

CANADA.

THE MINISTERIAL DEFEAT.

From Our Own Correspondent. QUEBEC, Friday, Dec. 15, 1854.

Last night, or rather this morning, the Administration suffered one of those peculiar defeats which all Governments, under our system, are at any time liable to encounter. They were not left in a minority; but, somehow, they are held to have sustained a certain species of defeat.

The explanation is this: The Legislative Council made some most important amendments in the Feudal Tenure bill and it was sent back last night in its amended shape to the Legislative Assembly, where it originated. As this bill provides an indemnity to the Seigniors for the loss of those rights of which it deprives them, it comes under the designation of a money bill; and as the House of Lords cannot alter a money bill, although they may reject it altogether, so the Legislative Council here cannot exercise, in this respect, a power denied to its supposed prototype. It is obvious, however, that the rule was made to protect the representatives of the people in the exclusive right of all money bills; and it does not seem probable that they will ever be permitted to protect themselves by preventing them from waiving their right for the sake of convenience. The result of the privilege question raised, on this point, was a triumph for Ministers, whose majority was twenty-one. But it was on the question of the second reading of the amendments, made by the Council, that the Government difficulty occurred. The question was no longer one of privilege, but went to the merits of the amendments. The Ringers and their allies had determined to use the occasion to defeat the Government. They did not care for the merits of the question; and although the amendments were consonant with the views they had repeatedly expressed on the question, they resolved to vote against them. The *Centistes* interest, which is strong in the Representative Assembly, was ready with its objections to the amendments. It objected to the definition of seigniorial rights, to the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, alleging that they were prejudiced in favor of the Seigniors. It demanded a legislative definition of seigniorial rights, and would hold no parley with the Courts. It also demanded that the water-power should be handed over to it without compensation to the Seigniors. The *Centistes*, when land was conceded to them, did not stipulate to get the water-power; but, as the exclusive rights of the seigniors to the water-power are to be taken away, the *Centistes* demands that wherever his lot is bounded by a river he shall be at liberty to use the hydraulic power which it affords without paying for it, although his farm might have cost not over one-fifth of the value of the water-power which he never purchased. The Montreal interest objected that the bill did not apply to land in this city, and perhaps the objection is well-founded. Then local difficulties presented themselves as to the mode in which the indemnity provided by the Legislature was proposed to be distributed. The *Centistes* interest of the Quebec District thought the lion's share of the indemnity would go to the District of Montreal. The effect of these various motives, objections and difficulties was to place against ministers a majority of the Lower Canada representatives, that section of the Province being exclusively interested in the question. The vote stood 39 for Ministers, and 39 against them; but the majority consisted exclusively of Upper Canadians, a majority of six of the Lower Canada representatives being against them. Mr. Baldwin, when Attorney-General for Upper Canada, resigned on precisely such a sectional defeat when the sectional majority was only one against him, and the whole majority in his favor was large. Mr. Moir will not follow that example; and I suspect he will not, for there seems a strong impression in the ultimate majority of the measure. If, at the final reading, there is a majority of Lower Canada in opposition, then the question of resigning will become a serious one for ministers.

P. S.—Past Midnight.—Government have recovered their Lower Canada majority on an amendment that went to the whole principle of the amended bill. The amendment proposed to substitute another bill for that of the Government, and was lost by a majority of 21, a majority of 6 Lower Canadians voting with Ministers. The threatened Ministerial crisis is, therefore, over, and nobody is hurt.

THE SEIZURES AT BARCOA.

[Continued from the Newark Daily Advertiser.]

The following letter from the American Consul at Havana in relation to the recent arrests at Barcoa, has been received: HAVANA, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1854. DEAR SIR: I am grieved to say that my bright hopes of getting Mr. Felix liberated are materially diminished. The schooner *San Juan* and the two prisoners, Felix and Lavaca, (my assumed name) arrived here in charge of a Spanish man-of-war steamer on Friday last, and were landed on Saturday evening. The information that those two young men had just been landed, pinioned and tied together, and sent to the prison, a few moments after my receipt of the letter from the Captain General, announcing the fact, and that they were placed incommunicado, not allowed to communicate with any one but their jailor; but in consequence of the interest I had manifested for him, he had ordered him a special room, and all the comforts of a prison could be afforded. It was too late to follow him to the prison that evening.

The next morning, soon after sunrise, I was in prison for the purpose of seeing him, which I was permitted to do, but not to speak to him. He is evidently in bad health, with the marks of great suffering. I immediately requested that he be removed to his means to be sent to him regularly; also bed and bedding. Soon after I called upon the Capt. General, to ask the meaning of his being incommunicado, when he replied, "Your friend is grossly implicated in the landing of the arms at Barcoa. We have," says he, "found the arms that were landed from the schooner, and he was a passenger; and hence the 'evidence of his complicity.' I expressed my grief at all this, and he replied that he felt great disappointment himself, and but for the information so recently placed in his hands, he would have given me an order for his release."

