THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXVIII. KINGSTON, CANADA, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4, 1859. NO 5.

The Great Irish Charity Ball and Supper.

We write "Ball," because, altho' the Advertisements said "Soiree," yet this was done not to prevent the attendance of parties, who might otherwise absent themselves. The Great Irish Charity Ball and Supper of 1859 came off on Wednesday evening, and was a perfect success. The City Hall was densely crowded all the night, and other apartments, including the Supper Room, were at times filled to repletion. There could not have been fewer than 1000 persons present, including the goers and the comers. Every body was there, that is to say, all the Catholic Ladies of Kingston with their families, together with a very good proportion of their Protestant Sisterhood. There was much variety both in the style and material of the ladies' dresses, but on a fair average they would not have discredited a Ball of much higher pretensions. Some of the dresses were really both magnificent and beautiful; altho' as a general rule, those ladies present who usually go into society, were in simple evening dress. The same variety was seen among the gentlemen, the frock greatly preponderating over the dress coat.

The Hall was well filled at ten o'clock but dancing had commenced at an earlier period. Mr. McMillan's Band, (by far the best in Kingston,) was in the orchestra, discoursing most charming music, and as the splendid decorations of the Burns' Centennial Celebration had not been removed, the Hall, filled as it then was, had a very exhilirating appearance—two hundred couple dancing at one and the same time. Judging from the scantiness of attendance at the Assemblies, a stranger would think that the Kingstonese were not a dancing people; but judging from last night, he would greatly change his opinion. All were for dancing, the young and the old, the gay and the grave, the profane and the devout, but the difficulty was to obtain room. Still, they persevered with a becoming diligence, and before the morning star had paled its light, all had dancing to their hearst' content.

At eleven o'clock, the Supper Room, (late Shaw's wareroom,) was thrown open, and continued open for several hours.—Here were seen the taste, liberality and generosity of the Kingston ladies. The Ball, being one for charitable purposes, the Stewards left the furnishing of the many tables to the kindness of the ladies, and amply and richly was the trust responded to. The tables actually groaned under the weight of the many and varied viands.—Each lady had apparently made it a point to excel her co-provider. Every delicacy of the season was spread in profusion; and an attentive eye might observe that ample provision was made to cover the tables, again and again, with relays. Numerous as were the thousand mouths to be filled, the poor of Kingston must have been great gainers in the distribution of the overplus next morning. Nothing could better show the real comfort and prosperity of the Irish Catholic population of Kingston, than the Great Supper provided by the Catholic Ladies, without probably the slightest pecuniary inconvenience. It was a fact to be remembered. For good and sufficient reasons, there were no wine or spirits on the tables, tho' well supplied with plenty of excellent tea and coffee.—A popping of a Champagne cork was occasionally heard, and at a somewhat private table of about twenty gentlemen, the health of the Chairman of the Committee, James Harty, Esq., was drunk with great enthusiasm, as also was that of Mr. Recorder McDonell.

After Supper, dancing was resumed with spirit (it never did cease until the programme was danced through,) and kept up till nearly five o'clock in the morning, the room gradually thinning about three o'clock. Towards the end, there was no noise, confusion or grumbling; but everything went off with gentleness and pleasantry. The arrangements in the ladies' retiring room, and gentlemen's cloak and coat room were perfect, and not an article was mislaid or lost. In fact, the Great Irish Charity Ball and Supper of 1859 was a great success, with one solitary drawback, regret that it only comes once a year.

To the Editor of the British Whig.

Sir,—Permit me through the medium of your journal, to correct the ignorantly or designedly garbled report of a few remarks made by me at the meeting of the Board of Trade on Saturday evening last, which appeared in the columns of the News. If the News takes the ground of Free Trade and takes this way of defending its principles, it must consider it has got a bad case in hand. It is true that I did avow the principle of Protection for Home Industry, and cited some cases which came into my mind at the time, one of which was the fact of a trade in iron going on from the iron ore beds of Canada to the United States for manufacture. The price of the iron ore in Canada is from \$2 to \$3 per ton, whilst iron imported from the United States into Canada, if of the best quality, is worth \$160 per ton. Our duty upon the article is 2½ per cent, whilst the American duty is 24 per cent. I alluded to the article of paper and showed that the American tariff is 30 per cent, whilst ours is only 5 per cent for the same article. The article of cordage for ship building purposes is admitted into Canada duty free, whilst the American tariff is 25 per cent. I also made allusion to an article I had read in one of the Montreal journals in which Mr. DeWitt speaks of having visited the manufactories of the Eastern States, and observes that he had seen one water wheel, the earnings of which were as much as the produce of thirty farms. In alluding to the carrying trade of the St. Lawrence, I said that Mr. Merritt's scheme of putting the Screw Steam Navigation Company under a tariff was perfectly right, and that his plan of subsidizing a line of propellers from Chicago to Quebec was uncalled for, and unnecessary, as we can successfully compete with the neighboring route to New York without this proposed protection from the Government. I also alluded to the fact that I had fought in the political ranks on the other side, and said that what would be the means of promoting their prosperity would ultimately be the means of bringing prosperity to our own country.

D. D. CALVIN.

Garden Island, 25th Jan., 1859.

The annual Meeting of the Addington County Society, met according to notice, at Mr. R. [illegible] Newburgh, on Saturday [illegible]. The Se[illegible] the previous year [illegible] D. Cam[illegible] Audi[illegible]

A Canadian Celebrity.

(From the London Canadian News.)

HON. JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD, ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR CANADA WEST.

