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The Daily British Whig

"Optifer per Orbem Dicti."

MONDAY MORNING, JAN'Y 16, 1865.

## LETTERS & TELEGRAMS.

W. N. & Co., Montreal; L. P. F. & Co. New York; L. P. V. & Co., Do.; G. W. L., Belleville.

## CORONER'S INQUISITION.

CITY HALL,
Kingston, Jan. 13, 1865.

Minutes of Evidence taken by Coroner Edward John Parker, this day, at an Inquisition on the Origin of the Fire of the City Buildings, on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 1865.

The Inquisition called for by Requisition of the Mayor of Kingston and two Aldermen of the City.

The City Solicitor James Agnew, Esq., assisted the Coroner with his counsel. Mr. William R. Allen, County Coroner, assisted also in taking this evidence. Mr. Alderman Baker, Chairman of City Property, was also present.

Remigius Beaupre, sworn.—Recollects the evening of the 10th inst. His attention was drawn to some small children calling fire. Opened the Bar Door and saw a light over Mr McMillan's Auction Room. He saw the light below the arch of the window, below the middle. It appeared like the light of a large lamp. The fire in the window broke through in about two minutes from the time he saw it. Did not hear the Bell ring until ten or fifteen minutes from the time he saw the fire. About the middle of the window the light was seen, but appeared to come from the lower part. It was about half-past eight when the the fire was first seen.

William Smith, sworn.—Is caretaker of the City Clock. Recollects the evening of the 10th inst. Went home from the city a little before five o'clock, P. M. Has not been up to the Clock for nearly three months. The practice is to lock the door, but the lock of the door leading to the flat above is very easy to pick—a rusty nail would do it. The flat above Mr. Lightfoot's Printing Office and Mr. McMillan's Upper Store is lighted by some half windows low down on the floor, and also by some square windows higher up, intended to light another flat. There was but one flat in the building over Mr. Lightfoot's Office and Mr. McMillan's Store; and this extended across the whole building, with the exception of a small apartment over Mr. Lightfoot's Printing Office, where Mr. Palmer used to keep drugs. There was also another room built over this last room, which Mr. Hoborough, the Book-binder, used to occupy. This did not extend across the building.

William Lightfoot, sworn.—Is a Printer, and occupied a portion of the City Building. The South-west corner of the Building burnt. Recollects the evening of the 10th instant—thinks so. Was engaged all that day in his business. Left the premises at six o'clock. Uses Gas, Coal Oil and Candles in his office. His Printing Office was lit up that evening. No Coal Oil used that night. Was the last person in the premises, and locked the door himself. He sent the keys home to his wife, and sent word that he would not return till late. Went over to Mr. Alex Robb's Tavern, and waited there until the fire broke out, at eight o'clock. Intended to go to the Theatre, and was about to go when the fire broke out. His office was heated by stove and wood. The stove was in the centre of his office. The stove-pipe went into the wall at the King Street end of the building. No particular fire that day—no fire in the pipes. The office was left in the way it was ordinarily left. The stove was often red hot. Does not recollect who was with him at Robb's. The light of the fire was first observed by witness from the square windows above his office, and not from the half windows above his office. Was insured in the North Mercantile British Office for $2,000 on his office, with Mr. Harris, of the Bank of Montreal. Intended to increase this insurance to $1,000 more, and made application to Messrs. Anderson & Ford, Hinds, and others. To anyone who would take it. Considers he had $4,500 worth of property in his premises. Thought it necessary for his protection to increase his insurance. Three months ago he made the last application to increase his insurance. This was to Messrs. Anderson and Ford. Has not saved his Books, nor any of his Invoices of the property burnt. Locked the outer door of the Building as he left that night.

Charles McMillan, sworn.—Was a tenant of the city—occupied the Auction Room and the room above. Recollects the evening of the 10th inst. Left the Store at two o'clock that afternoon; left it in charge of his brother-in-law, Mr Brand. Went home, and saw the reflection of the fire about nine at his private residence, near the Grove Inn. Came into the city about half-past nine with his son, who came for him. Had stock of his own in the store and the store above to the value of $1,500 or $3,000. Was not protected by any insurance—his loss is total. There was no communication between his upper store and the third flat above. About three feet of the window lighted the flat above his upper store. There was a space of 10 or 12 inches between the glass and the roof. A fire in the upper flat would shine through the lower part of the window, tho' the light should be greater above than below. A fire occurring in witness' upper store could not be seen on the opposite side of the building until after the roof and sides were burnt. There has been no fire in the Auction Room, or in the room above, at any time this winter. There was no stove in the upper floor. There was a stove in the lower shop, not used this winter, the pipes of which went into the King Street end of the building. No lights of any kind used this winter—always shut up before dark. There was a stairway from the entrance of the Shambles communicating to witness' upper room, but had no communication with the third or upper flat. This stairway was not used, and it was almost kept constantly barred. Thinks it is possible that a man could get from witness' upper room, by the window, into the flat above. It is the opinion of witness, that the fire could not have taken place in his upper room, but in the flat above.

