POST OFFICE NOTICE.

COMMENCING on MONDAY Next, the 31st instant, and until further notice

MAILS GOING EAST

By Day Express Train will Close at 1 p.m; Arrive at 2.15 p.m.
By Night Express Train will Close at 9 p.m; Arrive at 2.30 a.m.

MAILS GOING WEST

By day Express Train will close at 2.50 p.m. Arrive at 4.15 p.m.
By night Express Train will close at 9 p.m Arrive at 5.30 a.m.

BRITISH MAILS

Per Canadian Steamer will close on Fridays at 12, noon.

R. DEACON, P. M.

Post Office, Kingston, Oct. 29, 1864. } 3in256

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS.

One cent each. If prepaid at any post-office in the Province the following will be the charge per quarter:—for

Daily Journals	40 cents.
Tri-Weekly	20 "
Bi-Weekly	13 "
Weekly	6 "

Weekly British Whig

"Optifer per Orbem Dicor."

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB'Y 16, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

T. R. & T. V., Quebec, with rem.; A. & G. Montreal; A. H. & Co., Liverpool, England.

Now that Ministers have been delivered of their Speeches, occupying the whole of our columns, to the exclusion of everything pleasant or exciting, our readers can again enjoy pleasure in reading the British Whig. There is now room for 'bloody battles,' 'horrible murders,' 'gross outrages,' 'shameful robberies,' 'fearful accidents,' and other delights of that kind. But this good time come only extends to to-morrow, when the Interminable Debate re-commences, so they had better make good use of their time and be happy while they may.

THE GRAND TOURNAMENT, CARNIVAL, MASQUERADE AND FANCY DRESS BALL.

The grand gala day, in connection with the Citizens' Skating Rink, passed off on Tuesday with great eclat, and with great credit to the Committee of the Rink. The day opened with a thin snow falling, which kept until half the races were over, but nothing daunted, the Committee continued their labors and seem to have taken the greatest pains in the arrangements generally, and also for the preservation of order. The Rink, which by way is 175 yards long by 50 yards wide, was staked out by posts firmly fixed in the ice at a distance of six feet apart, by which the Rink was surrounded by a strong wire. The ice was well scraped and the cracks were filled, so that the racers would have no cause of complaint. Flags were erected on the stands and at the ends of the Rink, as well as at the starting and winning posts. Persons who have travelled through the States and Canada, and who were present at the Tournament yesterday, state that they never saw such complete arrangements or such a fine Rink. There were about 4000 persons present, all of whom took a lively interest in the Sports. The steamer Banshee was crowded with the gentry of the city, and the adjoining vessels with men and boys. A Special Committee of one hundred men (distinguished by a piece of red ribbon) were ranged around inside the Rink to preserve order. The Band of the R. C. Rifles was stationed on the steamer Banshee, and played several popular airs during the afternoon. At two o'clock the Races began, and were pushed through in fine style. The following is the order of the day:—

1st. Gents' Champion Race.—Six times around the Rink; 4 entries; 1st prize $8; 2nd prize $2. Messrs. William Carruthers, Henry Cunningham, William Smithers and Coleman Hinckley competed. For the first two rounds Carruthers led, followed by the others, but in the third round was passed by Smithers. In this round Cunningham falling, at once dampened his chances of the prize, which certainly were very good. In the 4th and 5th rounds, Smithers, followed by Hinckley, Carruthers and Cunningham in order, held the lead. In the last round Smithers gained on the others very fast, and skated a part of the way backwards to the winning post, in defiance of his competitors. Cunningham gained on the others in the last round, and on Hinckley coming in, both fell together at the winning post, Hinckley beating him by two inches or so. The prizes were awarded first to W. Smithers, and second to Coleman Hinckley.

2nd. Ladies' and Gents' Union Race.—Once round the rink; four entries; Prize, a gold locket, value $6, to be awarded to the lady winner. Misses A. McKay, Emma Woods, Hannah Scales, and Wilhelmina McCammon, with their respective partners, entered. This was a hotly contested race, Miss Woods winning handsomely, closely followed by Miss McKay.

3d. Gents' Race, Backwards.—Once round the rink; three entries; Prize, $5.—H. Ellis, J. Friel, and P. Douglas (colored) entered. Won by Friel, Douglas following.

4th. Ladies' Long Race.—Once round the rink; seven entries; Prize, a silver shawl pin in the form of a skate, valued at $8. Misses C. Sutton, Emma Woods, A. McKay, Cynthia Johnston, Rebecca Robison, Miss Wells, and Miss Horr (of Cape Vincent) entered. Won by Miss McKay, Miss Robison coming in second.

5th. Gents' Race.—Once round the rink, over six hurdles, each 20 inches high; five entries; Prize, $4. John Maveety, Henry Cunningham, Archibald Hatton, D. Parmenter (Gananoque), and R. Carmichael entered. Won by Cunningham, Maveety second.

