LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

T. R. D., Odessa.

THE IRISH PRIESTS AND THE FENIANS.

[From the London Times.]

There is one class in Ireland that is placed in a peculiarly painful position by the outbreak of Fenianism. It has been the policy of the government of Ireland for the last three centuries to leave the Roman Catholic priests to exist on the voluntary contributions of his flock. This policy, on the abstract justice of which we are not now going to enter, has had the effect, probably not foreseen when it was commenced, of attaching the priests and people mutually to each other by that of affection which follows on the conferring of actual benefits. But it has done more. It has obliged the priest, if he would secure for himself a decent subsistence, to conciliate the prejudices, to adopt the feelings, and to accommodate himself to the point of view of his flock.

In order that he may lead them he must also follow. It is impossible for him, situated as he is, to assert for himself an absolute independence. In matters of faith he is indeed supreme, but in conduct and policy he must not violently jar against the wishes of his people. In order to maintain his ground as a religious teacher he is driven to practice some of the arts of the demagogue. Thus the Church of Rome has, to its honor, made a practice of denouncing secret societies; but the Roman Catholic priest has often found it necessary to wink very hard at those combinations for agrarian outrages of which Ireland has seen so much during the present century. It is perhaps, expecting too much of human nature if we hope that a priest will be the honest and unsparing denouncer of the evil doings of that congregation by whose alms alone he exists.

The Church of Rome has always denounced secret societies, but it is, nevertheless, true that those secret societies have received from the Irish Roman Catholic clergy feeble censure, and that censure accompanied with so much sympathy as tended rather to excuse the very acts it professed to condemn. Fenianism has made a great change in the position of the Roman Catholic clergy with regard to the great mass of the people. This movement unlike the agrarian outrages with which we are so familiar, has been always unsparingly denounced by the Catholic clergy and with good reason, for it seems that they themselves are marked out among the first victims of the conspiracy. Every one will form himself his own idea as to how far the Fenian conspiracy extends in Ireland, or amongst the Irish residents in England or America, but so far as it does extend it amounts to a complete breach between the priest and the flock. Whether successful or not its effect must be to impoverish the priesthood, so powerful for good or evil over the mind of the Irish peasant.

Surely this state of things offers a great opportunity. We would deprecate strongly any attack upon the revenues of the Irish church. But the occasion is peculiarly favorable for making a provision at the expense of the State for the Roman Catholic priesthood in Ireland. They are suffering, and are likely to suffer, for their adherence to the cause of peace and order. Their influence ought as far as possible, to be conciliated at this juncture. They would speak with more boldness and authority against Fenianism, if they were assured of a provision not depending upon momentary popularity. Of all the money that we spend in the year, the half million that we might devote to this purpose would yield us the richest and the best return. Peace and concord, obedience to the law, and security of property are better worth having than fleets and armies; to strengthen the empire at its centre is far more important than to protect its frontiers. We have tried everything that could be thought of with Ireland, except providing a suitable maintenance for her clergy. If we wish them to tell their congregations the truth, we must place them in a position of independence in which they can afford to tell it.

THE MEMORY OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

THE DOINGS AT WASHINGTON.

Washington, Feb. 12.

The flags over the public buildings, including the Capitol, are at half-mast to day. At 10 o'clock the doors leading to the rotunda of the Capitol were opened to those to whom invitations had been extended by the presiding officers of the two houses of Congress, and to those holding tickets of admission to the galleries, issued by the chairman of the joint committee of arrangements. The hall of the House of Representatives was opened for the admission of representatives and those to whom invitations had been extended and who were conducted to the seats assigned for them. The President of the United States was seated in front of the Speaker's table. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States occupied seats next to the President on the right of the Speaker's table. Officers of the army and navy, who by name have received the thanks of Congress, occupied seats next to the Supreme Court on the right of the Speaker's table. The representatives occupied seats on either side of the hall in the rear of those invited. Four rows of seats on either sides of the main aisle for Senators, in addition to those above mentioned, were occupied by assistant heads of departments, Governors of States, Territories, the Mayors of Washington and Georgetown, the Chief Justices and Judges of the Court of Claims, and the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, the heads of bureaus, departments, and others.

When Lieut. Gen. Grant entered the gallery with ladies he was greeted with applause. The army and navy officers were in uniforms. The Diplomatic corps appeared in citizens dress. The house was called to order at 12 o'clock by the speaker, who after a prayer by the Rev. Mr. Boynton, laid before them a letter from Secretary Seward, addressed to the speaker, making his acknowledgements for the invitation to the present, but regretting his health forbids his attendance. The cabinet, excepting Mr. Seward, were present. Senator Doolittle conducted the orator of the day to a seat at the table of the clerk of the House. When the senators, the President and his Cabinet, and the Supreme Court entered the hall those on the floor rose to their feet and stood until the former were all seated. The scene was brilliant and imposing, and apart from the solemn occasions it was interesting from the fact that there were represented all branches of the general and state offices, with ministers from foreign governments. Thousands united in paying their tribute to the memory of the illustrious dead. The marine band in rear of Reporters' Gallery performed a piece of music, when Rev. Dr. Boynton, chaplain of the House delivered a prayer. The Hon. Lafayette S. Foster, president of the senate a few pertinent remarks introduced the Hon. Bancroft, who delivered the memorial address. The speech was frequently applauded, and after the benediction was pronounced the assembly retired.

