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THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 22, 1863.

FREEMASONRY—WHAT IS IT?

The interesting and imposing ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a Masonic Temple took place at Jersey (one of the Channel Islands), on Wednesday, the 17th of December. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Percy Douglass, Bart., was present on the occasion, and addressed those present on the moral, social and religious influence of Freemasonry. He said:

"Sir, I will make bold at once to say that unless I believed from the bottom of my heart that Freemasonry is calculated to confer moral and social benefits, and exercise a religious influence upon society, I should not have lent my presence to the ceremony of this day. (Loud applause). I believe that in taking a part in the proceedings of this day as Lieutenant Governor of the island I have not mistaken my mission here, (hear hear); for I find that in nearly all the ceremonies of the Masons, the relatives of our most gracious Sovereign—and those of the most exalted rank—have generally taken a part calculated to promote the welfare of the Order, (hear hear); and I think that, in following in their footsteps, at a distance, and in my humble way, I cannot be wrong, (hear, hear);—in addition to which I may add the fact that I myself have been a Mason for a long time. (Applause). Here, as well as elsewhere, I am satisfied that instead of the Order being a mere mockery and form, the carrying out of the principles of Masonry is in the most eminent degree calculated to exercise a beneficial influence not only on our hearts, individually, and on the brethren generally, but upon society at large—and this, too, in a purely Christian spirit, as well as a Masonic one.—(Applause). Such have been their effects. And from what I know of Masonry, I must give my testimony to this effect—that I believe we cannot find anywhere expressed a true description of our Order—a description of the laws by which we are governed—I say that I believe we cannot find them anywhere else portrayed than in that book which ought to be so highly prized by all (hear, hear); I mean the Word of God, from the first chapter of Genesis to the book of Revelation. (Loud applause). I proclaim that wherever Christianity exists, this is practically a Christian society, for the beautiful rules, and regulations, and laws, which we can alone find in that Book, are those from which we must gather our duties as Masons. (Applause.) It is true we undertake special obligations to each other; but then they don't take from, they rather add to, those general obligations under which we can alone serve God. (Hear, hear.) We are to be true, honest, faithful, and kind to our inferiors. Our great principles of action towards each other, in Masonry, as well as in a more extended sense to all the world, are—that true religion and undefiled is to visit the fatherless and the widow in their affliction; but, above all, to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. (Loud applause.) The expression of these solemn convictions springs from my heart and conscience. (Hear, hear.) If we, as brother Masons, act up to our religious influences, the proper moral and social efforts upon society will be fully carried out. And my prayer to-day is that this ceremony will not be an empty and unproductive one.—(Hear hear.) I hope we shall all feel as Masons that what we have seen this day is something beyond mere empty ceremony—that, in fact, it is the ceremony of a practical society, and that unless every Mason works out in his own life the great principles, the profession will be the exception, and not the rule; for they are not all Israelites who are of Israel. (Applause.) In conclusion, let me add that I hope the ceremony of this day will have an effect upon the lives of all who are present,—that, when we return to our homes, we shall remember that the obligations which we have contracted with each other to-day ought to produce their good effect in our own family circles, and radiate through society. (Applause.) I shall not presume to address you further than to express a hope that this Temple will be devoted to useful purposes, enabling us to carry out our principles,—always remembering that we now have 'a local habitation' as well as a name in this Island. (Hear, hear.) And let us pray God that the Temple which will soon stand here may never be defamed by any individual, or be used in a manner which shall throw discredit upon our craft and upon our principles. (Loud and continued applause.)

PORTRAITS FROM RUSSELL'S "DIARY NORTH AND SOUTH."

PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

"Soon afterwards there entered, with a shambling, loose, irregular, almost unsteady gait, a tall, lank, lean man, considerably over six feet in height, with stooping shoulders, long, pendulous arms, terminating in hands of extraordinary dimensions, which, however, were far exceeded in proportion by his feet. He was dressed in an ill-fitting, wrinkled, suit of black, which put one in mind of an undertaker's uniform at a funeral; round his neck a rope of black silk was knotted in a large bulb, with flying ends projecting beyond the collar of his coat; his turned-down shirt collar disclosed a sinewy, muscular, yellow neck, and above that, nestling in a great black mass of hair, bristling and compact like a ruff of morning pins, rose the strange, quaint face and head, covered with its thatch of wild Republican hair, of Abraham Lincoln. The impression produced by the size of his extremities, and by his flapping and wide-spread ears, may be removed by the appearance of kindliness, sagacity, and the awkward bonhommie of his face; the mouth is absolutely prodigious; the lips, straggling and extending almost from one line of black beard to the other, are only kept in order by two deep furrows from the nostril to the chin; the nose itself—a prominent organ—stands out from the face with an inquiring, anxious air, as though it were sniffing for some good thing in the wind; the eyes, dark, full and deeply set, are penetrating, but full of an expression which almost amounts to tenderness; and above them projects the shaggy brow, running into the small, hard frontal space, the development of which can scarcely be estimated accurately, owing to the irregular flocks of thick hair carelessly brushed across it. One would say that, although the mouth was made to enjoy a joke, it could also utter the severest sentence which the head could dictate, but that Mr. Lincoln would be ever more willing to temper justice with mercy, and to enjoy what he considers the amenities of life, than to take a harsh view of men's nature and of the world, and to estimate things in an ascetic or Puritan spirit. A person who met Mr. Lincoln in the street would not take him to be what, according to the usages of European society, is called a 'gentleman;' and, indeed, since I came to the United States I have heard more disparaging allusions made by Americans to him on that account than I could have expected among simple Republicans, where all should be equal; but, at the same time, it would not be possible for the most indifferent observer to pass him in the street without notice."

MRS. LINCOLN.

