FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 23, 1866.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

W. C., Gower Point, with rem.; J. S., Toronto; J. G., Ottawa, with rem.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is with great satisfaction that I have recourse to your assistance and advice.

I have recently declared my consent to a marriage between my daughter Princess Helena and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein Sonderbourg Augustenburg. I trust this union may be prosperous and happy.

The death of my beloved Uncle, the King of the Belgians, has affected me with profound grief. I feel great confidence, however, that the wisdom which he evinced during his reign will animate his successor, and preserve for Belgium her independence and prosperity.

My relations with foreign Powers are friendly and satisfactory, and I see no cause to fear any disturbance of the general peace.

The meeting of the fleets of France and England in the ports of the respective countries has tended to cement the amity of the two nations, and to prove to the world their friendly concert in the promotion of peace.

I have observed with satisfaction that the United States, after terminating successfully the severe struggle in which they were so long engaged, are wisely repairing the ravages of civil war. The abolition of slavery is an event calling forth the cordial sympathies and congratulations of this country, which has always been foremost in showing its abhorrence of an institution repugnant to every feeling of humanity.

I have at the same time the satisfaction to inform you that the exertions and perseverance of my naval squadron have reduced the Slave Trade on the West coast of Africa within very narrow limits.

A correspondence has taken place between my Government and that of the United States with respect to injuries inflicted on American commerce by cruisers under the Confederate flag. Copies of this correspondence will be laid before you.

The renewal of diplomatic relations with Brazil has given me much satisfaction, and I acknowledge with pleasure that the good offices of my ally the King of Portugal have contributed essentially to this happy result.

I have to regret the interruption of peace between Spain and Chili. The good offices of my Government, in conjunction with those of the Emperor of the French, have been accepted by Spain, and it is my earnest hope that the causes of disagreement may be removed in a manner honorable and satisfactory to both countries.

The negotiations which have been long pending in Japan, and which have been conducted with great ability by my Minister in that country, in conjunction with the representatives of my allies in Japan, have been brought to a conclusion which merits my entire approbation. The existing treaties have been ratified by the Mikado; it has been stipulated that the tariff shall be revised in a manner favourable to commerce, and that the indemnity due under the terms of the Convention of October, 1864, shall be punctually discharged.

I have concluded a Treaty of Commerce with the Emperor of Austria, which I trust will open to that empire the blessings of extended commerce, and be productive of important benefits to both countries.

The deplorable events which have occurred in the island of Jamaica have induced me to provide at once for an impartial inquiry, and for the due maintenance of authority during that inquiry, by appointing a distinguished military officer as Governor and Commander of the Forces. I have given him the assistance of two able and learned Commissioners, who will aid him in examining into the origin, nature, and circumstances of the recent outbreak, and the measures adopted in the course of its suppression. The legislature of Jamaica has proposed that the present political constitution of the island should be replaced by a new form of Government. A bill upon this subject will be submitted for your consideration.

Papers on these occurrences will be laid before you.

Papers on the present state of New Zealand will be laid before you.

I have given directions for the return to this country of the greater portion of my regular forces employed in that colony.

I watch with interest the proceedings which are still in progress in British North America with a view to a closer union among the Provinces, and I continue to attach great importance to that object.

I have observed with great concern the extensive prevalence during the last few months of a virulent distemper among cattle in Great Britain, and it is with deep regret, and with sincere sympathy for the sufferers, that I have learnt the severe losses which it has caused in many counties and districts. It is satisfactory to know that Ireland and a considerable part of Scotland are as yet free from this calamity, and I trust that by the precautions suggested by experience, and by the divine blessing on the means which are now being employed, its further extension may be arrested.

The orders which have been made by the Lords of My Privy Council, by virtue of the powers vested in them by law, with a view to prevent the spreading of this disease, will be laid before you, and your attention will be called to the expediency of an amendment of the law relating to a subject so deeply affecting the interests of my people.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have directed that the Estimates of the ensuing year shall be laid before you. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy, and are at the same time consistent with the maintenance of efficiency in the public service.

The condition of trade is satisfactory.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

A conspiracy, adverse alike to authority, property, and religion, and disapproved and condemned alike by all who are interested in their maintenance, without distinction of creed or class, has unhappily appeared in Ireland. The constitutional power of the ordinary tribunals has been exerted for its repression, and the authority of the law has been firmly and impartially vindicated.

A Bill will be submitted to you, founded on the Report of the Royal Commission, on the subject of Capital Punishment, which I have directed to be laid before you.

Bills will be laid before you for amending and consolidating the laws relating to Bankruptcy, and for other improvements in the law.

Measures will also be submitted to you for extending the system of public audit to branches of receipt and expenditure which it has not hitherto reached, and for amending the provisions of the law with respect to certain classes of legal pensions.

Your attention will be called to the subject of the Oaths taken by Members of Parliament with a view to avoid unnecessary declarations, and to remove invidious distinctions between members of different religious communities in matters of legislation.