George Brand, sworn—Acts as clerk to Mr. McMillan, and does business on his own account in Mr. McMillan's store. Remembers the evening of the 10th inst. and what occurred. Mr. McMillan left the store at two o'clock that day, and the day being very stormy and no business doing, witness left the shop at half-past three o'clock locking the store up. Has heard the evidence of Mr. McMillan, and agrees with it in every particular. Thinks the fire must have taken on the flat above the upper store, from the fact that there was no fire or light used on his premises this winter. Smokes, but had no been upstairs that day after 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning. Mr. McMillan does not smoke. Had property of his own on the premises to the value of $1,000. Was not insured—his loss is total. Never was on the flat above his upper store.

Samuel McMillan, sworn—Is son to Mr Charles McMillan. Left his brother's house at a little after eight o'clock, and saw the fire and hurried to his father's shop. At this time the fire was raging furiously, and lights were seen from both sides of the building, from the windows over his father's store and those in Mr. Lightfoot's printing office. Broke open his father's shop and saved as many things as he could. Is well acquainted with the premises. There is no communication between his father's premises and the flat above. There has been no fire or light in his father's premises during this winter, to the best of witness' knowledge.

Frederick Smith, sworn.—Is son of Mr Wm. Smith, care-taker of the clock. Has attended to the clock for some time past. Knows the premises well. On the third flat there are some partitions in a very dilapidated condition. They partially obstructed the view on south side of the building, but a light on the north side could be seen on the south side. This flat was quite clean, and every kind of rubbish had been cleared away. No person but witness and his father had any business or right to be in this part of the building. The lock of the door communicating with this flat at the head of the stairs leading to Mr. Lightfoot's office was in very bad order. Any one could open it. This door and stairway were the only entrance to this part of the building. The keys were hung up in his father's shop, in a private place, and were there on the morning after the fire. Was in the building to attend to the clock on Saturday last, before four o'clock, p.m.

Mr. Frederick Smith added to his testimony, that it is possible to enter the upper part of the building from the top of the shambles, and thence through the small square windows into the buildings. These windows were open.

Archibald Smith, sworn.—Is Clerk of the Market. Thinks it must have been about a quarter to nine when the fire broke out and he began to ring the bell. Saw the flames bursting out of the windows in the upper store of Mr. McMillan. When ringing the bell in the entrance of the City Building saw the fire above in the premises occupied by Mr. McMillan. Did not see any fire on the other side, belonging to Mr. Lightfoot. Looked, but saw none above nor to the south. From what he saw he thinks the fire took place in the premises above Mr. McMillan's premises. It might have taken in the flat above. The bell rope was soon burnt, and the rope could could not have been burnt in Mr. McMillan's upper room, but on the flat above. The rope broke in about ten minutes after he bell was begun to be rung. The roof over the entrance or hall was not on fire at the time the rope was burnt. Had the fire taken place in Mr. McMillan's premises, the roof must have been burnt before it communicated to the flat above, and the rope on the flat was burnt almost immediately after the fire broke out. The impression of witness is that the fire must have been on the third flat at that time to burn the rope. Witness saw no fire above the entrance at the time the rope was burnt. There was no communication between the partition and where the rope was burnt. The rope was burnt, not cut. He judges from the length of the bell rope that it must have been burnt near the bell. The rope is burnt.

Andrew Bannigan, sworn.—Is messenger to the city. Was in the City Hall about half past eight o'clock on Tuesday evening, and saw a light and fire from Mr. McMillan's windows, from the top part of the centre window. It was about four minutes from the time witness saw the fire until he began to ring the bell, and in about two minutes more the rope broke. Thinks from the length of the rope that it broke near the bell. There was smoke at the entrance, but no fire. Witness did not see any fire above. Did not pay any particular attention. Was a good deal excited.

There being no more witnesses present to be examined, the investigation was adjourned until Tuesday, the 17th instant, at one o'clock, p. m.

## UNITED STATES NEWS.

THE PEACE PROPOSITIONS.—For some time past there have been rumors of peace propositions between the North and South, and they have been gradually gaining in consistency so much so that it seems not improbable that they may be based upon a solid foundation such as to lead to the hope that they may result in a cessation of hostilities. The Messrs. Blair, special friends of the President, have gone to Richmond on a mission of peace. At first it was said that they went entirely upon their own responsibility, and some difficulty occurring about passes through the Federal lines, the first attempt to reach the Confederate Capital had to be abandoned. They have, however, renewed it with greater success, having been furnished with such documents from the Secretary of War, as to secure the acquiescence of General Grant in their progress South. But the statement was made apparently upon the authority that they undertook the mission entirely upon their own responsibility and beyond the instructions to Gen. Grant to permit them to pass, without any official recognition by the President.