NEW WATER COMMUNICATION.

We have reliable information that a company of gentlemen, and merchants of large means, residents of Quebec, Montreal, St. John, N. B., and Halifax, are preparing to establish a line of suitable steamers to run in the trade between Canada and the Lower Ports. The object contemplated is not merely to furnish the various Ports on the Gulf such as Gaspe, Dalhousie, and Miramichi, with the accomodation they so much need, but to establish a line which, in point of convenience and speed, may compete with the routes through the States to Halifax and St. John. This can be attained by placing a tender to the main line on the Bay of Chaleur—a small steamer of light draught which could touch at several Ports, such as Bathurst, Campbelltown, &c., which are now entirely overlooked, forming the connection with the main line at Gaspe. In this way it need not occupy more than three and a half days to reach St. John from Quebec, the boats being met at Shediac by the American and European Railroad, a line of 110 miles belonging to the Province of New Brunswick, and expressly adapted and intended for this through traffic. In like manner, at Pictou, some eighty miles further, a line is being completed which within a few months will connect that valuable Port with Halifax by a link of about the same length as the New Brunswick road. Of course these Provinces will be prompt to encourage any undertaking to supply an efficient outlet for roads on which so much capital has been expended. That the work will be gone into on a sufficiently large scale to ensure success we think may be regarded as fully guaranteed by the position and resources, as well as the business judgment of the gentlemen who are taking it in hand. This may be regarded as one of the numerous advantages both to Canada and the Maritime Provinces that must result from the discontinuance of the Reciprocity Treaty.—Montreal Gazette.

THE NEW DOG TAX.

Clause I. There shall be levied a tax of one dollar on every dog.

II. Assessors to ascertain the number of dogs and enter the same in a list, with the name of the owners, and the amount of tax.

III. When required to do so, by the assessor the owner must deliver to the assessor a written description of every dog owned by the party applied to, under a penalty of $5. A false description will incur a like penalty.

IV. Assessors to make out a duplicate of the dog lists with the names of owners and amount of tax. Collectors to be furnished with such lists signed by the Assessors, and Collectors are bound to levy the amounts.

V. When the tax is collected the money is to be handed over by the Collectors to the Clerk or Treasurer of the Municipality.

VI. The money thus collected shall form a fund for the payment of damage done to sheep by dogs. The overplus to form part of the assets of the Municipality.

VII. The owner of any dog killing sheep to be held liable, even although he has had no notice of the propensity of his dog to kill sheep.

VIII. The owner of any sheep or lamb killed by dogs may apply to two Justices of the Peace who are to examine witnesses, and certify to the damage sustained.

IX. Such certificate shall be prima facie evidence in any suit the injured party may bring against the owner of the dog, provided the latter received notice of the case before being inquired into by the Justices of the Peace.

X. If the injured party fail to discover the owner of the dog by which the damage was done, he must make affidavit and leave the Justices certificate and affidavit with the Clerk of the Council, who is to lay the case before the Municipal Council at its next sitting.

XI. If the Council be satisfied that the owner of the dog or dogs cannot be discovered they shall order the Treasurer to pay the damage from the 'dog fund.'

XII. The injured party to repay the money back to the municipality, should he discover the owner of the dog, and recover damage from him for the injury done to the sheep.

XII. Any person may kill a dog which he sees chasing, worrying or wounding sheep, unless the dog be so employed by the permission of the sheep or his servant.

XIV. On notice being given the owner or possessor of a dog doing damage to sheep, if notified of the fact, must kill or cause to be killed, the dog, within forty-eight hours after such notice is given, or forfeit $2.50 and a further sum of $1.50 for every forty-eight hours thereafter, until the dog shall be killed, unless it can be proved that it was not in the power of the owner to kill the dog.

XV.—On complaint to the Clerk of the municipality of any penalty imposed having been incurred, the Clerk shall sue in the name of his office for the penalty, and when recovered, place it to the credit of the 'dog fund.'

XVI.—Persons having dogs twenty days in their possession to be deemed the owners thereof and held liable.

THE FENIAN CONSPIRACY.

ADDRESS OF THE CANADIAN BROTHERHOOD.

The Toronto correspondent of the Cincinnatti Enquirer sends to that paper the following address of the Canadian Fenians to their American brethern :—

Toronto, C. W., Feb. 1, 1866.