I have directed that information should be procured in reference to the rights of voting in the election of members to serve in Parliament for counties, cities, and boroughs.

When that information is complete, the attention of Parliament will be called to the result thus obtained, with a view to such improvements in the laws which regulate the rights of voting in the election of members of the House of Commons as may tend to strengthen our free institutions and conduce to the public welfare.

In these and in all other deliberations I fervently pray that the blessing of Almighty God may guide your counsels to the promotion of the happiness of my people."

LATE FROM IRELAND.

Dublin, Feb. 6th,

The Special commission for the trial of the Fenians has completed its labors. Of the forty-one prisoners brought before it, thirty-six have been convicted; and in one case only have the jury disagreed. One of the judges, in addressing the jurors at the close of the proceedings, said that the result of the trials was to prove that the feeling of the respectable people in the country was strongly opposed to the Fenian conspiracy. On other occasions there might have been some difficulty in finding a jury to convict, but on this there has been nothing of the sort. Nevertheless, the seizures of arms still continue, and the popular excitement shows no sign of diminution. A number of fresh districts have been 'proclaimed'—the fact of which will simply be to put the peasantry under the necessity of carrying their weapons by night from the place where they are keeping them into the next parish, which is not under the provisions of the Act. The necessity for proclaiming the whole country is, however, gradually getting more fully recognized.

VOL. XXXV. KINGSTON, CANADA, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1866. NOS. 51 & 9.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

The opinion gains ground that the Head Centre has never left Dublin. Many persons assert that he has been met in the streets after twilight, and the police make no secret of the fact that they have received such information as would appear to confirm this statement. It is generally supposed that the recapture of Stephens could not be effected without the loss of life, and those whose duty it is to prosecute the search certainly act as if they think that their business is a dangerous one.—This fear of violence certainly increases the difficulty of the search. On Friday evening last it was stated that Stephens had taken refuge in one of the most unfrequented streets in the northern suburbs of Dublin. Under ordinary circumstances one might have expected that three or four well armed and courageous men might have made the arrest; but the police acted as if they apprehended an armed resistance, and delayed proceeding upon the information they had received until a body of constables had been collected sufficiently large to form a cordon around the place of retreat. In the meantime Stephens, if he had ever been there, had effected his escape.

The seizures of arms are not confined to Dublin. As Dundalk is a seaport, carrying on with Liverpool a trade of some importance, the constabulary have been most active in their searches, and have been rewarded with considerable success. On Sunday evening their vigilance led to the discovery on board the steamer of five dozen bullet-moulds, and one hundred gun-flints. It might have been imagined that the time of flints had passed by, but Fenianism does not aim at a high standard of perfection in its weapons. Eighteen almost useless pistols were found our, with bullet moulds to match. The suspicious circumstance is that the case was directed to John Shera, of Cootehill, to whom other boxes of firearms, previously seized, had been consigned. The correspondent of the Irish Times mentions these facts, and the circumstance that a case containing 250 rifle balls, directed to Mr. Morant, son to the agent of Mr. Shirley, of Carrickmacross, was also detained. The vigilance of the constabulary does not altogether satisfy the inhabitants of Louth. An outcry is being raised against Castle influence and government nominees.

The Irish People, it seems, has been succeeded by a new treasonable paper entitled the Fenian Times, which is about the size of a sheet of letter paper. A copy of the first number was found in the house in Stafford street. Under the heading it is stated that 10,000 numbers have been distributed gratis. The articles are to the effect that the brotherhood has not yet been crushed, and a call is made upon all who sympathise with Fenianism to prepare for the day of liberation.

President Roberts, has resigned his empty honors, and recommended Gen. Sweeney as his successor. We are not informed what action, if any, the Pittsburg 'Congress' have taken in the matter; but it hoped that they have sense enough to accept Roberts' resignation, reject Sweeney, and declare the Fenian enterprise, a failure.

VALUE OF THE AMERICAN TRADE TO CANADA.

