

Rev. Mr. Mitchell's Letter.

"Oh! that mine enemy would write a book."  
We had occasion on Friday to censure the unseemly conduct of the Rev. Wm. Mitchell, for the very prominent and unclerical part he took in the election for Mayor, and in this we only gave expression to the sentiment and feeling of almost every ratepayer, who felt indignant that a young man, who had just entered on his sacred calling, should so lower himself and his profession as to take part in election squabbles. The Rev. Wm Mitchell replies to our mild strictures in a most extraordinary epistle, published in the Advertiser of Saturday, which, whether we regard the spirit it displays, or the language in which it is couched, is one of the most unique productions which ever came from clerical hands. We thought there was only one George Francis Train in the world, but quite unexpectedly we have discovered in our very midst an ecclesiastical George Francis, who in every respect comes up to—and in some points exceeds—his great model. The best answer we can make to such a letter is to give the letter itself. That we conceive is the heaviest punishment we can mete out to the young man, and so we rescue it from the semi-oblivion to which he had consigned it by publishing it in an obscure sheet, and give it the benefit of our wide circulation. There let it stand on record.

To the Editor of the Advertiser.

DEAR SIR,—To please the editors of the Mercury, who seem to be anxious to prolong the controversy regarding the late contest for the majority, I trust you will allow me, through the medium of your paper, to animadvert slightly on the rare logical powers of that sheet, and more particularly on one of the mean personalities in which it indulged in its vain attempt to account for the result of the late election. I must confess, however, that the task I have undertaken is a very repugnant one, and I can fully appreciate the situation of the man who "although half horse—half alligator, and prepared to whip his weight in wild cats," yet shrunk from entering the lists against a certain little animal which shall be nameless here. In the first place I would call the attention of the public to the following specimen of the logical consistency of the Mercury in its explanation of the defeat on Monday last. In the Mercury of Saturday, January the 2nd, I find the following:—"Mr. Melvin, owing to the dangerous illness of one of his children, which since this morning has assumed a fatal aspect, will be prevented from seeing the election personally on Monday, but that will not detract from his strength, but rather nerve his friends to greater efforts." And in the Mercury of Monday, Jan. 4th, I find the following:—"Mr. Melvin, on account of the sickness which has been in his family for the past fortnight, and from the death of his only son on Sunday, was altogether unprepared for a contest." Indeed, it was evident to the first that Mr. Melvin and his friends were placed at an immense disadvantage. Let this suffice as an illustration of the rare logical powers displayed by the editors of the Macdonnell street organ.

It is more, however, for the purpose of advertising to a mean personality which appeared in that sheet last evening, that I ask space in your columns. The fact that a young clergyman, or "ministerial flogging," as they choose to call him, took part in the late election, seems to have worried the editors of the Mercury very much. I would modestly inform them that I am a native of this town—that I have a vote in this town—that I pay more taxes than their whole establishment. Nay, more, that I was interested in the prosperity of Guelph long before the mud-daubers of the Mercury began to throw their dirt upon its inhabitants. I had the good of the town sufficiently at heart to be properly glad when the junior editor of that journal fell, in his endeavour to fasten himself leech-like on the body corporate, to suck out a livelihood as Treasurer. I know that in every great house, civil as well as ecclesiastical, there are vessels—some to honour and some to dishonour—and when I saw the attempt to ostentatiously display on the centre table one of the vessels belonging to an obscure party of the house—proving abortive, I was, in common with all right-thinking men, naturally delighted. When Shakespeare was alive, he made three classes of great men, viz: those who are born great; those who achieve greatness; and those who have greatness thrust upon them. But if Shakespeare were alive to-day, he would find it necessary to make an additional class, viz: those who seek to thrust themselves upon greatness. Of course the junior editor of the "Tadpole" would not be placed in this latter class.

If the Editors of the Mercury imagine that I am so chicken-hearted as to get frightened when they throw dirt (when that is their profession) they will discover to their sorrow that they have mistaken their man. I might present several good and sufficient reasons for the course pursued by me on Monday last, but it would be vain to waste arguments in trying to reason men out of a position into which they never had the brains to reason themselves. The only argument we can think of at present which would be likely to prevail with such men is one known among logicians as the "Argumentum Sheep-cadum."