6th. Young Ladies' Race.—Once round the rink, for young ladies of 12 years and younger; 15 entries; Prize, a pair of skates, silver mounted [by Cunningham]; value, $7,50. Alice McKay, Wilhelmina McCammon, Elizabeth McMahon, Catherine Hennessy, Rosana McIntyre, Georgina Rose, Emma Dillon, Harriet Brown, Jane Jenkins, Susan Jenkins, Miss Haight, Anna McCammon, Miss Horr, Jane Falconer and Hannah Scales entered. Won very handsomely by Miss Horr, of Cape Vincent, Miss Scales second.

7th. Garrison Race.—Twice round the rink, for soldiers in H. M. Service; six entries; Prize, $4. Bombardier Page and Gunners James, Coleman, Mackenzie, and Hill, of the R. A., and Private Insill, of the R. C. Rifles, entered. Won by Insill, Mackenzie second.

8th. Boys' Race.—Once round the rink, for boys of 12 years of age and under; 25 entries; first prize, $2; second, $1. This race may well be termed the best of the whole, on account of the number of the competitors, and their awkwardness. Won by R. Arundell, second by Wm. Arundell.

Ladies' Special Prize.—For the best artistic lady skater; Prize, a gold brooch in the form of a skate, value $10; three entries, Miss Woods, Miss Cunningham, and Miss Corbett. The judges decided in favor of Miss Cunningham, although in our opinion it should have been awarded to Miss Woods, who is not so graceful, but by far the best skater.

Gents' Special Prize.—To be awarded to the best artistic gentleman skater. Prize, a pair of silver-mounted skates; three entries, Messrs. John and Daniel Meagher and George Winters. Prize awarded to John Meagher, but Daniel was the most graceful skater. The crowd, which had nobly stood their ground during the races, now broke the wires and surrounded the skaters. This concluded the regular races, and a great many left the grounds. Three scrub races afterwards took place. The first was for all skaters, the prize money being collected on the ground. The second race was for a prize of $2, offered by John Carruthers, Esq., for young ladies, and a similar prize, offered by Mr. Carruthers also, for boys. These races were very exciting, a great many having entered. There were fully forty entered in the boys' race. The races certainly were very successful, and reflect great credit on the Committee. The stores of a great part of the merchants were closed during the afternoon, to allow their clerks to attend the sports.

THE CARNIVAL.

About seven in the evening the lamps were lit on the rink, and the carnival commenced. The crowd here began to assemble, and in half an hour the number on the ice was very great. The bon-fire, for which some tar-barrels were collected in the day, was lighted, and shone all over the rink. The dresses were more numerous and of a better selection than last year, and the figures were so numerous that it would be impossible to enumerate them. The crowd were scattered over the ice, and the dodging of the figures from one group to another made the scene a very novel one. The lights were extinguished at nine o'clock, as announced, and the crowd dispersed. It is well to add that the best of order was kept on the ice. The better part of the characters afterwards proceeded to the City Hall, where the Masquerade and Fancy Dress Ball was to take place. A great many ladies and gentlemen attended also in the Hall. The characters in couples promenaded the Hall, at intervals joining in a quadrille, polka, waltz, or galop, for which the Band of the Royal Canadian Rifles furnished the music. There were several characters here which were not on the rink, and the dresses were of a higher order. During the evening a couple of very good comic songs were rendered, one filling the character of a negro, and the other of an Irishman. At eleven o'clock the prizes were distributed to the successful competitors at the Races, after which the masquers threw off their masks and the last order of the day, that is, the Fancy Dress Ball, commenced. The Collector's Office served as a dressing room for the gentlemen, and the Council Chamber served for the same purpose for the ladies, who heartily joined in the dance. The remainder of the night was spent in dancing, and the company dispersed well pleased with the evening's entertainments.—Notice can be made of a Brigand, an Organ Grinder (without a monkey), whose organ was not remarkable for pleasant music, a very good and effective Cavalry Officer of our own Volunteers, and the Great Mogul. The Navy was also represented by many in sailor's costume, and the Port Admiral in command. He looked much like one who could command our local Naval Brigade in the most efficient manner. There were a few who donned the crinoline and sustained their characters very well, though one appeared not to be acquainted with the manners of ladies of Upper Canada. The Indian Chiefs were well represented, more especially by one who wanted to tommy-hawk all he came in contact with. Quite a suspicious looking deserter from the 17th Regiment was twice taken in custody on the ice by the Military Police and afterwards released, and for a time in the Hall a sharp lookout was kept on him. In his bearing, manners and dress he was well up. Near him occasionally could be seen a Jail Bird, with one P on his back. He may have been from our own local institution, but we rather think he was one of those sent to Canada from the neighbourhood of Whitechapel or St. Mary Axe, at his country's expense. The Gold Hunter was well got up in every particular. What shall be said of the Sultan? Stately he walked the room, took the Organ Grinder by the shoulders, and with all the dignity of Constable X, No. 540, said "move on, move on." The Darkies, or Christie's Minstrels, were there in all their glory, and bloom Broder Bones fresh from the getter up of other men's clothes. He was followed by other Darkies, each bearing his favourite instrument. Flunkeydom was also represented, the cockade being on the proper side of the hat. He was closely followed by an able representative of Brother Jonathan, who appeared to desire such an attendant in his own domestic circle. A very fine Tyrolese, and an excellent Zouave were on the floor, and were much admired. Old Christmas, with his hoary head and beard, made it a point to be present. Many other costumes were worn, but did not appear conspicuous. The day passed off without the slightest thing to mar the pleasure of everyone; and to the satisfaction of the Committee, who have requested us to return their sincere thanks for the assistance the citizens gave them in carrying out the programme.