The people who have been deriding the idea that Canada could by any possibility require the American trade, will find but little consolation in the half yearly trade returns, to Dec. 31st, just published. In these we find that there were exported 15,000 horses, 103,810 horned cattle, 158,000 sheep; the total value of this class of exports being $7,923,355. Of wheat and grain, and other agricultural produce, the value of the exports were $11,954,878! most of which went to the States. The total exports for the half year were $33,655,463, being an increase over the corresponding year of more than $10,000,000, arising for the most part from the excellent harvest, though combined with higher prices than usual. In scanning the magnitude of these figures, and arriving at some idea of the varied and extended interests that have been stimulated by the receipt of such a large sum of money, one can easily apprehend the reason why Messrs. Galt and Howland were anxious to leave no stone unturned in order that the current of so large a trade should go on unimpeded. It is easy enough for people who have divested themselves of responsibility, or who have never assumed any, to prate about the honor of the country having been jeopardised by the overtures of the delegates to Washington. But a glance at the figures should convince any one of the vast inconvenience, not to say distress, which would arise from the permanent stoppage of a business so extensive. It was the prime effort of the negotiations to arrange with our neighbors in such a way that the tide of business with them would remain undisturbed, and for doing this they now find themselves subjected to all kinds of abuse, all manner of aspersions, on their return, though happily proceeding from but one source. It is notable, however, that this has fallen flat and dead upon the public ear. No one seems to join in the hue and cry, for all are conscious, and most willing to admit that further concessions (arising from the altered condition of affairs in the neighboring republic) were necessary, and those proposed by Messrs. Galt and Howland, and assented to by the British representative at Washington, were as little as could be expected, and as it turned out too moderate for immediate acceptance on the part of the Americans. The immense trade which we have indicated was the all-in-all to the people of Canada last year. It enabled them to reduce their liabilities in every direction. Mortgages have been paid off in thousands; store bills have been liquidated; and obligations of all kinds so reduced, that money goes a begging now at 8 per cent. And not only have old obligations been discharged, but purchases have been made to an extent really surprising. The Montreal Gazette gives the following summary of the purchasing power of the people as indicated by the imports of the past few weeks. From this we find for instance, that in the week ending Jan. 6 this year; compared with that ending 7th last, these imports were $252,101, against $160,688, showing an increase of $91,413; and the duties upon them were $44,345 against $23,491—an increase of $20,855. In the next week the total imports were $458,354 against $108,749, the increase being so much as $337,604, and the duties $86,513 against $18,580, showing the extraordinary increase of $67,933. The increase of duties payable on those two weeks' imports, therefore, was nearly double the amount of the falling off in the previous half year. And this was no sudden spirt—for during the last two weeks for which returns have been made up, i.e., ending on the 3rd instant—the aggregate of imports was $831,823 against $197,591, in the corresponding fortnight of 1865, showing an increase of $634,232, or between 300 and 400 per cent—the duties payable being $133,302, against $31,407, an increase of $231,895 or nearly 400 per cent. These imports were predicated upon the improved condition of affairs, arising from the trade with the States, which Mr. Galt and his colleague, have been doing their best to preserve and perpetuate. The resources from the revenue thus acquired may enable the Finance Minister to reduce both the internal and external taxation, a line of policy which, under a refusal to reciprocate on the part of the Americans, seems to be the only one now open.—London Free Press.

CENTRAL CANADA ORANGE LODGE.

Ottawa, Feb. 21st.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Central Canada opened yesterday. A large number of delegates handed in their credentials.—No business of importance was transacted. This morning over one hundred delegates, conducted by Mr. W. F. Powell, M.P.P., visited the Parliamentary and Departmental buildings. The Grand Lodge met at two o'clock to-day, and the following gentlemen were elected:—

Mr. Mackenzie Bowell, of Belleville, G.M.
Mr. William Shannon, Kingston, D.G.M.
Mr. S. S. Madden, Napanee, A.D.G.M.
Mr. C. Fletcher, Brockville, Treasurer.
Mr. David Marshal, Port Hope, Secretary.
Mr. A. Pratt, Ottawa, Assistant-Secretary.
Rev. Wm. Burns, Pakenham, Chaplain.
Mr. A. J. Van Ingen, Cobourg, Grand Lecturer.
Mr. Wm. Johnson, Belleville, G. D. of Ceremonials.

And Mr. A. McMahon, Kingston, Tyler.

The lodge closed session this afternoon.

The Orange Soiree to-night, in aid of the Ottawa Protestant Hospital, was attended by about eight hundred persons. After the blessing by Chaplain Burns, a sumptuous entertainment was served. On the platform were the Hon. J. H. Cameron, Mr. M. Bowell, G. M., W. Shannon, S. S. Madden, D. Marshall, Wm. Anderson, Rev. Mr. Burns, Dawson, Jones, May, Howard, Davis, Ross, Fletcher, Powell, M. P. P. Carson, Henderson and Pratt.

Several songs were sung by amateurs, which with the brass band in attendance, and the various speeches, made up a splendid programme.

The Chair was ably filled by Hon. Mr. Cameron, who after tea, in a few remarks stated that the object of the Soiree was to assist in forming a fund to extend required accommodation in the hospital. He was happy to see such a large audience, and referred to what had been done by the Order in Toronto and other places, under similar circumstances. He alluded to the Fenian difficulty, and thought that, beyond a raid or two on defenceless places, it would not amount to much.

Mrs. Miles sang "The Volunteers," which was loudly encored.

The Grand Master elect was next called on. He addressed the audience for a considerable time, explaining the principles of the order, which, he said were based on charity and love, including Protestantism. It was first instituted for purposes of defence, and he was certain that, if need be, the body would rise as one man to defend our homes from all the Finnigans and Killigans that could be scared up. He concluded by stating that, if the principles of the Order were better understood, they would be less objected to, and if acted upon they were calculated to make men better members of society.