From the Fenian Brotherhood of Canada to their brothers in the United States:

Whereas, an attempt has now been made by some men of whom we once hoped better things, to oppose the decision of the largest deliberative body of Irishmen that ever assembled in America—the late Fenian Congress—a decision arrived at after a most impartial, thorough and earnest investigation into all matters in dispute between the Head Centre and his opponents; a decision confirmed by, and coinciding with that of the C. E. of the Irish republic, and a decision which hereafter should be sacredly binding on all who have at heart the honor, unity and freedom of our race.

Now we, the Fenian Brotherhood of Canada, solemnly declare that we have the fullest and most unalterable confidence in the justness of the decision of that Congress, and in the purity, energy and ability of the Head Centre, as well as in the wisdom of the course he has seen fit to follow, in order to accomplish the freedom of Ireland.

And we indignantly denounce, as the worst enemies of our motherland, any men who, in the words of James Stephens, 'moved to a mad and traitorous end, rais the cry of to Canada' instead of the cry 'to Ireland;' and who refuse to abide by the determination of the late Congress, which 'emphatically condemns as unjust, immoral and unIrish, any attempt to impose in the name of Ireland on a cognate friendly and self-governing people, the horrors of invasion and war.

The Fenian Brotherhood in America was instituted for the one purpose, of aiding and assisting the Irish at home in the struggle for their independence; and as this purpose has been strictly adhered to by the Head Centre, whose conduct in this respect has been most emphatically approved by the C. E. at home; and moreover as Congress has found the charges preferred against him to have been 'conceived in malice and untrue in fact,' therefore we, whose sole objects is the liberation of Ireland, most earnestly protest against any recognition of, or sympathy with, by the brotherhood, men who in open defiance of all authority persist in endeavoring to turn the organization from its legitimate, true and honorable course; and who attempt to inaugurate a policy wrong in principle, impracticable as a means to the end they profess to seek, and treacherous and fatal to Ireland, for to her delay is death.

"Therefore we appeal to you, our brothers in the United States, to reject with contempt the advice of any man who strives to distract your attention from the highest and holiest earthly object of our race—the freedom of Ireland—and to degrade our organization by making it an instrument of wanton and uncalled-for aggression on an unoffending people. We appeal to you to devote all your energies and all your influence to the great and honorable work of aiding our brothers at home, thus obeying the orders of the Chief of the Irish Republic. We appeal to you in the name of our comrades who lie captive in British Dungeons, but whose proud spirits the lash of the tyrant cannot crush, because they wait with confidence the hour in which—by your aid—they shall be avenged on Irish soil. We finally appeal to you in the name of Ireland, to aid her immediately, effectively and determinedly—discarding all side issues—for, by our hope of Heaven, we believe the freedom of Ireland can be accomplished more speedily than the conquest of Canada.

"The hour which sees the Green Flag first unfurled upon Irish soil—by the aid of her exiles—will see us beside our brothers from the United States there, and we will prove to you then the truth of our words, and our devotion to Ireland.

"Signed on behalf of the Fenian Brotherhood of Canada.

"District Centre."

COLLISION ON THE GRAND TRUNK.

ENGINE DRIVER KILLED.

VERDICT OF THE JURY.

On Sunday morning last, a collision between two freight trains, resulting in the death of Stephen Gibson, one of the drivers, took place, on the Grand Trunk Railroad West, about midway between Shakspeare and Hamburg Stations. No. 19 freight train, driven by Stephen Gibson, from some cause or other unexplained, started from Stratford without orders, passing Shakspeare, the next Station to Hamburg at a high rate of speed. No 20 freight train, in the meanwhile, had left Hamburg, having orders to cross No. 19 at Shakspeare. The morning being dark, neither of the drivers could perceive the engine of the other till they were within a few yards of each other, and when it was too late to prevent a smash. A collision took place, and the tender of No 19 was lifted on to the engine crushing the driver beneath it, and injuring him so seriously that he lived only 30 minutes after the accident. The poor man was almost cut in two; he continued to breathe and utter a few words so long as he was crushed up, but as soon as he was extricated, his body fell forward, and he died almost immediately. The fireman on the same engine saved his life by jumping off, and was very little hurt. The driver and fireman of No. 20 escaped unhurt, as well as the brakesmen and conductor on the train. The damage to the engine was considerable, though not so serious as might be expected from the nature of the collision. Two freight cars were badly broken up, and two others damaged. No loss or injury to freight occurred, as the cars were principally empty.

An inquest was held on the body of the driver at Shakspeare yesterday, and the jury, after investigating the whole of the circumstances—the authorities of the Grand Trunk affording every facility for a thorough examination—rendered the following verdict:

'That Stephen Gibson came to his death by trains Nos. 19 and 20 coming into collision between Shakspeare and Hamburg; that said collision was caused by said Gibson leaving Stratford without orders; that said collision might have been prevented had there been night operator at Shakspeare; and they would strongly condemn the practice of running trains on the Lord's day.'

DR. RYERSON'S PUBLIC SCHOOL MEETINGS.

(By Special Telegram per Provincial Line.)