TAVERNS OR NO TAVERNS.

DEAR WHIG,—I observe by the newspapers that certain so-called temperance men in the Townships of Kingston Pittsburgh and Storrington have moved in the matter of the Temperance Act passed last session, with a view to apply its provisions to these Municipalities, and prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors within their respective limits.

It is to be hoped that the good sense of a majority of the electors in the Municipalities named will avert so terrible a tyranny, and that they will be early at the polls to vote down a law so illiberal, arbitrary, and anti-British in spirit.

The agitators for such a selfish ordinance affect to be actuated by a deep concern for the cause of morality and religion. They employ the argument that by the abolition of taverns, Intemperance would be unknown, or at least greatly diminished, vice would be correspondingly abated, and a healthier tone would be given to society.

This argument, however, rests on the assumption that the consumption of intoxicating liquors would be lessened by legal prohibition—an assumption which all experience proves to be false. The reasoning therefore of these cold water enthusiasts is invalid and their conclusions wrong.

The experiment of the Maine Liquor Law, in the neighboring land of loud monthed liberty, proves the futility of legislating on the subject of the people's drink, and attempting to make men sober by act of Parliament. During the existence of such a law in the State of New York, it is notorious that more whisky, brandy and gin of an inferior quality were surreptitiously sold and consumed, than when the vending of spirituous liquors was free and unrestrained by legal enactment.

The Law then totally prohibited the retail of spirituous liquors, under heavy penalties, but Yankee ingenuity was successfully tortured to evade its edicts. Under the religious name of "Spiritual Guides," tin cases of various sizes neatly painted and fashioned as books, and filled with gin or whiskey were hawked round by reverend looking chaps in clerical chokers, and the paradox was liberally patronized by the thirsty public. This dissimulation was chiefly practised in the country places; while in the Towns and Cities the lanes and alleys swarmed with a species of huckster shops, where apples were sold at seven cents a-piece and a glass of whiskey to go in thrown in. Brandy put up in fancy bottles and flash wrappers, and labelled by a hundred significant and hope-inspiring names, was dispensed by the apothecaries to an army of invalids as tonics or stomachic bitters. Upon the certificate of a surgeon that it was required for medicinal purposes, a glass of brandy could be bought at a drug store. Doctors were held in high repute then, and their certificates circulated like shin-plasters; their advice was eagerly sought, liberally paid for, and the medicine prescribed by them bolted with obedience and resignation. The cases which called for the administration of a leetle spirits multiplied amazingly, and generally became chronic. In fact, Brandy became the Catholicon; and like the hot water of Dr. Sangrado, it was prescribed by the medicos as the panacea for all ills. It is true that the open and unreserved sale of spirituous liquors was not engaged in, but there was always some way of whipping the devil around the stump. One had only to win the confidence of the landlord of a hotel or boarding house, to get initiated as a customer of the subterranean bar, where the Maine Law did'nt run, and where tippling took place with impunity. The quality of the liquor thus surreptiously vended was so inferior, that at length people who could afford to bought from the importer direct, and laid in liberal stocks for private use. The temptation to excess in drinking was for this reason much increased; it was continually present, and the vice of intemperance became fearfully familiar. At length the notice of the government was drawn to the failure of the law, and a commission was appointed to investigate the cause of its failure and the rapid spread of intemperance. After a labored examination of the subject in all its bearings and stand points, to use the language of the Commissioners, they reported their conviction to be, that if men could not be restrained from intemperance by moral suasion they could not be kept sober by coercive means. The law was accordingly repealed. When such unsatisfactory results therefore flowed from a Prohibitory Law much more simple in detail and stringent in its provisions than our Temperance Act; what good can attend the operation of Mr. Dunkin's Act, which has been pronounced by lawyers to be one of the very crudest pieces of legislation that disgrace our Statute Book?

Already there is a bill before Parliament to explain and declare the meaning of certain obscure passages in it; and the apprehension is that further legislation will be necessary to complete its interpretation. It became law contrary to the wish of the Government and its sensible supporters, but as ministers were under a pressure at the time and wanted Mr. Dunkin's vote, they allowed him to ride his hobby through. Yet he sold them afterwards.