Chaplain Burns, being called on, referred to the terrible old times of the Shiners, when the streets of Ottawa could not be passed in safety without a password. There was a change now. By the aid of Orangemen, one policeman kept the whole city in tolerable quietness.

The reverend gentleman was attired in the white robe of his office. The officers were all in regalia. Other speakers entertained the audience until a late hour. The greatest harmony prevailed throughout.

THE ATTEMPTED ROBBERY OF THE STANBRIDGE BANK.

Montreal, Friday, Feb. 23.

About one a.m., on the 22nd inst., three villains attempted to rob the Eastern Township Bank, Stanbridge. Mr. Baker, Manager, and Mr. Briggs, his assistant, slept in the building. The former awoke and saw a man standing at his bed-side, who, in a low voice, said "keep quiet," and asked how many were in the house, here the money was, &c. Another villain came up and struck Mr. Baker, who is old, on the cheek bone with an iron bar, but did not do much injury. A third burglar was picking the lock of the door to Briggs' room. He threatened to shoot them, and they threatened in return. Briggs went to the front door to raise an alarm, but on opening it saw one of the burglars and shut it again. He passed into another room raised the window and called for help, when a bullet passed near him. Briggs returned several shots and he believes wounded one, who was only five feet from him.

The burglars hurried off, stopping once while in sight. They had a span of horses and a sleigh outside the village, and drove off at full speed, followed five to six miles into Vermont, where, owing to drifted roads, the chase was given up. On the steps outside the bank were found two large cast-steel burglar's bars, 16 pounds weight each, a very heavy mallet, a heavy iron sledge, (stolen from a shop in Stanbridge,) and a fine leather scatchel, intended to carry money. The bank money was kept in one of Kershaw's best burglar-proof safes. There was not much in it.

The above facts are taken from a communication to the Witness, supposed to be written by Briggs. Col. Ermatinger has gone to enquire into the affair. The police will give no information. The report that it was owing to a Fenian raid caused great excitement here last night; but when it became known that the military authorities got information that it was only three burglars, a general relief was felt.

ENGLISH PAPERS.

Three English Mails were received on Thursday. We copy from the Canadian correspondence of the London Morning Star a suggestion which may prove of value to this locality, if the preliminary Autumn Exhibition of products to be sent to the Paris World's Fair is eventually decided upon. The correspondent says:—

Canada will be well represented at the French Industrial Exhibition. The Minister of Agriculture, in whose department the matter lies, has announced his intention of conferring with his colleagues on the subject of the appropriation to be asked from Parliament, for the fitting up of the Canadian court of the Exhibition. Mr. J. C. Tache, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, has been named executive secretary for Canada, and is in communication with the Imperial Commission at Kensington, it being understood that the Canadian Exhibition will occupy a portion of the space allotted to the British department. M. Tache organised the Canadian department of the Paris Exhibition of 1855, and that of the late Dublin Exhibition, and under his superintendence the work will be well done. Sir William Logan, F.R.S., the director of our Geological Survey, has already commenced forming his mineralogical collection, and the lumberers of the remote country drained by the Ottawa have been communicated with through the Crown Lands Department, and invited to select sections of the finest trees grown in the province. The boards of arts and manufactures, the agricultural societies, the mechanics' institutes, and the electoral division societies for promoting agriculture, horticulture, and the fine arts are all actively astir in forwarding the object.—It is proposed that a preliminary Exhibition shall be held in the month of October, 1866, in some central and convenient part of Canada, and that whatever is rare and excellent of its kind in Canadian products shall be selected and purchased for transmission to Paris, and that, as soon as the space allotted to Canada is known, the articles selected for exhibition shall be grouped, arranged and labelled, so that their setting up in the court of the Paris Exhibition may be rapidly and easily effected. It is further proposed that the Canadian contributions to the Exhibition shall be forwarded via the St. Lawrence before the close of the season—say in the month of November; and, if these arrangements are carried out, the wishes of the French Imperial Commissioners will be complied with, and, in so far as Canada is concerned, the scandal will be avoided which marked the former exhibition, of opening to the public in the month of May, departments which in reality were not completed till the July following. It is felt, in view of the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies, and of the necessity of finding new markets for our productions, that a proper exhibition of our products at the great European World's Fair is desirable. By holding a preliminary Exhibition, and by purchasing from our own producers whatever is worthy of exhibition, we hold out a premium to our people to bring in all that is best fitted to show our progress and condition. Our provincial agricultural exhibitions for Upper and Lower Canada take place respectively at Toronto and Quebec. From them would be selected whatever is most fit to be sent to Europe, and if a city like Kingston or Montreal should be chosen for our great central exhibition, it will probably be the most important industrial exhibition ever held in Canada. We have crystal palaces erected for our provincial exhibitions in Kingston, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London. The honor of erecting the first exhibition building in Canada is due to Kingston, and its position at the foot of the lake and the head of the river navigation in the midland district of the province, and with an extensive system of railroad and canal communication, marks it out for a suitable place for the preparatory exhibition.