"Mrs. Lincoln is of the middle age and height, of a plumpness degenerating to the embonpoint natural to her years; her features are plain, her nose and mouth of an ordinary type, and her manners and appearance homely, stiffened, however, by the consciousness that her position requires her to be sometimes more than plain Mrs. Lincoln, the wife of the Illinois lawyer; she is profuse in the introduction of the word 'sir' in every sentence, which is now almost an Americanism confined to certain classes, although it was once as common in England. Her dress I shall not attempt to describe, though it was very gorgeous and highly colored. She handled a fan with much energy, displaying a round, well-proportioned arm, and was adorned with some simple jewelry. Mrs Lincoln struck me as being desirous of making herself agreeable; and I own I was agreeably disappointed, as the Secessionist ladies at Washington had been amusing themselves by anecdotes which could scarcely have been founded on fact."

THE REBEL PRIVATEER RETRIBUTION.

SHE CHASES TWO OF OUR VESSELS—APPEARANCE OF THE CRAFT—WHERE SHE HAILS FROM AND HER ARMAMENT, &C.

The audacity and daring of the rebels are every day becoming more apparent, and unless there are speedy and energetic measures taken by the proper authorities, our waters will soon be flooded with those harpies on our commerce and vessels sailing under the flag of the Confederate States, and known as privateers. Another of those formidable emissaries of the rebel government has begun to exercise its functions outside of the harbor of St. Thomas, giving chase to two of our vessels.

The British brig Havelock, Capt. Smith, and the schooner Carrie A. Pittman, Capt. Turner, arrived here direct from St. Thomas yesterday morning, bringing some interesting intelligence relative to the Retribution. Their account, however, has been gleaned from outside sources. Both these vessels left St. Thos. on the 6th of the present month. On the 4th of January the brig Gilmore Meredith, of Baltimore, and the schooner West Wind sailed from St. Thomas on their way to Cuba, in order to receive their cargo. Both vessels were but a short distance outside of the harbor when they were chased by the Retribution. The West Wind was chased back into the port, but the Gilmore Meredith, which came to anchor, was boarded by some of the crew of the privateer, and five of her crew deserting the brig, were transferred to the decks of the Retribution. Both the vessels then returned to St. Thomas, and made the report of what had taken place.

The schooner Retribution arrived at St. Thomas on the 6th of December last from Wilmington, N. C., loaded with a cargo of cotton and turpentine, and brought her guns along with her concealed in the hold. She left St. Thomas on December 18, the San Jacinto sailing in pursuit of her, but, as it will be seen, without success.

The description given of the Retribution is that she is a fore-and-aft schooner, of about one hundred and twenty tons burthen. Her armament consists of four heavy guns, with long tom amidships. Her sailing qualities are described as very fine. She is under the command of Captain Parker. She is painted black, and it is said, possesses all the graceful outline and symmetry so necessary in regard to speed for one of her sailing. While lying at St. Thomas, discharging her cargo, those who saw her speak in unqualified praise of the peculiarities which point her out as a swift and saucy craft.

WHAT THE SOUTHERN PRESS SAYS OF THE NORTH.—The Richmond Despatch of the 10th inst., says:—'If the whole Yankee race should fall down to the dust to-morrow and pray us to be their masters, we would spurn them even as slaves. Our only wish is to be separated from them finally and forever—never to see the face of one of them again—never to hear the voice of another Yankee on the south side of the Potomac or the north—to have no traffic and no intercourse of any description whatever with them. We are fighting for separation, and we will have it, if it cost the life of every man in the Confederate States. President Davis expressed the sentiment of the entire Confederacy in his speech the other night, when he said the people would sooner unite with a nation of hyenas than with the detestable and detested Yankee nation. Anything but that. English colonization, French vassalage, Russian serfdom, all, all are preferable to any association with the Yankees.'

PROBABLE CAPTURE OF OUR SIGNAL SYSTEM.—It is feared, and generally believed, that the signal book of the Harriet Lane was captured by the rebels. If so, this for the first time, places them in possession of our system of signals.

ALABAMA PAYS HER DEBTS.—It would appear from the Mobile Register of Sunday that the Alabama is to relieve herself of a portion of her State debt. That journal says that a British war vessel was expected to arrive there that day, the object of her late visit being to communicate with the British Consul and to receive the interest on the Alabama State debt, due to foreign bondholders. The amount is £40,000 sterling, and is ready for payment in gold.

NEW YORK HARBOR IN DANGER.

(From the N.Y. World.)

The telegram sent from Washington by Alderman Boole to Alderman Farley, 'to see at once to the defences of New York,' must mean that the war office is in possession of some information relative to the designs of Rebel ships of war on New York city. After the two iron-clads now in the harbor leave, there is literally nothing to prevent even a poor specimen of an iron-clad entering our harbor and bombarding the city. The Roanoke is not ready; and if she was, the fact of her being as yet an untried vessel would not give the city that security it should have. All the forts ought to be armed with heavy guns, and at least three rams be in readiness to repel a possible assault. The city will be in a panic some fine morning on learning that a Rebel iron-clad is outside Sandy Hook, and nothing in the harbor that is competent to meet it. Because two years of war have elapsed without a Rebel iron-clad having made her appearance, there is no reason why two other years will see us scatheless.

'The House Committee on Territories has agreed to admit Nevada, Colorado and Nebraska into the Union as States.'

The foregoing unpretentious paragraph appears in the Washington despatches received yesterday. It has a deeper meaning than one would at first suppose. When West Virginia applied for admission into the Union as a separate State, Mr. Lincoln replied that he could not constitutionally sign the bill providing for its admission, inasmuch as the 3rd section of the 4th article of the Constitution declared that 'New States may be admitted by the Congress into the Union, but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State, nor any State be formed by the junction of two more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the Legislature of the States concerned, as well as of Congress.' He could not, therefore, lawfully consent to the dismemberment of Virginia, and besides, sanction the principle of Secession involved to the separation of West Virginia from the 'Old Dominion.' It is said, however, that he swallowed his qualms of conscience and signed the bill submitted by Congress under the convenient plea of its being a 'military necessity.'—And now it would seem that the keepers of his conscience intend to ease it still further by amending the constitution so as to recognize the unconstitutional principle. To do so they are about to proceed constitutionally. When Nevada, Nebraska and Colorado are admitted into the Union, as proposed, the loyal States represented in Congress will form a three-fourths majority of all the North American States and may by virtue of such majority constitutionally make any amendments they please to the Constitution. But of course to be operative in this connection with the revolted States, they will have to be gilded by conquest.—The North will be acting within the text of the law.—[Montreal Gazette.

