THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXXV. KINGSTON, CANADA, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 1866. NOS. 294 & 50.

We have waited patiently for tidings of doleful news from Ireland, but in spite of all the alarming telegrams, by the Atlantic Cable, there is none such. True, the country is in a disturbed state, and arrests of suspected Fenians are daily made, but that is all. There has been no insurrection, no rising of the people, nor will there be any. The Government is too well prepared, and the force at its disposal so large, that it would be an act of madness on the part of the comparatively few who would have the audacity to attempt it. Neither is Mr. Stephens in Ireland. He is in Paris, according to the best accounts, where he will stay and spend the money his foolish dupes in America contributed. Besides, the great majority of Irishmen at Home are loyal to the Crown. The Irish Clergy are opposed to Fenianism, and what can a country do, if divided in itself?

PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND THE FENIANS.

(From the Globe.)

We, yesterday, made some remarks on the President's Message to Congress, but his statement of the Fenian question requires some further notice. He approaches this subject by informing Congress, 'that on the 6th day of June last, in violation of our neutrality laws, a military expedition and enterprise against the British North American Colonies was projected and attempted to be carried on within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States.' The statement is ridiculously inaccurate, if not intentionally false, and it is strange that such language should be used in a document of such gravity as the one under consideration. It is notorious that the 'expedition and enterprise' was 'projected' months before the date assigned in this Message. For months the Fenians had been openly preparing for an attack on Canada. They had been enlisting and drilling men, and collecting arms and ammunition, with the full knowledge of the American Government—with the utmost degree of publicity. The Campo Bello attempt had been made and failed—had been put down by the United States authorities, long before June, and still President Johnson speaks of the enterprise as 'projected' on the 6th of June. The raid at Fort Erie had been made, and most all who participated in it were prisoners, either in our hands or those of United States officers before the time that the Message says the attempt was projected. Is this an effort to conceal the tardiness which marked the executive action on that occasion, by falsifying dates which are so well known. It looks marvellously like it. After this remarkable mis-statement of facts, the President proceeds to discuss the bearings of the Fenian question. It would seem as though he and his Cabinet had inconsiderately acted right in June last, and find it necessary ever since to apologise for having done so. The idea that the Executive interference was not voluntary is prominently put forward in the Message. It is revealed in the first paragraph on this subject, when the President shields himself behind the phrase, 'in violation of our neutrality laws.' The next sentence commences, 'in obedience to the obligation imposed upon the Executive by the Constitution,' &c. He then endeavours as far as possible to justify the conduct of the men, whom the Constitution compelled him to oppose. He dwells lovingly on the efforts that the Executive is making to save the men from the consequence of their crimes, and is careful to give his adherence to the sentiment that 'the expedition was a political one'—not venturing even to speak of it as a political offence or a crime—merely 'a political expedition.' President Johnson also says, that it is 'in a great measure foreign from the United States in its causes, character, and objects,' while he well knows that it is the in one hatred of the British people, which is the stock-in-trade of small Yankee politicians, which was one main cause of the 'political expedition.' And further one of its objects, if it had any further object than plunder, was to drive Canada into the arms of the United States. It is scarcely correct to style an 'expedition,' 'foreign,' which was undertaken by American citizens, from American territory, and which the Government has done everything short of officially recognizing as its own act. The Message reminds us that the attempt was designed to aid in obtaining redress for political grievances' which 'the people of Ireland had suffered at the hands of the British Government during a period of several centuries.' We are told that 'complaints of misgovernment in Ireland continually engage the attention of the British nation,' and that the 'Habeas Corpus' Act has been suspended. Having in this way defined the 'situation,' the President thus expresses the views of the United States Government: 'These circumstances must necessarily modify the opinion which we might otherwise have entertained in regard to an expedition expressly prohibited by our neutrality laws. So long as the laws remain on our statute books, they should be faithfully executed, and if they operate harshly, unjustly, or oppressively, Congress alone can apply the remedy by their modification or repeal.'

What does this mean? In what way do the circumstances which the President recounts, modify the character of the 'political expedition,' which he is trying to excuse? Plainly, he intends to imply that these circumstances 'justify' the 'expedition.' The very plain suggestions as to the 'injustice and oppressiveness' of the neutrality laws, would hardly possess any greater force if they were put declaratively, than they do in the subjunctive form of expression which is used. After affirming that 'it is manifest that good will and friendship between the two countries cannot be established until a reciprocity in the practice of good faith and neutrality shall be restored between the respective nations,' the proposition—for it is nothing less—to allow United States citizens to wage war on a people at peace with the Government of the United States, comes with a very ill grace. If the President's message is to be construed as an expression of the views of the Government, 'good will and friendship' do not exist between the respective nations.'

