

NUMBER 21.

The Mercury, being the only Daily Evening Newspaper in Quebec, and at all times full up with the very latest Intelligence offers to the public a most desirable Advertising channel.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Quebec Assemblies—R. H. Penherton.
Scottish Provincial Assurance Co.—A. D. Parker.
English Newspapers—P. Sinclair & Son.
English Magazines—P. Sinclair & Son.
British American Assurance Co.—O. Murphy.
Card of Thanks—M. G. Mountain.
Superb Collections—Oliver Ditson & Co.
Lending Library—P. Sinclair & Son.
Globe Skating Rink—Hutton & Chevalier.
Dwellings to Let—E. G. Cannon.
Leslie's Gazette of Fashion—P. Sinclair & Son.
Distilling Apparatus to be used on board Passenger Ships—Arthur Hays.
Crown Timber Office—A. J. Russell.
Government House, Ottawa—Wm. H. Lee.
Harp's Magazine—P. Sinclair & Son.
Valentines for 1866—P. Sinclair & Son.
Cathedral Hymn Books—do.
Notice—C. E. Howell & Co.
House and Decorative Painting—M. Hurly.
AUCTION SALES.
Saturday 26th—Sale of Real Estate—A. J. Maxham & Co.



Quebec Mercury.

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 26.

Mercury Special Despatches.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. BLAIR ELECTED.

THE U. S. CATTLE TRADE TO BE REOPENED.

FIRE IN LONDON.

TO THE QUEBEC MERCURY:

Toronto, Jan. 26.
The Hon. Ferguson Blair, President of the Executive Council, was returned by acclamation for Breck Division, at Guelph yesterday. He was proposed by Mr. Peter Gow, and seconded by the Mayor of Guelph.

Mr. Blair made a long speech in which he said he had intelligence from Washington that the recent prohibition of cattle traffic would be removed immediately.

A fire occurred in London last night by which a block of stores on Dundas street, the property of the Matthew estate was burned. The goods were insured to the extent of \$15,000 or \$20,000.

There is fine sleighing all over the country.

VERY LATEST

By Telegraph this Evening

(Reported Specially for the Mercury.)

AMERICAN NEWS.

New York, Jan. 25.

The case of Mr. Cobb against General Baker is still absorbing considerably attention. The plaintiff deposed that she stated to Mr. Howell, for whom she procured a pardon, that money would accomplish all anything, and that the said Howell gave her a petition signed by Slough, whose life he had saved during the war. No testimony of unusual interest was given in the trial to-day.

New York, Jan. 26.

The distillery of Eblany Bros., between 10th and 11th Avenues, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Loss \$50,000. H. Herber, the engineer, was badly burned. A report was yesterday made by General Hooker to the War Office, issued in the case of Chas. H. Colles, charged with being one of the Lake Erie rebel pirates. This report sets forth the facts that the prisoner was not under the control of Gen. Hooker, but in charge of Col. Burke, commander at Fort Lafayette. After further argument by the counsel it was postponed until Saturday.

New York, Jan. 26.

The one hundredth and seventh anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns was celebrated last night by the Burns Club of New York. Mr. Jas. Nicholson presiding. After dinner an address on the genius of Burns was made by H. S. Perkins.

The World's Washington telegram says the President has appointed Captain Nicholas Smith, of Kansas, Minister resident to Greece, to reside at Athens. This is the first appointment of a minister to that country.

The Tribune's telegram says Ex-Governor Parsons and Gen. Houston, Senators elect of the State of Alabama, are reported en route for Washington, and will probably arrive to-day. They come for the purpose of taking their seats in the Senate.

New York, Jan. 26.

The Herald's Washington telegram says Maj. John S. Sherman, of Ohio, and Meade are to assemble in Washington during next week for consultation with Government officials concerning the military situation in their respective departments.

A report was in circulation two weeks ago that the President would speedily issue a proclamation declaring the rebellion at an end, and civil law restored throughout the late insurrectionary States. His delay in doing so is now attributed to the non-arrival of official correspondence from Provisional Governor Hamilton, of Texas.

New York, Jan. 6.

The steamers Germania, Kangaroo and Caladonia arrived from Europe. News anticipated.

