THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXXV. KINGSTON, CANADA, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 5, 1866. NOS. 4 & 1.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.

Until further orders Commanding Officers of Corps will have the discretionary power of allowing the great coats to remain in the possession of the men.

With reference to General Orders, dated 31st August, 1864, and 27th October, 1865, in future every Volunteer who attends Battalion drill under a Field Officer, and certified by the commanding officer, may receive credit for such portion of the annual drill pay of $8.00 for such drill, as the Commanding Officer may see fit to apportion to it; provided always that the total attendance at any battalion drill for which pay is charged be not less than sixty men.

The Corps and the names of the Officers now on Frontier Service, with their respective Stations are as follows, viz:

Ottawa Garrison Battery, Prescott.—Captain A. C. Forrest, 1st Lieut. W. Duck, 2nd do

Morrisburg Garrison Battery, Prescott.—Captain T. S. Rubidge, 1st Lieut. Peter A. Eagleson, 2nd Lieut. G. S. L. Stoddart.

Québec Rifle Company, Niagara.—Captain D. Gagnier, Lieut. Elzear Garneau, Ens. Thos. H. A. Roy.

Montreal Rifle Company, Niagara.—Captain P. J. M. Cinqmars, Major, Lieut. J. O. Labranche, Ensign G. d' Odet d' Orsonnens.

Toronto Rifle Company, Sarnia.—Capt. William D. Jarvis, Lieut. Farquhar Morrison, Ensign W. C. Campbell.

Woodstock Rifle Company, Sarnia.—Captain Henry B. Beard, Lieut. John Matthewson, Ensign James Cook.

Hamilton Infantry Company, Windsor.—Captain Henry E. Irving, Lieut. Robert Grant, Ensign Joshua John Hebden.

London Infantry Company, Windsor.—Captain Arch. McPherson, Lieut. Edward W. Griffith, Ensign George Ellis.

Port Hope Infantry Company, Sandwich.—Captain A. T. H. Williams, Lieut. James F. McLeod, Ensign Francis E. Johnson.

Major C. F. Hill, 1st Prince of Wales Regiment Commands the Volunteer Force, stationed at Sandwich, Windsor and Sarnia.

Pay-Masters:

Major Narcott Alger, Niagara.
Honorary Captain Wm. H. Breliaut, Prescott.
Honorary Captain Frank B. Leys, Windsor.

ARRIVAL OF THE "CITY OF WASHINGTON."

TWO MORE PENIANS SENTENCED.

THE JAMAICA TROUBLE.

GOVERNOR EYRE SUSPENDED.

STEPHENS SAFE IN PARIS.

Sandy Hook, Dec. 27.

The steamship City of Washington, from Liverpool on the 12th, via Queenstown on the 14th instant, has passed this point.

London, Dec. 14.

The Fenian O'Donovan, owing to a similar conviction six years ago, has been sentenced to penal servitude for life

The joint note of England and France, proposing certain terms for the settlement of Chilian difficulties, was received at Madrid on the 9th inst. The result is not known.

Liverpool, Dec. 14.

Breadstuffs' market is quiet and steady. Provisions market is steady. Bacon flat.

London, Dec. 14.

Consols closed at 87 to 87¼.

United States 5-20's, 63¼ to 63½; Ill. Central RR, 80¼ to 80¾; Erie Railway, 57¼ to 57½.

The London Times believes in the peaceful designs of the American people.

Sir Henry Storks, Sir Edmund Head, and Mr. Charles Livingston, are understood to be the commission of enquiry for Jamaica.

A Fenian named Halligan was convicted and sentenced to seven year's penal servitude.

A letter received in Liverpool confirms the statement that Stephens is safe in Paris.

The London Observer says that Napoleon is apprehensive that Maximilian will follow his Empress to Europe, and has prevailed on the Mexican Minister at Paris to proceed to Mexico to endeavor to dissuade Maximilian from abdicating. He would sail on the 15th. The Observer thinks that he will not be in time, and that Maximilian will be in Europe before New Year's.

The Gazette Des Tribunaux says that the French Government has directed the attention of England to the Extradition Treaty of 1843, since the stipulations of this treaty, though duly carried out by France, are not fulfilled by England.

At the sitting of the Court for the trial of Fenians, on the 12th, the entire day was occupied by O'Donovan in his address to the jury in his own defence. He commenced at the opening of the Court, and did not desist until after 6 o'clock in the evening. He insisted that he had done nothing criminal, asserted that his cause had outraged no law, and gave it as his opinion that Ireland would never be free without fighting. His bearing was insolent, and when he remarked upon the Court his language was offensive and saucy.

There was a rumor that the Governor of Richmond (Bridwell) has absconded.

Governor Eyre had been suspended from his functions in Jamaica, and Sir Henry Storks temporarily appointed in his place.