The subject of this notice, who has held the post of First Minister of the Crown in Canada, is a native of Scotland. He was born in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, in the year 1814, and is consequently 44 years of age. Of medium height, his person is slender, with a marked disinclination to corpulency. His father, who had been engaged in manufacturing, suffering some reverse, emigrated to Canada in 1820 with the wreck of his fortune, when the future Premier of the province was a boy of six years of age. The family proceeded to Kingston to join their relatives, among whom was Colonel M'Pherson, who, at that time, was in command of the veterans. Mr. Macdonald, the father of the subject of this notice, commenced business at Kingston in connection with Major Ewen M'Pherson, of the 68th Light Infantry. He afterwards became the owner of mills in the neighbourhood.

The son, John Alexander, received his education at the District Grammar School of Kingston, under the tuition of Mr. George Baxter. One of his schoolfellows, Mr. Henry Smith, is at present Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; and another, Mr. Edward Murray, was recently elected to the Legislative Council, after having had a seat in the other branch of the Legislature for several years. Young Macdonald advanced in his studies with a celerity that distanced all his competitors. In mathematics and classics he showed an aptitude far beyond the average of pupils, and gave early promise of the distinction he was to win in the great battle of life. His memory was, even at this time, remarkably retentive. Whatever he read he remembered; and for years after he had read a book he could turn at once to the page where a particular passage occurred. The habit of general or miscellaneous reading he never relinquished; and even when First Minister in a country where the Premier is obliged to render himself peculiarly accessible—when, during all the business hours of the day, perhaps a dozen persons would, on an average, be waiting for an interview with him, he still found time for a considerable amount of general reading. This was performed in bed after one or two o'clock in the morning.

In 1829, Mr. J. A. Macdonald entered on the study of the law, under the late George Mackenzie, Esq., of Kingston. In 1834 he was called to the bar, at barely 21 years of age. Mr. George Mackenzie, in whose office he had studied law, having died in the preceding year, our youthful barrister succeeded to his business, and soon found himself in the possession of a good and, for a place of some ten thousand inhabitants, a lucrative practice. It is true that, in a speech made in the British American League at Toronto, in 1849, he stated that he 'was not prosperous;' but this was understood to be said to round a period or make out a case. Long before he came into public life, he had been heard to say that no office in the gift of the Government had attached to it a salary sufficient to prove any temptation to him. After some years, Mr. (now Hon.) Alexander Campbell became his law partner. On the dissolution of this partnership, in 1850, he contracted a second partnership—Mr. Archibald M'Donnell, of Greenfield, Glengarry, succeeding to the position lately held by the Hon. Alexander Campbell. In 1839 Mr. Macdonald was appointed solicitor to the Commercial Bank of the Midland District, a post which he has ever since continued to fill. The Trust and Loan Company, which has been so successful, owes its organisation to his exertions; he sustains towards it the position of legal adviser.

In private life, Mr. Macdonald conciliated the respect of all classes and parties. His intimate associates, at this time, describe him as a warm and true friend: His social qualities—his wit and his inexhaustible fund of anecdote—made him the soul of every social assembly at which he was present.

The political principles of our future statesman were imbibed under the influence of the then ruling party in the province. Between him and the late Mr. John Cartwright, who long represented in Parliament the united counties of Lennox and Addington, there was a strong political sympathy, united to personal friendship. Mr. Macdonald's first public act as a politician was performed in connection with the election to Parliament of his friend, the late Mr. Cartwright, President of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District. His own political advancement at first owed something to the tact and address of his mother, an estimable lady, who is still living. During his first elections, her house used to be crowded with the political friends of her son. In 1844 Mr. Macdonald was elected to the Legislative Assembly for Kingston. It was a period of great excitement, arising out of the difficulty which had occurred between Sir Charles Metcalfe, the then Governor-General, and his late Ministry, of which Mr. Lafontaine and Mr. Baldwin were the chiefs. The Ministry had resigned on a dispute with the Governor-General, on the subject of patronage. The specific fact on which they more particularly placed their resignation was that the Governor-General, had made appointment without taking the advance of his Council thereon. A ministerial interregnum of nine months occurred, during which all the ministerial offices but one were vacant, it being impossible to find any one who would accept them. The elections turned on the question whether the Governor-General or his late advisers were in the right. As the Reformers were disputing with the Governor-General the ground on which it was alleged he was attempting, unconstitutionally, to encroach, Sir Charles had the Conservatives for his supporters. The party which had rallied round the Governor-General carried the elections by a very small majority, which was afterwards so far increased that it was enabled to rule the country till the meeting of a new Parliament in the beginning of 1848, when it went out on a vote of non-confidence. On the 22nd May, 1847, Mr. Macdonald, who was attached to the ruling party, was appointed Receiver-General of the public moneys in the Draper Cabinet. After holding this office for a short time, he was translated to the Crown Lands Department, which office he held till the vote of non-confidence, just alluded to, was carried. In a country like Canada, the department which has charge of the sale of the public lands is one of considerable importance. There are in it duties far other than those of a merely routine character. There spring up, in the course of years, thousands of conflicting claims between rival purchasers or would-be purchasers, or between individuals and the Crown. The adjudication upon these claims is a matter of great importance. It requires patient investigation into the statements of rival claimants; and the Commissioner is often called upon to discover truth and justice through the thick screen of half-a-hundred conflicting affidavits. And, moreover, promptitude of decision is of vast importance. On it the salvation from ruin of many a claimant depends. It frequently happens that there are in the department many thousands of such cases awaiting adjudication; and in many instances of delay is quite as fatal to the claimant as an adverse decision, [illegible] would have been. Nevertheless [illegible] happen that some of these [illegible] for a quarter of a century [illegible] when this [illegible] a matter [illegible] that the proceeding [illegible] Crown; they have, in fact, no means of bringing their claim to adjudication. In a department where such things occur, the standard of the merit in its head is found in the promptitude and equity of his decisions in these disputed cases. It was computed to Mr. Macdonald that he disposed of such cases with a facility which has seldom been witnessed in any other head of this department of the Government.