Mr. James Brennan, late O'Mahony's

general organizer, has accepted a commission from the Fenian Senate as central organizer. In his letter of acceptance he speaks very bitterly of O'Mahony and of his late conversion.

Everything is significantly quiet at O'Mahony's Headquarters in Union Square.

It is stated upon good authority that starting developments will soon be made which will demonstrate that O'Mahony's faction is now stronger than the organization has ever been and that it is devoted to earnest work.

A new counterfeit has made its appearance in this city, twenty on the first national Bank of Indianapolis Ind. The engraving is very poor, and the paper is darker colored than the genuine. The lettering is very fair, but the numbering is bad. The United States Treasury stamp is pale and poorly defined. The bill is a very fair imitation of the genuine plate.

New York, Jan. 6.

The World's Washington telegram says it is now known that the Ways and Means Committee have indefinitely postponed Secretary McCulloch's financial bill, after striking out the foreign loan clause. It is probable that the chairman, Mr. Morrill, will introduce an entire new bill when the subject is brought in this committee again.

The protracted encounter between the two recognized champions of the chess tourney, has been decided in favor of Captain MacKenzie, who succeeded in winning a third game of his veteran opponent, last evening, the final state of the score was as follows:—MacKenzie, three; Stanley one; drawn games, two.

RETURN OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

His Excellency Lord Monck, will, it is understood, leave England by the Cunard steamer, sailing to-morrow.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia will meet on the 22nd February for despatch of business.

MILITIA TO BE CALLED OUT.

A circular to the various cadets of the military schools, from the Adjutant General's department, states that it is intended to call out the whole of the Battered Service Militia men, and requests to be informed if any circumstances exist which can interfere with their serving as officers in the Battalions to which it is intended to appoint them provisionally for the present occasion.

MR. BROWN.

The Toronto Globe says that the story of Mr. Brown's permanent removal to Scotland is totally imaginary—a very weak invention of the enemy.

REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In discussing the subject of a reform in

the administration of criminal law in Canada, more especially in connection with the punishment of vagrants, we have so far spoken only of adults, for reasons that every minor guilty of vagrancy should be sent to the reformatory. If there were an Industrial school for their instruction it would be a great improvement and we should then amend our proposition thus send him for industrial instruction if under fourteen and to the reformatory if he have attained the age of fourteen. A reformatory for young females is indeed sadly needed, and the remark brings us to the question of what should be done with female vagrants and vagabonds? The proceeding in reference to them ought to be in all respects the same as in reference to vagrants by males, except when they are found "sturdy" in this case they should be put into a prison specially set apart for them and kept at hard labor in it with a diet fit for persons in prison. Following the guide of experience as afforded by the history of the jail of Quebec, we should say picking twelve pounds of oakum a day was proper, and a pound and a half of wheat bread and a quart of thick oat porridge saturated with molasses, in lieu thereof two pounds of potatoes boiled in their skins with quantum of salt, the potatoes to be substituted for porridge not less than two days in every week; would be a proper allowance of work and of food with of course fresh wholesome water, ad libitum. Many prisoners for long terms have gained health on this diet and this labor, and none have lost it. Our treatment of this subject will perhaps be incomplete unless we revert to one class of prisoners, a rare class, but one which may increase if the "sturdy" vagrant finds the Police Ordinance no longer available as the "open sesame" of a short imprisonment, lately for no conceivable reason rendered attractive by an ill-judged increase of jail diet. We mean persons imprisoned for want of bail to keep the peace. We think these people ought not to be discharged unconditionally, and that no man should be bound over without a full and fair trial, as if for an assault; and where such trial had taken place and resulted in conviction, the man, if unable to find sureties, instead of being discharged unconditionally at the discretion of the Sessions or Bench, should after a stated period of imprisonment be released on his own bond, taken in an amount suitable to his circumstances—say twenty dollars if, as likely, poor—to keep the peace for life, and if on full and fair trial he was proved to have broken his bond, he should on conviction be put to his election to pay the bond or be dealt with for an act of vagrancy. We are of opinion, also, that every sentence to simple imprisonment for a misdemeanor, in whatever Court rendered, should be accompanied by a sentence of fine, and that where these fines are left unpaid and the whole sentence of imprisonment is undergone, the defendant should be placed upon the list of penitentiary debtors, and that repeated offences should cause an increase in the amount of the defendant's amercement, which ought on his first conviction in a jury court to be in proportion to his means. The practical result is that, while hard labor would be banished the jails and simple misdemeanors involving no great turpitude should not degrade a man by sentence of hard labor on his first conviction, yet the people would be taught that the man who persevered in law-breaking, however opulent, would come to ruin at last, and as none would be too opulent for the law who presumed on