I come now to the reference to my own person. I quote the following as an illustration of what these men will stoop to:—"Nor will we soon forget the earnestness of his most ardent supporters, among whom we might mention a Ministerial Fledgling who nearly ran his long legs off in his eagerness to get votes." I certainly thought the habit of indulging in such expressions as this was confined to school-boys. It would be seen, however, that there are some children of larger growth whose folly has not ceased with their youth—among whom we may safely place the "forty year old boy" of the Mercury. I might very readily report and ask the citizens of Guelph—those at least whose business takes them onto Wyndham Street—if they can ever forget the slovenly, unwieldy form, and downcast, criminal look of the junior editor of the Mercury as he shuffles along

the street. If the expression of the face is at all indicative of character, the poor fellow's only chance of attaining to the dignity of manhood must be found in Montgomery's argument for the poor negro, when he says:—"His crimes and his follies has stamp him Man."

I can readily understand the mental condition of a man who had not recovered from the chagrin and disappointment consequent on the loss of the Treasurer-ship when on the back of that comes the defeat of his favourite candidates. With regard to the Mercury's solicitude as to my service of my Master I may just say that if the Editors were as familiar with the language of the New Testament as they are with the vocabulary of slander they would not need to be told that I have a service to render to Caesar as well as to God. Moreover the present matter has given me an additional duty to perform—not unlike that performed of old viz: that of rebuking certain scribes, who seek to manufacture a false public opinion, and to create a false public sentiment. Touching the senior Editor of the Mercury I may simply add that as he is not yet full grown, his insignificance shields him from any remark. I cannot close this letter without expressing my regret that any occasion should have been given for the foregoing remarks, but I would simply appeal to the intelligent public if they were not richly deserved. I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that I sincerely deprecate any indulgence in personalities, but if respectable ratepayers cannot recede their votes, and work for their candidate without having vulgar epithets flung in their teeth, and personal abuse heaped upon them, surely their calumniators cannot expect to act thus with impunity.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that the Editor of the Mercury may see the gist to the following anecdote: Dryden's printer having refused him a favor, the bard sent a message to him, with the following line, adding, "Tell the dog that he who wrote these can write more."  
"With leering looks, ball-faced and freckled skin;  
With two half legs, and Judas colored hair,  
And frowsy pores that taint the ambient air."

The printer felt the force of the description, and to avoid the completion of the portrait immediately granted the favour. With a very trifling alteration, Dryden's portrait of the ancient printer would be quite applicable to another printer. I hope the Editor of the Mercury will take the hint and save me from completing my picture.  
Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your kindness for thus affording me space in your columns,  
I remain, yours very truly,  
WM. MITCHELL.  
Guelph, Jan. 9th, 1869.

Legislature of Ontario.

TORONTO, JAN. 8.  
The House was occupied the whole sitting in discussing the items in the Supply Bill, when the appropriation for the Governor's residence came up.  
Mr. McDougall, seconded by Mr. Oliver, moved that in the opinion of this House the expenditure of \$110,000 for the Lieutenant-Governor's residence, including the item of \$60,000 for the building of the House; \$32,000 for the furniture; \$8,000 for the outbuildings, and \$10,000 for the fencing and laying out of the grounds is excessive; and that the resolution be recommended to Committee of the Whole for the purpose of reducing the amount therein named by \$20,000, thus limiting the proposed expenditure in the Lieutenant-Governor's residence to \$90,000.—Lost, yeas 23; nays 41.

On the item of \$100,000 for additional accommodation for lunatics, Mr. McKellar moved, seconded by Mr. Gow, "That this House, while willing and desirous to provide additional asylum accommodation for lunatics is of the opinion that estimates of the probable cost of the said lunatic accommodation, according to approved plans and estimates should be laid, before the House, before it is called upon to vote \$100,000 in respect thereof."—Lost, yeas 25; nays 23.  
Mr. McKellar moved another amendment that this House has had no opportunity of expressing its opinion as to the place to be selected for the new Lunatic Asylum; and that before any expenditure of money is made in respect thereof, the Government ought to submit the selections made to the consideration of the Legislature. In support of this motion the honourable gentleman charged the Government with deceiving the House, and entering into treaty with a person for the purchase of a lot of land. This, he had on good authority; and he had heard further, that the farm concerning which they were in treaty, was only a few miles outside of London and \$9,000 were offered for it, it was said, but \$1,000 more were wanted.