Whitby, Feb. 12th.

A public meeting called by Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, to consider the changes in the School Law recently proposed by him, was held today, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute here. S. N. Gibbs, Esq., R.P.P., occupied the chair, and at half-past one o'clock when the meeting was called to order, about four hundred persons mostly delegates from different School sections in the county, were present. All our leading public men were there, and many of them took part in the proceedings. Dr. Ryerson occupied nearly two hours in explaining the changes proposed to be made and urged their necessity. The first resolution submitted was, the advisability of abolishing the present system of electing trustees and establishing Township boards to be elected by the rate payers of the municipalities which was negatived by a very large majority of those present. This resolution elicited a lengthy discussion, some having come armed with the opinions of various localities in the shape of resolutions passed at a local meeting held to express opinions upon the matter, a proceeding which Dr. Ryerson denounced as unfair and disrespectful to him. Too much time was taken up by the numerous speakers on this one point that many left and the meeting was quite thinned when the best resolution as to compulsory attendance was submitted. This, after a long discussion was adopted, a very considerable number however being found against it. The third resolution recommending the abolishing of the county Board of Instruction was cancelled, no one apparently dissenting. The proceedings were not brought to a close until after seven o'clock in the evening.

THE GALA DAY ON THE CITIZENS' RINK.

Yesterday proved a very mild and favorable day for the Tournament on the Citizens' Free Skating Rink, and the sports passed off with great eclat. The Rink was in splendid condition. The ice was rendered perfectly smooth, the thaw having apparently improved it rather than otherwise. The speedy and successful manner in which the Rink was cleared on Monday, shows that the ice can be kept in good condition all the winter, no matter how unfavorable the weather may be. The Committee had the arrangements perfected early in the morning. The Rink was enclosed with a wire fence, made by posts sunk in the ice with wire strung through, thus giving the inclosure exclusively to the competitors in the races and the Committee. The Rink was handsomely set off with flags. The fine Ensign of the Institution was hoisted on the South side, near the starting post, and large flags were hung at each corner, and small ones on the stands which encircle the ice. The house used by the Ladies for putting on their skates was also placed near the strating point, for the use of the Committee, where entries, &c., were made. Benches were placed on each side of the house for ladies, and seats were of course in great demand. The greatest order was maintained during the afternoon, a Committee of impromtu constables being on duty along the sides to allow no one inside the wires. The Races began about two o'clock and were kept up with a great deal of excitement till five o'clock, when all parties had free access to the Rink for the remainder of the evening. The Carnival on the Rink and Burlesque Concert in the City Hall, came off very successfully in the evening, and a report of the principal features will appear to morrow. The following is the result of:—

THE RACES.

1ST. GENTS' CHAMPION RACE.—This was a race of eight times round the Rink, generally known as the Long Race. 1st prize, a gold medal, 2nd, $4. There were 5 entries:—Henry Cunningham, John Dunoon, Wm. Smithers, James Dickie and Wm. Skinner. This was the most exciting Race of the whole, and was won by Smithers, closely followed by Cunningham and Dickie. Skinner whose prospect was very good at first, he leading in the second round, fell in the third round and lagged behind. The race was altogether three miles.

2ND. LADIES' AND GENTS' UNION RACE, for a run of twice round the Rink, to be skated by a lady and gentleman together. The prize, a ring valued at $8, to be awarded to the lady winner. The entries were M. Derry and Miss McMahon, Robert Carmichael and Miss Hannah Scales, M. Kirkpatrick and Miss H. Marrison, and James Johnston and Miss Rachel Flanigan. This Race was closely contested and was won by Carmichael and Miss Scales.

3RD. GENTS' RACE of twice around the Rink, to be skated backwards. 1st prize $4, second $1. Five entries:—G. W. H. Comer, Simon Asselstine, James Friel, J. Clifford, P. McIntyre. This was won easily by Asselstine, Clifford second, Friel third.

4TH. THE LADIES' LONG RACE—twice around the rink, the prize to be a Photograph of the winner, value $8. Five entries:—Catherine Scally, Ellen Kennen, Ellen Kerwin, Theresa Carroll, Mary Devlin. There was no great competition in this race, and Miss Scally won easily.

5TH. GENTS' RACE—once around the Rink, over six hurdles 20 inches high, for a prize of $4. There were four entries:—H. Cunningham, H. Youlden, A. Dougall, John Maviety. It was handsomely won by Cunningham, all the others having fallen and spoiled their chances.

6TH YOUNG LADIES' RACE.—for girls under thirteen years of age, once round the rink, for a prize Locket valued $7.50.—There were about 20 entries in this race and consequently a great deal of amusement. Miss McMahon was the winner.

7TH GARRISON RACE—for soldiers of the garrison, twice round the rink. 1st prize $3, second $1. Three entries:—Private James Austin, Royal Canadian Rifles, Sergt. Coyne, R. C. R., and Corp. Cockburn, R. A. Coyne gave up early, and then there was a very exciting race between Austin and Cockburn. Cockburn fell it is said in endeavouring to trip Austin, and the latter won easily.