THE VACANT JUDGESHIP.—We learn that the Solicitor General has declined the vacant Judgeship. His decision is creditable to his character as a public man. A Western paper reports, we cannot say upon what authority, that Mr. John Wilson would also decline the office if it were offered to him.—Globe.

HAMILTON INDEBTEDNESS.—Mr. Isaac Buchanan, as the largest ratepayer in the city of Hamilton, has written two letters to the Mayor, pressing upon His Worship's attention the imperative necessity of the city making more honorable arrangements with its creditors. In his first letter he says:—"In the event of the Sheriff remaining in possession, many of next spring's importations will be stopped at Montreal for sale, and such part of its trade this market will never get back." In the second letter he says that next session Hon. J. H. Cameron will ask Parliament to place the city in the hands of a Commissioner, with a receiver, which, "if the Council persist in refusing fair terms of compromise, the Parliament will have no alternative but to grant. And he points out that if its affairs continue unsettled, "the arrears of interest will become such as the city can never overcome, and this once made clear, a large part of its trade will immediately remove to other places, and property will be worth less than nothing."

IN CHANCERY—THE ATTORNEY GENERAL vs. JEFFREY ET AL.—About eighteen years ago, the greater portion of the congregation worshipping in the Scotch Church, Coburg, seceded from that denomination, and joined the Free Church, but retained possession of the building in which they were used to meet. A portion of the minority of the original congregation, who still maintained their adherence to the Church of Scotland, worshipped with the seceders in the old building for a lengthened period of time; but some years ago, on application of these members to the Presbytery of Toronto, a congregation was collected, and the service of the Church of Scotland occasionally performed among them. The congregation thus formed claimed the church premises, and on the same being refused, they filed a bill in chancery, in the name of the Attorney General against the then trustees. The case was argued some time ago, and stood over for judgment yesterday, when Vice-Chancellor Esten pronounced in favor of the Church of Scotland against the Free Church.

THE MILITARY BALL AT TORONTO.—The Sergeants belonging to the 30th Regiment gave their second annual Ball on the evening of the 20th, in the Music Hall, which seldom looked to better advantage. On the platform were the colors of the regiment, supported by a stand of arms, and flanked right and left with muskets "piled." The floor of the ball room presented a gay and festive appearance, the uniforms of the military contrasting well with the variegated dresses of the fair sex. Lieut. Col. Pakenham, Major Atcherly, and other officers of the 30th, were present in full uniform, while the Naval Brigade and Volunteers were well represented by officers and men belonging to the several corps, all in full uniform.—Among the civilians in every costume, were to be seen his Worship, the Police Magistrate, and several leading citizens. Everything passed off right merrily, and the Sergeants are to be congratulated on the success of their second ball. All the company were present by invitation. Mr. Webb had charge of the refreshment department, and it is needless to remark that the dance music was popular, when it is stated that it was furnished by the regimental band, stationed in the gallery.

OPEN AIR SKATING RINK.—The sum of one hundred and eighty dollars has been subscribed by various citizens for the purpose of keeping the snow removed from the surface of the ice on a portion of the lower bay without the railway track. The skating area will be rectangular in shape, of an area of about fifty-four thousand square feet. An individual has been found willing to contract to keep clear such a space for $100 the season, so that for incidental expenses the committee have ample surplus. We may remark here that at present the skating on the entire surface of the frozen harbor is good, being entirely unobstructed by snow.—News.

THE TRUTH AT LAST.—The Leader announces on authority, that the mission to England has completely failed, in every respect. The ambassadors accomplished nothing, and have spent a round sum on a mere wild goose chase. There can be little doubt that they left this country, well knowing that the terms they would demand in connection with the Intercolonial Railway scheme could not be granted; and it appears they were equally unsuccessful in the attempt to negotiate on the Northwest territory question. The mission has proved a bootless one, and Ministers, no doubt, feel chagrined at their want of success.—The result is precisely what we anticipated and it now remains for the Government to justify the course adopted, and they will soon have an opportunity of doing so if they can.

GROWLS OF THE GRUMBLER.

THEATRE ROYAL, QUEBEC.

The manager of this popular place of amusement begs to announce to his patrons and the public that it will be opened for the season early next month. Great improvements have been made in the company since the departure of the former *Head*, and no pains will be spared to make it even more entertaining than the Opera Comique at Washington. Arrangements on an extensive scale have been effected, at great expense, and it is hoped that the public will 'fork out' proportionately.—Amongst the leading members of the company will be found the following eminent *artistes*:—

Walking Gentleman	Mr. Sicotte
First young lady	Miss McGee
Heavy business	Mr. Foley.
Director of the ballet	Mr. J. S. Macdonald.
Chamber Maid	Miss Evanturel.
1st Old Woman	Mrs Morris.
2nd Old Woman	Mrs. Tessier
Light Comedian	Mr. Wilson
Figur(e)ante	Mr. Howland
Contortionist	Mr. McDougall.
Prompter and scene-shifter	Mr. L. H. Holton.
Stage Manager	Mr. Turcotte.
Scene Artist	Mr. Grumbler,

with many other distinguished performers. During the season the following dramatic pieces, among others, will be presented:—

1. Sir John Falstaff, a burlesque, in which Mr. Foley will sustain the principal character, (Mr. Charles Bass having kindly lent him the dress and properties for the occasion). He will be assisted by Mr. Turcotte as Dr. Caius, Miss McGee as Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Tessier as Mrs. Page, and Miss McGee as sweet Anne Page.

2. How to Raise the Wind, or the Credit Foncier, a farce. Principal characters by Messrs. J. B. Dorion, De Boucherville and Renaud.