Hon. Mr. Carling denied the statement emphatically, and said that he had had several informational conversations with various parties of the character spoken of; but he had never entered into any negotiations whatever on the subject.  
Attorney-General Macdonald was indignant at such false statements as those made by the member for Bothwell.

Here a scene of noise and confusion ensued, during which Mr. Secord proposed, jocularly, to read the Riot Act.  
Atty-Gen. Macdonald continued, and denied the statements of the member for Bothwell. For his part, he (the Atty-Gen.) would say, that so help God, the statements were untrue, foul and slanderous. Then there was the saintly member—

Mr. Boyd—Order. (Hear, hear and laughter.)  
Mr. Blake objected to the use of such language by the leader of the Government. If hon gentlemen on the Opposition side were saints, then the sinners must be represented on the other side of the House. (Laughter.)  
Atty-Gen. Macdonald went on to comment on the "cheek" of hon. gentleman opposite, he wasn't going to let the cat out of the bag, and say where the building would be erected. If he would do so up would jump the price of land at once.

TORONTO, JAN. 9.  
Among the other bills which passed a third reading was one to amend the act respecting the late Alex. Wright, of Ninto, in trustees. The House went into Committee of the Whole to amend the Act of the late Province of Canada, by declaring in the intentions of the same by the Company the land under. The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.  
A few other private bills were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

**THE GUELPH POLICE COURT.**  
Before T. W. Saunders, Esq., Police Magistrate.  
MONDAY, 11th.—But little business was transacted in this Court, to-day the only case being that of Wm. Jones charged by the Chief Constable with being drunk and disorderly. Fined \$1 and costs.  
There are several complaints against parties for non-removal of snow which will come up to-morrow for hearing.

Guelph Township Agricultural Society.

The annual meeting of the above Society was held at the Wellington Hotel on Saturday the 9th inst.—Mr. Thos. McCrear, the retiring President, in the chair. The Secretary, Mr. James Laidlaw read the following:

REPORT.  
The Directors of the Guelph Township Agricultural Society beg leave to report, that in accordance with a resolution of last annual meeting, the funds of this Society were paid over to the County Secretary, and a joint Exhibition was held under the auspices of the united Societies, the success of which must have been apparent to all. Your Directors believe it must have gone far to remove that opposition to a Union Show which has been occasionally manifested. The merits of the late Show your Directors consider it unnecessary to decant upon here, as it will be fully embraced in the joint report, but would avail themselves of this opportunity of expressing hope that the system may be long continued.  
Your Directors would further avail themselves of this opportunity of thanking their friends for the support given to them during the past year, and to the Canada Company for their long-continued liberality. The Directors have this day examined the Treasurer's books and found them correct, and herewith submit a list of members and amount paid by each. Number of members, 198; amount paid \$202, Canada Company's donation \$20; making in all the sum of \$222, which was paid over to the Treasurer of the County Society, reserving the balance of last year—\$26.50—after deducting expenses, leaving in the hands of the Treasurer \$195.50.

THOMAS MCCREAR, President.  
JAMES LAIDLAW, Secretary.  
The report was on motion adopted.  
The following office bearers were then elected for the current year:—President, John Amos; Vice President, Robert Matthews; Secretary and Treasurer, James Laidlaw; Directors, John Laidlaw, Wm Patterson, Charles Hawes, Wm Whitelaw, Richard Pallister, R. S. Brodie, Geo. A. Bruce and John Bolton; Auditors, Geo. Murton and James Innes.  
A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring President, Mr. McCrear, for the efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office during year.

BIRTHS.

GAY—At Elora, on the 8th inst., the wife of Mr. A. W. Gay, of a son.

DIED.

BRYAN—At Guelph, on the 11th instant, Ellen, infant daughter of Mr. John Bunyan, aged 4 months and 21 days.  
The funeral will take place on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to which friends and acquaintances are requested to attend without further notice.

ARMSTRONG—Suddenly, at Guelph, on the 9th inst., of disease of the heart, David Armstrong, aged 23 years.  
The funeral will take place on Tuesday, at 12 o'clock, noon. Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

New Advertisements.

