to repeat what he had just said, and he then added, "The task of executing the Prince was sent out to me, but I failed, and am not very sorry that I did fail. That is all I have to say."

O'Farrell was then formally committed to take his trial before a special court.

Since this preliminary examination full particulars of his past history have been brought to light, and he has sufficiently recovered from the effects of the injuries he received at Clontarf to allow of a description of his appearance being given. He stands about five feet ten inches in height, his hair is dark brown in colour and rather thin at the top, and he wears a not very thick beard and moustache. His features are delicate and refined, and his general air is quiet, gentlemanly and self-possessed. He seems to be about thirty-five years of age, and is a native of Dublin, though he left Ireland at a very early age. His father, who is now dead, was a very old colonist, and was in business in Melbourne as a butcher for a number of years. The prisoner is one of several children, all of whom were educated to fill positions higher than that which their father occupied. A brother of the prisoner, Mr P. A. O. O'Farrell, was a solicitor in Melbourne, who suddenly decamped a few years ago for parts unknown, and is said to have taken with him a considerable amount of other people's money, and to have left a rather dilapidated reputation behind him. H. J. O'Farrell began life as a storekeeper in Ballarat, but about 1860 he went home to the old country, intending to study for the church and enter the priesthood. After pursuing his studies for some time and travelling through Europe, staying some little time at Rome, his health failed him, and he returned in 1862 to the colony of Victoria, and resumed business as a storekeeper in Ballarat. While at Ballarat he was generally regarded as a warm friend of the Catholic church, though it has also been affirmed that in private he professed to entertain a feeling of resentment against the clergy, who had, he said, refused to allow him to enter the priesthood, as he desired. The absconding of his brother ruined him pecuniarily, and a few months ago he came to Sydney, where he obtained employment as a lawyer's clerk. Those who have known him well say that he is extremely excitable, and of a very violent and misanthropic disposition, while several incidents are reported which go far to show that he is not altogether of sound mind. About twelve months ago he behaved very strangely in conversation with a friend on the Melbourne cricket ground. He would begin to talk with extreme warmth upon a subject, and then suddenly turn off the conversation to a matter entirely different. Then it is stated that on one occasion, after a very long continued drinking bout, he had delirium tremens; and, lastly, an acquaintance says that some time back O'Farrell asked him to lend him a pistol to blow his brains out. Whether all these details are reliable or not cannot be as yet correctly ascertained; but it is certain that since his arrest he has behaved with great composure.

The government have unofficially announced that O'Farrell has made a more explicit confession than at his preliminary examination, of his connection with Fenianism. According to this statement the attempted assassination of Prince Alfred was determined upon at home in Ireland, by the Fenian organization, and instructions sent out to the branch society here to execute the task. Ten men were appointed to devote themselves to the work, and, on a drawing of lots, O'Farrell was selected to make the first attempt. As he has failed the nine remaining brethren will draw lots again, and another brother will be selected to finish the work. The conspirators are all bound together by the most solemn oaths of secresy. Whether this statement be true or false, the government have acted apparently upon a very similar story, as placards offering £1,000 a head for the detection and conviction of the nine accomplices of Henry James O'Farrell in the attempted murder of Albert Ernest, Duke of Edinburgh, have been posted all over the city.

It has also been proved that the prisoner, on the occasion of the landing of the Prince at the circular quay, on his return from visiting the colony of Victoria, hired a room at an expense of twenty-five shillings ($6) for the purpose of witnessing the disembarkation, and that just previously he purchased a rifle from a gunsmith of the city. It is therefore probable that he has been watching for an opportunity to assassinate the Prince for a considerable period. In the room of the prisoner, at an obscure hotel—the Clarendon—where he boarded, there were found in the pocket of his wearing apparel and in a drawer some percussion caps, detonating cartridges, wadding for revolvers, a Douay Bible and a number of religious books, in most of which his name was inscribed. O'Farrell had boarded in the house since Christmas, and their other boarders say that his demeanour was invariably gentlemanly and quiet, and that he never swore or used improper language, though on several occasions, when the Prince had been alluded to, he got into a passion, and denounced him and his family as oppressors and despots. On the night of the attempted murder, it is said the Colonial Secretary paid the prisoner a visit, and in reply to a question how he came to commit such an outrage, O'Farrell said, "Come, come, it is not fair to ask me such a question as that; the Prince is all right; it is only a side wound; the Prince will live and I shall be hanged."

As soon as it became generally known that O'Farrell had avowed himself a member of the Fenian Brotherhood, and that the attempted assassination of the Prince was directly traceable to the influence of that organization, popular indignation took a very decided form. At first the general feeling had seemed to be against Catholicism, the only ground against that religion being that the prisoner was a member of its communion; but as there are a great many Catholics here of established reputation, and as the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney happens to be an Englishman, excitement in this direction speedily subsided. Fenianism became at once the general object of denunciation, and the feeling soon assumed a definite shape. In the Assembly a bill was introduced by the government providing "for the better security of the crown and for the better suppression of seditious practices and attempts." This bill was passed through three readings and received the assent of the upper house and of the Governor, all in twenty-four hours, the ordinary business of the House being suspended for the purpose.