4. Used Up, or Rep. by Pop. Mr. J. A. Macdonald has kindly consented to take the part formerly played by Mr. Brown, who has unfortunately left the company. He will be supported by Messrs. Sidney Smith, Sherwood, Daly, J. H. Cameron and Macbeth. As the cast of this piece is entirely new, it is hoped that the piece will be acceptable. These performers will only appear in *this* piece for a brief period.

4. The Omnibus, or all aboard for the Intercolonial Railway, a sensational drama, procured at great expense from Mr. Gladstone by Messrs. Howland and Sicotte.—No pains will be spared in making this piece as attractive as possible. Mr. Sicotte will appear in the character of Chief Engineer, and Mr. Howland as Stoker.—Owing to the great expense attending the production of this novelty, the prices must be considerably raised. Free list entirely suspended.

'My Johnny's gone for a sojer, or the Militia Bill,' and 'Bankruptcy made easy,' by Mr. J. S. Macdonald. Also 'To Parents and Guardians, or Separate Schools, a farce by Mr. T. Ferguson; and 'Quebec vs. Toronto, or the Seat of Government,' a screaming farce by Mr. Couchon, will be presented in rapid succession. Should Mr. Brown rejoin the company, he and Mr. J. H. Cameron will sustain the principal parts in 'A Kiss in the Dark, or the Reconciliation.' Full particulars from time to time.

ME AND MY BROTHER.—Mr. Dunsford is an M.P.P. Mr. Dunsford has a vote in the House; the present Government have not many votes to spare, and Mr. Dunsford's vote would probably be acceptable to the present Government. But Mr. Dunsford, like Lord Dundreary, has a brother, and Mr. Dunsford's brother would have liked to be Sheriff of Victoria, and Mr. Dunsford thought his brother's desire a very reasonable one. But the present Government did not see through the spectacles of Mr. Dunsford, or of Mr. Dunsford's brother, and appointed a gentleman bearing the Caledonian appellation of Neil McDougall. Hence Mr. Dunsford is about to set up as a patriot and go into business for himself. Mr. Dunsford will go into fits about Rep. by Pop. next session, and make himself generally disagreeable. "The Shrievalty or Opposition" were the horns of the dilemma presented by Mr. Dunsford to the present Government. The present Government have delicately accepted the latter, and Mr. Dunsford is now a great champion of the rights of Upper Canada; but if Mr. Dunsford's brother had been appointed to the Shrievalty, where would Mr. Dunsford's clap-trap have been? Moral.—It is a great misfortune to have brothers, because you are sure to get yourself or others into trouble on their account.

HYMN IV., PART I.—L.M.

(As sung by the congregation of St. George's Church, Kingston.)

O, Lord Bishop, Heaven's inspector,
Send us soon another rector;
For the softest of soft sawder
Cannot smooth the way for Lauder.

Take O take, the loaves and fishes,
Only heed our fervent wishes,
Grant the prayer of our petition,
Then we'll purge us of sedition

O, withdraw your malediction,
Also Lauder, dire infliction,
Then we'll raise no more such tusses,
If we do, why start and cuss us.

Tho' the road to heaven is narrow,
And some places need the *harrow*;
Still, if it were ten times broader,
We could never follow Lauder.

PART II.

Pax vobiscum, Dr. Lauder,
We'll withdraw the charge of fraud or
Simony, or what you term it,
Though we're ready to confirm it

Only leave us, do, we pray you
Ask your price, we'll try to pay you;
Should you hang on like a viper,
Let your patron pay the piper

BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED NEXT SESSION.

A Bill to recognize the Sedimentary Militia. Its principal object is to beget a spirit of emulation by legalizing the admission of youths under twelve years of age to the rank of colonel.

A Bill to provide for the union of fossil Tories and rabid Grits, for political purposes.

A Bill for the establishment of an Admiralty Court at Toronto. Bob Moodie to be Judge of the said Court, with Captain McMaster and the officers of the Naval Brigade as advisers and assistants. The 'Yacht Club,' we believe, are to furnish clerks, criers, ushers, &c., and an Armstrong gun to keep order.

A Bill for the incorporation of a sand-Bank in Lower Canada.

A Bill to amend the Fishery Act, by providing for the cure and salting down of the Upper Canada 'Cod-fish,' and for the propagation and colonization of the country by French frogs. Prepared by Messrs. Cartier and DeCazes.

A Bill to render office-seeking a criminal offence, with special reference to the cases of Mr. Boultbee, of Newmarket, and 'Mr. Dunsford's brother.'

A Bill to incorporate the Swine and Filth Nuisance Protection Society, as petitioned for by the Corporation of the City of Toronto,—by Mr. Couchon.

A Bill to exempt Police Magistrates from the law prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sundays.

DOMESTIC.

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT QUESTION.—The correspondent of the Montreal Gazette says the seat of Government question is to be left open by Ministers this coming Session. It will be remembered that the eighth article in the printed programme of their policy opens with the words:—"Her Majesty's decision, with reference to the seat of Government, will be maintained."