8TH, BOYS' RACE—for boys under thirteen years of age, prize a pair of Skates, value $4, presented by McKelvey and Birch. Like the girls' races, the entries here were very numerous, and had to be weeded out, leaving about 16 to compete. The race was won by a small lad named Frederick Watson.

9TH, LADIES' SPECIAL PRIZE—for artistic skating, a pair of patent skates of the value of $10 being awarded to the winner. There was only one entry in this race, Miss Woods, and the Judges had no trouble in deciding in her favor. She appears to have a good control of the irons, and skates with a deal of grace.

10TH, GENTS' SPECIAL PRIZE—for artistic skating, a gold medal to be awarded to the best artistic skater, the entries being open to all Canada. There were three entered, Joseph Meagher, Charles Meagher and John Jenkins, all of whom, though very young, are splendid skaters. They all skate with a deal of grace and skill, and the Judges had a good deal of trouble in deciding which was entitled to the prize. It was after a severe trial awarded to Joseph Meagher, who is a younger brother to the Meagher Brothers, who are now skating in the States.

EXTRA RACES.

The Hon. John A. Macdonald, who was present and admired the Races, offered two prizes of $5 each, for races to be arranged by the Committee. The money was set up for two races, one for men and the other for young ladies:—

LONG RACE.—Three times around the Rink, for a $5 prize, the skaters to wear short skates only. There were about sixteen entered, and the prize was awarded to Simon Asselstine, the winner of the backward race.

LONG RACE.—Twice around the Rink for $5. There were a great number of competitors in this race, and after a hard fought contest, Miss Hannah McCammon, much younger than any who entered, succeeded in distancing all the others.

There were several Scrub Races after this, and although the crowd, who were very patient all the afternoon, broke through the wires in every direction, they passed off successfully.

There could not have been less than six thousand persons present, for the ice, the railway track, the vessels and the whole vicinity of the Rink was black with people. No doubt it was the greatest crowd ever assembled in Kingston to witness any sport, and the Committee ought to feel proud in being instrumental in affording an afternoon's amusement for at least half the city, let alone those from the country. The Band of the Royal Canadian Rifles was stationed on the deck of the steamer Osprey, near Sebbell's wharf, and its strains enlivened the whole proceedings. The Tournament could not have been more successful, no matter how it could be fixed.

RE-UNION OF No. 1 RIFLES.

A pleasant affair came off on Monday evening at Mr. David Fraser's, Princess Street, at which the old members of No. 1 Rifle Company, numbering 18 or 20, including Brigade Major. Shaw, Lieuts. Day and Horsey, Ensign Matthews, &c., sat down to a supper got up by them in honor of an old Officer of the Company, Captain W. W. Ramage, who with his brother, Mr. J. J. Ramage, have lately returned to Kingston, after several years spent in the Colorado Mining Territory. The chair was taken by Capt. Minnes, and after the the toast of the Queen, first and foremost in the heads and hearts of all true Britons, the chairman proposed the toast of the evening, our late Capt., W. W. Ramage. In proposing the toast, he referred to the many pleasant recollections of the time when No. 1 Company was under the command of Captain Ramage, and the pleasure it gave them all at meeting him again in the old City of Kingston. On rising, Capt. R. said that he could not find words to express the pleasure it gave him at meeting so many of his old companions of No. 1. The time he had spent when connected with the Company was the most pleasant he had ever spent, and when absent from Kingston in the far West, there was not one present around the board but occupied a place in his memory, and the difficulties he encountered were often lightened by the pleasant recollections of the old associations of No. 1. With reference to the mining wealth of Colorado, he gave it as his opinion, which was not founded hastily but after a great deal of consideration, that there was in Canada a chain of mineral wealth, extending through the back country, which quite equalled that of Colorado, and which only required the usual energy of Canadians to develope. He thanked the company present for the honor they did him and which would ever be remembered by him with pleasure. The toast of the 14th Volunteer Rifles was ably responded to by the Brigade Major, in referring to the time when No. 1 was first organized in 1855, and of which he was the first captain. Many pleasant recollections came crowding on his memory of the old times of the Company, when the Volunteer Rifles were few in number. He referred to the valuable co-operation of his first officers, Messrs Sutherland and Ramage, and of every member of the Company. Some of the original members of No 1 were now to be found in posts of honor in every Company of the 14th Battalion. An idea of the usefulness of the Volunteers as a School of Military Instruction may be gained from the fact, that since the Company was first organized over 1500 persons have been on its list of members; some were now in the Western parts of the Province, some in Britain, others in Malta, the Cape of Good Hope, British Columbia and other parts of the world. Further as regards the 14th Battalion, which they had just honored, he would state without fear of contradiction, that they would compare favourably with any Battalion in the Province. With several other toasts and songs and the exchange of old recollections, the old members of No. 1 Company put in a pleasant evening's enjoyment.