The United States Executive proposes to authorise the Fenians, by law, to invade Canada, and fit out expeditions 'to redress the political grievances of Ireland,' and still talks of 'good faith' in the practice of neutrality. If this document is to be looked upon as anything more than the ravings of a disappointed politician, it is certainly everything but assuring, in reference to the international relations between Great Britain and the United States. The demand that an 'amnesty' should be extended to the 'political expeditioners,' now under sentence of death for their crimes, sounds strangely in connection with the avowed sympathy with their offences which is apparent in the Message, and the call upon Congress to remove all restraints in future from the political propagandists. An appeal for the exercise of the royal prerogative to save these men from the scaffold, would surely be enough for the United States to make; but a demand that they shall go scot free—that an 'amnesty' should be extended to them is unprecedented in the history of international relations.

But as the Executive in the United States is known to be in opposition to the people, we shall look with some interest for the views of the people as expressed by the better class of the exponents of public opinion. We shall be glad to learn that these views are understood as an attempt at 'a flank movement' by the Executive against Congress. That it is intended for this purpose seems very probable, as it is well known that the views of President Johnson do not carry much weight with the great majority of the nation. It is merely a dodge to put Congress into bad odour with the Fenians; and notwithstanding past events it is by no means impossible that Congress may emancipate itself from the domination of the Brotherhood. We do not look upon the utterances of the President in the same light as we would upon similar declarations from an English Prime Minister, or from the French Emperor; but they at least deserve recognition and reprobation on account of the position he holds.

A FIGHT AMONG THE FENIAN PRISONERS—ATTEMPT TO FIRE THE BEDFORD GAOL.

Sweetsburg, Dec. 5.

The prisoners had a lively time this afternoon. Two of them, Crawford and Dan Coburn, had a fight in the Fenian ward, and Coburn, who is a powerfully built man, punished his antagonist badly. They began the fight with fists, and Coburn finally knocked the other down and kicked him in the face, damaging his nose and nearly knocking out one of his eyes with the toe of his boot. The difficulty, according to one story, arose out of a discussion between the two as to which had rendered the greater service to the Fenian cause. Crawford's version of it is that the subject of dispute was whether the parties who attempted to kidnap Geo. Sanders were acquitted or not. He also says that the difficulty was aggravated by a reference to an old gambling transaction, in which Coburn had lost some money by him. Coburn applied to him a very opprobrious epithet, and the fight then began. The gaoler and his assistants having entered the ward, secured Coburn and removed him to a solitary cell in another part of the gaol where he will be fed on bread and water, and deprived of his allowance of tobacco.

Scarcely had this affair been disposed of when it was followed by a new excitement. About a quarter of an hour afterwards the gaoler entered the ward to lock up the prisoners for the night. He found the door of an inner compartment of the ward shut. On opening it he discovered one of the prisoners, named Thomas Madden, in the very act apparently of attempting to set fire to the gaol. He had filled a tin can, which was smuggled into gaol, with burning coals from the stove, and had it set on the floor under the ash-pan. The theory is that he wanted to set fire to the floor, or more probably that he was to carry the coals to his cell and set fire to the bed clothes, in the hope that in the confusion caused by an alarm of fire the prisoners might succeed in effecting an escape. Madden's story is that he wanted to light his pipe. Orders have been given that in future two or three policemen shall remain in the ward with the prisoners to preserve order and to prevent the repetition of any attempts at incendiarism.

THE FENIAN MOVEMENT IN IRELAND.

The United English Service Gazette of Nov. 21st says:—'If certain rumors which have reached us from a most creditable source be well founded, it would appear that Head Centre Stephens' declarations in America touching an early visit to Ireland are something more than idle rhodomontade.

'It is said that the Queen's Government are perfectly cognizant of the fact that Fenians in large numbers are arriving in Ireland every week, and have made arrangements which will ensure for those intending visitors the proper amount of hospitality and attention. In view of such a state of things it is not at all likely that the amount of military force stationed in Ireland will be diminished during the ensuing year.

THE MUNICIPAL LAW.

We fear that the provisions of the new Municipal Act are but indifferently understood throughout the country. We have a letter from a municipal officer asking whether there will be 'two days' polling at the coming Municipal Elections or not. Now, though there are several things the reverse of clear in the Municipal Law as applied to the elections next month, it is as clear as possible that there will be but one day's polling. Our correspondent says that he believes that nothing in the new Act comes into force until September next except that referring to the nomination, and to the election of Reeves and Deputies. That is a great mistake. The only portion of the Act suspended until September next is that relating to the qualifications of candidates and electors. Township Clerks and all who have to do with Municipal Elections should be supplied with a copy of the Act, and guide themselves accordingly. The question has been raised whether in townships divided into wards, a rate-payer can vote in a ward in which he does not reside. If he is rated as a householder, he certainly can not, but if he is rated as a freeholder, he would, for all we can see in the Act, be entitled to vote in any ward in which he is so assessed, though he can only vote once at the same township.—Globe.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE AUGUSTUS HOOPER, ESQ.—The Funeral of this lamented gentleman was one of the largest and longest ever known in the County of Lennox and Addington. He died at Clark's Mills on Friday last and was interred on Sunday. He was buried with Masonic honors, he having been a member of that fraternity. There was a late attendance of the brethren from the different lodges in the County. The procession was formed in the following order:—Masonic brethren, clothed in regalia; the hearse; the mourners and friends of deceased—forming altogether a procession of nearly half a mile in length. The burial services were performed by the Rev. Mr. Stanton, of Clark's Mills, and Rev. Mr. Fogerty, of Napanee, and a sermon was preached from Job, 1:21. 'The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' After the solemn and imposing burial services of the Church and those of the Masons had been read, he brethren returned to the lodge room in Newburgh, where the following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted:—