Yesterday's telegram brings us intelligence that this statement, however it came to be made, was inaccurate. Mr. Blair has gone South with the full authority of the President, and armed with the terms upon which he will consent to a restoration of peace. These terms are: the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was; the South to return to the Union with all the rights and privileges which it held before any of the States seceded; the total abolition of slavery. This last point, although in apparent antagonism with the second, it is said the President insists upon, not demanding the immediate abolition of slavery, but that measures shall at once be taken to secure its extinction within a reasonable time. Mr. Blair, it would appear, is not the sole envoy in this mission of peace. A democratic politician, Gen. Singleton of Illinois is in advance of him, having also received the authority of the President for that purpose. This is the news from the north.

The reported doings of the Southern authorities, as related to us in yesterday's intelligence, which we publish this morning, are even more interesting, and if reliable, point to the likelihood of a successful termination to the efforts now being made to put a stop to this terrible war. The President of the Confederate States, Mr. Jefferson Davis, is reported as favoring peace, a report which is not by any means improbable. The serious divisions which have recently manifested themselves in the Confederate councils are well calculated to annoy and discourage him. That he should be willing to accept any terms which offer him an honorable escape from the difficulties which those growing dissentions are bringing upon him, is highly probable. The Confederate Congress is reported to have passed a resolution in secret session to appoint commissioners, the Vice President, Mr. Stephens, being one of them; and Gen. Grant is said to have telegraphed to Washington that Mr. Stephens has asked for a pass through the Federal lines to enable him to visit Washington. The Vice-President, who went into secession with great reluctance, has long been suspected of entertaining an earnest desire for peace, even at the price of a restoration of the Union; and his selection as a commissioner by the Confederate Congress, always presuming that he has been selected, would indicate a determination on their part to bring the war to a close.

The most extraordinary part of this news is that which refers to Gen. Butler. It is said that his dismissal from his command is intended, not as a mark of disapprobation on account of his failure at Wilmington, but as a peace offering to the South. He is spoken of as, in the opinion of the Federal authorities, an obstacle standing in the way of a perfect understanding with the South. Poor Beast Butler, this is certainly a sad termination to his career. Whatever the result of the negotiations for peace, all men who value a decent regard for humanity, will rejoice at this ingrious termination of an inglorious career. Canadians of every shade of opinion will watch with great interest the result of this new effort for the restoration of peace among our neighbors, and will earnestly pray that it may be crowned with success.

## THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

Washington, Jan. 12, 1865.

The Senate to-day, on motion of Mr. Sumner, proceeded to the consideration of the Reciprocity treaty.

Mr. Howe took the floor in opposition to the repeal of the treaty.

At 1:30 o'clock Mr. Grimes interrupted Mr. Howe by asking that the Senate take a recess of ten minutes to allow its members to pay their respects to Vice-Admiral Farragut who was upon the floor. The recess was granted.

Mr. Howe resumed the floor on the Reciprocity treaty.

Mr. Morrill succeeded Mr. Howe and advocated the repeal of the treaty, which he said had been unfavorable to the interests of the people of New England. He argued that the treaty had been unequal in its operation, and that the advantages of it had been realized by Canada to a greater extent than by the United States.

Mr. Chandler favored the repeal of the treaty. The Board of Trade of Detroit did not represent the people of Michigan when they opposed its repeal. They represented only the interests of merchants, but the farmers of Michigan were not in favor of the treaty. The people of Canada had been in sympathy with the rebellion ever since it commenced, and this was another reason why the action recommended by the committee on Foreign Relations should be taken.

Mr. Foote could see no occasion for protracting a debate on a question on which there could be, he said, a divided opinion in Congress or in the country. While the treaty had proved highly beneficial to the interests of the people of Canada, it had proved prejudicial to the interests of the United States. It was reciprocal only in name.

Mr. Hale argued against the repeal of the treaty, stating that its advantages had been reciprocal, and not one-sided, as stated by many Senators. Mr. Hale, after some further remarks against the repeal of the treaty, moved to refer the subject back to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Doolittle explained why, he should vote for the resolution. The new revenue system of the government demanded the abrogation of the treaty.

Mr Wilson said he had prepared an amendment, that instead of repealing the treaty a commission be appointed to make a new treaty.

Further remarks on the subject were made by Messrs. Conness, Riddle and Hendricks, the two former in favor of repeal and the latter against it. A motion to refer the subject to the Judiciary Committee was lost.

The yeas and nays were then called on the passage of the resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 31 yeas to 3 nays. Those voting in the negative were Messrs Buckalew, Dickson, Hale, Hendricks, Howe, Ramsay and Van Winkle.

## CANADIAN ITEMS.

The Hon. George Brown arrived in New York on Friday by the China.