Re-elected for the city of Kingston about the close of 1847, Mr. Macdonald, on the change of Government consequent on the altered position of parties in the new Parliament, went with his party into opposition to the Lofontaine-Baldwin Administration. Although he was young to parliamentary life, as compared with some members of his party, a large section of the Conservatives were anxious to constitute him their leader in the place of Sir Allan M'Nab. Pre-eminent among these were men like Mr. Ogle R. Gowan, who claimed to be more liberal than the Family Compact, between whom and themselves there had never been any cordiality of feeling. One section of the Conservative press advocated the deposition of Sir Allan M'Nab from the leadership of the party and the substitution of Mr. Macdonald, while the other section stood by the gallant knight. That these proceedings were unaccompanied by any feeling of rivalry between Mr. Macdonald and Sir Allan M'Nab it would be hardly safe to assert,—at the same time, it is proper to say that this rivalry, if it really existed, never produced anything in the shape of an open rupture. The question of leadership, thus injudiciously raised, was settled in September, 1854, when, on the resignation of the Hincks' Cabinet, Sir Allan M'Nab was called upon, in conjunction with Mr. Morin, to form a coalition Government he became Attorney-General for Canada West, which post he has, with an interregnum of a few days, ever since continued to hold. In the spring of 1856, Sir Allan M'Nab, harassed by the gout and unable to attend to his parliamentary duties, resigned the premiership. The whole Cabinet resigned along with him, when Col. Tache, reformed the Government, chiefly out of the old material. The question arose whether Mr. Macdonald or Mr. Drummond should be entrusted with the leadership of the Commons House of Assembly, and it was settled by the new Premier in favor of Mr. Macdonald. Another step would lead the rising statesman to the premiership, and the opportunity for it was not long in coming. In the middle of November, 1857, Col. Tache, tired of the cares of office and anxious to retire into private life, resigned. Mr. Macdonald was now called upon to form a new Government. Having accomplished this task, he advised a dissolution of Parliament, and the country was in the midst of a general election by Christmas. The elections resulted in a large ministerial majority in Lower Canada, and a small opposition majority in Upper Canada. Towards the close of last July, the Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution disapproving of the selection by the Queen, on reference of the Canadian Parliament, of Ottawa as the permanent seat of Government for United Canada, upon which the Government resigned. After an intervening Cabinet, which lasted but two days, Mr. Cartier formed a new Government, in which Mr. Macdonald holds his previous position of Attorney-General for Canada West, without being Premier.

Mr. Macdonald, since Mr. Hincks was appointed Governor of the Windward Islands, has been the ablest debater in the Canadian Parliament. His oratory is not of a heavy calibre, but is light and sprightly, wit and ridicule being among the weapons which he wields with great dexterity. He is good at closing up a debate, picking out the weak points of his adversary's arguments, ridiculing any pretensions that verge upon the absurd, and pulling to pieces, like one playing with a rose, the weak or inconclusive arguments of an opponent. When roused, he is animated and energetic. As a debater, he has no equal in the House.

Although starting as a Conservative, his name is associated with several of the most important liberal measures ever passed by the Canadian Legislature, including the abolition of the feudal system of landholding in Lower Canada, the secularisation of the Legislative Assembly, and making the second branch of the Legislature elective, while reserving the rights, during their lives, of the Crown nominated members. All these measures, in the shape in which they were passed, he had previously opposed; but when the voice of the country had unmistakeably pronounced in their favour, he no longer sought to offer a fruitless and unavailing opposition. To the abolition of the feudal tenures he had never been opposed, but only to taking any portion of the compensation to be given to the seignors out of Upper Canada funds.

Mr. Macdonald married Miss Clark, a distant relative, who bore him two children, both boys, only one of whom survives.—Mrs. Macdonald, who had for several years suffered from indisposition, died during the middle of the last general election, when the political prospects of her husband, as Premier, were hanging in the balance.

For the British Whig.

MY DEAR WHIG,—Allow me, while wishing you a happy New Year, and an infinity of them, to approach you with extended paw, and a hope that you will kindly reciprocate the chuckle that despite our philantropy we cannot suppress for the life of us. Oh, WHIG! how often have I tacitly endorsed your setiments, your denunciations and dictums. Your two protegee's par excellence, Egerton and George, have at length got fairly pitted. The two biggest humbugs, the two most unscrupulous actors, the two veriest snufflers are at it hammer and tongs. Surely all the cant pretty phrases stereotyped long, long ago, were never really appreciated till now; let us see how many we can cite, beginning with 'Fight dog, fight bear, my dog 'aint there,' 'Pull devil, pull Baker,' 'When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war,' 'When rogues fall out,' &c., 'Go it ye cripples, crutches are cheap,' 'Come on Macduff, and d——d be he who first cries hold,' nuff sed, 'Sure such a pair were never seen by nature formed to come together.' Go it George, go it Egerton, I'll hold yer bonnets. All the foregoing can be summed up in one word, in effect what all the outside barbarians will echo—'s'boy.' George is in a tight place, but has nothing, not even reputation to lose. Egerton peels off for a fight, staking £750 per annum on the result, if George gets into office. He is good game, however, shakes hands with his antagonist, warns him not to 'burn his fingers,' &c., &c.,—a caution that will apply two ways; and Egerton may wake up by and bye, to acknowledge that he has allowed his egregious vanity to rely with over much confidence in his ability as a really good writer.

Sir Edmund Head, the Judges, members of the executive, and even private members of the assembly are all amenable to the strictures of a free press—but have none more than to run a tilt against the pressmen. But Leonidas is a mighty writer, and should not hide his light under a bushel—albeit it may be a nice point of etiquette [illegible] taste to say nothing of religion [illegible] taged by the [illegible] out of his [illegible] —replete with cutting [illegible] political fury—to quote [illegible] letter, calculated to make men [illegible] other [illegible] the devil.' [illegible]

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Domestic Items.