The Hon. John A. Macdonald did not leave Kingston on Monday night as was expected. He will not leave town for Montreal until some time to-day. The expected Cabinet Council will not take place so soon as was anticipated; not until all the Members assemble at Montreal.

THE CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.

Advices have been received from the Trade Commissioners, who had arrived at St. Thomas, West Indies. Owing to cholera on the Island, they would not make any stay. The party there separated, the majority proceeding to Cuba, where they will meet a war vessel to convey them to Brazil—minority to visit the different West India Islands separately on their mission. Some of the Commission expected to return to Canada early in March.

FREE SERVICE.

(To the Editor of the Daily News.)

Through your Journal I wish to enquire of the Dean of Ontario, whether the practice of free evening sittings is kept up at St. George's Cathedral. I have doubts on the point, as last Sunday evening it pained me to observe that a lady and her son and daughter were turned out of their seats to make room for the family of the gentleman renting the pew.

A CHURCHMAN.

Kingston, Feb. 12.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to permit me through your paper to make a few remarks with reference to an occurrence, which took place in St. George's Cathedral, at the 7 o'clock Evening Service, on Sunday, the 11th inst.

My Mother-in-Law with my daughter and son, went to Church, and entered a certain pew, which it seems belongs to Mr. N——, out of which they were immediately ordered, and I suppose, they would have been forced to return home only for the kindness of Capt. Gaskin, who in a friendly and Christian like manner admitted them into his pew, where they obtained the consolation of the Service.

This furnishing out of pew is Christianity with a vengence. By giving the above an insertion, you will afford a bit of information to the public, as well as much oblige,

Yours, very respectfully,

AN OLD RESIDENT.

February 13th, 1866.

NOTICE.

Those of our Weekly Subscribers who are in the habit of paying in Wood will have the goodness to bring it along at once.

Weekly British Whig

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 15, 1866.

REMINDERS.

TAVERN LICENSES.—Those requiring Licenses must send in their applications to the City Clerk not later than to day.

TENDERS for the lease of the Brick House next to Parker's Drug store received till noon to day by the City Clerk.

RECIPROCITY NEGOTIATIONS.

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

There is this to be said with reference to the late negociations of the Colonial Ministers at Washington with the authorities of the United States, that they took place at an unfortunate time. The attention of both Congress and the U. S. Government is greatly distracted by a contest between the President and his friends, and the extreme radical party, which is at present in the ascendant in Congress and has control of the Committees. But the President and his friends are gaining, especially in the country. If they succeed they will join with the Southern majority; and if this combination obtains power it will look with a much more favorable eye on liberal tracing relations with Canada and the Maritime Provinces.

We believe the Colonial Ministers were everywhere received with the utmost courtesy by all parties at Washington, not less by Mr. Morrill and his friends, than by President Johnson, Mr. McCulloch and others. We believe they were put in communication with the Committee on Ways and Means, by the Secretary of the Treasury. And with reference to some petty carping remarks which have been somewhat ignorantly made here, it is as well to explain that, in the United States the heads of Departments do not hold positions analogous to those of Ministers with us, but that they are simply servants or clerks of the Legislature, which holds in its hands the substantial power. It is, therefore simply ridiculous to make comparisons with committees under our system.

Mr. Morrill is the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and he is the financial head of the extreme radical party now in the ascendant. The Committee seemed to be so constituted that he really had the control of it in his hands. What Mr. Morrill is, is tolerably well known to those who have bestowed any study upon the politics of our neighbors—we mean with respect to his commercial views. The beau ideal of his policy is to completely isolate the commerce of the United States—to make the country a second Japan. He starts with the principle that the producer pays the taxes imposed at the Custom House; and of course there is nothing to be done with a man who cannot get any other idea through his brains. In addition to barriers of this nature, the Colonial Ministers found a strong leaven in all Washington society of the views Mr. Potter set forth at Detroit. It is doubtful if Mr. W. H. Seward is not the main spring of this policy. To those two kinds of influences must be added the political distraction to which we in the first place alluded; and it is little to be wondered at that the Ministers come back with no arrangement made.

Those who are curious to know the kind of Canadian influence that has had most effect in moving the United States authorities not to grant a renewal of the Treaty may find Mr. O. S. Wood's letter read at Detroit, and that the Treaty was an absolute necessity for the prosperity of Canada. Such views have been believed at Washington; and to their authors is due, in a considerable measure, the abrogation of the Treaty.

We should be glad to see published the exact text of the propositions offered and rejected; and in view of their interest to the commercial community, we think it would be well if the Ministry could see their way to gave them at once to the public. But their principal features are already known, and in fact in the possession of a part at least of the United States press.