A draft commission for the above appointment is published in the London Gazette. It states that great dissatisfaction is alleged to have prevailed in Jamaica, that grievous disturbances had broken out, and that excessive and unlawful severity had been used in their suppression; and whereas it being urgent that full and impartial inquiry should be made into the origin, nature and circumstances of the said disturbances, and the measures adopted for their suppression, the powers now vested in Governor Eyre are revoked, on the ground that it may be advisable that he should be present during the inquiry, but for the sufficiency of the said inquiry the powers of Governor should be vested in some other person, and Sir H. Storks is accordingly temporarily appointed Governor of Jamaica.

The Times says:—Sir H. Storks, who sails for Jamaica on Monday next, will immediately upon his arrival, assume the whole government of Jamaica, and Mr. Eyre will be in the position of a Governor on leave. He will be superseded, but not displaced, by Sir H. Storks, who, in fact, does not cease to be Governor of Malta, and whose administration of Jamaica will be esentially provisional.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 29, 1865.

ST. JOHN'S DAY.

On Wednesday, being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, a day dear to all Free Masons, the Installation of the Master Elect, D. Fowler, Esq., took place at High Noon, in the Hall of the Lodge. The interesting Ceremony was performed with due solemnity by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, W. B. Simpson, Esq., assisted by the Rt. Worshipful D.D. Grand-Master, John V. Noel, Esq. The Installation of the new Officers of the Lodge by the new Master, then followed:—

Bro. G. M. Wilkinson	S.W.
" R. M. Horsey	J.W.
" Welch	T.
" Sutherland	S.
" E. H. Smith	S.D.
" King	J.D.
" McCartney	J.G.
" Gaskin	S.
" Creagan	M.C.
" Graham	T.

In the Evening the Brethren of St. John's, with many Visitors and Guests, dined together in their Hall, and spent a most delightful night, the Grand Master, his Deputy, and other distinguished Masons being present.

RECORDER'S CT.

Wednesday Dec. 27.

THE QUEEN VS. CHAND ELLEN BURY, Larceny.—The jury in case (the prosecution of Morris Ko, returned a verdict acquitting the prisoner and finding her husband guilty, was only the third of the seven indictments brought against the prisoners, but own disclaimed to prosecute in the, and the female prisoner was dis, having been acquitted on all the tried.—Charles Burt, found guilty, charges, was sentenced to one year imprisonment in the common gaol.

THE QUEEN VS. ELLENBY, Larceny.—The prisoner, an old abandoned thief, was placed in the dock charged with stealing a skirt, jacket and, the property of Mary Dillon, of 11th of November last. The evidence was quite conclusive, and the prisoner found guilty. She is a very old of having been convicted of larceny at times previously, which was proved in Court records. The Recorder sed the prisoner to six months' imprisonment in the common gaol. Mr. R. M. W. for the Crown; the prisoner was unde.

THE QUEEN VS MARY HOLT, Larceny.—The prisoner was found guilty two charges of stealing goods, and an old offender was sentenced to three imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary.

Thursday, 28.

The Court opened this morn 9:30 o'clock, James O'Reilly, Esq., presiding.

THE QUEEN VS. JOHN SMITH, ly.—The prisoner was charged having stolen four sheets, the property nuel Westlake of Princess street, on th of the present month. The jury brou a verdict of guilty without leaving Court. The Recorder sentenced Smith three months' imprisonment in gaol, should have inflicted a more severe sentence if not that the prisoner had just fallen a good position in society through ik, and in the hope that he might reform formerly was a mechanic in the en of the prosecutor and before he took to ng held a good character for honesty he prisoner made no defence; Mr. Wilkison, County Attorney, for the. Edward Gallagher pleaded not gu a charge of larceny. His case was ff till next Court on application of Mr. row, his counsel, bail being accept his appearance.

Thursday Dec. 28

THE QUEEN VS. ASHBURY WILL Assault.—The defendant was charge a petty assault on Levi Lee. The evi in the case was quite conflicting, and Jury returned a verdict of not guilty. R. M. Wilkison for the Crown; Mr. Snook for the prisoner.

THE QUEEN VS. LEVI LEE, Assau This was a counter action to the a case. Both arose out of a scrimmage tween the parties, each thinking the o the guilty party. The Crown declined prosecute, and the Jury brought in a v dict of not guilty.

THE QUEEN VS. DUNCAN MCKENZ Assault.—The defendant was charged w assaulting Esther Moore. Verdict guilty. The defendant was fined $50, and senten ed to be imprisoned until the fine was pa

The Court fined four Petit Jurymen, w failed to appear during the sittings of th Court, $5 each.