BRUTAL WIFE MURDER IN LONDON.—An inquest was held yesterday by Dr. Moore, on the body of a Mrs. Long, at the residence of her husband, somewhere in the vicinity of Rattle's tavern, in the northern part of the city. It appears that both husband and wife had been much addicted to drunkenness, and were daily in the habit of abusing each other, frequently resorting to blows. Yesterday morning it was rumored that deceased had been foully murdered by Long, and information was at once given to the police, previous to which the prisoner came to the station, and voluntarily gave himself up to the authorities, being quite intoxicated at the time. He stated that he was quite unconscious of what had happened, until made aware of the fact, by some of the neighbors, and asserted that if she was really dead, it must have been occasioned by her falling out of bed during the night. The body, we understand, presented a shocking appearance from kicks and bruises, and one blow in the region of the ribs is stated to have been the cause of the woman's death. Long was at once placed in jail, but was taken therefrom last evening to be present at the inquest. The inquest terminated last evening, with a verdict of 'guilty of murder' rendered against the prisoner.—Prototye.

MR. PAPINEAU SUSTAINED.—The attempt of the Ministerialists in the County of Ottawa, to weaken the independent position held by Mr. Papineau, the representative of that county, ended in mortifying failure. A meeting, convened by the Warden, was held at Aylmer on Thursday last, which was attended by 'the beauty of Carleton,' his brother, the expectant-judge, and other hangers-on of the Government from the city of Ottawa, and other outside places. Mr. W. F. Powell, strained his eloquence to the utmost, and his companion, Mr. Friel, followed his example. The residents of the county knew their own business and attended to it; they had watched Mr. Papineau's honest and consistent course, and appreciated it; and, accordingly, they passed a resolution thanking him for his parliamentary conduct. The proceedings, instead of furnishing Ministerial capital, were converted into an anti-Ministerial triumph; and the member for Carelton and spite were left to ruminate upon their fallen party fortunes in a district which Ministers had fondly hoped to make their own.—[Globe.

The Brantford Courier announces the death, on the 9th instant, of Isaac Fairchild, Esq., at the advanced age of 89 years. The deceased, at the time of his death, was the oldest man living in the County of Brant. In his youthful days he was a trader among the Indians (at 'Fairchild's Creek,' which takes its name from him,) some years before Governor Simcoe came to this Province. He was a staunch adherent to British rule, a man of strict integrity, a good neighbor and generally respected.

STRANGE IF TRUE.

It is rumored that Messrs. Brown, Dorion, J. S. McDonald, and other members and supporters of the Brown Ministry have met in Montreal, and decided upon withdrawing their opposition to Her Majesty's decision. Should the Despatch contain an indication of Her Majesty's wishes, they will, it is said, attack the Ministry on other grounds.—[Ottawa Union.

NORTH WELLINGTON.—At a large meeting of the Reformers of North Wellington, held at Fergus, a few days since, Mr. Jas. Ross, late Warden of the County, was chosen as the reform candidate for the representation of that constituency in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Ross is represented to be a man of ability, high moral worth, and a firm and unwavering Reformer. His election may be set down as a certainty, notwithstanding the opposition of big 'Tom Ferguson,' Ogle R. Gowan, and their 'lambs,' which he will have to encounter.—[Globe.

THE NORTH RIDING OF WELLINGTON.—The contest in this county is now fairly at issue. Mr. James Webster, of Guelph, has come forward as the Conservative candidate, and has issued an address. From all that we can learn, Mr. Webster's success can easily be secured, if his friends will only use proper exertions. It is well known that the Riding is Conservative at heart, and was lost to the party at the last general election, only through the personal influence of its late representative, who was popular in the county, and had very considerable local influence. Mr. Webster is a man of whom any constituency might be proud. His personal honor is unimpeachable. He has always been the poor man's friend. His character as a business man stands high, and his claims upon the Riding of a local and personal character are very great.—[Colonist.

The "State Trials" Send Round the Hat.

The English papers, received by the Europa contain the judgment of Chief Justice Draper, on the late "State Trials;" but we have looked through our files in vain for any comments on the decision. By the by, what about the threatened appeal? We believe it is true that notice of appeal was given, but nothing else has been done.—Whether any appeal is seriously intended is very doubtful. Perhaps the cost of the operation renders it uninviting. It is all very well to quarrel with the judgments, in the newspapers; but it is a different thing when the ways and means for an appeal have to be provided. The appeal, in the first instance, if it took place, would be a mere matter of form. The judges who have already given judgment in these cases, form a majority in the Upper Canada Court of Appeal; and it is not to be supposed that they would reverse their previous decision. There is then no real appeal possible, but to the Privy Council. Mr. Dorion, if we remember rightly, once declared, in Parliament, against all such appeals; wishing the power of appealing to the Privy Council abolished altogether. Whether the hat will be sent round and the necessary means raised, remains to be seen. At present no chinking of cash, with which to prosecute the appeal, has been heard. Who will prove himself a patriot by being the first to put his hand into his pocket? Surely it is not intended that a whole party will leave Mr. Allen Macdonald in the lurch, even as to paid expenses? Send round the hat. There is no time to be lost.—[Leader.

THE IRISH REBELLION.

MORE ARRESTS—THE MILITIA SAID TO BE DISAFFECTED.

The Westmeath (Ireland) Independent, of Jan. 1st, has learned that a number of arrests had [illegible] of Shannon Bridge of persons connected with a Phoenix Club, some time established in that locality. It is further stated by the same paper that more arrests had been made at a place called Carrabeg in the same district.