STRANGE RUMORS.—The people of Montreal have lately been alarmed by the unaccountable disappearance of four or five persons from their midst. With one accord, the papers of Montreal—the Herald, Witness, Transcript and Gazette—on Tuesday last, all speak of the horrible stories of kidnapping, none of which can be traced to any authentic source. The Herald, for instance says:—During the past week, and more particularly yesterday and on Sunday, many very disagreeable rumors have been circulating as to the treatment certain persons have received in the streets at night. In one instance, a young woman is said to have been stopped by a ruffian, who almost suffocated her by putting a plaster on her mouth. She, however, had sufficient presence of mind to throw a stone, which she held, through the window of a house. This brought out some people, and the assailant ran off.—Another story is told of a boy who was suddenly confronted by a woman of gigantic proportions, but he was so terrified that he screamed out, and the woman blew a whistle. A sleigh drove up, but at this moment a man came out of a house close by, and the woman, abandoning whatever designs she may have had, jumped into the sleigh and escaped. The man, it is said, however, swears that he saw two persons lying dead in the sleigh. If he did, he is acting a strange part in not reporting the case to the police. The assailants in these cases are said to be gipsies, but, although it is possible they may be to blame, we fear there are others who are equally guilty. But, as to the particular outrages in question, they need cause no alarm, as it is hardly likely that any one would receive such treatment and not report it to the police, who have heard nothing more than the general rumors. The stories have most likely been invented at some fireside, to alarm those who were gathered round at the time, and who would afterwards, perhaps, in going home, have to pass by the very places where the horrible scenes were alleged to have been witnessed. We are also informed that the officiating clergyman in St. Patrick's Church, on Sunday evening, warned his congregation, especially the female portion of it, against being out after dark. If this was the case, it was a very proper proceeding, but that there is any special reason for such an injunction now, more than several weeks or months ago, does not appear. And we may also say that the rumors in relation to the kidnapping—unfounded as they are—have given rise to suspicions of the most unjust character. If there have been mysterious disappearances, that is no reason why any person in particular should be accused of being concerned in them, until more grounds for such a suspicion be discovered. Those who have heard and circulated the story will understand to what we allude. There is no necessity for a repetition of the absurd tale. We should have taken no notice whatever of the matter had it not been so generally discussed through the city yesterday.

SENTENCED.—Bombardier Harness, of the Royal Artillery, convicted by court-martial of committing an unnatural crime, has been sentenced to two years' incarceration in the Convict Prison; to be deprived of the Turkish and Crimean medals; further, to be marked with the letters 'B.C.,' and also recommended to be discharged from the service immediately on the expiration of his term of imprisonment, and to lose all claims of good conduct, pay and pension, on being liberated. The unfortunate man was escorted on his journey to Montreal on Monday night last.—London Free Press.

THE IRRESISTIBLE FATE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.—Mr. J. B. E. Dorion publishes in the Defricheur, tabular statements showing the relative proportions of French and English residents in each county of the Eastern townships, at different periods, as shown by the census. The results sum up as follows:—In 1844 the French Canadians were 16,861; the British, 62,322. In the year 1851, the French were 40,304; the British, 71,699. And finally, in 1861, the numbers were not far from being balanced, as there were 79,440 French to 93,017 British. Mr. Dorion thinks that beyond any doubt the next census will show the French Canadians as having obtained a decided majority in the Eastern townships in Lower Canada, which hitherto was considered as the patrimony of the English speaking Canadians. After this, there will be scarcely a spot left in Lower Canada, unless it be Montreal, where the people of British origin will not be left in a minority, and the Province will be permanently more thoroughly French than heretofore. This signal success in establishing French ascendency will be due entirely to the great political scheme and religious crusade of French Canadian colonization.—It cannot be denied that the figures extracted from the census returns by Mr. Dorion, contain a statistical prophecy which deserves the early and earnest consideration of British Canadians. Unless the system of representation according to population prevails, and is established throughout Canada, within a very few years, the British people of Lower Canada are likely to be swamped, and their political and social influence annihilated.—The British members of Parliament of the Province have it probably now in their power to avoid this fatal destiny, by uniting their votes to those of Upper Canada members, in behalf of a more equitable mode of representation. But a few years more, and that power will have passed for ever from them. It behoves them to beware in time, lest a selfish policy may also prove a suicidal one to themselves and their constituents.—Montreal Witness.

THE SHRIEVALTY OF HASTINGS.—The appeal to the Court of Error and Appeal of the Sheriff of this County, against the decision of the Jury and Judges, has, we understand, been decided against the Sheriff, with costs. This is what every man of ordinary understanding who had read the law, knew must be the result, and that the advisers of the Sheriff who carried the case from Court to Court did so for the purpose of staving off a decision until a change in the Ministry would take place, so that he could have the appointment in his own hands. The pretended sympathy for the Sheriff was, as we stated at the time, the veriest moonshine. For no sooner was there a change in the Cabinet, than we find the case pushed on to decision. If Mr. Wallbridge desired to retain the Sheriff in his office, why does not prevail upon his friends now in power to stay proceedings? The reader will not have forgotten the pathetic speech of the member for South Hastings at the last session of Parliament, when he gave notice of a motion to ask the Government to stay proceedings, and allow the Sheriff to retain his position. Why, so eloquent was he, that in order to make out a strong case of persecution against the Sheriff, facts were falsified and motives attributed where none were ever entertained. This sympathy has vanished into thin air, and instead of carrying the case to England, as he has repeatedly and publicly stated he would, he recommends the Sheriff to resign, in order, as his former organ says, to enable the Government to give him another appointment. Alas for the Sheriff! We fear his resignation came too late in the day, and well do they know it: and nothing but an Act of Parliament to relieve him of his disabilities, will render him eligible for any future appointment. The Sheriff will have learned by this time who were his best friends, the late Ministry, who permitted the case to draw its weary length along, rather than turn an old man out of office, and the present man, who have at the earliest opportunity pushed it to judgment, and deprived him of his living. We venture to assert that had John A. Macdonald remained in power, knowing his aversion to interfere with the Sheriff, from the fact that he felt no wilful or moral wrong had been intended, that John Wedderburn Dunbar Moodie would have continued to be Sheriff of Hastings.—[Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 23, 1863.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

M. N., Belleville; J. B., Toronto; V. & Co., New York.

MR. McGEE'S LECTURE ON FOUR REVOLUTIONS.

To the Hon. A. A. Dorion.

Place D'Armes, Quebec, Jan. 14, 1863.

My Dear Sir,—I assume that as an observer of events you look into the French and English newspapers of Montreal and Quebec, and in so doing was struck with the tone of criticism adopted by several of them in noticing my recent lecture on "The Four Revolutions." I can hardly say, indeed, that the lecture has been criticised, for it was not reported here, even in outline, with any attempt at accuracy, except in the Mercury of Monday last. The only other report attempted, (that on which the commentators seized,) was avowedly the work of hostile hands, instigated by a mistaken sense of professional injury.