THE QUEEN VS. MARY ANN TUMBER Attempt at Arson.—The prisoner wa charged with attempting to set fire to the dwelling house of Mr. James Falconer on the 17th December last. It appears that about seven in the morning on the day in question, a cupboard in the kitchen was discovered in flames inside, the fire being aided by combustible matter. The prisoner slept in the kitchen at the time, being the servant girl of the family, and raised the alarm, the fire being put out without doing any great damage. Suspicion rested on the prisoner, and was strengthened from the fact that two dresses were stolen from the house the previous day and found at the prisoner's home, leading to the supposition that she had set the house on fire to conceal her crime of stealing. The defence was that the act was that of a child, done without malice or consideration, the prisoner being only 15 years of age. The prisoner previously pleaded guilty of stealing the dresses. His Honor charged that there was no evidence of the prisoner having made the fire, and the Jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Mr. R. M. Wilkison for the Crown; Mr. T. L. Snook for the prisoner. The prisoner was sentenced to one week's imprisonment in gaol on the charge of larceny.

Friday, Dec. 29.

The Court opened at half-past nine o'clock this morning, Jas. O'Reilly, Esq., Q. C., presiding.

Gosan, Appellant vs. MOSTYN, Respondent.—Appeal from a conviction for selling liquor without license.—Conviction confirmed with costs.

MARY BURKE, Appellant vs. MOSTYN, Respondent.—Appeal from a conviction for selling liquor without license.—Conviction confirmed with costs.

THE QUEEN vs. JAMES MCGUIRE, Assault.—The defendant was charged with assaulting Edward Crawford, on the 20th of June last. The case was tried at the last Court, but the Jury failed to agree. The case was laid before another Jury at the present Court. Mr. R. M. Wilkison, for the crown; Mr. Wm. Ferguson, Jr., for the defendant. The Jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

THE QUEEN vs. JAMES MCGUIRE, Assault.—This was on the prosecution of Benjamin Holden, and the Crown had only to offer the same evidence as in the former case. McGuire therefore pleaded guilty, and was fined one shilling and costs on this case and $10 and costs on the former case.

THE QUEEN VS. PATRICK DWYER, assault on Mr. Henry Dumble.—The prisoner was found guilty at last Court, but by request, he being a sailor, judgment was deferred. The Recorder fined him $10 and add to be imprisoned till paid.

The Court rose at half past two o'clock, after a session of four days.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

We understand that Mr. Howland has been charged with the task of filling the vacancy in the Cabinet, produced by the resignation of Mr. Brown. On Monday night last, he met, by appointment, Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, member for Lambton, in Guelph, and tendered him the office of President of the Council. After full explanations, Mr. Mackenzie declined to accept the office, on the ground that he would not be responsible for the policy of the Government on the question which caused Mr. Brown's resignation.—Globe

New York, Dec. 28.—The World's Washington special says the Secretary of State has directed the United States attorney to keep a vigilant watch on all vessels sailing for Mexican ports, and to seize all contraband articles.

New York, Dec. 28.—The Times' Washington special says the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue have adopted new regulations relative to drawbacks upon shipments to British provinces. In case goods are to be slipped from a port, or transported through a frontier port to any of the British provinces, when the drawback claimed on any one shipment does not exceed the sum of fifty dollars, the exporter will file his entry in triplicate at the Custom House at the port of exportation in the same form and manner as prescribed for shipments made to other foreign ports in the amended circular, dated May 1st, 1865, one of which entries will be transmitted to the officer at the frontier port through which the goods are to pass, and he will examine the packages to ascertain if they agree in all respects with those described in the entry. If the packages are found to agree, the officers of the Customs will permit them to be sent forward with detention to their place of destination, and will execute on the back of said entry a certificate that the packages of merchandise described in the entry for exportation to Canada or other British Provinces have been duly inspected at that port and delivered for exportations as aforesaid. The exporter will then proceed in preparing the balance of his papers in accordance with the above mentioned circular instructions changing each of said forms to suit the altered circumstances of the case. The bond will be cancelled if the exporter shall produce within ninety days from the date thereof a certificate under the hand and seal of the collector or other chief revenue officer of the Canadian or other provincial port, that the goods, wares, merchandise, described were imported into the Province therein mentioned, and duly entered at the Custom House, and that the duties imposed by the laws in force in the province have been paid or secured. Merchandise intended for exportation with benefit of drawback under the internal revenue law may be forwarded through those frontier ports through which imported merchandise may be exported consistently with lawful regulations and no other. If the merchandise be shipped direct by sea from a port of exportation, or if shipped direct from a frontier port to a port in the British Provinces, the regulations prescribed in the amended circular instructions dated May 1st, 1865, will be observed. When the drawback claimed on any one shipment exceeds the sum of $50, a consul's certificate will be required in addition to the certificate of the ship revenue officers for the cancellation of the bonds. In all cases these regulations will be enforced on after the first day of January 1866.

We have copied from a contemporary in Pittsburgh, Penn., an account of the death of an old Kingstonian, who on his annual visits to Kingston, was always gladly received and made welcome:—

DIED.

On the 5th instant, at Pittsburgh, Penn., Edward W. Culgan, aged 34 years, 1 month and 13 days. May he rest in Peace.