I then told the General that the only thing I could ask under such circumstances would be a fair trial under the treaty. He replied that he would give him an open trial, the same as Thruher. Thruher was tried by a military court. After this I commended him, or made up my mind to do so, when he selected a lawyer, and I saw him, and two days allowed for his defense. I fear a similar fate awaits these young men; if so, I shall protest in the strongest terms against the whole proceedings. In the meantime I shall watch over his comforts as much as possible, but this incommunicado is a cruel punishment, and I shall leave but little chance of a man to defend himself.

Our Government should demand through Quilo a regular trial under the treaty, or declare openly that the treaty does not extend to this argument, as we have so often insisted, and so often acted in violation of it. This matter is occupying the office night and day. I feel deeply interested in it, and shall do all in my power to keep it in my legitimate position. Sincerely yours, WM. H. ROBERTSON.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.—The decision of the Supreme Court, on Wednesday last, in the case of Ring vs. Maxwell, involves a reading of the law which is of great public importance. Ring, it will be recollected, was Naval Officer in the part of N. Y. law, under the Administration. He, the Collector, and the Secretary of the port claimed that all additional duties there were in the nature of "penalties," and that, as such, the Naval Officer, Surveyor, and Collector (the latter being Maxwell himself) were liable each in a distributive share. The Secretary of the port contended that the validity of their claims depended on the validity of the additional duties assessed to be paid into the Treasury; and Ring, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, brought this suit, to enjoin the Collector from paying it in as ordered by the Secretary. The decision of the Supreme Court is that the validity of the law, the additional duties being duties—and not "penalties," is not the subject of this suit. This decision saves the Treasury, in this and other cases, some two or three millions of dollars, if not more; the revenue officers who receive the highest pay being those who are not the highest paid in the country. If we are not grossly mistaken, this decision covers, also, the chief Secretary Saunders, late Collector at San Francisco, who is to be tried in Baltimore. [Washington Star, 12th.]

OPENING OF ALBANY ST.

SPEECH OF COUNCILMAN NORTH IN FAVOR OF THE EXTENSION.

Delivered in the Board of Councilmen, Dec. 15.

MR. PRESIDENT: After so much useless debate on trifling themes, it is refreshing to have before us a subject the present, so well calculated to call into exercise the sober judgments of our minds.

It is a question, Sir, which concerns directly a large portion of our citizens, and interests indirectly the whole community; a contest between two great and powerful corporations, the contestants being nearly equal.

If one has the advantage in power, the other has in want of purpose and action—in short, this body is to take part in a contest which has been going on for a long period of years between the Municipal Corporation of New-York and the Religious Corporation of Trinity Church. And it is for this body to decide who shall prevail!

Mr. President, this Manhattan Island is far-famed for its unrivaled commercial position. With convenient length and breadth for commerce, its noble bay would ride the maelstrom of the world, while its basins would be the great harbors for the shipping of all seas. This island and bay have given to our City its world-renowned commercial character, and have made it, beyond all competition, the Metropolis of America, with the fair prospect in the future of becoming the commercial metropolis of the world.

Other cities, whether in this or in any other part of the world, whatever, therefore, affects their manufactures, necessarily affects their general prosperity. But this City, being distinctively commercial, becomes at once concerned in whatever tends to increase or contract her commerce, because her prosperity depends upon it. For her commerce, Sir, and for her industry, is it through the water, and not through the land, that she is to be benefited or injured.

It is not, then, in this light more than any other, that we are to view the question before us. Certain peculiarities mark every maritime city. First is the shipping, moored at the wharves and piers, then the adjacent streets lined with commercial warehouses, shipping offices, and stores for bulky merchandise; then follow agencies, exchange-offices, insurance companies, and banks; then, in the wider and more eligible streets, you will find the jobbers and more mercantile as require room for their warehouses and display; then the retailers, and farther in the interior, the private residences.

This classification is not only natural and appropriate, but it is indispensable to the proper and systematic growth of large cities. There is no maritime city of this country where these aspects are not at once presented to the eye, except Mr. President, the City of New-York.

It strikes, yet nevertheless true, the Metropolis of America reverses the natural order of things in order of furnishing, as she ought and could, abundant provision for the wants of her commercial community, but never has she been driven to adjacent shores for warehouses and shipping accommodations!

At this, too, in view of the fact that there has been the Bay and wharves, the shipping, a large territory now entirely unused for such purposes, and consequently barred from commerce and industry from its actual use.

THE HOLIDAYS.

The festive season of Christmas and New-Year is at hand; the old folks are seeking the most acceptable presents, while the youngsters look forward with glee to the good things in store for them.