FORENSIC AND STATE MEDICINE.—The University course of lectures upon Medical Jurisprudence will be commenced on Saturday by Dr. Litchfield, Professor. The introductory lecture is to be delivered at Rockwood Asylum, at 2 p.m., subject, Psychological Medicine, with illustrations from among the inmates of the Asylum. We understand that the Professor has extended the invitation beyond the members of his class to law students and to the interested public.—News.

THE DEFENCE OF OUR LAKES.—The United Service Gazette received by the last mail says:—'The Federal government having given notice, in accordance with the treaty, of their increasing their force on the boundary lakes between Canada and Federal States, it is generally reported that Captain Sherard Osborn will be placed in command of the British force which will of necessity be re-established.'

DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOUR OF CONFEDERATION.—The Reform Club, an organization consisting of many of the most active Reformers in the city, design holding a meeting in the St. Lawrence Hall, on Tuesday next, for the purpose of passing resolutions in favour of Confederation. They have taken the opportunity of many members of Parliament being on their way to the Seat of Government to invite them to address the meeting, and some good and lively speaking may be expected.—Globe.

SOUTH ONTARIO ELECTION.—We learn from private sources and our cotemporary the Whitby Chronicle that all goes well in this riding. It is alleged by the Federal organ here that Mr. Gibbs is receiving all the Conservative votes of the riding. Not a doubt of it. Surely it could not be expected that these votes would be given for a professed annexationist and Federal sympathizer? The Farewell men make no secret of their leanings towards American republicanism; it is a duty incumbent upon the electors of South Ontario to rebuke their loud-mouthedness.—Leader.

JUDGE SMITH'S DECISION.—The Montreal papers publish at great length the decision of Judge Smith in the matter of the raiders, also the new point that was raised by the defence, but which has since been decided against. The point was as thus:—

'The Statute 12th Vic., repealed by it, provided that, upon information, judges and magistrates should have cognizance for the purpose of extradition of offences committed within the jurisdiction of the States or of any such States, while the amending act, now declared to be in force, gave such cognizance only of offences committed within the jurisdiction of the United States, and omitting the words or of any such States.'

Of course this is but a quibble, but then law is so often based upon quibbles, that it appears to have been quite right on the part of the Counsel for the defence to raise it. It is hinted that Judge Smith has improperly decided upon the face of the Statute, and that a higher court will be appealed to by the defendants. Meanwhile the latest intelligence is that a delay of thirty days has been granted to the accused, in order that they may be able to obtain from Richmond satisfactory evidence of their belligerent character.

## FROM THE CAPITAL.

Quebec, Jan. 13.

Information received by the militia authorities speaks of the satisfactory manner in which the various volunteer companies called out for service have performed their routine and other duties, and of the general good behavior of both officers and men.

The payment of the volunteers through the newly appointed paymasters has not yet been reduced to a working system, owing to the securities of paymasters not having been given. In the meantime cheques drawn in favor of the captains of companies are to be sent to the colonels of battalions and the force will be paid at once to the 15th inst.

Mr. Henry McPherson, of Owen Sound, has been gazetted as Judge of the County of Grey.

Mr R. M. Wilkison has been appointed County Attorney and Clerk of the Peace for the County of Frontenac.

The following additional passport agents have been appointed:—Messrs. Nelson Forsyth, of Fort Erie; Edward S. Collett of London; F. G. Nash, of Niagara; Thomas Saunders, of Guelph; C. P. Hutchinson, of Point Edward; Charles R. Ford, of Colborne; Joseph Macdougall, of St. Mary's; L. C. Camp, of Thorold; James H Bissett, of St. Johns; W. H. Williams, of Coaticoke; and Joseph E. Robertson, of Sherbrooke.

The appointment in March last of Mr. Robert Mackenzie, of Sarnia, to the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the western division, in the place of Mr. Talfourd, resigned, has now been confirmed.

The funeral of L'Abbe Ferland took place with great pomp to-day. The body was interred in the French cathedral with imposing religious ceremonies. The Archbishop of Tloa pronounced the funeral oration.

Messrs. Russell Bro. will re-open the St. Louis Hotel on Wednesday next for the accommodation of members of Parliament and others.—Leader.

## FIRE IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, Jan. 13, 1865.

About 3 a. m. a fire broke out in the grocery of Roy & Cameron, St. Urbane St. The counter, shelves, and floor were covered with paper soaked in high-wines. The fire broke out in three places—two in the cellar, and one in the stairway at the back of the store. A cask of high wines was running but the liquor did not get into the shop. Roy has been absent since Tuesday, visiting friends. The firm were insured in the Equitable for $5000, and in other offices.—The insurance is void, owing to no notice of insurance in more than one office having been given. The agent of the Equitable had Mr. Cameron, who lives at the next shop before Mr. Coursol to-day to make a deposition.—Globe.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

RUSSIAN RULE IN POLAND.—The Warsaw correspondent of the Danziger Zeitung thus describes the present state of the kingdom of Poland:

Imprisonments and confinements in the citadel continue without intermission, and although lately a few prisoners were liberated because there were no proofs whatever against them, they have been fined incredible sums—some as much as 15 000 silver roubles. The deportations to Siberia, too, do not cease, although the number of persons sentenced to banishment is not so large as formerly. Four days ago a new transport of 63 prisoners left the citadel by the St. Petersburgh Railway Pskow, whence these unfortunate people will be driven on foot through ice and snow to the Siberian steppes. The self will and abuses of the police are as great as ever. Some days ago they arrested two sisters, daughters of a well known and respected inhabitant of this town, just at the moment when they were about to take part in a concert for a charitable object. The only offence with which they were charged was that, they had refused to perform at one of the musical soirees of the director of the Conservatory of Warsaw, given for the amusement "of Count Berg and his Russian friends.—Both the ladies were imprisoned for three days in the police court; and when at last they were set free, they were severely admonished not to feign sickness another time when called upon to fulfill the wishes of Count Berg, who, being perfectly well when asked to sing for a charitable purpose.

ENTOMBED IN AN OAK.—A Roman paper reports, on the authority of a letter from Caen, a very extraordinary discovery made on the estate of the forest of Cinglais. There are many fine old Druid oaks in that forest, and one of them being very much decayed, was felled. The trunk being split was found to contain the body of a man, which turned to powder on being touched. The remains of a lance was found at its side, the iron head alone bearing exposure. The people of the district have been greatly puzzled at this discovery, but the local antiquaries think that this body must have been that of one of the companions of Rollo, the chief of the Northern men who first invaded Feustria. How it got into the heart of the tree is as great a mystery to them as the apple in the dumpling was to George the Third.

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES.—When John Girder declared that whatever was perfectly unsatable might be given to the poor," he enunciated the grand maxim of scientific congresses; these wonderful meetings of world famed men being very little else than grand gatherings for the disposal of rejected articles. What the originators of such societies intend, what they meant or hoped for when they instituted them, is clear and clean beyond me. I never met yet the man who owned he had gleaned anything from their incubrations. I never saw the woman who did not come away more conceited and self-opinionated from having frequented them. First of all, they are not congresses at all, for the discussional element in them is at the very lowest.—When I have read my paper on the 'Prismatic formation observable in maiden ladies of advanced years,' another opens with a 'Remarkable phosphorescence in the eyes of sanguineous gentlemen when they discuss the poor-rates;' but nobody disputes, nobody inquires into, nobody investigates these. A timid naturalist at the end of the room will, perhaps, hint that something in his own experience has not corroborated the learned gentleman's most interesting paper; but the President comes down at once with his vote of thanks, and there's a great clapping of hands and scraping of feet, and they all rise and go off to tea, 'dreary companions, every one!' The only bit of real cleverness I have ever detected in these scientific swells is the choice of the place they meet in. I have not tested the fact by experiment, and therefore I am ready to offer an honest wager on it, that if you'll take up a Census Return, you'll always find that the place they select will have an overwhelming proportion of the female population. In this way they are like the monks of old, who had an aptitude for a neat locality that has never been surpassed. If you place a civil engineer on the top of a mountain, he'll tell you very soon where there will be water, and generally too, what direction the streams will run in; and I'd back a Scientific Congressite to hit off the spot where rooms full of green veiled goddesses will be found, and where the dreariest old chymists and archæologists will be fondled and feted and pampered for ten days or a fortnight, as if they were Phaetons or Apollos. This is the real secret of the whole thing; it is what the Cockneys call an 'outing.'—Blackwood.

A TURKISH TRAGEDY.—A horrible tragedy is reported in a Constantinople letter of the 10th. The following are the particulars as thus reported:—Djemila Sultana, the third daughter of the late Sultan, now in her 22nd year, was married to Mehmond Jelladin Pasha. The position of a subject upon whom the Sultan confers the hand of one of his daughters is anything but an enviable one, as the Princess treats the unhappy husband much in the same way as they do their slaves, or rather worse, for the latter have not the misery of appearing in a false position. It is well known that the husbands of the daughters of the late Sultan—Fatima, Raffina and Djemila—have led the most wretched of lives from the arbitrariness and jealousy of their wives. The tragedy which occurred on the 12th inst. occurred from this cause. The Sultana Djemila, from causes well or ill founded, became jealous of one of her slaves, whom she imagined was regarded with some favor by her husband; in her Highness's rage against the unfortunate girl, she ordered one of her eunuchs to cut her head off, which was done at a stroke of his scimitar. Then she determined to extend her revenge to her husband, and coolly directed that the girl's head should be placed under a cover on the Pasha's dinner-table. It is the custom in Turkey for the male head of families to dine apart from their women. On the day in question the Sultan seated herself on the Divan—a long sofa extending across the room—previous to her husband entering the dining room. On his arrival, as is customary, he went up to his imperial spouse and rendered her the usual homage. When seated he called on the servants present to remove the cover which is thrown over the tray which forms the top of the table; to his surprise they hesitated and shrank back. The Sultana then called to him to remove it himself, upbraiding the servants for their conduct. The unhappy Pasha, obeying his wife's orders, threw off the cover, and there before him lay the gory head of the murdered girl. He reeled and fell back a corpse. Previous to his taking off the cover he had drunk some sherbet and whether this was poisoned, as some imagine, or that the shock produced apoplexy has not been ascertained, as no examination has been held. It will of course be thought that the Imperial murderess was at once seized and placed in the hands of justice. On the contrary Djemila Sultana, a princess of the Imperial family, daughter of Sultan Abdul Medjid, and niece of the reigning Sultan, has up to the present moment remained in her house unmolested, and the only notice taken of the matter has been that her Imperial uncle is very angry with her! Fudge!