DEATH OF E. W. CULGAN.

We are called upon to announce the death of Mr. Edward W. Culgan, which occurred at his residence on Wylie street last evening. Mr. Culgan was a native of Canada, but has been a resident of this city for a number of years. He was well known as the Superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Line in this city, a position he held for a number of years. Some months since he assumed a similar position under the National Telegraph Co., of which he was Superintendent at the time of his death. He was of a most genial disposition, and possessed great energy and business tact. He was esteemed by all who knew him, and his death will be sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. A meeting of telegraphers will be held this evening at the office of the National Union Line, Fifth street, for the purpose of making arrangements to attend the funeral.

DEATH OF MR. E. W. CULGAN—RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

A meeting of telegraphers was held on Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock, to express their sorrow at the death of Mr. Edward W. Culgan, for many years manager of the Western Union Telegraph line in this city, and recently Superintendent of United States line. On motion of Captain Samuel L. Fullwood was called to the chair, and Samuel L. Gilson was appointed Secretary. Messrs. Frederick Telford, George Hamilton and M. H. Kele were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, who reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas,—By the dispensation of Divine Providence, our late professional brother and late friend and associate, Edward W. Culgan, has been suddenly called from life to eternity; and whereas he was endeared to us by many acts of friendship and kindness, therefore, be It

Resolved.—That in the death of our late brother, W. Culgan we mourn the loss of one of whom it was a pleasure to know and to welcome to our society; whose death in the prime of life we regret, and whose memory we shall cherish.

Resolved.—That the heartfelt sympathy of the members of the city and vicinity whose profession this is, is respectfully tendered to the bereaved family of our late associate.

Resolved.—That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be engrossed and sent to the wife and family of deceased.

Mr. W. Ketchner was appointed to have the proceedings engrossed, and presented to the family the deceased. After making arrangements to attend the funeral the meeting adjourned.

SATURAY MORNING, DEC. 30, 1865.

JAMAICA.

London, Dec. 6.

Mr. Ilgins (Jacob Omnium), whose reputation a public writer and lawyer is unsurpassed—the man of whom, according to Thackay, evil doers are most afraid—

(Good-ord, to have that fellow write
Abuse in the Times!)

who is lastly interested in Jamaica estates, and is the last man who could be suspected of having a sentimentality about negroes—has written from Nice, where he is now staying, a letter concerning Jamaica:—

To the Editor of the Pall Mall Gazette:—

SIR,—Whilst we are waiting for further news explanatory of the tragical occurrences in Jamaica I believe it may be useful to say a few words on behalf of the free laborer of the British West Indies, who is just now rather a discount with a considerable portion of the English press. I admit that in Jamaica and in most of our colonies in the west, his very idle; that is to say, having no larger any stimulus to impel him to constant tertion, he will not work for the sugar planters continuously, and without continuous labor sugar planting cannot be carried on remuneratively. But I am of opinion that declining to work hard without sufficient stimulus, the negro only acts as the white man would act under similar circumstance, and that as the British Government, with the best motives in the world has placed him in the position in which he now is, no reproach can justly be made to him if he passes his life in the manner which seems most agreeable to his rude and uncultivated tastes. So far from being the bloodthirsty and designing miscreant which Governor Eyre's despatch would make him out to be, I believe him to be in general a very amiable, good natured fellow, and I fearlessly appeal to the criminal statistics of Jamaica for the last twenty-five years, to show that there have been fewer grave crimes against persons and property committed by the laboring population than have been committed by the laboring population of any county in England, Ireland or Scotland.

In Jamaica there are upwards of three hundred thousand free negroes and colored men. To control "these savages," as they are styled, there is one white regiment, probably not six hundred strong, and a few white artillerymen and volunteers. The police are negroes; the Maroons are negroes; the other Queen's regiments in the island—there are but two—are negroes also. It is very clear, therefore, that whatever may be the misdeeds and the shortcomings of the laborers of that colony, those misdeeds and shortcomings are attributable, not to their being negroes, but to their being a laboring population without any sufficient stimulus to labour; for the negro police and negro troops are as docile as can be desired, and the good conduct of the Maroons is going to be made the subject of a special dispatch from Gov. Eyre.