A despatch from Belfast of the 3rd Jan says:—Last night the police, from information which they received, succeeded in making another arrest of a person believed to belong to an illegal society. [illegible] Head Constable [illegible] and Constable [illegible] visited a house where a person named [illegible] resided, in [illegible] Street. The prisoner and his [illegible] are the joint owners of a public house [illegible]

[illegible] large party of the constabulary; but the only capture made was Boyle himself. We have reason to believe that no documents of any importance were found in possession of the prisoner. Under an escort of some thirty or forty police, fully armed, and an immense crowd, the prisoner was taken to the police office. An examination will be held to-day, but of course it will be private. It is rumoured that the authorities are in possession of extensive information with regard to secret societies in this town.

(From the London Times, Jan. 3.)

In connection with these proceedings the following atrocious libel upon the Irish militia is set forth in prominent type in the third edition of the Belfast IRISHMAN of the 25th ult.—a journal which only requires the simple prefix of "United" to render it the not unworthy successor of the felon paper of Mr. John Mitchell:—

DISAFFECTION IN THE MILITIA—SERGEANTS OF MILITIA IN THE SECRET SOCIETY.—The great cause of uneasiness with the government, and the reason why they have carried on their proceedings with so much secrecy, is the fact that they have discovered the connexion of the militia with the secret organizations. This explains everything; for the terrific fact that the militia of Ireland cannot be relied on as a defensive force against foreign aggression may justify the wildest alarm. The secret club arrested in Belfast is connected (it is affirmed) with the Phœnix Clubs of the south; and already it has been discovered that several sergeants of militia were members of the secret organization. This startling fact, which the government officials have hitherto endeavored to conceal, is extremely significant.

(From the London Times, Jan. 4.)

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Ireland no longer worships one great agitator and raises a tribute for his support, but she seems to be returning towards the type of the last century—the Defenders and the United Irishmen—who believed that the only way to promote the benefit of their country was to make her either a democratic republic or into two or three departments of the French empire. A misdirected national spirit, the natural hatred of the priesthood for a heretical government, an entire miscalculation of the power of Great Britain, a narrow and provincial arrogance, and a wonderful ignorance, of the resources, position and views of France and America, so far from being diminished by the recent increase of prosperity and wealth, seem actually to have been increased by it. We must not assume that in all cases prosperity brings forth the better parts of a character. There are races and there are natures where this is actually the reverse. It seems hardly credible that people should seriously contemplate such schemes of political regeneration as that broached by the Phœnix Society; but, rightly considered, such a feeling is not more inexplicable than the avowed sympathy with the Russians in the Crimean war, the joy over the Sepoy massacres, or the hearty wish for the success of the Indian mutiny. The antipathy of Celt against Saxon is by no means worn out. Recent prosperity has restored some of the confidence which adversity had shaken, and we enter once more on the era of secret societies and treasonable plots.

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The return, after so many years intermission to Ribbon societies, to a course of agrarian crime, to treasonable oaths and secret conspiracies, is certainly a bitter disappointment to our bright and sanguine hopes. We had dreamt of another future for Ireland, and can scarcely prevail upon ourselves to awake and look upon our present disappointments—to admit how deep-rooted are the evils with which we have striven to contend, and how ill the race in whose destiny we are so interested profits by the opportunities of prosperity or the teachings of adversity. Time was when England, in the plenitude of ignorant generosity, was willing to take upon herself the blame of spendthrift landlords and barbarous peasants, of the recklessness, the extravagance and the folly of centuries. We are proof against such reproaches now. If the Irish cannot be content with their lot, the fault, we are now convinced, is theirs, not ours; and we must adhere to the system we have adopted until some better reason that the discontent of a people whom adversity seems unable to teach and prosperity to humanize can be adduced for changing it.

THE ARRESTS IN BELFAST.

Another sharp discussion took place yesterday in the Belfast police-court between Mr. Tracy, the stipendiary magistrate, and Mr. John Rea, the solicitor for the prisoners. The latter again pressed upon Mr. Tracy the propriety of holding the investigation in the Court-house and in the face of the public, but the magistrate was inexorable. The inquiry must be private, and, as a consequence, the press cannot be admitted:—

'Mr. Rea.—If you yield to my objection against holding the inquiry in the gaol I will leave the parties connected with the press to fight their own battle, as they are quite able. If, however, you cannot alter your determination to sit in the gaol, I will at all hazards be led by mine to throw up my brief. I may also as well mention, for the information of the Government, that if any of the prisoners be returned for trial, and I observe the slightest attempt to pack the jury, I at once withdraw my counsel from the court. Mr. Whiteside, when defending the State prisoners at Clonmel, stated in court that rather than have his client tried by a packed jury, he would prefer to have him led out and shot on the highway. When he found the jury packed he would, in my opinion, have thrown up his brief. He is now Attorney-General, and I hope he will not intimate the iniquitous course against which he then protested. But should he either instruct or permit the Crown Solicitor to pack the jury, I will certainly do what I believe he would have done at Clonmel had he been allowed to follow his own judgment. There must be an end of packing juries some time.'

Burns' Centennial.

The Poet Burns has had a splendid Post Mortem Celebration. It is a great pity, that while alive he had not been better appreciated and better treated. In justification of this remark, we append some extracts from a recent biography:—

While in Edinburgh the Poet felt, keenly and bitterly, that he was regarded as a wonder, almost as a tamed wild beast; those who knew not what is the discipline of a Scottish cottage, who were [illegible] at the description of the latter's 'Saturday Night,' than at the genius which displayed that scene in such exquisite verses, thought that a ploughman poet was a prodigy, which they flocked to see, with a curiosity not much more intellectual than that which draws crowds [illegible] to stare at a dancing bear. Now [illegible] it is painful to remember [illegible] friends suggested [illegible] course of life, which might have [illegible] the [illegible] which [illegible] he had [illegible]

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[illegible] was not without reluctance that he addressed himself to the Earl of Glencairn, and expressed his wish to be employed in the Excise, a project which had, at the time of the Kilmarnock edition been agitated by his old friend Hamilton and Aitken. None of his new friends had troubled themselves about the poet's welfare, and even the Earl of Glencairn waited to be asked; and it was Graham of Fintray, to whom Burns had been introduced in his northern tour, who at length procured him a poor appointment, worth about thirty-five pounds a year.