As our advertising columns contain much desirable information in regard to the extensive provisions made by the various tradesmen for supplying the holiday wants, we call particular attention to the articles offered by each. We do this, however, rather in accordance with a custom common to this season than from the actual necessity of the case; as we believe that few who claim to keep pace with the times, fail to inform themselves of the merits of the wares offered to their notice through the advertising columns of THE TRIBUNE.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. D. APPLETON & Co., Nos. 346 and 348 Broadway, offer to the holiday public a rare and varied assortment of Illustrated Books, at prices from \$1,000 down to \$1, prominent among which are The Republican Court, Gems of British Art, Ornaments of Memory, Houses of American Authors, Audubon's Birds of America, and a host of other beautiful and acceptable works, including the best editions of standard authors, in the language.

PHILLIPS, SIMPSON & Co., No. 110 Washington St., Boston, have also made great preparations for the season. They present 124 May and other works of standard authors for all ages and climes. Their publications may be obtained of most of the booksellers in this city.

MASON BROTHERS, No. 23 Park row, recently published a number of acceptable works, of which Fancy Ferns we have, Ruth Hall, and the Life of Horace Fanny Fern, form part. The standard works on Music and Song are also to be obtained.

ROBERT CARTER & BROTHERS, No. 263 Broadway, have a large assortment of Juvenile Publications, among which are Evening Hours with my Children, and numerous elegant little series of all a decidedly modern tendency.

FRANK H. WATSON, No. 703 Broadway, has ready to make Photographic Examinations, or supply the public with Works upon Hydropathy, Homoeopathy, Phrenology, and a wide range of Science and Literature.

J. CROWLEY & Co., No. 409 Broadway, advertise a large assortment of Albums, Albums, and other Gift Books.

J. L. BROWN & Co., No. 121 Nassau St., have on hand an extensive collection of Illustrated Books.

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THE MURDER OF THE SALT LAKE MAIL PARTY.—Another Indian butchery to record.—The noble and brave-hearted John F. Jamerson, conductor of the November Salt Lake mail, and his brave companions, Capt. B. H. Lusk, and James W. Wadsworth, were murdered by the Sioux Indians on the 13th ult.

The particulars are given by Messrs. Conroy, Mitchell, and Harley, who went out with the October mail and returned on the 5th. The unfortunate mail party was on its way from the "Sage Hills," 20 miles from the mouth of the Snake River, to Salt Lake, upon a band of Sixes—supposed to be about twelve in number—and the mail carriers all killed, and Charles Kinkead, of the firm of Livingston & Kinkead, Salt Lake, badly wounded. Kinkead was in the wagon when the attack was made, but was killed by a bullet in the head, but the man being killed by travel, and not disposed to leave the mail wagon, he was soon overtaken; and after having six arrows lodged in his body and a ball shot through his arm, which pierced and came near passing through his throat, he was finally best down by his mate by guns being discharged over his head, and he lay for some time for dead, and finally to pierce the wagon. They got everything valuable about the wagon, (except the mail, which they emptied out of the bags), including the mules and about \$12,000 in gold of several kinds.

After Kinkead revived, he had to walk several miles through the sand before he could get any assistance. This occurred within six miles of Drisney's trading-post. Kinkead, at the latest accounts, was at Laraine doing well. The mail will most likely be sent in a few days, with whom Kinkead will most likely come. [Occidental Messenger, Dec. 9.]

TWO KANSAS EMIGRANTS FROM NEW-YORK DROWNED.—On last Monday afternoon, Mr. Stephen A. Noble and Joseph O'Neil, both of this place, were wrecked on the coast of Cape Cod, bound with line and ball, when, but a short distance from the above place, the boat struck a rock and immediately sunk. One of the men went down immediately, and the other grasped a plank, but before assistance was rendered, he sunk. They have two of our most worthy citizens, who were taken from our shores. They come from New-York to settle among the Indians. They found a watery grave in the Missouri. Mr. Noble leaves a bereaved family to mourn his loss. Quite a number of others turned out to look for them, but the bodies have not, as yet, been found. [Leavenworth W. T. Herald, Dec. 9.]

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CITY ITEMS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The engagement of Grist and Mario is rapidly drawing to a close. They are announced to appear in Philadelphia on the 2d of January, and will give only four more representations here. To-night, the opera of Lucia, with Madame Martucci, Mario, and Radiali, and the first act of Norma, with Madame Grist, Signorina Donovani, and Signors Lovini and Sinali, offer as strong an attraction as ever was presented in New-York. The acting and singing of Madame Grist, in Norma, last Friday evening, are spoken of in musical circles as surpassing any previous effort of this incomparable artist; the audience was roused to a degree of enthusiasm which has not been equaled since the opening of the Academy.