RAILWAY THROUGH THE ALPS.—This scheme is progressing, and is likely to meet with a success commensurate with the magnitude of the undertaking. There are at present in Switzerland three gentlemen representing the Board of Directors of the Central European Railway Company, namely, Mr. Cave, Sheriff of London and Middlesex, Mr. Watford, a director of the Financial Corporation, and Mr. J. W. McClure, of Manchester. They went out to inaugurate the commencement of the works. The object of the line is to connect the lines running from Ostend and Rotterdam to Balse with the Lombardian and Italian systems, thereby shortening the overland route to India by about 400 miles, or 60 hours, and making England independant of France by affording a rail route through Belgium and Switzerland, neutral countries in the event of a European War. The line to be made will leave the Lombardo-Venetian Railway at Como, and run by Chiasso, Lugano, and Berlinzona to Biasca. Thence it will take either the pass of the St. Gothard or the Luckmanier Pass, according to the decision of the Swiss Federal Government. A letter from a member of the deputation, dated the 18th inst., states that on the previous day the deputation, with the local representatives of the company, Signor Cattaneo, and others, visited the works at Lugano, where they were received with salves of artillery. The united bands of the Canton of Tiesno played in front of the hotel where the deputation stayed, and the mayor, with the leading inhabitants paid them complimentary visits, prior to the interview with the government of the canton. It was hoped that very shortly about ten miles of the line would be open for traffic. On the 29th inst. the deputation were to meet the Federal government at Berne, where they expected to learn what the government subvention would be. The line from Como to Biasca is expected to cost about a million and a half, of which about seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds is already issued and held by British capitalists.

THE PUBLIC PRESS AND THE QUACKS.—Among the most salutary of the consequences which may be anticipated from the righteous punishment of Henery and his accomplice is the influence which it may exert on public opinion, and the additional demonstration which it affords of the necessity of that purging of the advertisement sheets of the public journals which we have long urged, hitherto with little effect. The opportunities afforded to those scoundrels of gathering in their crop of victims by the daily and weekly press of the metropolis and the provinces are the most fruitful of the sources of their infamous prosperity. The exposure and the denunciation of these fellows by the medical press have been unsparing. We have repeatedly singled them out by name, and have stigmatized their filthy works, their vile practises, and their shameful extortions. It is not just, therefore to say, as has recently been stated, that the medical profession, as its representatives shrink from the dangerous duty of openly denouncing and exposing these men. But a great responsibility lies with the conductors of those daily journals who consent to receive and parade on their broadsheets the filthy advertisements of these unblushing miscreants. Take up many of the most respectable and influential of the London daily papers, and the eye will be arrested almost immediately by obscene announcements of "Guides to Marriage," "Silent Friends," "Treaties on Manhood," and other vile publications of an equally disgusting and dangerous character. With country papers it is still worse. Column after column is frequently filled up with baits of the kind cunningly spread for the unwary; professing to reveal secrets which excite the curiosity of some, and appeal to the fears of others; tempt the imagination of the young; and hold out promise to the prurient; and which are so written as to excite groundless fears in the mind of almost every reader, to distort ordinary symptoms, to draw gloomy pictures of future misery, and by every artifice and lie to draw victims within the trap of the quacks who divise such books an instruments of their infamous trade. Thousands have suffered from yielding to the temptation; and, being drawn within the net, have been terrified, swindled, and many of them driven nearly to frenzy by the false fears thus created and cunningly fostered. The conductors of the public press are mainly responsible for the gigantic proportions which this evil has assumed. That we do not exaggerate the facts in describing them at gigantic may be proved by references to our own columns for some years past, by an appeal to the experience of the whole medical profession, of whom there are really few who could not repeat tales of suffering and extortion within their own experience; by the evidence of many criminal solicitors, of whom there are scores who have been employed in resisting or compromising claims set up by these rogues. It is of little use for the writers in the public journals to indulge indignant leaders on the subject of the vile traffic of these quacks, or to frame denunciations of their abominable practices, while the advertisement sheets are still left open announcements, and the whole circulation of the papers is utilized for bringing fresh victims to the sacrifice. We earnestly appeal to them to refuse any more to permit their columns to be thus sullied.—The Lancet.