'That the members of 'Union,' 'Maple Leaf' and 'Prince of Wales' Lodges desire to record their deep regret at the loss of our late esteemed Bro. Augustus F. Hooper, and hereby tender their heartfelt sympathy with the widow and family of our deceased Brother; that the members of said lodges wear the usual badge of mourning for one month, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Hooper.'

FOR ENGLAND.—The Hon. Thomas Ryan, of Montreal, will cross by the Cunard steamship 'Scotia,' which sails from New York on Wednesday next,—the same vessel as will convey his Excellency the Governor General—and he will not return to Canada until the spring.

THE FENIANS AT SWEETSBURG.

TRIALS NOT YET COMMENCED.

THE ATTEMPT TO FIRE THE JAIL.

Sweetsburg, Dec. 5.

The Fenian trials have not commenced, the court being still occupied with the Potton murder trial.

The grand jury have had the Fenian indictments before them for two days. It is understood that they have made considerable progress with the bills against the prisoners, and that they will be prepared to report early to morrow.

There are some circumstances connected with Madden's attempt last night to set fire to the jail which indicate the presence of confederates outside. The vessel which Madden had filled with live coals was not one of the jan-drinking cups as previously stated, but a tin box with a cover which could not possibly have been in the possession of the prisoner when admitted to the jail. As they all underwent then a minute search, it is certain that it must have been conveyed to them into the jail. Another circumstance also indicates outside confederates. On Monday afternoon a person residing in the district was discovered in the jail yard conversing with the prisoners. The police allowed him to escape, but he is known. Guards are now posted at every point outside where it would be possible to hold communication with the prisoners.

VERY LATEST BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

THE TIMES ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES BECOMING INTRICATE.

London, Dec. 5.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Fox is visiting the British navy yards. He is received everywhere with courtesy and afforded every reasonable facility to compare American navy yard management with our own.

The London Times in an editorial article of this morning fully agrees with the policy of the President of the United States set forth in his message. It frankly declares that the Alabama claims ought to be settled promptly and amicably. It expresses deep regret that the whole matter was not compromised, and thus disposed of at a much earlier date than the present.

The Paris correspondent of the London Morning Post writes as follows:—According to French dispatches the time is rapidly approaching when the relations of Great Britain with the United States will be more than difficult. This must be known to Her Majesty's Cabinet if not by the public.

Hanover, Dec. 5.

The Ex-King of Hanover, by the advice of the English Government, has released the officers from their oath of allegiance.

London, Dec. 5.

The following are the closing prices for American securities: Erie 77¼; Ill. C. 77¾; 5 20's, 70¼; money market quiet. Consols 88¼. Breadstuffs flat.

Liverpool, Dec. 5, evening.

Sales of mixed corn at 39s 3d to 39s 6d. Tallow dull and irregular. Petroleum nominal at 1s 6d per gallon for white.

THE UNITED STATES TROOPS CROSS INTO MEXICO.

MATAMORAS SURRENDERED TO GEN. SEDGWICK.

THE TERMS, AGREEMENTS, &c.

New York, Dec. 6.