The excitement against Fenianism was yet further aggravated a few days ago by the arrival of the last steamer from the gold diggings at Hokitika, New Zealand, where it seems there has been a Fenian procession in memory of the three men executed at Manchester, on the model of those which have already taken place at home. The procession was a very numerous one, and on admission to the cemetery being refused the gates were broken down and a forcible entrance made. After all, but little harm was actually done, however, and the processionists, after a very short and tame oration by a Catholic priest, quietly dispersed. But the authorities and people here are, nevertheless, highly incensed at "this flagrant infraction of law and order," and the poor priest who made the poor oration is to be cashiered and expelled from the Church. At this writing the excitement shows no signs of abatement.

Sydney, April 1.—The full history of the attempted assassination of the Prince has now been almost acted out. The Prince has completely recovered, as O'Farrell himself predicted, while the latter has been already tried, found guilty, and is now under sentence of death. But one final scene has now to be enacted—the execution of the intending murderer.

The trial has been extremely short, and, in fact, somewhat hurried. The prisoner has been tried while the public excitement is at fever heat against him, and before men's minds have regained sufficient composure to allow of their taking fairly into account any extenuating circumstances which may exist in the case. Of course no one can say that this is unjust.

O'Farrell's counsel rested their defence wholly on the ground of the insanity of the prisoner, declining to dispute the fact that O'Farrell really attempted the life of the Prince, or to discuss the question whether the crime possessed any palliating features. In support of the theory of insanity, his sister and several of his Ballarat acquaintances were called, but their evidence simply proved that O'Farrell had been a very hard drinker, that he had been in a state of delirium tremens on two or three occasions, and that he suffered from a form of epilepsy. The Judge, in summoning up, entered at length into the evidence presented to show that the prisoner was insane, and charged the jury that unless they believed that O'Farrell, at the time he fired at the Prince, was unconscious that the act he was committing was criminal, they must find him guilty.

The jury were absent about an hour, and then returned with a verdict of "guilty."

The Judge, in passing sentence of death, addressed the prisoner as follows:—Henry James O'Farrell, the jury have found you guilty under the information which the Crown preferred against you—that is, of wounding the person of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, with intent to murder him, and happily for you in the position in which you are placed, you have been ably defended by the counsel who have appeared for you. The jury have well considered the evidence which was adduced by the counsel on your behalf, but they have felt themselves bound to return a verdict against you. Except from the evidence adduced, I know nothing, nor can I know anything of your previous life which might suggest to me any remarks. I can only see before me a man in health, strength and vigor, who has deliberately attempted to take the life of a fond and youthful son of our beloved and revered Queen. Before I proceed presently to pass the sentence of the court let me beseech you, by every remembrance of whatever has been virtuous or good in your past life—let me entreat you by any, the faintest trace of true religion which may now be in your heart—to reflect upon the wide amount of sorrow and suffering which your cruel hand would have caused if your murderous design had been successful. Consider what unutterable horror and shame would have fallen upon this colony if the providential care of Almighty God had not defeated your attempt. Contemplate the awful grief and anguish of the Queen if one of her beloved and innocent children (innocent even of any evil thought against you or any other human being) had been thus torn by your ruthless hand from her widowed heart. Let me implore you to employ the short period of your remaining life in such reflections as I have suggested, and especially in subduing that callous insensibility of heart which must originally have led you to your crime. Although happily your murderous intent was not accomplished, I hold out to you not the least hope of remission of the sentence of death. For not only am I unable to discover any, even the slightest, circumstance upon which I could recommend any such remission, but it must also be manifest to the whole world that all men like you, whose evil hearts may now be harbouring and nurturing similar murderous intentions and similar traitorous designs, should be taught by your sad fate how swift, unerring and stern is the punishment which all civilised nations must inflict upon such a terrible crime as yours. Let me again exhort you to make the best use of the short time that may remain to you in life, and at once apply to those ministers of religion who may willingly assist you in your sorrowful meditations. It only remains for me now to pronounce the sentence of the law for the crime of which you have been convicted.

The prisoner, while the Judge addressed him, listened with perfect calmness, the only perceptible signs of emotion being the pallor of his face, and now and then a slight convulsive twitch of the muscles of the upper part of the face. He expressed no desire to make a speech, but listened throughout calm and composed.

It is stated that O'Farrell is to be executed early a day as possible—probably in a few days from the present writing. There is very slight chance of escape there can be no doubt; but still it is just possible that the mother in all similar cases, and intercede may follow the line of policy adopted in the Fenian prisoner. But this is very unlikely. The latest (the Prince's ship) has received sailing orders, and he will probably leave the colonies for England on Saturday. There is no doubt, at the Prince leaving the colonies, of paying them a visit, but his physicians have advised him to leave for an earlier visit as possible.

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