Let the electors of the Townships in question well consider the consequence of voting to apply Dunkin's Temperance Law their municipalities; it will not promote the cause of temperance, or attain the object for which it was passed—no harsh or illiberal edict ever did, but it would inflict a positive injury upon the community. A limited number of well appointed taverns at intervals on the main roads in Kingston, Pittsburgh and Storrington are absolutely necessary for the convenience of the travelling public, and a great many of the inhabitants who live a long way from the city of Kingston. What inhabitant of Pittsburgh for instance who lives near Brewer's Mills or Gananoque, would undertake the journey to the city of Kingston or home again on a Canadian winter day, with the thermometer ten or twelve degrees below zero, without stopping at some intermediate place or places to fire up and refresh his cattle; and if inns are to be abolished how will that accommodation be obtained. It's all very well to say that temperance houses will then take the place of taverns and afford it. The experiment of temperance houses has been repeatedly tried in the City of Kingston with but one result, and their thorough failure proved the folly of their founders. How much less practicable would prove in country places. The country innkeeper's profit is derived solely from the sale of beer and spirits;—take away his right to sell these commodities and his occupation is gone. He must either shut up shop or sell clandestinely, and which of the two is most desirable? that he should be allowed to sell by law or sell in fraud of it? for sell he will most assuredly; and which will conduce most to morality, to drink openly in a tavern or stealthily behind the door?

Taverns or Inns have been recognized institutions of every enlightened country from the earliest times, and their condition is a fair criterion by which to judge the civilization of the natives. Licensed Inns are obliged by law to be open to travellers at all times; they are subject to the inspection of sworn inspectors, and in this the public have a guarantee of their respectability. Abolish Inns, and Shebeen houses will swarm by every road side, and as such places are not subject to the visits of the inspectors, the health and morals of the country would be jeopardized. The suppression of such dens must too be very difficult, as few persons are to be found willing to play the part of informer for fear of incurring the odium which by universal assent attaches to such an office.

Is it better for the cause of Temperance and morality to have a limited number of well ordered licensed taverns in every municipality, yielding a considerable revenue, and subject to the inspection of sworn officers, or that every lane and alley should be infested with illicit grog shops without accommodation, vending a spurious liquor, and subject to no control, where drunkenness and profanity vegetate in comparative safety.

Most people in the world have a hobby, and it is the undoubted right of every man to ride his own so long as he doesn't ride down his neighbour. Temperance is the hobby of some folks, and they may ride it rough shod and refresh it with water when its tired, for all that I care; but my own hobby and the hobby of a very large number of persons besides me, is to take a glass of spirits when I want it, and liberal minded men should not object to our doing so. We don't seek, because we take an occasional horn, to compel total abstinence men to conform to our practice, nor have such persons any right, because they don't drink beer or whiskey, to coerce us to their views by abolishing taverns. In seeking to do so they betray the error of the system that inculcates such illiberality. The days of converting people to particular doctrines by coercion are long past and gone; converts must now be won by reason and argument, not force. The cause of total abstinence will not attract many who take the trouble to examine the effects produced upon those who most affect its practice. As a class I charge that the so-called Temperance men are not as generous as their neighbours, their morality is not a whit superior, and if disregard of their word is not a breach of honesty, plenty of them, to my own knowledge, are at least convicted of dishonour.

At the risk of being called uncharitable, I affirm that a very great many of total abstinence men are such from necessity, not choice, so that their austerity is forced. Some of them, from physical causes, are disqualified to take a nip, and others dare not, knowing by experience that they could not do so without going the entire grunter. They

Compound those sins they are inclined to
By damning those they have no mind to.

In this free country a man may profess and practice any religion, from a Quaker to a Methodist; in politics may avow himself a Tory or a Grit or anything else. The law does not prescribe the cut of his jib, nor direct that he shall buy potatoes by the stone, or go without the adored esculent, if he can't purchase them in so large a quantity. No more should it compel me if I want a drink of beer, to buy a dozen of bottles of it, or if a glass of whiskey, to invest in five gallons of the liquid, or go without it altogether.

Dear Whig, apologizing for your attention to so lengthy a letter, I beg to subscribe myself your old friend

CANDOR.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, Feb. 13.

Mr. Campbell introduced a bill to separate Amherst Island from Lennox and Addington and to annex the same to Frontenac.

The Squatters' bill from the Lower House was introduced by Mr. Oliver and read a first time.

The bill relating to the planting of fruit and ornamental trees from the Lower House was read a first time.

The following bills were read a second time;

Mr. Price—Bill relative to agricultural associations.

Bill relative to certain provisions respecting members of both Houses.

Sir E. P. Taché brought down a return relative to the extradition treaty.

The debate was then resumed.

Mr. Reesor moved, seconded by Mr. Moore that the debate on confederation be postponed until Thursday week on the ground of the importance of the subject and necessity of explanations on the relations between local and general governments.

The motion was lost—19 yeas; 37 nays.