We believe we are not wrong when we say that what the Colonial Ministers offered was: Free trade in the natural productions of the United States and the Provinces, subjects on both sides of any internal revenue duties; that the same arrangement should exist as at the present with respect to the fisheries and the navigation of the internal waters of the continent; coupled with an offer on the part of Canada to improve its water communications, provided the United States gave assurance that they would not attempt to divert the trade of the West from its natural channel by legislation. It was, we believe, further offered on the part of Canada that she would adjust her excise duties upon spirits, beer and tobacco, to a revenue standard to be considered and agreed upon, with a view to prevent illicit trade. And also to assimilate the patent laws of Canada to those of the United States. The transit arrangements to remain as at present.

This proposition was met by a counter one of Mr. Morrill's Committee, to the effect, as we hear, that they would recommend the House of Representatives to pass a law to embrace some of the provisions in the present Reciprocity Treaty. First they would agree to a navigation arrangement, as at present, but they made a stipulation that there should be no discrimination as to tolls on the St. Lawrence or its canals between U. S. and British craft, and that all rates should be charged proportioned to canal distance. Next, they would agree to free transit of goods in bond provided Canada abolished her free ports.—They asked rights to fish as at present, and would abolish bounties now paid to United States fishermen, but impose instead certain duties on fish going into the United States, which duties, we understand, would just kill off the trade of the Maritime Provinces altogether. And next, we hear, they came to a list of articles which would be mutually free. It would not be guessed, in advance, what those were. The list is not long, and easy to remember. We can, therefore, give it at length:—

Burr Millstones, unwrought;
Rags;
Firewood;
Grindstones, rough;
Plaster and Gypsum, unground.

Just fancy that! We believe Canada has no rags to spare; and that she can burn, without inconvenience, her own firewood. These are about all the articles she could send from the free list. Coming to articles really important the duties proposed to be levied by the United States were, if not quite prohibitory, quite enough to turn the current of trade. For instance, they proposed to levy 15c a bushel on barley. 30c a bushel on beans. On Flour 25 per cent. ad valorem! On Wheat 20c a bushel! On Oats and Indian Corn 10 cents a bushel. On Peas 25c a bush. On all living animals 20 per cent. Butter and Cheese 4c a lb. Pine logs $1.50 per M. Sawn or hewn ditto $2 50 per M; ditto planed, tongued, grooved or finished 25 per cent ad val. Shingles 20 per cent. ad val. Black Walnut, Chesnut, Bass, White wood, Ash, Oak, round, hewn or sawn, 20 percent ad val. White wood, Ash, Oak, planed, tongued and finished, 25 per cent. ad val. And so on through the piece.

We understand further that Mr. Morrill's Committee gave it to be understood their proposition must be considered as a whole, and that they could not entertain a consideration of any of its parts alone.

We believe that, at the next meeting of the Committee the Colonial Ministers handed in a memorandum stating, in effect, that they respectfully declined the proposition; because the imposts the U. S. proposed to levy on the productions of the British Provinces were not an equivalent, in the sense of Reciprocity for their excise duties, but on the contrary, if not in some cases prohibitory, at least of a nature seriously to interfere with the natural course of trade; and forced on the Ministers the conclusion that the Committee no longer desired trade to be carried on between the two countries on a reciprocal principle. There could be no other conclusion; and the people of this country, as well as the sister provinces, will unanimously support them in it, and the prompt action they took upon it. There was no use in wasting time or chaffering with a Committee which entertained such views.

We yet believe the Committee was a little taken aback at the promptness of the action of the Ministers; although we do not see how they could have expected anything else. And we believe the President, the Secretary of Treasury, Mr. Wells, the able and fair-minded Chairman of the Special Revenue Commission, look upon the result with feelings of very great regret; and did desire to bring about a reconsideration. But in view of such a divergence as had manifested itself there could be no use in this. A trade of sixty-eight millions a year cannot be rudely interrupted without important interests suffering. And we take it that in addition to the political struggle which Mr. Morrill and his friends have in hands, they will come to hear, before very long, of the injuries they have inflicted on United States trade. The Boston Board of Trade as we have already stated, sent two delegates to Washington to protest against Mr. Morrill's views. But they were too late; and as we have said, it was la moutarde apres le diner.

These provinces have a simple course before them: it is said to bend their strength to the developing of their own resources, with energy and without bitterness towards their neighbors. They will soon find that from an apparent obstruction good will come. And further, that the next time a Reciprocity Treaty comes up for discussion, it will be our present blind neighbors who will ask for it.

With respect to the navigation of Lake Michigan we do not believe there will be any alteration made in the present arrangement, even after the Treaty expires, the free navigation of the St. Lawrence being so much more than a set off for it. And we do not believe that any alterations will be made in the present transit system in bond, it being so mutually advantageous. We believe it is owing to the representations of the Canadian Ministers and the information they furnished that the status in these particulars is likely to be maintained; and this may be set down as a practical good of the mission.

THE CARNIVAL AND BURLESQUE CONCERT.