The World has a Brownsville special, which gives the following additional particulars concerning Gen. Sedgwick's movements in Mexico: Matamoras was surrendered to Gen. Sedgwick, commanding the U. S. forces on the Rio Grande, on the evening of the 24th instant. Col. Perkins, of the 19th U. S. colored infantry, was placed in command. One hundred and eighty-nine men of the 4th cavalry crossed over and occupied the city on that day. Col. Canales made an official statement to Gen. Sedgwick that owing to his inability to pay his troops he could no longer control them, whereupon Sedgwick immediately demanded the surrender of the place, which was granted. The terms were, First—Col Canales shall place Matamoras under the orders of the commander of the United States force. Second—The latter guarantees to Canales and his forces their liberty, and secures the safety of their interests. Third—The persons and interests of all the inhabitants of Matamoras are to be respected no matter to what nationality they belong. Fourth—The forces of Canales are to maintain their actual position. Fifth—No forces shall enter the place except those of the United States. It will be seen that under the agreement Gen. Sedgwick pledges thus it that the city shall not be entered, and that the forces of Canales shall remain within the fortifications. The attack upon Matamoras began at five o'clock a. m. on the 27th. Escobedo opened the attack; the American flag meanwhile was floating from the Government House. A feint was made by Cortinas on the south side of the city, while the main attack was made on the north side. Brisk firing continued up to 7 o'clock, but the attack was repulsed at every point. The American force in the city preserved peace and guarded the ferry, practically acting as provost guard. Escobedo, who is endeavoring to enforce the authority of Juarez, attributes his defeat to the moral effect of the presence of the Americans which he considered increased the strength of Canales three-fold. Escobedo's loss in killed and wounded, captured and deserted, foots up 714 men. During the fight yesterday morning Col. Randall sent a message under a flag of truce to Escobedo informing him that the U. S. forces held the place, and directing that in no case should his forces advance beyond the fortifications without communicating with him. Escobedo responded that he should be guided by circumstances; that the American commander had promised him to withdraw all his troops, save fifty men, and that he had broken his promise by retaining 300 men in the place. Randall, who had orders in no case to fire upon Escobedo's men, immediately made arrangements to withdraw with the army in case he should be attacked. Battery I of the 1st artillery was stationed on the American bank to cover the troops, if, for any reason, they should have to back out. The following is a memorandum of the agreement entered into between Sedgwick and Escobedo prior to the attack. General Sedgwick assures Gen. Escobedo of the continued friendship of the United States towards the Liberal Government. Second—The American commander considers himself as morally holding Matamoras under the terms of Canales' surrender of that place to him; but it is for no hostile purpose as regards the force commanded by Gen Escobedo, but to protect the lives and property of American and other citizens. Third—That the American commander will withdraw the armed forces in case of an attack, with the exception of 50 men and two officers, who will report their presence to Gen. Escobedo should he capture the city. Fourth—That the United States forces shall hold Santa Cruz and the Ferry, and that no armed men shall cross to the American shore. This agreement had not been known to Col. Randall when he sent out the flag of truce. Gen. Sedgwick's action is incomprehensible. It seems as if he intended first to take the city, and then eventually hand it over to Escobedo, but afterwards changed his mind and held the city to protect American citizens and other foreigners. Gen. Sedgwick is withdrawing from Matamoras under orders.

CANADA AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.—About ten tons of specimens from the Geological Department are to be sent this week to the Paris Exhibition. Drs. Hunt and Richardson are to have charge of the department. Sir William Logan will also be present. Every effort has been made to get up the best specimens of minerals, &c., which Canada can produce.

FROM QUEBEC.

Quebec, Dec. 6.

Cap. Maitland of the Royal Engineers, fell and broke his leg while skating.

The British America Insurance Company, which, excepting the Quebec Fire office, was the largest loser by the great fire in October, has settled all claims satisfactorily.

The Governor General leaves to-night for Montreal, en route to England.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburg has given £50 sterling to the relief fund.

CITIZENS' FREE SKATING RINK.

The Annual Public Meeting in connection with the Citizens' Free Skating Rink was held on Wednesday evening, the President of the Association, Mr. James McKay, Jr., in the chair. The attendance was limited, but still larger than that at the meeting last year.

The Secretary, Mr. Wm. King, read the annual report, which, with the exception of a deficit o $23 in the accounts, represented the Rink in a flourishing condition. The public were under the erroneous impression that the Committee had realized $500 out of the Concert and Masquerade given last February, whereas the proceeds of the affair only amounted to $335 58, of which $227 61 had to be deducted for prizes at the Carnival and expenses of the Concert, leaving a balance of only $114 98, which with the amount received as subscriptions, $371 34, summed up the receipts of the year for carrying on the Rink to $486 32. The expenditure was $509 65, which included $238 for cleaning the Rink, the purchase of twelve new lamps and stands, the erection of a new house, &c., coal oil, painting and other incidental expenses. The balance due the Treasurer is $23 33.

The Election of Officers for the year 1866 67 was then proceeded with, the following being chosen unanimously:—

PRESIDENT.—Wm. King.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—Richard Waldron.

TREASURER.—Samuel Birch.

SECRETARY.—Alex. Falconer.

COMMITTEE.—James McKay, jr., J. Skinner, C. H Hatch, H. Cunningham, W. W. Mathews, Wm Irving, jr., James Friel, James Scott, James Phippen, James Hendry, G. W. H Comer, R. White, John McKelvey, John McCammon, H. Minnes, R. McMurren, W. Dalton, A McNeice, J. J. Linton, G. S. Hobart, R. Gage, J. K. Oliver, W. McDonald, James Yarker, George Anderson, James Falconer, W. P. Phillips, W. Tossell.

The President now left the chair and the President-elect took the same, at the same time tendering his sincere thanks to those present for the honor they had done him.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the retiring officers for the energetic and persevering efforts they put forth to sustain the Rink during the past year.