wealth, so he who persevered in law-breaking regardless of simple imprisonment would soon find himself at hard labor as a vagrant, a condition which would entail a fresh conviction for vagrancy for each offence short of a penitentiary crime.

UNITED STATES SHIPPING.

Mr. McCulloch has just transmitted to Congress a report embodying his views relative to the registering of vessels built in the United States and subsequently transferred to foreigners. The Secretary says:—

"The existing laws exclude from the privileges of the American flag all foreign-built vessels and the vessels of domestic build, which, after having been once documented under the laws, are transferred to foreign ownership. This policy of exclusion has been uniformly adhered to since the first establishment of our commercial system, and no general law had at any time prevailed at variance with it, except the Act of December 23, 1852, which permits, under certain conditions, the registry of foreign-built vessels wrecked in the waters of the United States. The prohibition, as far as it relates to vessels of foreign build, rests upon the second section of the Navigation Act of December 21, 1792, and is calculated to encourage and cherish domestic shipbuilding, which has been regarded as vital to our commercial prosperity. And whatever opinion may be entertained as to the propriety of an eventual relaxation of the stringency of the laws, I do not regard the present as an auspicious moment in which to make the experiment, involving as it would so radical a change in the established policy of the Government. The Act of June 27, 1791, forbidding the registry of vessels built and registered in the United States, and subsequently transferred to a foreigner, rests upon a different, but quite as cogent reason, viz.: the facilities that a privilege of unrestricted transfer would afford for the perpetration of frauds and the evasion of the navigation laws. During the late war the transfer, in many cases it is believed, fictitious and fraudulent, of American bottoms to a foreign flag has been a favorite expedient by which to escape the payment of war rates of insurance and avoid the risks of capture. Upwards of eight hundred thousand tons of shipping has thus disappeared from our records, for a large portion of which the owners are now claiming readmission, when the risks of war are no longer imminent and the privileges of an American registry are again appreciated. They transferred their vessels with a full knowledge of the sacrifice they incurred, regarding, it is supposed, the temporary security from losses an equivalent for it; and I should be unwilling to advise in their favor any relaxation of the rigor of the law. Neither do I, on the other hand, recommend any additional encouragement of shipbuilding by allowance of drawback; and otherwise enjoying, as they do, an absolute protection from foreign competition, I cannot conceive that our domestic ship-builders require any further stimulus or more extended privileges."

We do not understand why the American Government should wish to punish American ship-owners who, during the war, obtained for their vessels the advantage of a foreign register. The United States suffered no loss by the change of registration. From an American point of view, it was better that the vessel should sail under a foreign flag and thereby escape destruction, than that they should continue under the American flag and fall into the hands of the pirates. The Southern Confederacy might have complained that its privateers were cheated out of their prey, but we cannot see how a Federal grievance can possibly be made out in the matter.

We fancy says the Toronto Globe of Tuesday that the desire to punish ship-owners who resorted to foreign registers to save their property is due, not so much to patriotism as to the spirit of monopoly and exclusion which seems to pervade the whole commercial policy of our neighbors. If the vessel which, during the war, acquired foreign registers, are prevented from again becoming American, those vessels which have American registers will not be subject to their competition in the coasting trade of the country. The fewer American vessels there are, the higher freights will they be able to command. Mr. McCulloch also expresses his views in reference to the proposal to favour the ship-builders by allowing them a drawback upon articles used in the construction of vessels. The high duties upon iron enable the American producer to sell it for nearly twice the price heur in Britain, and has in consequence ship-building in America is very expensive. The proposal to make it less so by allowing a drawback upon the material used. Mr. McCulloch's opposition. His reason is that the American ship-builders enjoy an absolute protection from foreign competition. This is true in one sense, that only American ships can have American registers; but in foreign commerce foreign ships do compete with the American. If an American vessel is to cost twice as much as one of foreign build, it is easy to understand the disadvantages under which the Americans will labor in respect to foreign commerce. Already New York journals lament the poverty of their mercantile marine, and declare that nearly all the ocean steamers running to the United States are foreign property. It is easy to show—and the statistics of commerce do show it—that a vast amount of trade is lost in this way. Britain and the United States are competitors for the trade of many countries, and the party which furnishes the better means of communication is the more likely to control the trade. Our neighbors will never forgive Britain for having distanced them in this race. Their absurd policy of making the production of American vessels as easily as possible, will place them further behind in the contest than ever.