Mr. Reesor continuing said, he did not object to the principal measure but to some of the details. He had for many years looked forward to a union of the Provinces and hoped to see it consumated on such terms as would cause us to grow in strength and prosperity. There might be means why this change should take place, but he saw no reason why it should be hastened. He then referred to the ministerial crisis which had take place. Events seemed to give rise to political despotism; matters were just in that shape to draw parties together and induce them to take up some such scheme; but they had gone on too rapidly to give us a measure of that nature and character as the country had right to expect. Perhaps it was as good as could be expected considering the difficulties to be encountered. He thought, and believed others agreed with him, that the resolutions might be amended in many points without endangering the whole scheme. It was said that no change could be effected, but he feared the wish of the government was father to the determination. It was their pet scheme and they wished it adopted. What reason was there that amendments affecting Canada alone could not be adopted and then communicated to the other Provinces. There were other points to which he objected, but he knew these could not be entered into without involving a reconsideration of the whole question. He then alluded to the former negotiations about the Intercolonial railroad. Under the arrangement then proposed Canada would have only five-twelfths of the amount to pay. That scheme was opposed because it was alleged Canada would pay more than her fair proportion, but how was it we now found the President of the Council with others agreeing that this road should be built out of the funds of the Intercolonial governments by which we will have to pay about ten-twelfths instead of five? Then, all our public works of great value were put into the hands of the general government whilst New Brunswick gives us a railway which now only pays three-eights of one per cent, and it would not do that after a time; we would find that a heavy bill of expenses. Then, as if not satisfied with this we give them $63,000 annually for ten years. Newfoundland was to get $160,000 for mines and Crown lands. He ventured to say we would not derive anything like that advantage from them. Then as to the increase of trade expected, the Intercolonial railway was too long, and it would be too expensive to keep it up. It was so distant from Upper Canada that it could hardly be expected that the people there would send breadstuffs home by this route, and the Lower Provinces could only be forced to take supplies by a high import duty, which it was not likely they would pay. He questioned whether they were not now apprehending such a duty and objecting to a union which they fancied would give Upper Canada an advantage over them. He alluded, in conclusion, to the constitutional changes proposed in the Upper House. He opposed the nominative system, but was willing that the legislative franchise should be raised, so that elections should be made from those who had the most at stake in the country.

Mr. McCrae, alluding to the objection that the project was not known or understood by the country, maintained it was so at least in so far as his experience went. With respect to the Intercolonial railway, he said that was always held to be desirable, and the only cause that it had not been carried out was that the precise terms could not be agreed upon between the several colonies. He believed it would be a great advantage to Canada and would no doubt improve our stock in the Grand Trunk railway, and as to that railway, the Grand Trunk, he would ask any member, if, notwithstanding all the Province had contributed, they would be willing to loose or give it up? (No, no.) As to our paying ten-twelfths of the Intercolonial railway, there was nothing of the kind in the resolutions, but simply that we should pay our share. As to the elective principle in this House, though it was said that not a petition was presented for the change now proposed, he might say that after a responsible government was introduced, there had been none for an elective legislative council. Under the present system he believed there was less guarantee for the liberties of the people than when the House was nominated. However, he was sorry that the number of members proposed by the resolutions was to be limited.—This he considered to be a fault which he would be glad to see modified. Alluding to the amendment which would allow of the Legislative Council of the Confederation to be partly elective and partly nominated, he thought it would be very injurious to have a mixed system. True, now, the House in Canada was so, but that was only temporary and unavoidable. He said also that as to an appeal to the people it came with a bad taste from this House.—Whatever dissolution or change might be proposed, this House could sit calmly and quietly. There was ample time afforded for petitions and meetings. It was said that the people did not understand the subject, but he said they did, and so soon as the scheme was launched it took the popular ear. The further manifestation of the public will, as required by the proposed amendment (Mr. Cartier's not yet moved) was merely shirking the question. If he believed that union was desirable it should not be delayed. All were in favor of Union but they had a strange way of showing it by trying to delay the matter. There were objections to the peculiary aspect of the question, but it did not follow that even if it were apparently against us to-day it might not be in our favour to-morrow. Looking at the attitude of the United States, the repeal of the reciprocity treaty, and the probability of non-intercourse, he would like to know what we should do? The intercolonial railway was not only a military necessity but a commercial one, and the union would be unmistakable advantageous. Some one said that it would be no military advantage but he said it would, for if England were to send us troops would they not be able to come over it and concentrate at the point where they were required.

M. Oliver followed, opposing the scheme. He doubted that the union would bring the military strength it was pretended it would, and did not think the Intercolonial railway would be the military protection pretended. If a military railway were really intended, the North Shore railway above Quebec should have been forwarded. A railway on the south shore would be rather a source of weakness. He looked at the union as a legislative one, objected to the veto of the general government over the proceedings of the local legislatures, and argued strongly in favour of an appeal to the people.

The House adjourned at 8:45 o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Quebec, Feb. 13th, 1865.