On motion of Mr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Irving, it was resolved that owing to the difficulty in raising fund to defray the expenses of the Rink, (though carried on with the utmost economy,) ward committees be struck, and that they proceed at once on a thorough canvass of the whole city; that no work be commenced on the Rink until sufficient funds are raised to defray all expenses during the coming season; and that if it be ascertained that enough cannot be raised the collectors do return the money that has been subscribed, and the Committee dispose of the stock and fixtures to pay up their debt.

This resolution was carried unanimously, it being generally understood that the public do not subscribe liberally enough in proportion to the pleasure derived from the free use of the rink. The Committee do not desire to close the Institution, and it is to be hoped that they will be well supported, so that they may be enabled to carry out their programme for the season. As all the stock, lamps, &c., is in first-rate order, and as efficient for its purpose as can be procured in the province, the sum required this year will not be so large as usual.

The meeting adjourned, the Committee being ordered to meet on Tuesday evening at the Mechanics' Library, City Buildings.

THE FENIAN TRIALS.—Mr. McKenzie has it under consideration to apply for a Writ of Error on the grounds that the Judges of the Queen's Bench and Common Pleas omitted, in refusing to grant the rule nisi, to make an order for the carrying out of the sentences already pronounced, and by this omission the sentences already had are superseded, and there is no authority now to enforce them. The application will be grounded on the 13th section of the Act respecting new trials, appeals and writs of error. It reads as follows: 'In case a new trial be refused the court shall make such order for carrying out the sentence already passed, or for passing sentence if none has been passed, or for the discharge of the prisoner so convicted, on bail or otherwise as justice requires. 20 Vic. c. 61, sec. 2 and 3.' In order to obtain leave the consent of the Attorney General must be had; only eight days now remain to do so.

THE QUEBEC FUND.—His Lordship Bishop Horan acknowledges the receipt of $138 from Wolfe Island, to be forwarded to Quebec for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire. The Roman Catholic congregation are indebted to the generosity of several of their Protestant brethren for a portion of the Fund.

BODY RECOVERED.—The body of Stephen King, mate of the schooner 'Ballard,' which was lost with all hands (11 men) near Gallow Island reef on Friday last, was one of the three bodies reported recovered, and has been brought to his father's house on Wolfe Island, by way of Cape Vincent and decently interred. Two of the other bodies have reached Oswego, where the friends of the deceased live. King was a young man of good, steady habits, and has been connected with the St. Patrick's Society of Wolfe Island for many years past.

THE FENIAN TRIALS IN SWEETSBURG.

THE CASES POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY.

Sweetsburg, Dec. 6.

Gen. Averill, U. S. Consul-General, arrived last night to watch the Fenian trials, and is the guest of Mr. O'Halloran, M.P.P. The Grand Jury have presented true bills against fifteen of the Fenian prisoners. With reference to Powers and Coburn they found no bills, and they were accordingly discharged.

Powers has been supplied by General Averill on behalf of the United States Government with funds to carry him to his home in Massachusetts.

Mr. Devlin asked for copies of the indictments, &c., for Consul General Averill, on behalf the U. S. Government, and also for himself as counsel for the prisoners.

The Judge granted the application so far as made for the prisoners, but said the Court could receive no application from a foreign government. Such an application could only be entertained by the government of the country.

Mr. Devlin also stated that he intended to object to the jurisdiction of the court, and to file other pleas, the arguments on which he expected would occupy two days. He asked, as Saturday would be a holiday, that the consideration of the cases be postponed till Monday. This delay was granted by the court.

The jury in the Potton case after an absence of two hours and half, returned with a verdict of 'not guilty. Chamberlin will be held to answer two other indictments,—one for burning the house, and the other for assaulting the mother of the child.

THE ARREST OF SURRATT IN ITALY—HOW HE WAS FOUND OUT.