We build clipper ships in Canada cheaper than any country in the world, for we have the largest supplies of shipbuilding timber, which can be floated from our forests down our navigable waters to our great estuary at little cost. We have cereals, minerals, and lumber, and meats to be salted with which to freight our ships. We desire to extend our commerce and probably some forty or fifty thousand dollars will be expended in the effort to show what our people can do at the Great Exhibition. Nature has done much for us. Our lakes, which are really inland seas, and our great rivers, the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, give us immediate access to the ocean, and cargoes of such provisions as you need can be raised at less cost than from any other country. The climate of Australia, which is so favorable to grazing, is not favorable to the salting and export of meat. We can raise and pack pork and beef as well as the Western States; and it the vast prairies of the North-West, now the grazing ground of the buffalo, are added to our territories, we may be enabled to supply the English markets with beef and pork at prices will astonish purchasers, and may thus pay back to the mother country, while we advance our own interests, an instalment of the heavy debt which we owe for her fostering care.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 24, 1866.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE QUEEN.

The Times in its account of the Opening of Parliament, thus remarks on the appearance of Her Majesty:—

In less than six minutes the floor to the right of the Throne was flung open, and preceeded by a long train of halberdiers, buffetiers, and other officials, entered the Majesty of England—the Monarch of an Empire, in which, to use the eloquent words of Daniel Webster, 'There is no hour of the twenty-four which in one or other of the two hemispheres does not see her ancient banner flung to the morning breeze or hear the drum beat or the bugle call of her soldiers sounding the reveille.' Her Majesty was attired in half mourning, and walked with slow steps to the Throne, followed by the great officers of State,—the Marquis of Landsdowne, bearing the Crown upon a cushion; the Duke of Argyll, holding the Sword of State; the Marquis of Winchester, supporting the Cap of Maintenance, and several other nobles performing their appointed functions. Her Majesty stopped for an instant at the foot of the steps to shake hands with the Princess of Wales, who in common with the whole assemblage, had risen on her entrance.—The Queen wore a black—some said a deep purple robe, which, whether it were purple or black, looked intensely black in the dim light of the chamber, trimmed with white minver, and a white lace cap a la Marie Stuart, to the portraits of which unfortunate lady she bore in this attire a remarkable similitude. Around her neck she wore a collar of brilliants, and over her breast the blue ribband of the Order of the Garter. Other ornaments she had none, and looked in this simple and highly becoming costume 'every inch a Queen,' and far more picturesque and regal than if she had worn the Royal robes that had become so distasteful to her. Her Majesty was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Helena and Louisa, and by his Royal Highness the Prince Christian of Denmark, who stood at the right of the Throne; the two Princesses attired in half mourning, like their illustrious mother. To the left of the Throne were the Duchess of Wellington, Mistress of the Robes, the Duchess of Athole, and other ladies. The Prince of Wales occupied the chair to the right of the Throne, behind his Royal sisters and his future brother-in-law, and was scarcely visible amid the blaze of beauty around him.

The Lord Chancellor having notified the Queen's desire that the company should resume their seats a message was sent by the Usher of the Black Rod, desiring the attendance of the Speaker and the House of Commons at the bar of the Lords. During the interval that elapsed between the summons of the Commons and the reply, the Queen sat silent and motionless, with her eyes fixed upon the ground. She seemed to take no heed of the brilliant assemblage around her, but to be wholly absorbed in melancholy meditation. Even when the Commons rushed helter-skelter, like a mob of schoolboys, to the bar, with pushings and strivings unseemly to witness among gentlemen, but which seem to be considered an essential part of the day's performances, Her Majesty took no notice of the interruption, and never once lifted her gaze from the ground. When silence had been restored—when the real Parliament of the British people, the governing power that holds the purse, and with the purse the sword—the rough and noisy Commons—never rough and noisy except on this occasion, when bad arrangements compelled them, in spite of their better nature, to display bad manner—had adjusted themselves as well as they could to the scanty accommodation afforded them, the Lord Chancellor, standing to the right on the second step from the Throne, announced that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to command him to read the Royal Speech, which he should proceed to do in Her Majesty's own words.

The reading concluded, the Lord Chancellor bowed his obeisance to the Queen, who slightly, but courteously, returned the salute. Then rising from the Throne, the whole of the brilliant assemblage rising from their seats at the same time, Her Majesty stepped slowly down, kissed the Princess of Wales, who sat almost at her feet, shook hands with Prince Christian, and, handed out by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, followed by the Princess of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, retired by the door at which she had entered, with the usual flourish and following, in which heralds and Garter Kings of Arms delight, and which they only are learned enough in their art to record.