Sugar-making has long been a losing business in Jamaica. The owners of estates have clung to it because, having vast capital invested in buildings, machinery, and cultivation, they could not bring themselves to abandon that capital without a struggle; but I believe I may safely say that there are very few Jamaica planters who would not have been in a better pecuniary position than they now are, if, on receiving the compensation money paid for the liberation of their slaves, they had invested that money in the English funds, abandoned their estates and given up, from that date, all attempts to grow sugar. Numerous estates have been abandoned, and land is consequently to be had for next to nothing; indeed, large numbers of squatters have obtained it for nothing. A Jamaica negro can, with very little exertion, build himself a hut on the plot of land which he himself has fenced, and on which he cultivates sufficient fruits and roots to support himself, his family, and his live stock; clothes in that climate are luxuries rather than necessaries; fuel is required only for cooking; and a very few days' labour per month at money wages on the nearest sugar estate will furnish him with the ready money he requires to provide the few and cheap luxuries which his superfluous vegetables and live stock have not already obtained for him. Why, therefore, should he work continuously on a sugar plantation? Would any rude and uneducated white man, under similar circumstances do so? Why, being able to cultivate his own land and live easily upon it, should he work hard for money wages on the land of other people? In our own agricultural countries the farmers are invariably adverse to the letting more than a perch or so of land to the labourers, being convinced that if the English labourer could hire an acre or two at the price for which it is let to the farmer, he would prefer cultivating it for himself, instead of working at day's work or task work for an employer. The reason, therefore, that remunerative sugar growing is daily becoming impossible in Jamaica, is not that the planters are inert or unskilful, or unfair toward the negro labourer, or that the negro labourer is naturally an idle, savage brute, but simply that the circumstances in which England has placed the latter render an indolent life possible and pleasant to him, and that he takes that advatage of his position which you or I, sir, or anybody else who has no pressing wants to stimulate him to hard work, would most certainly do.

It is objected that, under precisely the same circumstances, the imported coolie and Chinaman work hard and continuously, whilst the negro squats leisurely on his provision ground. But the circumstances are not precisely the same. The coolies and the Chinamen leave their native country with the full intention of returning to it—they do not even bring their women with them. Their object is to amass as large a sum of money as they can during the time of their indenture, and to go home and enjoy it. They land under articles to those who have imported them, binding them to labour continuously on the plantation to which they are assigned, and on which their friends and companions are also located. They have neither language nor habits in common with the negro population, by whom they are surrounded and disliked, and they have therefore, small temptation to stray or squat, whilst they have innumerable stimuli to labour to which the native labourers are strangers.

If any proof were necessary that the comparative inaction of the negro in Jamaica is produced, not by the indolence of his nature, but by the circumstances in which he is placed, we need not only look to the conduct of the negro in Barbadoes, made of exactly the same flesh and blood, and covered by the same cuticle as his lazier brother in Jamaica. In Barbadoes land is scarce and not very fertile, and on each acre of it stand five times the number of labourers that stand on an acre of Jamaica land. The whole island belongs to the planters, and is under sugar cultivation. If the Barbadian negro will not work, and work hard, he and his family must starve, for he cannot squat and cultivate vegetables and breed live stock on his own account. And therefore the Barbadian negro is an extremely industrious and very well behaved labourer and the Barbadian planters being thus enabled to obtain a continuous supply of good workmen, have no difficulty in making both ends meet, when sugar is cheap, and in making good profits when it is dear. For this reason, and no other, has the value of Jamaica estates been falling, and that of Barbadian estates rising every year since the emancipation of the slaves.

If it were possible that the whole population of Jamaica could be transplanted into Trinidad, three hundred thousand idlers, living in almost a state of nature, would by the force of circumstances be suddenly converted into three hundred thousand hard working and happy peasants, and Trinidad would rival Barbadoes or the Mauritius in its sugar exports. But, until such heroic treatment can be adopted, I fear we can do no more than contemplate with regret the decadence of Jamaica, and of many of others of our West Indian sugar colonies. It is perfectly true that our Colonial Office has made many mistakes in dealing both with the planter and the negro, that the planters have not always been wise and temperate; and that the clergy and missionaries have occasionally acted with more zeal than discretion. But I am fully convinced that the present position of Jamaica is more to be attributed to the shortcomings of the Colonial Office, the planters or the missionaries, than it is to the idleness and perversity of the blacks. It has proceeded from the causes which I have endeavoured to set forth in this letter.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

J. O.

ARRIVAL OF THE AUSTRALASIAN.

Sandy Hook, Dec. 29.—The steamship Australasian from Liverpool on the 16th, Queenstown on the 17th, has passed this point en route for the city, which she will reach about 1 o'clock this afternoon. The steamships China and Louisana arrived out on the 15th.

The Fenian Special Commission adjourned its sittings at Dublin on the 13th and commenced proceedings at Cork on the following day.

Strong military precautions are taken to maintain peace in Cork.

Liverpool, Dec. 16.—The London Daily News refrains from saying much with regard to President Johnson's Message, but says that its reference to foreign nations is friendly in tone and intentions.

The London Morning Herald is silent upon the subject.

London, Dec. 10.—It is stated that the health of the Queen of Spain is still improving.

The late King of Belgium was buried yesterday. The new King takes the oath today.

The message of President Johnson has been favorably received, and is regarded as friendly, and the United States stock improved after its reception.

It is stated that Spain has accepted the mediation of England in the Chilian affairs.

The trial of Captain McCafferty, the American Fenian was progressing at Cork.