We have to thank one of our fellow citizens for some interesting particulars relating to the discovery and arrest of this person.—They are contained in a series of letters addressed to him by a relative, a gentleman some time ago well known in Montreal, but who gave up his engagements here, and, after serving in the American armies, enlisted in the Papal Zouaves. It appears that during his residence in the South he had become very intimate with the Surratts, and, of course, was thoroughly acquainted with the person of the one who is accused of complicity in the murder of Mr. Lincoln. He had no sooner arrived in Italy than he saw him, and recognized him in another company of the Papal troops. The first of the letters which have been communicated to us merely speaks of the writer having hit upon something which was likely to be worth a great deal of money to him, without mentioning the nature of the discovery. This letter was written in April. In July he wrote again, informing his correspondent here that he had discovered here in Italy John S. Surratt, one of the assassins of Lincoln, for whom you know a reward was offered of $50,000. I went to the ambassador at Rome and told him all I knew. He immediately wrote to Mr. Seward in Washington for instructions, which were received three weeks ago. I made a declaration under oath of the facts I knew, which was sent to America, and now I expect to be sent in a few days to Washington to give my evidence. Writing again on the 1st of Oct. the Zouave gives some further particulars, from which it appears that the representative of the American Government at Rome had by that time received instructions from Washington, in consequence of which he sent his informant to see and converse with Surratt, from whom he learned that he assassination of Mr. Lincoln was planned at Richmond, and with the assent of Mr. Jefferson Davis. He made another deposition of the conversation, which is no doubt by this time in the hands of the authorities at Washington. He is now on his way to this country. Of course these statements are given as they come to us. There is no doubt, we think, that it was from the information of the writer of the letters now in our hands that Surratt was detected, and arrested in the first instance,—an arrest, from which it is known that he escaped, and thus gave occasion to his subsequent capture at Alexandria. We may, however, add that we always been loth to believe that Mr. Davis had anything to do with so foul a murder as that of the late President, and that with every reason to suppose that the gentleman whose letters we have quoted has acted in good faith. It would not be wise upon the short statements in a private letter to form a hasty judgment as to the precise value of the conversations which Surratt had with him in Italy; nor without a fuller examination of the facts to condemn a gentleman who, whatever his political faults, has born an irreproachable character. It is somewhat remarkable that it was a Canadian in the American service who earned the reward of the capture of Booth, and that it is another Canadian who seems to have entitled himself to that offered for the capture of Surratt.—Montreal Herald.

THE FENIAN PRISONERS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

The New York Tablet, a Roman Catholic organ, of very moderate views, says in reference to the condemned Fenians:—

To take up the New York Herald any of these mornings and glance over the articles devoted to the Fenian prisoners in Canada, one would be apt to think that the real object of the writer or writers was to close the doors of mercy against them, by forcing the Canadian Government to leave them to their fate. If these filibusters and fire-eaters of the American press were anxious above all things to see these unhappy men pay the extreme penalty of their folly, they could not go more industriously or assiduously to work. If they have really any feeling of sympathy or commission for these condemned prisoners, why will they so persistently goad on the people and Government of Canada by threats of what the Fenians will do in case they are executed? Does not common sense tell them that they are taking the very opposite course to that which would be likely to save those for whom they profess to be interested?

We are in a position to state, on what we consider good Canadian authority, that it was not the intention of their Executive to hang the Fenians prisoners, but now we have too much reason to fear that the sentence may be carried out—that is, unless these threats of rescue and renewed aggression on the part of the Fenian filibusters be at one stopped.

We tell the Fenians, and their organs here, that so sure as the slightest attempt at rescue is made, or any new invasion of the Canadian territory, the prisoners are dead men. Will they not, then, be as merciful to these their friends as the Canadian Executive would most probably be, if not coerced into severity by threats and hard words?

ST. ANDREW'S DINNER.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

DEAR SIR,—

When a man, in Donnybrook-fair-fashion, wishes to provoke a quarrel, the wisest way perhaps is to take no notice of him. Can it be that to some consideration of this sort must be ascribed the fact, that not one of the many able Scotsmen present at our late St. Andrew's Anniversary Dinner has yet condescended to express disapprobation of the animus towards Scotland and Scotsmen, which guided your pen when writing your report of that celebration? Such coolness seems to me so uncomplimentary to your zeal, that I, though an old friend, feel much tempted to tread on the skirts of your coat myself, rather than see you any longer thus slighted, after all the pains you have taken to provoke a row.

And now that you and I are face to face, you must admit that we Scotsmen, present on that occasion, would be unworthy of our national motto, if we allowed with impunity you or any one to outrage truth at the expence of our native land, or to put into the mouths of our guests words never spoken by them,—in one instance, indeed, language so insulting to our nationality and so contrary to fact, that, had the gentleman I allude to given utterance to what you make him to say, I much fear he would quickly have found himself shewn to the door. The gentleman in question can scarcely thank you for placing him in so false a position towards so many of his fellow citizens of Scottish origin. It is seldom that men of his nation are afflicted with Scotophobia to the extent of making them blind to the fact of history. They have no quarrel with Scotland—they never had,—and therefore they can afford to be just towards her. The wish they was father to the thought when you made your Hibernian friend speak of "the comparative content and happiness of Scotland under the rule of England" (!)—"the Scotch knowing when they were well beaten," and so forth. No bad flight this for an Englishman, whose own nation has changed masters more frequently than any other country on the map of Europe.

A very modest and pardonable allusion to the battle of Bannockburn, on the part of another speaker, seems to have affected you pretty much the same as the sight of scarlet does a Highland bull. It was in such bad taste. Of course it was—Dr. Barker, that very modest, unassuming specimen of the John Bull family being present! What less could he do, by way of resenting such impertinence, than to describe Bannockburn as "almost the only battle of which Scotland can boast!"

You speak of Cromwell as having at the battle of Dunbar "wiped out Scotch nationality with his left hand." All very grand, Doctor, if it were only true, which I emphatically deny. Soberly speaking,

"You scarce can deem a mere invasion,
A brief disputed occupation,
To be the conquest of a nation."