Petitions that Mr. Wood's bill to legalize the agreement between the Grand Trunk and the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Companies may not become law were presented by Dr. Bown from James Weyms, chairman, and on behalf of a public meeting of the people of the town of Brantford: by Mr. Macdonald, Toronto, from the Toronto Board of Trade; by Mr. McGiverin from the Great Western Railway Company; by Mr. Carling from the London Board of Trade; by Mr. Dickson from a large number of merchants, millers, and others in Seaforth and neighborhood; by Mr. Stirton from the Town Council and town of Guelph; and by Mr. Rymal from citizens of Hamilton signed by 13 members of the City Council, and 2,000 other inhabitants.—Mr. Wood presented a petition from the Corporation of the town of Brantford, in favor of the bill.

Mr. Shanly presented petitions from the Corporation of the town of Prescott and from Thomas Henry and other creditors of the Ottawa and Prescott Railway, praying that the bill respecting said railway may not become law.

Mr. Macdougall brought down a return relative to the Medical Schools of Upper Canada.

The following bills were introduced:—

Mr. Cartwright—To amend the act incorporating the town of Napanee.

Mr. Burwell—To incorporate the St. Thomas Cemetery Company.

M. Perrault—To amend chapter 51 of the Consolidated Statutes, respecting water courses.

The following private and local bills were read a second time and referred to committees:—

Mr. Higginson—To enable Mrs. Mary Ann Doyle to dispose of certain lands held in trust by her late husband.

Mr. Currier—To incorporate the Orphan's Home of the city of Ottawa.

Mr. Abbott—To incorporate the Montreal Warehousing Company.

Mr. Macfarlane—An act respecting the Canadian Land and Emigration Company (limited.)

M. Cauchon—To amend the act to incorporate the Pilots for and above the harbor of Quebec.

Mr. Alleyn—To amend the act incorporating the Quebec Marine Insurance Company.

Mr. Carling—To naturalize Lewis White Ashley and others.

Mr. Wood, on the order being called for the second reading of the amalgamation bill, said as certain printed papers with reference to the measure had been circulated, he was willing to allow it to stand till to-morrow to let members have time to read them. (Hear, hear.)

The order for the second reading of the bill, in charge of Mr. C. Cameron, to legalize the agreement between certain railways for the location of their tracks on the esplanade, in the city of Toronto, being called—

Mr. Smith (Toronto) had a very considerable interest in this matter, and as the corporation of that city had not yet pronounced upon the measure, he hoped it would allow it to stand over till the consent of the corporation be obtained.

Mr. John A. Macdonald said the rule with regard to all private bills, except in such special cases of that of Mr. Wood's bill was to allow the second reading without discussion, in order that parties might be heard before the private bills committee or the railroad committee and then a discussion might be had if necessary, on receiving the report of the committee or at third reading. He thought this was the course to be taken with reference to this bill.

Mr. M. C. Cameron said there was no wish on the part of these railway companies to do anything against the wish of the city of Toronto. They believed they were acting in accordance with the interests of that city. It could do the city no harm to allow the bill to go to the private bills' committee, as no action could be taken until it had been posted for eight days.

Mr. Smith (Toronto) objected that the bill, though marked printed, was not distributed, and the objection was sustained and the bill accordingly had to stand over.

Mr. Macfarlane asked if it is the intention of the government to pay, this season, to municipalities in Upper Canada, in which are located government lands, the arrears up to the 6th of March, 1861—of the sums formerly allotted from the improvement fund—as established under the provisions of section 14 of 16th Vic. cap. 159, consolidated statutes of Canada.

Mr. Galt said the government had already paid a portion of these sums; with reference to the remainder of the account, there was an announcement made by the government last session, that it was intended to conclude it in the estimates for this session.

M. Perrault asked whether it is the intention of the government to appoint French instructors from amongst the graduates of the military school for the French Canadian volunteer companies of the cities of Montreal and Quebec.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald said the government would do so as soon as practicable.

Mr. Pope asked whether it is the intention of the government to pay the Registrars in Lower Canada for the work performed by them in drafting under the militia act, and if if so how much?

Mr. J. A. Macdonald said there was no provision in the law for their payment—some of them had already sent in most exorbitant accounts. The government, however, had under consideration the desirability of placing a small amount on the estimates for the purpose of paying them.

Mr. Currier moved for the appointment of a select committee to enquire into the feasibility of regulating the supply of water in the Rideau Canal.—Carried.

Mr. A. Mackenzie moved for all correspondence with the Ottawa contractors in relation to settlements of accounts, appointing of arbitrators and instructions given to arbitrators appointed on behalf of government. Carried.

M. Robitaille moved to add Mr. Denis and Mr. Gibb to the contingencies committee.—Carried.

Mr. Wright (East York) moved that the House go into committee on a future day on the tax on dogs. Carried.