Thus ended the opening of the seventh Parliament of Queen Victoria. The Peers and Judges laid aside their scarlet robes and uncomfortable ermine; and the Peeresses hastened home, to hear the faint echo in the streets of the hearty applause that was showered upon the Sovereign, by a people delighted to see her once again among them; to cherish the hope that the shadow of grief, if not wholly, had partially passed over, and that many years of health and happiness were yet in store for her.

The Methodists of America.—October, 1766, saw the foundation laid of the Methodist church in this country. It has since grown till its church and parsonage property is estimated at $20,000,000, and its institutions of learning at more than $2,000,000. The centenary is to be celebrated by a great thanksgiving offering. The bishops ask not less than $3,000,000 to pay off church debts, free universities and colleges from embarrassment and endow them, &c. $1 000 000 in addition are to be raised for the missionary cause. The Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States now numbers 929 259 members, including probationers; 10 401 churches, and 7 175 preachers.—New York Times.

THE FENIANS IN IRELAND.

Dublin, Feb. 6.

There have been some military arrests in Clonmel. The local paper says:—A rumor prevailed in town this afternoon that Color-Sergeant M'Carthy, who is alleged to be a relative of Stephens, a corporal and private of the 53rd regiment, at present stationed in Carrick-on-Suir, were arrested to-day on a charge of Fenianism. The report has been confirmed as regards the arrests. M'Carthy's wife's lodgings in Clonmel were minutely searched by the police at early hour this morning, but we understand without being able to find anything calculated to criminate him. The parties arrested are Acting Sergeant Major Charles M'Carthy, Corporal Brennan, and Private Kiely of the 53rd Regt., William Meagher, Philip Morressey, John Daniel, John Brien, William Dobbyn, and Richard Hoare. The civilians are young men belonging to the town; four of them were arrested in the the Carrick-on-Suir factory. No doubt the proclaiming parts of Ulster has reference to the arms in the hands of Orangemen, and unless these are all taken away a civil war in the North might be inaugurated.

The following, from the Freeman of Saturday evening, intimates that Government must be in possession of information of which the country must be ignorant:—

A double number of the Gazette issued last evening containing several additional proclamations extending the provisions of the 'Peace Preservation Act' to various parts of the country not heretofore proclaimed. The proclamations are dated the 1st inst., and are signed 'Richard C. Dublin, Maziere Brady, C., C. P. Fortescue, Frederick Shaw, John Hatchell, James Lawson, and H. Rose.' The first proclamation declares that on and after the 5th inst., Slievemargy, in the Queen's County, shall be placed under the operation of the Peace Preservation Act. The other places proclaimed by last night's Gazette, and in which the provisions in this act will come into force on the day we have mentioned, are—

The city of Kilkenny,
The county of Kilkenny,
Such portion of the parish of Newry as is situate in the county Armagh,
The barony of Newry and the parishes of Warrenpoint and Clonallan in the county Down,
The county Monaghan;
The town and port of Drogheda, and
The town and port of Dundalk.

The Gazette also contains notices authorizing the several stipendary magistrates in the different localities above specified to grant licenses to carry arms. It may not be uninteresting to-day to enumerate the places which have been previously and now are proclaimed in addition to those given above. They are—

The city and county of Dublin,
The city and county of Cork,
The town and county of Carlow,
The town and county of Sligo.
The town of Athlone,
The city and county of Waterford,
Parts of the county of Limerick,
The county of Tipperary,
Part of the county of Longford.

On Monday the Committee on Commerce, in the House of Representatives, reported a Bill, which was passed, amending the celebrated Cattle Law. The Bill, as amended, gives the Secretary of the Treasury powers in the suspension of the operation of the prohibition law. He may admit importations of cattle, when in his opinion there is no danger of infectious disease. The President is invested with similar powers. Can it be possible that the members of the Legislature are regaining their senses? They have been outwitted by their countrymen. The Cattle Law was manifestly intended to destroy the trade between the two countries; but the quick-wittedness of Yankee speculators as once devised the scheme of dealing in meat instead of cattle, and thus the Act was rendered practically inoperative. Congress has made a clumsy mess of the whole thing, from beginning to end, and their tinkering of the Act is the clumsiest part of the affair.

THE NEW REGISTRY ACT.

We beg to call the attention of our legal readers, and others concerned, to the 62nd section of the Act of last session, respecting Registrars, Registry Officers, &c.,—which enacts "that after any grant from the Crown of Lands in Upper Canada, and letters patent issued therefor, every instrument affecting lands, or any part thereof comprised in such grant, shall be adjudged fraudulent and void against any subsequent purchaser or mortgagee, for valuable consideration, unless such instrument is registered in the manner herein directed before the registering of the instrument, under which such subsequent purchaser or mortgagee may claim.