Why then make such a brag about the battle of Dunbar? You forget that it was not, like Bannockburn a passage at arms between two nations engaged in mortal combat—England and Scotland having been long previously to its occurrence virtually united under one sovereignty, and therefore, as nations, no longer opposed to each other. The quarrel between the parties who fought at Dunbar was more sectarian than national; nor was the victory, such as it was, productive of any permanent results. You might just as well compare a fight of Kilkenny Cats with the battle of Clontarf, as try to match either of our Pinkeys with such a battle as that of Bannockburn. Did it never occur to you, that it is not however, as a mere triumph of brute force or bravery that Scotsmen are so proud of Bannockburn? To us, and to the lovers of liberty all over the earth, it has a far higher significance; and none but an Englishman of the most Johnsonian type would grudge us the privilege of making less or more allusion to it at a national gathering such as that of St. Andrew's night. I might take exception to several sins, both of omission and commission equally unfair, and unworthy of your own better self, in the notice now under discussion. But enough. Not that I love England less, but that I love truth—and, if you will, Scotland also still more, have I thus ventured to break in on the sanctity of the editorial chair. Trusting to your courtesy to let your readers "hear me for my cause;" I subscribe myself

A SCOTSMAN.

Kingston, 7th Dec., 1866.

*** 'A Scotsman' is very severe upon Dr. Barker and the British Whig, but what does it matter? He who gives a joke should take a joke. It would be very easy to control some of the Scotsmen's 'assertions,' but cui bono? Historical facts are stubborn things, and if Cromwell did not wipe out the nationality of Scotland, at the battle of Dunbar, what in the name of Goodness did he do? The Scotch quietly succumbed, abandoned their King, Second Charley, and became good and obedient subjects of the Commonwealth of England. And this state of things remained until the Restoration; for it was the English Army of Occupation, which General Monk led from Edinburgh to London, that restored the monarchy.—One thing we, on the part of Dr. Barker, must deny most emphatically, and that is, any animus or ill-feeling on his part towards Scotchmen or Scotland. On the contrary, he entertains a high esteem for both, together with a strong personal attachment towards nearly all the Scotchmen he knows; he numbers many of them among his strong friends and supporters, and it is only for the love of fun, and their extreme sensitiveness, that he occasionally pokes fun at them. Nay, for that matter, half the jokes the British Whig does perpetrate are the offsprings of Scotchmen themselves.

DEATH OF W. HEWETT GRIFFIN, ESQ.—Our columns to-day contain a Funeral Notice of the late William Hewett Griffin, Esq., of the Township of Pittsburgh, one of the County Auditors, whose untimely and unlooked for decease has cast a gloom upon the whole community. Although not universally known, he was universally respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was an Irish gentleman in the fullest and truest acceptation of the word. A Trinity College man, of good birth and position, he emigrated to Canada many years ago, and settled on Amherst Island, where he resided until a couple of years ago, when, for the sake of the education of his only son, he moved to Pittsburgh, near Kingston, where his hospitality to his friends, his obliging kindness to his neighbors, and his charity to the poor, will make him long remembered and regretted. He died from the rupture of a blood vessel, and will be buried on Monday next, at the Cataraqui Cemetery. The Funeral Cortege will cross the Cataraqui Bridge about three o'clock P M.

KINGSTON CURLING CLUB.—The annual meeting of the Kingston Curling Club was held on Thursday evening in Blondheim's. The meeting passed off very pleasantly in discussing the various subjects usually necessary at such gatherings. The officers for the ensuing year are:—President, C. Hamilton; Vice-President, S. Woods; Secretary and Treasurer, Jas. Richmond. Messrs. Fatcher, Fraser, Drummond, Gildersleeve Ford, Carruthers, Kerr and Col. Moffatt were elected Skips and Managers. It was further determined that a challenge be sent to the Montreal Curling Club to play a match game in February, one Rink in Montreal and one in Kingston. After an hour or two spent in a very pleasant manner, the meeting adjourned, to meet again as soon as the ice is in condition in the Rink.

THE NEW SILVER DOLLAR OF THE U. S. CURRENCY.—One of these new coins we have seen. On the obverse is a scroll, having thereon the words: "In God we trust." We have always known that the Yankees worshipped the Almighty Dollar, but had no idea that they would openly boast of it.

VICTORIA TEMPERANCE L.O.L. 834.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held in the Orange Hall, City Buildings, on Friday evening, when the following members were declared elected office bearers for the ensuing year:—Sam. Smith, W. M.; Wm. Clark, D.M.; W. King, Treas.; N. Scott, Sec'y; Alex. Johnson, Fin. Sec'y. Committee: W. McLellan, W. Adams, H. Spriggs, J W. Johnston, Thos. McKee, John McCammon, D.C. Chaplains: Revs. Th s. A. Parnell, J. May, A. J. O'Loughlin, Pomeroy, Willoughby, Currie, McDonald and Shaw. Auditors: W. McRossie and J. G. Strathon. Trustee to Orange Hall, John Harkes, Tyler, Jas. Kane.