As you yourself heard this lecture three or four years ago in the Montreal Theatre, I need say nothing of its spirit or tendency to you; but if any of our mutual friends, with whom I have long acted, and whose good opinion I should be sorry to lose, seem likely to be misled by this concerted newspaper intrigue, then I beg you to communicate to them in whatever way seems to you best, these words of explanation.

For the petulant and impertinent who attack me personally, on grounds so insufficient as those they have had, I say nothing. Their manner of exhibiting their enmity is the manner of ill-bred schoolboys; let them live and learn better; I owe them no explanations, and I offer them none.

The true motive of the concerted criticisms to which I refer may or may not find its own way to the public very shortly. I will not certainly inflict on you any formal review of their contents; but I feel that I owe it to our common friends to point out the mischievous malice of those writers who are attempting to get up against me the cry of being 'an enemy of the French race,' because I cannot, in the face of every fact of modern history, put France on a par with England, as an example of constitutional monarchy. Had my discourse been of arts, of sciences, or arms, it would have been blind bigotry to deny to France a glorious and foremost place among European nations; but my topic was the problem of reconciling liberty and law—stability in the head with freedom in the members of a State—and I could not, and did not try to evade the truth, that England from a happy combination of circumstances and advantages, has preserved and established that well-poised representative system of which the French race lost possession 'several hundred years ago.' Who were this French race 'several hundred years ago,' of whom I spoke? Were they in Canada? Assuredly not; they were the French race whose local, provincial and national liberties, religious and civil, had fallen under the centralising sway of Louis XI., of Richelieu, and of Louis XIV. For any one to assume that by 'the French race of several hundred years ago,' I could have meant our own French Canadian population, is to suppose me wholly ignorant of the respective ages of Canada and France.

As to the French revolution of 1789, let who will defend it. Many years ago I formed and expressed in both Montreal and Quebec, my opinions of that revolution, and I certainly will not abandon them because I live among a people largely French, some of whose organs may be disposed to defend the revolution of 1789, because it was French.

On the only really serious respect of these discussions—the attempt to get up a cry of race—let me add a few sentences. The charge, as against me, is simply absurd. In Ireland, it is on record that I defended the great qualities of the Norman and Saxon rivals of our Celtic ancestors; in New England I defended, against the exaggerations of Anglo-Saxonism, the reputation of the Celts; among the Irish in Canada I have defended the Scotch; among the Scotch I have upheld the Irish; with Protestants I have defended Catholics; with Catholics I have defended Protestants;—why, then, should I, of whom this is the true mental record—I, myself, a Celt and a Catholic—be "the enemy" of the Celtic and Catholic French race? Because I cannot read history through the spectacles of these gentlemen, my political critics? Or because Parliament meets shortly, and a little preliminary muddling of the Ministerial waters would be serviceable.

What I write now, my dear Sir, to you, I write as a friend and ally, not as a Minister, nor even as a member for Montreal.—Correct or incorrect in my historical disquisitions, I will defend to the last hour of my life, the right of free discussion, on all subjects on which rational men may differ; and the cry of race raised against the political representative will not, in one iota, lead the historical lecturer to alter or suppress his convictions, on questions of constitutional history, or on any other questions.

This super-sensitiveness to free, historical disquisitions, I am sure you will admit, is not a sign of robust mental health. I doubt it it is any evidence of a really vigilant patriotism, and it certainly neither alarms, nor convinces, nor conciliates me. No one more cordially bears tribute than I do to the great talents and lasting services to our free government of French-Canadians—the Bedards, Papineaus, Vallieres, Lafontaines, Morins,—and some others still in the arena. But every one of these great men walked in the very succession of statesmen whom I glorified, in the right line of Selden, of Lord Somers, of Edmund Burke, of Pitt and Fox, and O'Connell, and Brougham. Had they chosen as their models Sissot and Danton, and Mirabeau, the result could not have been so fortunate for Canada as it has been. They contended on behalf of a French population, but they contended for British liberties. Had they made their ultimatum of the doctrines of 1789, could they have stood where they now stand in history—or have won the victories they did? I for one, my dear sir, am most ready to be guided by their distinguished examples: and I should be sufficiently consoled for any ephemeral injustice I may suffer, by being numbered among the least of their successors.

Pardon me I run on too long. It is possible, nay probable, that educated as we were in different languages and arriving at our experience through different avenues, you may not subscribe to the views of the French and other revolutions, you heard me utter years ago, and which I sincerely hold, I hardly dare expect otherwise. But at least rest assured of the fact, that in your fair and candid judgment you do not consider me capable of intentionally offending so large a portion of our fellow subjects as speak French, or any portion, large and small, of the people of Canada of any language.

If I were capable of shaping my convictions for every vicinage, I might well be distrusted and disliked by all honorable and high spirited men. So long as within the forms prescribed by good manners and good neighborhood, I maintain my own convictions, religious, political, or historical I am guilty of offence to no men or race of men, and I acknowledge none.

Believe me,
Yours always,
THOS. D'ARCY McGEE.

REMARKS OF THE QUEBEC NEWS.

THE HON. MR. McGEE AND THE FRENCH CANADIANS.