The anniversary of the Norfolk-M. E. Sabbath School, which is to take place on Monday evening, (see our advertising columns,) is deserving particular attention. The price of admission is but 12 cents, and the proceeds are to be devoted to the purchase of clothing for the poor children attached to the school. Money could not be better invested, especially by those who desire amusement, as well as an opportunity to bestow their charity.

The Seventh Christmas Celebration (eleventh anniversary) of the Astor Sabbath School, attached to the Norfolk-M. E. Church, will take place on Monday evening. The Ladies' Fair of the Bloomingdale Home Aid Society, at No. 679 Broadway, second door below Amity-st., continues to-day.

The New-York Practical House-Painters Benefit and Protective Association held their Fifth Annual Ball on Monday evening, Dec. 18, at the Chinese Assembly Rooms, Broadway. The attendance was numerous and respectable. Mr. Sullivan, in an address, briefly described the advantages which union and cooperation would produce among the trade, and also alluded to the able advocacy of THE DAILY TRIBUNE on their behalf.

The New-England Dinner is to be eaten to-night, at the Astor House. The LATE FIRE IN BROADWAY.—INQUEST UPON THE BODY OF MR. LOWRIE.—Coroner O'Donnell yesterday held an inquest, at the Fourteenth Ward Station-House, upon the body of James T. Lowrie, late a member of Hose Co. No. 7, who was killed on Wednesday morning, while in the discharge of his duty at the fire in Broadway. The evidence of Sylvanus Wood, of No. 14 Eleventh-st., a member of the same Company, was taken, and went to show that he and himself, while the fire was raging, entered a carriage-house in Crosby-st., with the hose-pipe—deceased being foremost—who asked witness to move a wagon which was in the way, which he did; the deceased then advanced, and a moment afterward the wall fell—burying him under the ruins. The body, when recovered, was found to be considerably bruised, and portions of it were burned to a crisp. The Jury of Inquest rendered a verdict of "Death by being accidentally burned at the fire in 'Broadway, Dec. 20, 1854.'" At the close of the inquest, the body of the deceased was conveyed by his friends to his late residence, No. 131 East Twentieth-st. He was a native of New-York, 22 years of age, and unmarried.

The Foreman of Hose Company No. 7 assures us that no one belonging to that company is missing. We are requested to say that the Rutgers Insurance Company lost nothing by the fire in Broadway. CASE OF JOHN RYAN.—We are informed, upon what ought to be the best authority, that the statement that John Ryan "had settled for \$50" the charge of causing the death of the child of Colgan, by a blow from a wine bottle, is entirely untrue; that he has made no such proposition, nor has any one made it for him with his authority or knowledge. It is also affirmed that he is innocent of the crime alleged.

THOSE FAT STEERS.—The following are the weights of the quarters of the two three-year old Kentucky Durham steers, which we noticed, last week, as the finest pair of their age that we had ever seen: The white one, 420, 414, 337, 315; total, 1,496. The roan one, 420, 413, 321, 297; total, 1,441. Weight of both, 2,940 cwt., \$450—which, excluding hide and tallow, is 15 cents, 3 mills and a fraction per pound. The beef is a sight worth seeing.

JOURNALS.—Francis & Lourel, stationers, No. 77 Maiden-lane, have issued their usual assortment of journals and pocket memorandum-books for 1855. THE SHERIFF'S JULY OF 1854.—This august body met last evening at the St. Nicholas Hotel, where they celebrated their anniversary by a fine dinner. After the demolition of a large quantity of dishes, the company settled themselves in their easy chairs, in the most comfortable position possible, prepared for a "feast of reason and a flow of soul." Mr. Timponson, from the Controller's Office, Joseph Hoise, Esq., Deputy Sheriff M. Kibbin, and others, made speeches, which were loudly applauded. Sheriff Orser was absent on account of sickness.

SUFFERING AMONG IMMIGRANTS.—An Irish immigrant, named Ann Hagan, with two children, one of the minding with measles, was found on Wednesday night on the pier foot of Chambers-st., where they had been landed and left to look out for themselves. The police had them taken to the Third Ward Station-House, where the sick child died soon after landing. The other child and its mother were in a starving condition, and immediate attention had to be given them.

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.—Among the industrial schools which come in for a share of the holiday gifts and charities, that of the Home for the Friendless ought not to be forgotten. Although recently established, it has about 250 poor girls on register, and an average daily attendance of about 100. These are in part taught by volunteer ladies, and are under the charge of a Committee of the Home; still, the expenses for teachers, food, clothing, fuel, books, rent, &c., &c., are large, and must be supplied by the kind-hearted. Besides, at this season little dolls, goodies, Christmas trees, and other gaily crackery of the holidays, which we think so proper for our own children, gladden the hearts of these poor girls as they do our own. It is worth tenfold the cost only to see them joy and gratitude light up their weather-beaten faces.