OBITUARY NOTICE.—Some months ago, we noticed the death of the Daily British American, and also that of its short-lived successor, the Daily Dispatch. The Weekly British-American still continued to live, tho' in a very torpid condition, until last week, when it ceased to breathe—in Kingston. The plant of the Office, (Stock, Lock and Barrel,) has been removed to Napanee, where the Messrs. Carman intend to carry on their Printing Business. No Grit newspaper can live in Kingston.

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 10, 1866.

THE FENIAN CONVICTS RESPITED FOR THREE MONTHS.

ORDER RECEIVED BY SHERIFF JARVIS.

Mr. Sheriff Jarvis yesterday received a telegram from Montreal informing him that, by an Order in Council passed at the meeting of the Cabinet yesterday the following Fenian prisoners now under sentence of death in this city—viz., K. B. Lynch, John McMahon, Wm. Slavin, Wm. Hayden and Daniel Whalen—are respited to the 13th day of March next. The official letter containing this order was mailed yesterday, and will reach Toronto to-day.

We received in our American despatches yesterday afternoon one dated Washington, Dec. 7, informing us that Mr. Seward had received a letter from Sir Frederick Bruce on the subject of the Fenian convictions. On reading the letter we found that it was the same which was published in the Leader of the 17th ult., and in which Sir Frederick Bruce stated that the whole question of the disposal of the prisoners had been referred to the Imperial government. We were at a loss to understand why the telegraph people had taken the trouble of transmitting a letter published three weeks before. Later in the evening, however, another despatch reached us from which we learn that further correspondence on the subject has taken place between Mr. Seward and the British Minister; and we presume that the old letter was transmitted in mistake for the later one written by Sir Frederick Bruce. The despatch is as follows:—

"Washington, Dec. 7.—In the cases of the Fenian convicts in Canada, who are sentenced to be hung on the 13th of December, and whose application for new trials have been refused, the Secretary of State thought it proper to ask an explanation of the purposes of the Canadian authorities. In reply Sir Frederick Bruce writes that the sentence will not be carried into effect on that day, but will be reserved for further consideration."—Leader of Saturday.

MR. McGEE TO MR. BROWN.

SIR,—You are a public man, so am I; and therefore, as you assail me, by name, in the Globe, I do not see any good reason why I should be deprived of whatever advantage I may be able to find in holding you personally responsible for these assaults.

Your text this time is Fenianism, upon which subject you accuse me, through the Globe, of having held language at a late Irish meeting in this city unworthy of a member of the government, and unfitting and unbecoming in any member of society. You do this on the faith of an anonymous letter from this city, the author of which you either know or you do not know. If you do not know who your 'Englishman' is, how much greater is your responsibility? If you do know, why not place that responsibility where it belongs? And if you will not do this act of common honesty,—if you will shelter the nameless calumniator,—then I appeal to the Canadian public whether I am not justified in holding George Brown accountable, just as completely as if he had written the falsehoods he published, with his own fingers?

If there is any ground on which any honest Canadian journalist ought not to have attacked me, it is precisely this ground—Fenianism. For if ever a public man, with my antecedents, had a bitter and painful duty to discharge, assuredly on that subject I had. Holding, rightly or wrongly, that Ireland is cruelly misgoverned in two or three essential particulars, the duty was forced upon me, alike by my position and my conscience, to resist to the uttermost this new-fangled Fenian way of righting the wrongs of Ireland. It is now over two years ago, since I first sounded the notes of warning on that subject, in answer to an address of the St. Patrick's Society of Peterborough. Ever since—in season and out of season—through the American and Irish press, as well as nearer home, I have never ceased making war on that infamous conspiracy; and if the sympathizers with Fenianism in British America count to day only by the dozen, or at most by the score, it is partly due, I say it fearlessly, to my labours in that behalf.

At a time when, as is well known to my friends here, I have had to risk even my personal safety in doing battle against the miserable delusion; at a time when the secret enemy who never sleeps, as is perfectly well known here, has tried every resource of intimidation against me in vain; at such a time, you, Mr. Brown, with whom I have acted for many years as a friend, and for many months as a colleague; you choose this time to throw in your testimony against me as being untrue to Canada on the subject of Fenianism. In the past you have made some mistakes, as we all have; but you never made such a mistake in your life as when you fell or fancied that you could attack me with impunity on this ground.

Having done so—having sought me out as an opponent—having cancelled all past obligations by your own act,—I now take you up as an undisguised enemy. In the presence of the people of Canada, especially of that people of Upper Canada, whose name you so often invoke and abuse, I say, and I shall maintain, that your conduct of which I complain is not that of an honest man.

On the eve of leaving this great city for three or four months this city in which I have endeavored for ten years to promote peace and concord among all men—I thought it