The owners of American ships who engage in the coasting trade may profit by the monopoly which it is Mr. McCulloch's policy to give them—just as the New England manufacturers are growing rich by means of the monopoly allowed them. But in each case the consumer is made to suffer. The tendency of all these things is in the same direction—to make everything as costly as possible. If the object were to make the United States the most expensive country in the world to live in, the American Government has adopted the true policy for the attainment of that end. The effect will be to aggravate the crisis which is sure to follow the present period of inflation and extravagance. The more the monopolists are favoured, and the more prices are driven up now, the greater will be the disasters when the crash comes.

The New York Times, chief organ of the Administration, in that city, again asserts that a Reciprocity Treaty on the old, or almost any reasonable basis is out of the question, owing to the change in the Federal system of taxation. It says:—

"The course heretofore to be pursued by this country will not doubt be governed by two considerations, always important, but more important now than at any former time. We are not to use the term in a controversial sense, or in any relation to the abstract merit of protection or free trade as a principle. We mean simply as inasmuch as the necessities of the nation have given birth to a system of taxation which permeates everywhere, and makes itself felt alike on the farm, in the forest and in the workshop, we are bound to take care that the products of American labor shall not be exposed to unrestricted competition with foreign articles in no way tributary to the free trade and protectionist coincide. The burden borne by our own people must be shared, in some degree, and some manner by any other people who would come as sellers into the market. So long as the existing system of internal revenue shall last, so long we should guard American labor, however employed, from unequal competition with the products of other countries."

THE PROMENADE CONCERT.

Notwithstanding the snow storm the Music Hall was well filled last night on the occasion of the second Promenade Concert. The Band of the Fusiliers, under Mr. Chappé, executed a very select programme in good style, and there was more promising than the last concert during the performance of the music. The Promenade Concerts are increasing in popularity, and will no doubt be better attended hereafter.

FIRE AT THE WESLEYAN CHURCH.

NEARLY HALF OF THE INTERIOR DESTROYED.

DAMAGE \$10,000.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE UNKNOWN.

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The police had their hose down promptly from the Ursule street station, but after it was laid some three-quarters of an hour elapsed before the water was in play, notwithstanding that the supply in the surrounding houses was ample as usual. The arrival of the hook and ladder men was the signal for a grand demolition of the windows on every side of the building, to give access to the smoke which filled the interior in a dense cloud, completely darkening the vast edifice. Two thousand panes of glass are said to have been thus destroyed, besides sashes and frames. Captain Ferguson and No. 8 company rendered great service in saving the plate and afterwards getting at the seat of the fire, and the police and axmen aided them zealously. Mr. Bureau and Mr. Reynolds being present to superintend their exertions. Long after the main floor was flooded two or three inches deep and the basement in some places two feet deep, the fire continued burning among the plaster work at the east end.

The front of the organ case is all charred from the intense heat that arose at the other end of the building, and the east end of the gallery is much burned.

The destruction of so handsome a building would indeed have been a loss to the city. It was erected at a cost of \$60,000, and is said to be insured for \$40,000 in the Quebec, and London and Lancashire offices, of which \$8000 will, it is thought, cover the damage.

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Lucie Paré, wife of François St. Hilaire, was put upon her trial for assault and battery, committed upon a Madame Tremblay, at St. Anne du Nord, on 27th May last. In this case, also, the jury, after an absence of some hours, declared they could not agree, and they were discharged without a verdict. Mr. Legaré appeared for the defendant.

Printed and Published at the Office of
GEORGE T. CARY, 13 Fabrique street, in
the City of Quebec, in the District of Quebec.