The Emperor of Austria presented the Hungarian Diet with a speech pointing out what it was necessary for Hungarians to do.

Another new ministry in Greece.

The Cork Herald alludes to the recent departure of skilful pilots for America as evidence of the contemplated naval operations of Fenians.

THE NEW STAMP ACT.

We call attention to the fact that those who are in the habit of either giving or taking promissory notes, had better make a NOTE of the fact, that on, and after, the 1st of January inst., the Stamp Act, passed by the present Ministry at the last session, comes in force. After the last day of this year, stamps will have to be affixed to all notes—one cent on notes up to $25; two cents on notes between $25 and $50; three cents on notes between $50 and $100; and three cents on each additional $100. Unless the notes are thus stamped and the stamps properly obliterated by the initials of the signer and the date of the month, they are worthless. All postmasters will keep the stamps for sale.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. BLAIR.

We believe there is no doubt that the Hon. A. J. Ferguson Blair is to be President of the Council, in room of Mr. Brown. Mr. Blair met Mr. Howland in Toronto yesterday, and the vacant seat having been tendered to him, was duly accepted—with full knowledge on his part of the variance which produced the vacancy. On consenting to take office, we are assured that Mr. Blair received a renewal of the pledge, that the compact made when Sir. Narcisse Belleau entered the Government will be faithfully carried out.

Mr. Blair was a member of the McDonald-Dorion Administration, and when that Government broke down, in 1864, he was charged by the Governor General with the formation of a new one, but did not succeed.—When the coalition was formed in June, 1864, it was understood that he did not approve of it—but when its Confederation policy was fully announced, Mr. Blair accepted it, and aided the Government in carrying their resolutions through the Upper House, frankly and heartily. Personally, Mr. Blair is unobjectionable for the office. He is a man of ability, with much experience in public life, and he has always been on the Reform side. He is, besides, strictly honorable and of independent fortune. He has long represented the Division which he represents, and we do not doubt that he will be returned by acclamation.—Globe.

Toronto, Dec. 30.

The Hon. Ferguson Blair has accepted the vacant seat in the Cabinet, vice the Hon. Geo. Brown resigned. There will be no change in the policy of the government regarding Confederation.

MONDAY MORNING, JAN'Y 1, 1866.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

J. R., Toronto; T. R. D., Odessa.

This No. commences the Thirty Fifth Volume of the British Whig; and this day commences the Thirty Fifth year of Dr. Barker's Journalism. A long time for one man to be engaged, in one capacity, on one newspaper, in one place! Well may he be called the "Father of the Canadian Press;" for although there are abler editors, and older newspapers in Canada than this redoubtable sheet, yet there is no one man alive who have so long been connected with its Press. This is not a matter to boast of—it is rather to be regretted. Where are Dr. Barker's early contemporaries? Where Messrs. Malcolm Cameron, Parent, Hincks, Cauchon, Ross, Dorion, and George Brown? All filling the highest positions in the gift of the Crown or the People! While Dr. Barker, with an empty designation, is compelled to work much harder than he did thirty-four years ago, when filled with ambition and vain ideas, he abandoned his profession to take up the galling, irksome and precarious living of a public journalist. Were he to live his life over again, would he do it? Most assuredly not!

And yet, personally, Dr. Barker has little to complain of. He has lived comfortably and happily all this time in or near Kingston, and has kept the wolf from his door in the best way he could. And during this long residence, through good fortune and ill-fortune, through good repute and ill-repute, he never once felt a desire or expressed a wish to quit Kingston, the first Canadian town he landed in when he came from England. His newspaper has attained a wide-world reputation, on this continent at least, and its advertising columns show how the British Whig is universally patronized, far and nigh. In a small city like Kingston, with the fearful competition of the large Toronto Dailies, its circulation cannot be very great; yet it is sufficient to serve well the locality; and as the city and county become better populated, so will its circulation encrease. It has done so from the first year of its existence. And when Dr. Barker has passed away, his newspaper will remain one of the Institutions of the City, a living memento of its hard-worked founder.

Therefore, though neither a Minister of State nor a well-salaried Official, yet having no cause to complain of his lot, but on the contrary, having every reason to be thankful for the continued patronage he has received, Dr. Barker takes this opportunity to record his Grateful Thanks to all his many Subscribers and Patrons for past favors, and wishing them a Happy New Year, he hopes, with the blessing of the Almighty, still to live and work for them, and to thank them again and again for many years to come.

RAWDON CONVENT BURNT DOWN.—A Correspondent of L'Ordre states that the fine convent, owned by the Sisters of St. Anne, at Rawdon, and in which they had recently established a mission, has been burnt down, the fire originating with a stove placed too near the partition. Catholics and protestants rivalled each other in their zeal to put down the fire, but they were not successful.

☞ It is reported in Halifax that the 2nd battalion, 16th regiment is about to proceed overland to Canada to reinforce the garrison here.