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Burns, when he went to Dumfries, had entertained sanguine hopes of promotion; his salary had been raised to £70 a year, and his name was on the list of supervisors; the latter situation was worth about £200 per annum, and was the stepping-stone to a collectorship, which would have rendered him easy; but his own imprudent conduct destroyed these hopes. In the commencement of the French revolution, he ardently embraced the doctrines of the liberal party of the time, and vehemently advocated the cause of the Directory in all companies. His enthusiasm carried him to lengths that his better judgment would have disclaimed, and when it was reported at head-quarters that an exciseman had refused to stand up in the theatre when the National anthem was played, and had sent two brass cannon, taken from a smuggler (which he himself assisted in capturing) with a complimentary letter to the French Directory, they directed an inquiry to take place, and he was reprimanded and told that his business was to act and not to think. This somewhat absurd rebuke sunk deep into his heart; thenceforth he despaired of advancement, and grew less careful of himself and his reputation. His health began to fail; and, in the spring of 1796, he was attacked with violent rheumatism. He continued to sink, and in the summer was advised to go into the country; he went to a lonely place called the Brow, on the shore of the Solway, in Annandale, to try the effect of sea-bathing, but all was of no avail; on the 18th of July he returned home a dying man. He lived only to the 22nd, and died in desolation. Four helpless infants and a wife, who, whilst her husband's corpse was being carried down the street, was delivered of a fifth child, were left behind him.

County Council.

Wednesday, Jan. 26th.

The following communications were received and read, viz.:

From the Chief Superintendent, relative to Prison Libraries.

From the Mayor of Coburg, recommending that application should be made for the repeal of 'The Debenture Registration Act,' also one of the same import from the County of Wentworth.

From P. O'Reilly, Esq., Clerk of the Crown, respecting office furniture, &c., all of which were referred to Committees to report upon.

The following Standing Committees were appointed, having been recommended by the Nominating Committee, viz:

ON FINANCE.—ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTS.

Messrs. Asselstine, Bartels, Hooper, Lapum, Sexton, S. Stewart, and Wood.

ON ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Messrs. Draper, McGrath, Robinson, Sedore, Spike, N. Stewart, and Taggart.

ON EDUCATION.

Messrs. Bartels, Davis, Diamond, Howard, Miller and Sexton.

ON COUNTY PROPERTY.

Messrs. Asselstine, Hooper, Lapum, Madole, McCoy, Robinson and Warner.

ON BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Warden, Messrs. Asselstine, Davis, Hooper, McCoy, Roblin and Warner.

A report was adopted allowing the Lessee of Toll Gate No. 1, K. & N. Road, to erect a toll bar near the Railway crossing to prevent travellers avoiding the Gate, and taking the ice on the Creek, and ordering furniture for the County Court Clerk's Office.

The following Grammar School Trustees were re-appointed, viz: T. A. Corbett, Robert Esson, Allen Caton, F. Macogan, and Johnson Day, Esq., and the following new members were appointed, viz:

C. W. Cooper, H. W. Purdy, Elias Price, B. C. Davy, and Joseph Northmore.

Thursday, Jan. 27th.

A Petition from Isaac Brock and others, praying for a grant of money to improve the road in the third Concession, between Loboro' and Portland, which was laid over to the next Session.

It was ordered that the County Surveyor prepare and submit, at the next Session of the Council, a full report of the K. & N. Road, Toll Leases and Houses, and an estimate of the probable exposure of keeping it in repair the present year.

At 12:15 p. m., the Council adjourned to the last Tuesday (29th) March, at 3 p.m.

The Fraser's River Gold Region.

(From the London Times.)

The copious and faithful accounts transmitted by our correspondent from the Fraser River districts have now placed the natural riches of that territory beyond all question. At first, as in the case of all gold discoveries, the reality was exaggerated by rumor, and a 'rush' was made from all parts to the new digging, without reason or inquiry. This excitement was, of course, followed by a reaction, and then the value of the newly opened mines was depreciated in proportion. The lapse of a few months, however, has brought us accurate representation of the facts, and it can no longer be doubted that British Columbia must be added to the gold-producing regions of the world. The exploration of the country is still incomplete, but the banks of the river for many miles together yield supplies of the precious metal abundant enough to enrich and satisfy all but the Californian emigrant, whose cupidity has been stimulated by a long career of speculation and adventure. To miners of this class earnings presenting 30s. or 40s. a day clear profit appear only 'moderate,' because they have abandoned rich fields of labor with the true gambler's hope of finding something richer still, but the majority of the mining population—Russians, Swedes, Danes, French, Norwegians, English, Scotch, and Irish—were found contented enough with their gains, as well they might be. At Hill's bar, one of the richest on the river, the produce had risen as high as £13 per man per diem. This was an extreme case, but at the lowest estimate it was said that any common laborer could get his 20s. a day at this spot by merely letting out his services to others. All this while it was believed that the great centre and source of [illegible] remained yet to be discovered. The gold deposits on the banks were held to be the mere washings of some intensely auriferous soil, and the miners were eagerly pushing their way up the river in search of the fountain of wealth. Some confirmation was lent to this impression by the fact that the diggings did really improve as the stream was ascended, but it is the nature of gold-seekers to be constantly on the look-out for fields of fabulous value, and the wealth of the Fraser river country may be [illegible] well established, even without the discovery of this [illegible]. The gold is not found in the same form, as in Australia, nor are any miraculous 'nuggets' described for our edification, but the digging is attended with little labor when the scene is once reached, the climate is extremely healthy, and there is scarcely any sickness. Our correspondent met with only a single invalid throughout his entire voyage. The great difficulty at present seems to consist in making the ascent of the river, but the organization of traffic sure to follow on the success of the diggings will soon dispose of the impediment.