The Masquerade on the Citizens' Skating Rink on Tuesday evening was commenced not long after the Races had been concluded. About seven o'clock the lamps had been lighted, bonfires set going on all sides, and a gay host of Masqueraders had arrived and were sporting themselves on the ice. Early a great crowd had found their way to the Rink, and were either skating or promenading on the ice, which was perfectly black with people. Although the night was very dark, the bonfires and the lamps made the Rink as bright almost as day, and the funny caricatures, as they glided here and there were the observed of all observers. The Committee were energetic in preventing rowdyism of any kind, and those in costume were not molested in the least, and had a full run in all directions. The scene may be said to have been extremely lively, and the gay crowds were well pleased with the evening's amusement, for the night being very mild, and lots of fun in hand, it was really one of enjoyment. Though the costumes on the ice were numerous, some costly and others grotesque, the better part of them appeared in the Hall, and will come under that head. A Pyrotecnic Display on a small scale, consisting of Rockets and Roman candles, was the signal for the crowds to go to the Hall, and gradually one by one left, the lights were taken down and the Rink deserted.

The City Hall in which was to be held the Burlesque Concert, was the next object of interest, the Entertainment promising to surpass any Amateur effort of the kind, previously put before the public. The large room was crammed with spectators, such was the interest manifested by the public. The arrangements inside were perfect. The Stage, set off with the Royal Standard and the Union Jack, was stationed at the further end of the Hall, and a raised platform with seats for the ladies, extended along the sides, the main floor being taken up by the males and Masquers for promenading. So large was the attendance of ladies that more seats had to be provided, and the space for promenading was materially lessened. The Band of the Royal Canadian Rifles was posted in the Band stand behind the stage, and their beautiful music kept the audience in good spirits till the first part of the programme was commenced. The masquers were of every description, from Old King Neptune, with his trident, to an amusing juvenile Clown on stilts, whose ease on the slight supports would have done credit to a professional. The characters can be enumerated together:—The Perfect Cure, the Umbrella-mender, King Richard III., the Travelling Darkies, the P. P. Convict, Sam. Slick and one Sailor in particular, deserve notice for the manner in which they sustained their characters. There was a so so representative of the Red Man of the Forest, lots of fancy dresses, a take off on the "watertalls," and the usual display of military and naval uniforms. There were other characters, but we have particularized those most worthy of mention. A couple of young men appeared in borrowed uniforms of the Jefferson Hose Company of Watertown, a uniform well worthy of imitation by Fire Companies getting new dresses, on account of its neatness. The characters as they promenaded were admired over and over again, till the first part of the programme was announced, and a full company of songsters, in costume sang "What Jolly Dogs are we," with great taste and spirit. This was followed by several songs, "Good Old Lord Lovell," in character, "Billy Barlow," by "Billy himself," both bringing forth the greatest applause, and keeping the audience in one string of mirth. "Billy" was particularly happy, and his song, quite original, had some pretty fair hits on the signs of the times. Some sentimental songs and skating duetts in the first part were sung with the usual good taste of the Kingston Amateurs. A fictitious Artemus Ward "Spoke a Piece," bringing in a variety of subjects, including the Skating Rink, Womans' Rights, &c. The second part was perhaps superior to the first in the excellence of Amateur performance. It consisted of the Minstrelsy of an Ethiopian Troupe of twenty performers, and they went through their programme with such apparent professional skill that they would pass off for some first class travelling troupe sojourning here. The Negro costumes were got up expressly for the occasion, and the Choruses were really excellent. It is to be hoped that at some other time they will favor the public with another exhibition of their minstrelsy. On the conclusion of this part the prizes were awarded to the winners of the Races in the afternoon. Among the others were two Gold Medals, one presented to Mr. W. Smithers, as champion of the Long Race, and the other to Master Joseph Meagher, for artistic skating, both appropriately modelled and engraved. A very laughable Pantomime, well got up and well appreciated, entitled "The Haunted Pie" concluded the fun, the most successful of the kind ever given in the city. The Hall was afterwards cleared for dancing, which was kept up till two o'clock in the morning.

To the Managers of the Citizens' Skating Rink the people of Kingston owe a deep debt of gratitude. For several years past they have contributed largely to the entertainment of all classes of the inhabitants; and not simply to their amusement, but also to their health; for nothing is more wholesome for men, women and children than the exercise of Skating. Without troubling the Police, they have maintained their Rink in admirable order; at all times ready for the public and kept so at great expense;—of which a special example was seen in the way the Rink was prepared for the Carnival after the heavy storm of Sunday last. And their Annual Masquerade has always hitherto turned out to be a jolly Saturnalia, without noise or licentiousness. The City owes these gentlemen much.

MEDICAL COUNCIL.

CATARAQUI AND QUINTE DIVISION.

According to arrangements made by the Medical Gentlemen of Belleville, a preliminary meeting of a portion of the electors of this extensive Division, was held on Monday last at Napanee, to nominate a candidate for the position of Medical Councillor. The meeting was composed of