A soldier of the 30th Regiment, named Timothy Campbell, has been missing since the 23rd. Some men sent to make inquiries were knocked down by some rowdies. Nothing had been seen of the man since, and as he was within 20 days of his discharge, his absence is unaccountable.—Montreal Transcript.

We have to record the death of W. C. H. Coffin, Esq., Senior Protonotary, who died at Montreal on Saturday morning, between three and four o'clock. On account of failing health he had been allowed leave of absence during the last twelve months.

New Year's Address

OF

BLACK JACK OF THE WHIG,

TO HIS PATRONS.

Long years ago, when Kingston roll'd in mud,
And Day & Martin paled before its flood;
Ere the old town, with no ambitious throes,
At good stone pavements wrinkled up its nose,
And longed for wooden walks, though twice a-year,
That needs renewal every second year,
Before the Alderman of Swamp Ward renown
Sat for the City, let alone the town,
And ruled the roast along the north-east margee,
Vice-Admiral of cast-off fleets of barges,
And scows, and fishing craft, and boats once jolly,
Which died slow deaths of mooring melancholy;
Before Police, with painted batons, lain
Would brush th' offender's hair against the grain,
And deal in knock down arguments so fine
That none but SOVEREIGN remedies could shine;
In the good times when sailors and marines—
Blue coats and lobsters—freely spent their means,
And lived a life as rollicking and free
As their salt-water element, the sea;
Long ere the town—and Oh! that's true, 'tis pity!—
Put on fine airs and vowed to be a City;
Before Quadrupled taxes show'd their face,
Or grand back kitchens filled the market place;
Ere the first stroke of old John Counter's bell
Rung out the homely town's funereal knell;
Before the modern straight-laced era came,
And brought improvements by the score—in name
Black Jack, the people's Mentor sat him down,
And launched his witty broadside on the town;
Made people laugh, as civic hist'ry shows—
Turned hundreds plump who erst were lean as crows;
Gave every man his due, and trounced each muff,
Till even DIRTY JACK cried "Hold, enough!"
And still he lives and moves, and deals in rhymes
At New Year, thinking of the good old times,
And looking back, but with a grain, forsooth,
Longing and dreaming of a second youth—
Of troops of cronies with true wisdom stored,
Such as the men of yore who graced his board,
Sung their famed songs and played their mortal part,
Free from all humbug and devoid of art.

Are, still he lives, while traitors by the score
Have left him victor, to return no more;
While Charon o'er the silent Styx has rowed
His enemies to that far off abode,
From whence no traveller returns to tell
What kind of mate there is in the Future dwell!
And still the WHIG, as hale and hearty now
As when in youth it made the sinner bow,
Keeps on the even tenor of its way—
More philosophical, perhaps, than gay—
But yet as hearty, with as quips as rare
As those that made the earlier lieges stare—
When in its meteor days its thunder-crash
Knocked unwilling Cant and Humbug all to smash!
Proudly he sits in popular favor throned,
By all and each a very bonnet owned
For independence, truth, and manly sense:
No upstart he, made up of puffing and pretence!
Of knowledge vast, yet modesty inborn,
Your snuffy, shallow pedants are his scorn.
Straight to the point he always speaks his mind,
As some fellows to their sorrow find.
Gentle and kind withal—no wonder he
Is everywhere the favorite we see—
No wonder all leal-hearted men should vent
Their blessings on "the old man eloquent."

Well may we all delight to praise and bless
Him who to mankind first bequeathed the Press!
The friend of Progress, Knowledge, Virtue own'd,
Alas, that land where no free Press is found!
The ceaseless toiler that no respite knows—
What giant wrongs unhallow'd it o'erthrows!
The pride alike of scholar, saint and sage;
The Hercules all-mighty of our age.
Before whose pow'r the despot's cheek grows pale,
And quakes his limbs though clad in triple mail!
What, matched 'gainst it are hosts with flags unfurl'd?
An honest Press with honest thoughts impearl'd,
Is the true lever that can move the world!

So much for the Press! Now a happy New Year
I wish you, kind patrons, afar off or near.
I fear I may tire you; yet ere I conclude,
I'll give you a song, as a smart Newsboy should.

BLACK JACK'S SONG.

Ye who would be posted well
In all science has to tell—
From the stars to Creighton's ale,
Don't forget the Newsboy.

Ye who would be there, and soon,
When our wise men at the moon
Look for Williamson's lost spoon,
Don't forget the Newsboy.

Ye who cannot know too fast
When a G. T. Train is smash'd—
None to blame, though scores are hash'd!
Don't forget the Newsboy.

Ye who'd learn what eloquence
Some Civics shout at no expense
Save grammar, truth and common sense,
Don't forget the Newsboy.

Ye who would know, out and out,
What the world is all about,
Get the WHIG, and learn to shout
Blessings on the Newsboy!