The picture given of the miners and of their ways in this new colony is exceedingly instructive, and, upon the whole, satisfactory. The great gold discoveries have now followed each other in such succession that the practice of pleasure seeking has been refined into something like a system. Digging has become a profession, with its rules and ordinances, its precedents and customs,—rude enough still, in some respects, but based nevertheless, for the most part, upon natural justice. In California, the first swarm of adventurers quarrelled, fought and squandered without stint or measure. In Australia, things were a little better, as the situation was no longer novel; and, now, on the Fraser River, diggers drop into their places and prosecute their ventures with nearly as much regularity as is seen in ordinary trades. Intoxication seems to be uncommon, and gambling discouraged. This is a general love of order, and a marked desire for a strong and effective Government. 'Give us protection,' say the miners, 'and we will pay for the license willingly.' They want, as a body, to live under the law, are well disposed towards the Governor, and promise a hearty welcome to a judge. All the barbarous features, in short, of this mining life are now disappearing, and diggers are as peaceable, steady-going people in their way, as any other class of working men. For the rest, it is amusing to observe how, under these favourable circumstances, the natural laws of public economy develop themselves. The accumulation of wealth and the division of classes occur exactly as in the Old World, except that the process is infinitely more rapid. A man begins as a laborer at so much a day, and sees the chief portion of his produce carried off by somebody else who owns the soil, and thus lives by rent, instead of labor. If our operative is of an adventurous turn, he employs the first few dollars of his making in a journey up the river on his own private account. By the use of his writs, or his experience, he 'prospects' the banks, establishes a 'claim,' and becomes the employer of labor in his turn. If he is less speculative or daring, but still industrious, he hoards his wages till he can purchase a right of soil in some established digging—a half or a quarter interest, or a fifth, or even a tenth. A very few years will probably see even these exceptional communities separated into rich and poor, the former class possessing all the land, the latter nothing but their daily labor. There will, however, be this peculiarity in the case,—that, owing to the wonderful rate of progress, the origin of wealth and the origin of poverty will be plainly understood. Everybody will know that the possession of the soil represents either skilful enterprise or sturdy self-denial, and that a worse fortune indicates simply less knowledge or less thrift in the individual world we live in, except that the origin of the distinction is a good deal more remote.

That the value of a possession like the Fraser River territory should still be considered debatable is a signal instance of the advance made in political science. Half a century ago a colony yielding gold by the bucketful would have been set down at once as the most precious pearl in the Imperial diadem, whereas now we are disposed to institute a regular profit and loss calculation, and ask whether the thing really 'pays.' In our correspondent's opinion, it does not, and will not for some time to come—that is to say it will not be maintained without contributions from the mother country in the shape of civil and military establishments, for which no direct return will be forthcoming. A new country like an old one, has its expenses, through a different character. Roads and bridges require to be made, and an administration must be organised, and in the case of a gold region an efficient police must be kept up. Already, in fact, we are despatching a battalion of regular infantry to these parts, and the garrison of British Columbia will probably figure in our Army Estimates for some time to come. Such obligations, it is said, are not likely to be satisfied at present out of the Colonial Exchequer, inasmuch as the tax upon miners, though willingly paid, is sufficient to meet the demands of Government. We cannot exactly see why this should be. If the miners are as sagacious and as successful as our correspondent describes, they ought surely to understand that it is fairly incumbent upon them to pay for their own protection out of their own abundance, rather than throw the burden on their poorer fellow citizens at home. A colony where everbody is making at least his £300 a year ought we think, to be self-supporting in a very short time. All this, however, will doubtless soon find its proper level, and if British Columbia at present wants nothing but population to make it amply productive, that want is not likely to be of long continuance after such descriptions as we have recently published.

Arrival of the Arabia.

New York, Jan. 28.

The Royal Mail steamship Arabia arrived at Halifax this morning.

In the Liverpool cotton market prices were ⅛ lower, and holders were pressing their stock: sales 46,000 bales. The advices from Manchester are favorable. At Havre, New Orleans tres ordinaire quoted 101.

Liverpool Breadstuffs dull. Provisions steady.

Consols for money quoted 95⅛ a 95¼.

The news by the Arabia is a week later from all parts of Europe.

The steamship Kangaroo, from New York, Jan. 1st, arrived at Liverpool on the 14th.

Disquietude continued on the continent, and warlike rumors were still circulated, but the panic had sensibly abated, particularly in London. The Paris Bourse showed an improvement but still fluctuated.

The English Parliament had been summoned to meet on the 3d of February.

The Belgian Cabinet had been dissolved.

The latest information in regard to Italy is that large Austrian reinforcements had reached Lombardy, and that the chances of a revolt were diminishing.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL'S HIGHLAND DRESS.—The Highland dress prepared at Inverness for the Prince Imperial of France has now been completed. The kilt is of shepherd tartan, with belted plaid and hose to match; the jacket black velvet, ornamented with cairngorm buttons and silver embroidery; the waistcoat of brilliant [illegible], suitably adorned.—Wherever it was possible Highland ornaments only were used, and the designs are characteristic of the north. Thus, the shoulder brooch represents a [illegible], [illegible] which deer's grass and the [illegible] their picturesque [illegible] [illegible] dees, b[illegible] [illegible] Tar[illegible]

[illegible] markably [illegible] ing despatch [illegible] are made specially for [illegible] partly from [illegible] are very [illegible] Along with [illegible] a choice [illegible] Stuart pattern [illegible] Inverness Courier.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Why is the [illegible] cause it is the [illegible]

Why is a [illegible] a lady's hand [illegible]

What Highland [illegible] young girls conversing [illegible] talking.