Mr. Walbridge moved for the correspondence between the governments of Canada and New Brunswick on the Union of the provinces. He said, in making the motion he was actuated by a desire that before we passed from our present happy condition into a state of revolution, (laughter,) all the information in possession of the government should be laid before the House. At the time when the question of confederation was not so popular in the House, when members of the Ministry were assisting the laugh out of the House, when the resolutions of the member for Sherbrooke were introduced, he (Walbridge) was, at that time, a strong advocate of Colonial Union; not stronger, however, than he was to day. (Hear, hear.) He wished, however, to have it secured on a sound and solid basis, rather than be a scheme for the disintegration of the Provinces, which would give us union in fact, not in name.

The motion was carried.

M. J. Duhesne moved to add Messrs Denis, Archambault, Scatcherd and Morrison to the committee on the administration of the Seignlory of Sorel.

Mr. M. C. Cameron moved for a return of receipts and expenditure on Whitby road and harbour while said works were under the control of the government. He said these works were originally sold to the Whitby Road and Harbour Company for $80,400. The company had paid, on account large sums amounting to $36,000. The company claimed that the Works had become depreciated in consequence of the construction of the Grand Trunk, and the Port Hope and Lindsay railroads, and finding that they were not a paying concern asked a re-arrangement of the 4th September, 1862 offered to pay for them in addition to what they had paid before, about $45,000. There offer was not accepted and the Works were sold afterwards to other purchasers for $45,000. The government meanwhile had issued a writ of extent against the old company, and had seized $16,000 which the company had placed in the bank with a view of carrying out the proposed new arrangement with the government, and had also attached debts of the amount of $3,000, so that when this money was taken upwards of $63,000 had been paid by the old company on account of these Works, and they had also put them in a better condition than when they got them, as regards the roads, at any rate which had been changed from a plank into a good gravel road. If $45,000 was the actual value of the works at the time of sale the company must have had a gross wrong done them, when the works were taken from them after they had paid more than their value. Another singular feature connected with the motion was that Chester Draper, an individual in the town of Whitby, had gone through the extraordinary performance of giving a bond to the government or one of its officers, to indemnify the government if they resumed the works and could not sell them for $45,000. He did not know the exact terms of the bond, but by this motion he wished to arrive at what the terms of it were.

Mr. Macdougall said the government had no objection to granting the motion, but Mr. Cameron's statement required some answer. While he was speaking he could almost fancy that they were in an election contest in North Ontario, for this subject formed a very large part of the discussion which took place on a late occasion. Presuming that Mr. Cameron appeared not as an advocate of the company, but that he spoke for the public interest, the question was, had any wrong been done in this transaction to the country? The correspondence, when brought down, would shew that the company, after agreeing to pay $80,400, had paid but a small portion of that sum—only the first instalment necessary to enable them to obtain the works—that they did not make the necessary repairs upon them and that, when repeatedly called upon, and having declined to pay up arrears, the late government of which he (Mr. McDougall) was a member, after full enquiry, they thought it their duty to resume these works. They remained in the hands of the government long enough to enable them to judge of their value and the amount of repairs necessary. The government, in dealing with such works, had desired that they should pass into the hands of the municipalities interested, and accordingly the County Council of Ontario was asked to bid for the works. The council declined, and the works were put up at public sale on a day fixed. The member for North Ontario had stated that the old company offered nearly $45,000. When the papers came down he would find that though they made the offer they did not comply with the necessary preliminary conditions, not having deposited the sum required to show the bona fides of their offer, while another company offered a like sum and did deposit the amount necessary, one-fourth or one-fifth of which was required to show that the parties making the offer were not a company of straw. That was the whole transaction so far as the government and the country were concerned. Of course if any wrong can be made out, as suffered by the old company, it was competent for Mr. Cameron to shew it, but the correspondence would show that some of the statements he had made were not in accordance with the facts.

The motion was carried.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

EUROPEAN ITEMS.

ZANZIBAR.—We have already, says the Patrie, announced that Great Britain was already negotiating with the brother of the Imaun of Muscat for the cession of the Island of Zanzibar, in the Indian Ocean, near the coast of Zinguebar, Eastern Africa. We are now informed that the negotiation has had a first result, and that England has obtained the cession of a considerable territory in the north of Zanzibar, where she is to found an establishment which will be of great importance to her when the Suez Canal is terminated.

LIBRARY DESTROYED.—On the 21st ult. the library of the Cathedral Church of Strongnass, Sweden, was destroyed by fire. It contained a great number of Scandinavian manuscripts and rare books, which came from the pillage of the convents of Bohemia and Moldavia during the thirty years' war. This library was founded in the fifteenth century, and science and literature have by this catastrophe suffered an immense loss.

THE EXPOSED CONDITION OF THE PRINCESS MARY.—The London Daily News gives a flat contradiction to the report that one of the princesses of England had married a viscount against the will of the Queen and in contravention of the Royal Marriage Act. The News says the story originated in a weekly paper called the Churchman, and adds:—

Those who are informed as to what passes in courtly circles better than we pretend to be, state that the circumstances, whatever they were, which gave support and countenance to the rumors of a proposed marriage ceased to exist some months ago.