Ye who would be *first* to hear
The *last* news throughout the year,
Know, A CHRISTMAS BOX IS NE'ER
LOST UPON YOUR NEWSBOY.

KINGSTON, January 1st, 1866.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN'Y 3, 1866.

LETTERS & TELEGRAMS.

R. B., Brighton; A. M., Montreal.

PAPER THE SIXTH*.

Facts and Fancies, Opinions and Reminiscences of an Octogenarian.

'De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis.'

A COUPLE OF REMINISCENCES.

In this paper I intend to draw largely upon my memory, and relate the particulars of a couple of humorous incidents that happened in Kingston, the one forty, and the other thirty-three years ago.

THE SELL.

I head the first reminiscence 'The Sell,' but the term, as applied to a practical joke, was unknown at the time of this joke's occurrence. 'To sell a fellow,' is quite a modern phrase, though undoubtedly old as the hills; for nothing is more common, or more congenial to man, than to make a fool of his fellow.

Among the few Englishmen attracted to Canada prior to 1826, there came to Kingston a well favored youth, named Charles Bentley. He was a Londoner, tolerably well educated, but like all Cockneys, fearfully conceited, as in fact all Londoners proverbially are. A Londoner knows a great deal, and has great reason to be proud, for he is really a crafty, cunning blade, having a thorough contempt for Yokels, by which appellation he means outsiders, all persons out of London. But with the most consummate knowledge of men and things within his own great bailliwick, he is the most simple and most guileless fellow alive when away from the immediate sphere of his knowingness. Well, to Kingston came Mr. Charles Bentley—brim full of himself. He wanted employment; he would take charge of a set of books, he would manage a Bank Agency, or he would relieve a merchant of his cares while he went home. He would do anything highly respectable, but there was nothing highly respectable for him to do, at least that he would accept. He was therefore idle when first I met with him, and I met him in company with certain jolly Englishmen, now all gone to their long homes, but long remembered by me and others in this good city, as the best of fellows. I met him one evening at the old Kingston Hotel (now British American), with old Tom Smith, Messrs. Ferns, Oliver, Wilkinson, Butterworth and one or two others of that kidney. It was the day of Free and Easys, and we used to meet of a night there to enjoy a song and a pipe, and very jolly meetings they were.—Who is there now in the quick who remembers the five Englishmen I have jotted down? And yet of tradesmen they were the elite of the town! Well, on this particular occasion they were chaffing Master Charles, and he was taking it very good humoredly. I joined in the fun mechanically, and to enhance it bethought me of a practical joke often played in the North of England, though not generally known, and therefore probably my London friend might be unconscious of it. I began to speak of the great muscular strength of cats, related some anecdotes of the wonderful feats they had been known to perform. I went so far as to assert that a large Tom Cat possessed more muscular force than any ordinary man. My intended victim sat quietly and heard the tales I told; but when I came to the last assertion, he could stand it no longer. He swore that no cat alive was as strong as he himself—he could out pull a dozen cats, much less one, and wondered why I should utter such rubbish, surely I could not possibly believe it. There he was at the very point I wished. I winked at Tom Smith, and he readily foreseeing that some joke was contemplated, began to back me, and to narrate certain feats of cats' great strength, of which he had personal knowledge. Master Charles in time got quite angry, offered the Englishman's argument, a bet, that he was physically stronger than any cat that could be produced in the whole world. I jumped at the bet,—it was for Beef and Greens for a dozen, and the trial was to come off next afternoon, twenty-four hours being allowed for me to find my cat.

Those who travel to Waterloo over the excellent macadamized road at the head of Princess Street, little dream of the mudhole it was in 1826. Where the stone bridge now crosses a dry gully on the Ordnance Lands, there was a broad creek or stream of water which in spring time was quite deep, and when crossed it was by a long and narrow wooden platform, a make shift for a bridge. It was in this vicinity where the bet was to be decided. Having procured my cat, which I had carefully in a bag together with a long stout rope, next afternoon, I met my friends and victim at the hotel, and we all proceeded to the appointed place, near the bridge, where the trial of strength was to be made. Mr. Charles Bentley went in front; he was confident of winning, and he talked long and loudly. My old friend Ferns had him in tow, he took his side of the question and offered to back him to any moderate amount. Tom Smith and one or two other jokers took up the bets, and all was made pleasant and interesting. When we reached the stream, the terms of the wager were then read out and thoroughly understood. The man and the cat were to be placed on separate sides of the little creek, back to back; a rope was to be placed round the shoulders of the man, and fastened to the breast of the cat. At the word 'go,' the cat was to be excited to run and the man was to remain steady. If he stood his ground, he won, but if he was pulled towards the water he lost. Nothing could be fairer. Master Charles assented to it, and so did his backer Mr. Ferns. The bystanders were made judges and stood severally on either side of the stream, a little above the old bridge. I was to give the word, but I was not to excite the cat; that was left to Messrs. Smith and Wilkinson. After due preparation,