We reproduce in to-day's paper from the columns of the Montreal Herald, a letter written by the Hon. Mr. McGee to his friend and late colleague, the Hon. A. A. Dorion, in explanation of his assertions relative to the French race, which has caused so much angry comment in the columns of the French Canadian press of this Province. The hon. gentleman seems to be peculiarly unfortunate not only in being guilty of an unpardonable indiscretion in his unwarrantable and uncalled for assertions relative to the French people, but in his attempt to explain it away.—He complains that he was not reported with any attempt at accuracy, even in outline, except in the Mercury, and that his censurers have chosen to make use of the incorrect report to attack him. This complaint will hardly hold good in the presence of the two or three hundred people who were present at the lecture, not one of whom, even among his warmest friends and admirers but was astonished and surprised to hear him give utterance to the sentiments he did on that occasion. If it be the misfortune of some people not to know how to let well enough alone, others are so deeply imbued with an overweening vanity that they cannot brook even the slightest allusion, or disparagement of their acts without flying into a passion, and complaining of being the most injured of mortals. To this class belongs the President of the Council. The censures he considers as petulant and impertinent attacks upon himself by concerted newspaper intrigue, their authors exhibiting the manner of ill-bred school boys, to whom he owes no apology, and to whom he offers none. This is all very fine, but it seems to show his own petulance and want of temper in a more marked degree than has been exhibited as yet by any of his critics. But to the explanation.

"Who were this French race 'of several hundred years ago,' of whom I spoke?—Were they in Canada? Assuredly not?" And if they were not, what is the difference? Were not the people of Canada their direct descendants, bringing with them the laws, customs and usages of that people? Did they not emigrate to Canada at the very period when Mr. McGee says they lost their notions of Constitutional Government and had never since recovered them. Were not the very laws and edicts existing on our statute books, so much prized by French Canadians, made during the reigns of Louis XI. and Louis XIV. The period when Mr. McGee says the French lost their ideas of liberty was coeval with the colonization of Canada, and anterior to the revolution of 1789, so that if there be any class of Frenchmen more than another to whom his assertions could apply it must be the French Canadians, and the flimsy argument by which he attempts to get rid of his indiscreetness is unworthy a scholar and historian of his attainments. Mr. McGee is too well versed in the history of the migration of peoples, from the days of the early Israelites down to the present, not to know that they have at all times and among every nation brought with them their codes of law, and organic notions of government, and these they have cherished with the most devoted fondness, willing rather to surrender life itself than part with them. The people of Canada then, rather than the French revolutionists of 1789, among whom a century of demoralization, and the inroads made on their ideas by the teaching of the German infidel school, had effected such change, are undoubtedly the class to whom his assertions will apply if they are founded in fact. Our French Canadian fellow citizens are as primitive in their habits to-day as were their great-grandfathers who came here during the time when Richelieu held sway in France. They adhere as closely to French laws and French ideas now as their ancestors did then, and the whole struggle of this people is to maintain intact these very laws and institutions which caused them to lose their ideas of liberty. Turn or twist it as we will, the case appears the more glaring against the lecturer without one redeeming feature. He gave utterance to a sweeping and unqualified assertion against a whole race of people—and that people of a nation to whom his countrymen for ages are so much indebted—and, instead of manfully acknowledging his error, he seeks by shallow sophistry to reason it away.

If we are to believe Mr. McGee, he must have been all his life performing the part of good Samaritan. In Ireland he defended the Norman and Saxon rivals of his ancestors; in New England he defended the character of the Celts against the exaggerations of Anglo-Saxonism; he has defended the Scotch among the Irish, and the Irish among the Scotch—in fact he was everybody's friend, traveling over the world on a mission of universal love. We fear he has made bad use of his time as his labor in this respect is lost, and has not redounded to his own advantage.

In the last paragraph of his letter Mr. McGee professes the greatest admiration for the great talents and lasting services of the Bedards, Papineaus, Vallieres, Lafontaines, Morins, and others who are nameless for the present, but says they contended on behalf of a French population for British liberties. This is something new to us. Against whom did they contend? Was it not against the Colonial Office in Downing street, the centre and seat of administrative constitutional rule? Was it not rather upon their own ideas of liberty which went far beyond the limits of the British Constitution? Did they not seek an elective Legislative Council, which would bear no theoretical relation to the House of Lords? Did they not want vote by ballot, universal suffrage, the abolition of vested rights in Church and State, and in fact, every democratic measure that the most ultra republican could desire? And yet this is what Mr. McGee calls contending for British liberty.

We were disposed at first to attribute Mr. McGee's error rather to his head than his heart, and looked upon his whole discourse as a pardonable attempt to pander to the prejudices of the British population, and establish for himself a little cheap popularity at the expense of the American and French peoples; but this explanation of his only serves to convince us that he has dealt in wholesale and sweeping assertions without cause, contrary to truth or history, and at variance with the dictates of common honesty. The lessons of the past have been lost on Mr. McGee, and he will have to unlearn them as speedily as possible if he would endeavor to obtain a political future in this country.

THE CURLING CLUB.

All day yesterday was occupied in a contest for the second Caledonia Gold Medal. This Medal was won last year from a Lower Canada Club by the Kingston Club, and the honor of wearing and possessing it was contested yesterday, and it was won by Mr. C. F. Gildersleeve, after a very arduous day's play. This Medal is the second of its kind that this gentleman is entitled to wear when in presence of his fellow Curlers.

RETURN OF THE HON. JOHN A. MACDONALD.—There is every reason to believe that the Hon. Mr. Macdonald sailed for New York in the Cunard steamer Australasian, on the 17th inst. So that we may hope for his arrival in Kingston on or about the latter end of the month.

Three Mayors have been taken from the ranks of the Canada Press this year:—

John Creighton	Kingston.
S. B. Merrill	Prescott.
H. J. Friel	Ottawa.

SATURDAY EVENING, JAN. 24, 1863.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

E. C. & Co., New York.

The times are dull, very dull, but stirring times are close at hand. The opening of Parliament, and the return of the Hon. John A. Macdonald will give the new Ministers something more to do than saving at the spigot and letting out at the bunghole. They'll have to fight hard to keep their places. When the expense of their many Commissions is enquired into, they will find that the retrenchment of a few badly-paid clerks won't satisfy the country, after the many pledges given and promises made. They have made no attempt or exhibited any inclination to curtail their own salaries, although they well recollect, that when their salaries were raised from £800 to £1,200, it was done in a time of dearness and great general scarcity! They know better than to meddle with their own bread and butter. The plain truth is, their boasted retrenchments are a mere sham to gull the more stupid of their supporters. The wise ones know that in popular governments there must be more or less corruption, and they look for nothing else. Only, why abuse former Administrations for doing what they (the Ministers) are obliged to do themselves?