The unlimited words used in the clause would apparently bring every case where a patent had issued, and a chain of title originated under it, within its scope. Registration was not necessary to the validity of a title or to give priority, and indeed was no notice until the Act of 1850, respecting registration, known as Sir Henry Smith's Act; and that statute applies in express words to all cases arising after the passing of it, or rather a date given when the same is to come into effect. A person might have a most complete title accompanied with possession, but dependent on a deed made before 1850 and unregistered, and, under the strict grammatical construction of the above clause, might be liable to have tittle defeated by a subsequent deed now made and registered. This cannot possibly have been the intention of the Legislature.

The clause should have made to read thus—the words italicised being inserted—"That after any grant from the Crown of lands in Upper Canada and letters patent issued therefor, every instrument affecting the lands, or any part thereof, comprising in such grants *made after 1st January, 1851*, shall be adjudged fraudulent and void unless the same shall be registered in the manner prescribed by the *Act of 1850 respecting registration, if the same be made before the Act comes into force, or in the manner herein directed, if made after that period.*"

We may remark, too, that in the headings of one of the columns of the schedule, page 122, the words "granter" and "grantees" are transposed by some typographical error. We would suggest the advisability of some clerical amendment being made before difficulties arise from the obscure wording of this clause of the statute.

St. George's Cathedral.—Owing to the illness of the Lord Bishop of Ontario, the Ordination appointed for to-morrow morning in St. George's Cathedral, is postponed for two weeks longer, until Sunday, March 11th.

Military.—It is stated by the Ottawa Times on reliable authority, that the next Military encampment of the different Cadets of the Military Schools in the Province, will be formed at Hamilton, some time in August next. It is understood that the left wing of the 16th Regiment, now at Hamilton, is to be removed to Ottawa, and the right wing will go to Montreal. Ottawa will eventually have two battalions of regulars.

Death of Mr. George Michie.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. George Michie, head of the well-known house of George Michie & Co.; of this city. He died in London, on the 21st January—having gone to England a few weeks ago, in hope of overcoming a severe malady under which he has been suffering for some time past.—Globe.

Pigeon Match.—Whitby, Feb. 22.—A match between six gentlemen from Whitby and six from Uxbridge and Scott, took place at Greenbank to-day, each man being allowed nine birds. The score resulted as follows:—Whitby killed 42 birds; Uxbridge and Scott, 33.

Another Fire—Yesterday morning about half-past three o'clock, a fire was discovered in the rear of the leather store of Mr. John McKay, on Princess Street, adjoining the shop of Mrs. Codd, where the fire recently occurred. The alarm was given immediately, but the flames had gained too much headway, and before they were subdued, had completely gutted that portion of the building. At first the flames raged with great fury, and threatened to destroy the whole block. However, the firemen worked at their engines like bricks, having a plenteous supply of water, and thereby confined the fire, and saved a vast amount of property. In the building beside Mr. McKay's store, was the shop of Mr. E. Baker, who was setting up a grocery store; and on the first floor, was the law office of Mr. T. L. Snook, and dental rooms of Mr. A. S. Ashley. Mr. Stanton occupied the third flat, with his family, as a tenant. Mr. McKay, meets with a loss of over $4,000, on which there is an insurance of only $2,600 in the British America and Hartford Insurance Companies.—Though all around is gutted, the inside of the grocery store is comparatively unharmed, as well as the law office of Mr. Snook, being in the front of the building, while the back part suffered the most. Mr. Ashley lost all but his operating box and chair, which he saved by climbing up the back way. He was uninsured. The family up stairs, though the flames did not take much effect on the third story, lose a good deal of furniture, &c., by the flames and rough handling in endeavoring to remove them. The family had to make their escape by the back way. The building is owned by Sir Henry Smith, and is understood to be well insured.

Presentation of a Silver Cup.—In December last a son of a Royal Canadian Rifleman, named Merrick, while skating, fell through the weak ice near the draw of the Cataraqui Bridge, and was in imminent danger of being drowned, when Mr. Francis Burrowes, a son of Mr. J. Burrowes, J.P., of Kingston Mills, jumped in at the risk of his own life and saved that of the boy. The non-commissioned officers and men of the Regiment could not let this act of gallantry go without a reward, and they made up a large subscription wherewith to procure a fitting testimonial, in the shape a silver cup, manufactured and engraved in Toronto, and but lately from the hands of the workman. The gift was publicly presented to the deserving recipient in the square of the Tete du Pont Barracks, yesterday morning before the whole Regiment and the Cadets of the Military School, Mr. Burrowes having been a Cadet when he had the good luck to save the life of the lad. Colonel Moffatt presented the cup in behalf of the donors in a spoken address and Mr. Burrowes also replied verbally. The cup is the most chaste and appropriate we have ever seen, and is a gift which is not met with every day. It bears the following inscription, beautifully engraved:—"Presented to Francis Herbert Burrowes, Esq., Kingston, C.W., by the N. C. Officers and Men of the R. C. Rifles, as a token of their esteem and appreciation of his gallant and humane conduct in rescuing the boy George Merrick of the corps from drowning, on the 18th December, 1865." Mr. Burrowes richly deserves the cup, for such a gallant act could not pass without notice.