A FEMALE BRIGAND.—A Turin letter states that among the Neapolitan provinces which have to contend with the dreadful scourge of brigandage, there is that of Cattanzaro, which possesses the advantage of having a band which is led by Maria Oliviero, an exceedingly handsome woman, not yet 30 years of age. Barbarity is her chief characteristic, and the sight of blood renders her as excited as a wild beast. She was the wife of the famous brigand Monaco, of the Albanian village of Spezzano, who was killed in an encounter with the Italian troops near Rossano. In this very encounter Maria was also wounded, but she continued to discharge her musket, kneeling on the dead body of her husband, with a firmness and a courage which even commanded the admiration of her opponents. Having at last been struck in the right leg, she fell into the hands of the troops, was brought before a court martial at Cattanzaro, and was condemned to be shot. The sentence was, however, commuted to 30 years of penal servitude. While she was expiating her crimes in the prison of Cattanzaro the gaoler fell desperately in love with her. The cunning woman pretended to feel an equal affection for him, and one day she told him that while she was with her husband she had concealed in a certain place near Rossano a large sum of money, which had been paid for the ransom of a rich farmer. The gaoler went quickly to the spot and found the money. This fact had naturally the effect of making his love for Maria still more ardent, so that she had no difficulty in convincing him that tender affections are better manifested in freedom than within the four walls of a dungeon. Before, however, making their escape, Maria succeeded in sending word to her brothers, who are brigands, that on a certain evening she would be at an appointed spot not far from Cattanzaro, attired in man's clothes, together with her deliverer. Maria was punctual at the rendezvous and her brothers also. The unfaithful turnkey was killed out of hand, and the money he had found replaced in Maria's pocket.—Once free, this woman organized a band of brigands, and began her operations in that tract of mountains which lie between the river Crato and Cattanzaro. The barbarities since perpetrated by Maria are almost incredible. The villages of Spinelli, Cotzenei, and Belvedere have been literally sacked by the band she commands. The dread which the name of Maria Olviero inspires among the rural population of Cattanzaro is so great that the Italian Government has been obliged to send two battalions of the guards to pursue the cruel fury. While the band led by this woman is desolating the country of Cattanzaro, we hear from Rionero that the bersaglieri have succeeded at last in capturing the famous brigand Sacchitiello, together with the two still more famous mistresses of the brigands Crocco and Schiavone. The strangest thing about the capture of Sacchitello and of the two women is that they were taken in the house of the captain of the National Guard of the village, where they had been concealed since the month of July. This fact shows how difficult it is to get rid of the Neapolitan brigands, since in certain cases the commanders of the National Guard give them safe shelter in their very houses.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

### THE MILITIA DRAFT.

It is not our intention to publish the List of the Drafted Men. It would be useless to do so. In all probability the present Militia Act will be repealed, and a good one enacted. Besides the Lists are very imperfect, and a great many men are drawn who are legally exempt.

### GRAND CONCERT AT NAPANEE.

A Grand Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music will be given in the Town Hall of Napanee to-morrow evening, under the patronage of the Free and Accepted Masons of Napanee and vicinity. Persons from Kingston wishing to attend this Concert can leave town at four o'clock, p.m., and return by the midnight train.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the County of Frontenac Agricultural Society will be held this afternoon in the Society's office, for the election of officers and the transaction of business.

FIRE.—A fire broke out on Saturday morning at about four o'clock, at Gananoque, in the packing room of Messrs. Skinner & Co., manufacturers of scythes, snaths, grain cradles, plated harness work, &c. All the goods on the premises and the books were destroyed, which will entail a heavy loss on the proprietors. They were uninsured.

ELECTORAL DIVISION SOCIETY.—The general annual meeting of the Electoral Division Society will be held this afternoon for the election officers, &c.

KINGSTON ANNIVERSARIES.—The Anniversary Meetings of the following Religious Societies will be held (D.V.) in the City Hall, as follows:—Tuesday, 17th January, Kingston Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society; Wednesday, 18th January, Kingston Auxiliary to the London Religious Tract Society; Thursday, 19th January, Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society; Friday, 20th January, French Canadian Missionary Society. The Annual Reports will then be read, and Addresses delivered in support of the various Societies. Collections to defray expenses. The public are respectfully and cordially invited.

## FENIAN AGGRESSION!

DANGER NIGH AT HAND!!