Stirring times are at hand in the South. Two fierce and bloody battles must be fought soon. One between the Army of the Potomac and General Lee's army on the Rappahannock; and another battle near the Mississippi, between Gens. Banks and Bragg. These battles, if lost by the Federals, may decide the fate of the war; if lost by the Confederates, they will only protract it. Nothing can conquer the South save extermination.

MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 26, 1863.

It has been the misfortune of the British Whig often to have one opinion, while nearly the whole of its readers had another. The war in the Crimea is one instance, and a hundred similar instances could be given. In many of these cases, time has shewn that the British Whig was right.

When subscriptions in Canada were first made for the relief of the Manchester Operatives, we said, and say it again, that the distress in Manchester and other places was a local matter, and that the English people were bound to maintain their own poor.—This was not said rudely or ungraciously, because to check any act of charity could never be well received. Recent facts have shewn that we were correct. The revenue returns of Great Britain for the past year are now published, and the increase on the year is upwards of two millions sterling! Thus, while one portion of British trade suffered, all its other portions flourished in a remarkable degree. Last session, in view of the prevailing and increasing distress, it was proposed in Parliament to draw upon the Consolidated Fund for the relief of the sufferers, on the credit of the Poor Rates. This proposition was negatived, but had it carried, the two millions' increase of revenue would have provided for the wants of the Operatives in a proper way, without sending the begging box round in distant countries. During this American war, trade of all kinds but one has flourished almost beyond precedent. Therefore, if three fourths of the British people are doing well, and that well-doing causes the ill-doing of the other fourth, surely it is both right and proper for the prosperous to relieve the distressed. The American war is likely to continue, and so is the distress in Manchester; but, as the prosperity of the British people generally, occasioned by the war, is not likely to diminish, so it becomes the bounden duty of the British Government to mitigate the distress of the suffering Manchester Operatives out of the surplus revenue derived from the cause of that suffering. And it is abundantly sufficient to do all that is necessary, without calling for one penny more of voluntary subscriptions.

Those in Canada, in other British dependencies, and in the United States, who have on this occasion so handsomely put their hands in their pockets, in our opinion, unnecessarily, will nevertheless have their reward. Charity is twice blessed, it blesses the giver more than the receiver. We have not written this for the purpose of reprehending the present, or checking any future act of the kind, but simply to shew, that while the British people are generally gainers by the war, and the British revenue largely increased thereby, it is the bounden duty of the British Government to relieve the distress alone.

[To the Editor of the British Whig.]

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in my letter to you of the 19th inst. to the following effect:—

"It is a singular coincidence that his Lordship's friend Mr. Bogert, &c."

It seems this sentence has been misunderstood by some persons to imply that Mr. Bogert was privy to Mr. Stewart's dismissal, or that Mr. Stewart was dismissed to make room for him.

This certainly was not my meaning. I did not believe that Mr. Bogert was aware of it, nor did I suppose that Mr. Stewart was dismissed on his account. And, lest any one should conceive so erroneous an idea, I beg to add that I am informed that Mr. Bogert knew nothing of the matter till after the letter of Dec. 2nd, when he was requested to officiate in Mr. Stewart's place, nor did he arrive in Kingston till the end of the week.

Your obedient servant,
R. J. CARTWRIGHT.

Kingston, Jan. 27th.

The Editor's Table.—No. 281.

The magazines for February are fast crowding upon us, and some have arrived. These and a few laggards are all the new works that are on 'Our Table':—

THE LADY'S BOOK for February. L. A. Godey, Philadelphia. $3.

PETERSON'S LADIES' INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE for February. C. J. Peterson, Philadelphia. $2.

Both these Lady's Books are replete as usual with all that a lady needs to know.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for Dec. Reprint of L. Scott & Co., New York. $3.

Owing to a sad and destructive fire, the above number has been long in coming here. Its contents are various and charming, though the tale of 'Salem Chapel' rather drags. But the article for the Canadian reader's eye is that on 'British North America,' which, although discursive, is really intended to pave the way, and prepare the English capitalist to assist with his purse the formation of the Intercolonial Railway between Halifax and Quebec. This article is well written, and displays a good knowledge of the subject, and yet is full of gross blunders; such as saying that the Canadian Government pays to the Galway Line of Steamers a bounty of £104,000 per annum, and arguing that, because the internal navigation between the head of Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg is bad, and so bad as almost to be impassable even for canoes, a railroad route across the same territory would be impracticable! Every one who knows that country knows the very reverse to be the case. But let that pass. We Canadians ought to be exceedingly grateful to 'Old Ebony' for the notice it takes of us, even though that notice be very defective in matters of fact.

THE PRINTER, for January, 1863. John Greason & Co., New York. $1.

THE JOURNAL OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES for Upper Canada, for January. $1.

THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST, for January, 1863. 50 Cents.

MORGAN'S BRITISH TRADE JOURNAL, for January, 1863. London; Morgan Bros. Five Shillings.

This pamphlet must be very useful to the Canadian Importer, for it gives the current prices of every British commodity.

THE CABINET.—Mr. Howland has arrived in Toronto. The Globe says:—We are happy to say that he is convalescent, and will soon be restored to perfect health. Mr. McDougall left Quebec on Saturday for Toronto. Mr. McGee went to Montreal on Saturday.

MR. TILLEY.—Hon. Mr. Tilley left Quebec for New Brunswick on Saturday. It is reported that the Ministries of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will try to carry the Intercolonial scheme in their Legislatures, as acceded to by their delegates, and will proceed to survey the route. Nothing could possibly afford the people of Canada a greater satisfaction than to see the sister Provinces not only survey the route, but build the road, on their own account.—Their Legislatures meet like ours on the 12th February. Mr. Tilly dined with Lord Monck on Friday, accompanied by the Premier and Mr. Sicotte.—Globe.