CABINET MINISTERS.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.

The Hon. Messrs. Campbell and Galt and Mr. C. J. Brydges arrived last night, together with the others whose arrival I have already reported. There was no cabinet meeting held to-day, however. Ministers are very busy with their departmental work, which is somewhat in arrears. Messrs. Cartier, Macdonald and McGee are not expected here until Monday, and probably no cabinet meeting will be held till Tuesday.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 22.

The Provincial legislature met in session here to-day, and was opened with a speech to both Houses by Lieut-Governor Sir Fenwick Williams. In this speech His Excellency congratulated the members upon the condition of the province, and stated that its trade and the receipts from other sources greatly exceed those of any previous year. He expressed himself gratified at the condition of the militia, and regretted that notwithstanding the efforts of the British North American Colonies the United States adhered to their determination to abrogate the Reciprocity Treaty. He was sanguine of the co-operation of the provinces and the fostering care of England, and that the trade would be so directed in new channels, and the fishery protected, as to meet the emergency forced upon us. Contracts for a railway from Truro to New Brunswick and from Windsor to Annapolis has been made. The speech is silent upon the question of the Confederation of the Provinces.

CANADIAN ENGINE AND MACHINERY COMPANY.

The first annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Canadian Engine and Machinery Company was held in Montreal on Tuesday last.

From the report of the Directors, which was read, it appears that the Company (which was incorporated by Act of Parliament, Vic. 28, chap. 126) commenced operations at Kingston, which they did about seven months ago. Considerable extensions have been made to the works, and large additions and improvements to the machinery. The company have built and turned out up to the 31st December last some ten locomotive engines, and have finished the fine lake steamer Corinthian, which was in course of construction at the Docks at Kingston when they were purchased by the present company.

It appears that the company have in addition to their ordinary business of building locomotive and marine engines, determined to put up the necessary machinery for the construction of railway cars.

After providing out of the profits, for the increased expenditure consequent upon these extensions and improvements, the Directors were able to declare a dividend of three per cent for the period during which the company has been in operation, and at a special meeting, which was held after the general meeting, it was determined to increase the capital stock of the company by $50,000, in shares of $100 each.—Montreal Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 26, 1866.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

J. R., Toronto, with rem.; C. R., Ottawa; R. J., Leavenworth, Kansas; P. O. S M., Toronto.

VICTORIA COLLEGE AND THE TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

We publish the following entire letter from Dr. Aikens, which purports to contain the causes of the resignations and disruption as contained in his affidavit:—

Toronto, 7th October, 1856.

Sir,—It was only this afternoon, while in conversation with the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Victoria College, I ascertained from that Officer, that in carrying out his government of the Medical Department he was only acting under the fullest authority of the Board. That the Board holds the Dean responsible for the order and arrangement of the Medical Department,' and that in discharge of his trust he had been careful to keep within the limits of his powers.

As I had been led to believe differently I applied to the Secretary of the Board' when to my astonishment I found the following resolution passed on the twenty-seventh day of August last, but never communicated either to myself or any of my colleagues, with the exception of the Dean:

Resolved,—"That the Dean be authorized, in consultation with the President and Secretary of the Board, to fill any vacancies that may occur in the Medical Faculty, ad interim, and that the Board holds the Dean responsible for the order and management of the Medical Department."

This resolution gives to the Dean the most complete and absolute power to rule the Medical Faculty as he may see fit, a power which the Dean has fully comprehended and freely exercised. To me it is a matter of deep regret, that the Board should have deemed it advisable to withhold from my knowledge until incidentally discovered, a resolution under the operation of which I could not, without a sacrifice of personal respect, perform my professional duties.

Therefore notwithstanding an attachment to Victoria College, early, strong, and uninterrupted, it is impossible for me, under the unusual and extreme powers possessed and exercised by the Dean, to do otherwise than at once to place in your hands my resignation as Professor of Surgery in the Medical Department of Victoria College.

I have, &c.,
W. T. Aikens, M. D.

Rev. G. R. Sanderson,
Secy. Board Vic. College.

The same cause for resignation is assigned by Dr. Wright, in his affidavit in which he swears, "That as soon as I knew of the existence of this resolution my confidence in the Board was completely destroyed, and I resigned forthwith, basing my resignation on the fact, that the Secretary had furnished me only with a partial report of proceedings in which I was so much interested."

It appears, therefore, clearly that these Professors would have continued their duties thro' the Session that had just commenced, had it not been for the above resolution, and the failure of communicating it to them by the Secretary. At first sight this might seem extra