* * * The law is objectionable, not so much on account of the kind as of the excessive scope and range of the authority it gives the Crown. It was passed at a time when the royal succession in the House of Brunswick might be deemed precarious and just as two sons of George III. had married subjects of their father contrary to his wishes. But it was made to apply to all princes and princesses descended from George II., with the exception of the issue of princesses married abroad.

At the present day, owing to the increase of the royal house, it applies not only to the children, but to the cousins-german of the Queen. The wisdom of this extended application is more than doubtful. Every restriction on marriage is evil, and is only to be justified on the ground of necessity; where that is wanting the restriction is indefensible and injurious. Let it be observed that the circumstances under which the law now operates are very different from those which existed in any previous generation since its enactment. The Queen has nine sons and three daughters, three of whom are married and have families. The succession to the crown in the direct line is therefore as well secured as can be reasonably desired, and the interest of the Queen's cousins to it is so insignificant that it might safely be disregarded. It would appear that on public grounds—and such alone were in the intention of the legislature—remain for interfering with the personal predilections of the latter in questions of marriage.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE CURLING RINK.

Mr. Gildersleeve's Gold Medal was won yesterday by John Carruthers, Esq. He beat Capt. Drummond 13 to 8. This being the third time that Mr. Carruthers has won the Medal, he is entitled to keep it.

ANOTHER RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday afternoon the day Express Train, which left here at 4 o'clock, met with an accident which resulted in the death of the Fireman of the Train. While crossing the Bridge this side of Napanee, the engine ran off the track, and the Fireman suspecting that the engine would go over the Bridge, jumped for his life, and in so doing, fell on the frozen river beneath and instantly killed himself. The engine and tender were the only carriages thrown off the track. The sudden stopping of the Train alarmed the passengers, and as soon as they saw their condition were thankful that everything turned out so well. The passengers made a search for the Fireman, but only found his dead body, which they had removed as soon as possible. The connections of the Train were made at the Bridge the same night. It was expected that all yesterday would be taken up in clearing the track. The report reached here that the Train had gone over the Bridge, and that a great many passengers had been killed, but it turned out to be false.

THE TROTTING RACES.—We have not received full particulars of these races, which came off on the ice yesterday, and therefore the full account will have to be left till to-morrow.

THE POLICE AND THE MASQUERADERS.—The efficiency of the Police Force at present organized was tested yesterday, and shews the importance of an effective force. Although there must have been four thousand persons on the ice yesterday, yet it was remarkable that not one person was seen under the influence of liquor, and the "Roughs," although present, had to keep quiet and abstain from their usual Billingsgate. The greatest order was kept and everybody was delighted with the order maintained. It is a credit to the city.

THE DRILL-SHED.—Drill commenced on Monday evening in the Drill Shed, on Union street, which though yet unfinished presented nearly all the acquirements necessary.—The shed not having been completed the arrangements for the supply of gas were not commenced and the shed was obliged to be lit up with coal oil. About eight o'clock, No. 1 Company, Capt. Minnes; No. 3, Capt. Phillips; No. 4, Capt. Kerr; No. 5, Capt. Macdonald, and No. 6, Capt. Callaghan, assembled in full numbers at the Armory and marched to the Shed, which by the way, is a pretty long distance, and were put through the regimental drill for a couple of hours, by the Sergeant-Major of the R. C. Rifles.—The shed being roomy shewed the men to much more advantage than when caged up in a small room. Several young men who had held back till a proper place to drill in was found, readily stepped forward and joined the several companies. The Brigade Major and Major Paton conducted the drill.

BELL TO BE EXECUTED.—A telegram from New York states that Capt. J. Y. Bell, the Philo Parsons raider, has been convicted of being a spy, guerilla, and pirate, and will be hanged on Governor's Island, New York harbor. The sentence has been fully approved of by Gen. Dix.

THE ST. ALBAN'S RAIDERS.—Considerable sensation was created amongst the Confederates in Montreal on Tuesday owing to the arrival of Cameron, once Chaplain to Morgan, with the much desired documents from Richmond, proving that Young acted by Government instructions. Cameron was delayed by ice on the Potomac. Two others in his company—one, Wilson, from Toronto—were drowned. He left Richmond on the 4th instant. The Raiders were still before the Court. Geo. W. Saunders was in the witness box.

MORE DEPES.—The Police, on Tuesday, arrested three boys on the arrival of the train from Belleville, having been notified by the Chief of Police of that place that they were going to the States, one of them, John Twohey, asking them over for the purpose of enlisting them. The boys were sent back to Belleville. Twohey had any amount of greenbacks and appeared to be an old hand at the bellows.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

New York, Feb. 15.

The Herald's Washington special says Richmond papers of Monday concede that Gen. Sherman has flanked Branchville both above and below, and Hardee's forces have evacuated that place. They also state that a Union column had reached Orangeburgh on the Columbia road, and all railroad communication with Charleston is c