MR. WHIG,—

A fearful outrage was perpetrated in the hamlet of Barrie field last night, observed by me this morning as I came to town. A generous Paddander, a true British subject, and no Fenian, keeps one of the village inns, and has for his loyal sign, the Head of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Some disaffected person, some enemy to the blood royal of Great Britain and Ireland, (he must be a Fenian,) has been wicked and traitorous enough to pelt this sign with hard missiles of congealed water, or in plainer words, to snowball the Portrait of England's future King. It was with great grief and indignation that I saw a huge ball of snow sticking to the gracious nose of future Majesty! Can anything be more atrocious, anything more alarming? If the Fenians be allowed to commit these crimes with impunity, what may not be expected of them in the fearful times approaching? We shall all wake one fine morning with our throats cut! Shake off your apathy, Mr. Whig, be as you should be, a staunch Protestant and True Briton, and use in time the mighty engine you control, to sound an alarm throughout the land, and put the Loyal Protestant inhabitants of Canada on their guard!

NO ALARMIST.

P.S. While I stopped my sleigh and was looking at the deplorable sight above alluded to, with tears standing in my eyes, a bystander said, that some school boys out of fun had done this snow-balling, but I know better, no urchin could conceive such wickedness, and this idle story must have been told to throw dust in my eyes.

Kingston, Jan. 14th, 1865.

## NEW MUSIC HALL.

MY DEAR WHIG,—In your issue of Wednesday last and the article headed 'The Music Hall,' you have formed an erroneous impression, as to the cause of my three weeks' absence from Kingston, and as you are aware of the stringent, and to me unexpected conditions which the 'Committee on City Property' have seen fit to order to be embodied in my lease of the late 'Wesley Hall,' you very naturally construed my silence into an intention of renouncing the project altogether. You are in error, my apparent delay has arrisen from the fact, that for nearly two months, I have been afflicted with such severe sickness in my family as to render my leaving home, for more than a day or two at a time, impracticable; but, from present symptoms, I have reason to hope that I shall be able to return to Kingston in a few days and remain there until my New Music Hall is fairly under way. Had I abandoned my intentions, from the cause above named, I should most certainly have observed the comtmon courtesy of notifying the city authorities of such wish, but my plans are unchanged. To prove this, I will here remark that I have already concluded two or three contracts for the various portions of alterations required for carrying out my design, and on Saturday last, I employed Mr. Mozier, an artist eminent in Fresco Painting, from Toronto, to examine the late Wesley Hall, with a view of procuring from him an estimate of the outlay required for decorative painting, as also to examine its acoustic properties. His report was more favourable than I had anticipated; and now, let me assure you and my Kingston friends generally, that within one week, the project of establishing a Music Hall on a scale worthy of Kingston will be in progress, and myself its future manager, permanently settled in your midst, with the hope of obtaining at the hands of a discerning public the support always extended to its caterer by lovers of music and innocent amusements generally; and am,

Dear Whig,

Ever Yours Faithfully,

G. W. LESTER.

Belleville Athenæum, January 13th, 1865.

## LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

Washington, Jan. 12.

The Richmond Whig of the 10th contains the following from Savannah:—

The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel of the 4th inst., publishes a number of news items derived from a gentleman who left Savannah on the 1st inst. The most perfect order is maintained in the city. No soldier is allowed to interfere with the citizens in any particular. One or two of the insurance companies of Savannah are considering the project of establishing a National bank for the issue of greenbacks. The custom-house and post office are being repaired preparatory to the commencement of business again. The soldiers are not allowed under any circumstances whatever to enter private residences. The negroes, in most cases, are orderly and quiet, remaining with their owners and performing their customary duties. One store, with goods from the North has been opened. Nothing but greenbacks are in circulation. The churches on Sundays are well filled with ladies. On week days, however, but few of them are seen on the streets. A majority of the male population have remained in the city. The families of most of the men who have left, still remain. A majority of the citizens have provisions for some time to come, but there is a scarcity of wood and Gen. Sherman has announced that he will soon remedy this last difficulty by getting wood by the Gulf railroad and hauling it to the citizens. No pass is allowed to any male person to go towards the city. All females caught going toward the city are thoroughly searched. 1100 loaves of good bakers bread which had been collected for the soldiers of Sherman's army, but for which authorized agents did not call, were on Thursday turned over to the poor associations of Savannah by the committee acting in behalf of soldiers' dinner and were distributed to the poor of the city. It was truly a kind and providential gift, for the city is entirely out of breadstuffs of every kind, and for days past has been unable to issue a pound of meal or flour to the hundreds who were sorely in need of it.

The Whig says, it is glad to hear through the Virginian of the arrival of Col. Mosby at his father's residence at Amherst. He is found is doing well, and he expects to be able to return to duty in a short time. The Yankees will have another account to settle when he gets back.

## LATER.

New York, Jan. 14.

The Tribune's Washington special gives it as the opinion of an old hand at peacey making, that a cessation of hostilities preliminary to formal negotiations will take place within ten days. To morrow the hand of a new peace maker will fall heavily on Jeff Davis' obstinacy. It is understood the President has declared if Senator Foote is learned by the rebels, he will bring five of the most distinguished rebel prisoners in our hands to grief. Our cavalry have been ordered to pursue Foote's captors immediately.

The World has