THE CONTRADICTORY [illegible] school wishes she could [illegible] every year; as she [illegible] she had but one [illegible]

A country girl, coming [illegible] told by her cousin that she [illegible] daisy kissed with dew. 'Well,' said she, 'it wasn't [illegible] name, but it was Harry [illegible] I told him that every one [illegible] find it out.'

A story is told of a person [illegible] whether he would advise [illegible] friend of theirs money. 'What! lend him money! [illegible] him any emetic and he [illegible]

People that make puns are [illegible] that put coppers in the rail[illegible] amuse themselves and other [illegible] little tricks may upset a [illegible] versation for the sake of a [illegible] —O. W. Holmes.

A recent writer says: '[illegible] what you say when you [illegible] tering after-dinner speech [illegible] you write when you finish [illegible] most obedient servant,' and [illegible] whom you mean to kick [illegible] catch him.'

'What do you mean, you [illegible] an individual to an impudent [illegible] seized him by the nose in the [illegible] 'Oh, nothing, only I am [illegible] fortune, and father told me to [illegible] hold of the first thing that [illegible]

'JUDGING THINGS BY THEIR [illegible] Bright insists, that because [illegible] can machinery for [illegible] therefore, to resort to American [illegible] making Legislature. [illegible] We use the former machinery [illegible] reason that we reject the [illegible] turns out the bricks.—Punch.

Lalande, the French [illegible] Revolution broke out, [illegible] tention to the revolutions [illegible] dies; and when he found [illegible] had escaped the fury of [illegible] fellow ruffians, he gratefully [illegible] may thank my stars for it.'

General—'H[illegible], sir, we [illegible] that whistling to-day, on [illegible] Soldier—'Why, dang it, [illegible] to keep my courage up.' General—'Why, my brave fellow [illegible] present prospect, you will get [illegible] from the balls and bullets without [illegible] your own.'

'Jenny,' said a landlady to her [illegible] there any fire in the kitchen last [illegible] you were sitting up?' 'Yes [illegible] Jenny, 'there was a spark [illegible] went down, and I soon fanned [illegible] flame.' The landlady looked [illegible] Jenny, but the innocent girl went [illegible] bing and humming 'Katy Darling.'

LORD BROUGHAM'S EPITAPH [illegible] —It is said, we do not know [illegible] that Lord Brougham and [illegible] mood, one evening wrote [illegible] taph on himself: 'Here, reader, turn your [illegible] My fate a useful moral [illegible] The hole in which my body [illegible] Could not contain one half [illegible]

A NUMERICAL JOKE.—An [illegible] having lost his cause, which [illegible] before three judges, one of whom [illegible] teemed a very able lawyer, and [illegible] two but very indifferent, some of [illegible] barristers were very merry on the [illegible] 'Well, now,' says he, 'who [illegible] when there were a hundred [illegible] bench?' 'A hundred judges! There [illegible] three.' 'By St. Patrick!' replied he, [illegible] one and two ciphers.'

BRICKS AND BABEL.—An [illegible] who was teaching at one of [illegible] schools here, explained [illegible] construction of the Tower [illegible] tioning among other things [illegible] ing was made of bricks [illegible] stone at our doors, bricks [illegible] used in building in this [illegible] the teacher's English [illegible] word was new to the pupils [illegible] the class at next meeting [illegible] were asked: "What [illegible] Babel made of?" "Tr[illegible]" was the ready answer.—[illegible]

A NEW HISTORICAL PARALLEL.—[illegible] Bright insists on John Bull [illegible] rican election machinery, [illegible] mires and subscribes to [illegible] American horse-tamer. [illegible] horse-taming and election [illegible] struck us before. But it [illegible] more ways than one. Both [illegible] vious, depend much on a [illegible] bination of 'gentling' and [illegible] both have for their object the [illegible] subjects easy to lead, docile [illegible] tractable to bring to the [illegible] Rarey was but a political [illegible] and the subjugation of Cr[illegible] at Dorchester an English [illegible] dent Buchanan's theory [illegible] the Gulf of Mexico!—Punch.

'LAST OF THE HUGGERMUGGERS'—[illegible] sprightly 'school-girl,' who [illegible] 'Central High,' where the teach[illegible] way of inciting the pupils to [illegible] what they say in the class, [illegible] the 'Last of the Huggermuggers' [illegible] stirred by the spirit of inquiry [illegible] her teachers, if not by natural [illegible] curiosity, asked a boy-cousin of [illegible] meaning of huggermugger. John [illegible] thoughtful for a moment, and then [illegible] 'I'll show you!'—and before the [illegible] woman had time to make any [illegible] mark, John had his arm around her [illegible] and subjected it to a gentle pressure [illegible] hugger; and this (putting his lips [illegible] in affectionate collision) is [illegible] 'Yes,' said the not more than half [illegible] ed Sarah Ann, 'and this is the [illegible] huggermuggers; for if you ever [illegible] give me another such a [illegible] your ears.'

'How does this razor [illegible] ber of one of his customers [illegible] shaving. 'Pretty well, [illegible] the reply; 'you've cut [illegible] already.'

What reason is there [illegible] ania never told a lie [illegible] borne out by the by-[illegible]

A young lady remark[illegible] pen-knife, in one respect [illegible] The ladies in the room [illegible] ing what it could be. [illegible] looking little boy, who [illegible] one corner silent, was [illegible] ter examining the knife [illegible] round, and in a [illegible] 'Well, I don't know [illegible]