**NOTICE TO THE VOLUNTEER COMPANIES.**  
The Members of Nos. 1 and 2 Volunteer Companies are hereby notified to meet at the Drill Shed ON TUESDAY, the 12th inst, at 11 o'clock, a. m., with shakos and side-arms, to attend the funeral of the late David Armstrong.  
The Members of the Battalion Band will meet on Monday, at the practice room, at 7 o'clock.  
CAPTAIN DAY,  
CAPTAIN BRUCE.

**HOUSE WANTED.**  
Having six or seven rooms. Address, F. Mearns Office, Guelph.  
Guelph, Jan. 5 1869. do tf

**CAUTION.**  
All parties are hereby cautioned against purchasing or negotiating, (on account of value not having been received,) two Promissory Notes; the first for \$25, payable on the 1st of March, 1869; the other for \$25, payable about the 1st December, 1869, both made jointly by John Johnson and Angus Johnson, in favor of Mr. McCrear.  
JOHN JOHNSON,  
ANGUS JOHNSON.  
Erin, Jan 9 w3121

**SPEED LODGE.**  
The regular monthly meeting of Speed Lodge will be held in the Masonic Hall, over the Bank of Commerce, on Tuesday evening, January 14, at half-past 7 o'clock.  
ROBERT CUTHBERT, Secretary.  
Guelph, Jan. 5, 1869. dt

**100,000 COPIES SOLD OF THE JEOPARD OF JUDAH,** two admirable books of Sacred Music for Choir, Singing Schools, Musical Conventions, &c., by L. G. EMERSON.  
Every Choir and Singing School should have them, for they will be sure of giving satisfaction.  
Price of each, \$1.25. Sent post-paid. A liberal discount made on quantities. G. DITSON & CO., Publishers, 277 Washington Street, Boston. C. H. DITSON & CO., 711 Broadway, New York.

**PUBLIC NOTICE.**  
The subscriber has to intimate that during his absence in England all orders left at the shop will be promptly attended to as usual. Parties indebted to him will please call at his house and settle as early as possible.  
Guelph, 6th Jan. W. H. JACOMB. dt2

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.**  
The subscriber begs to inform his patrons and the public that during his absence in England his business will be carried on as usual. Parties requiring work will please call at his shop. Market where all orders will receive prompt attention.  
Guelph, 6th Jan. JAS. BARCLAY. dtw

**BOARDING.**  
Parties requiring board can be accommodated with good bedrooms in a first-class Boarding House, situated near the Post Office. Address A. B., Guelph Post Office, or apply at his Office. an 2

**HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE.**  
For sale, a house and lot. Terms, easy. Apply personally, or by letter.  
W. S. BALL.  
Guelph, Jan. 7. do 1w

**EDUCATIONAL.**  
**MRS. WM. BUDD,**  
Organist of the Congregational Church,  
Begs to inform her Pupils and friends that her School will re-open MONDAY 4th JANUARY, 1869, she will also be prepared to give private Lessons on the Organ, Piano and Melodeon.  
Residence: Norfolk Street, Guelph.  
December 30 1868-wy

**APPRENTICE WANTED.**  
Wanted at THE MERCURY Office an apprentice to the Printing business. A stout, active lad, possessing a good English education, 15 or 16 years of age, from the country preferred. Apply at once Guelph, 3rd December.

**MONEY TO LEND.**  
The undersigned are requested to obtain Farm Securities for several thousand dollars, to be lent at moderate interest.  
LEMON & PETERSON,  
Barristers, Solicitors, &c.  
Guelph Dec. 9th, 1868. dtw

**BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.**  
CHURCH-ST. - - - GUELPH

**MISS WIGHTMAN** begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 4th of January, 1869.  
Guelph, 24th December dt

GRAND

**BLANKET** 1869 FEARFUL PANIC. 1869

ENTERTAINMENT,  
On Saturday Night!

Special to MECHANICS.  
A. O. BUCHAM

HAS on hand 200 pairs of ROSAMOND'S A1 BLANKETS, and desires to inf. in the Mechanics of this Town—and all others who take an interest in the

**BLANKET QUESTION**  
That he will offer the lot for sale on Saturday night at half-past six o'clock, at PRICES WHICH WILL STARTLE THE PUBLIC

This Sale is Specially intended for Mechanics, and a cordial invitation is given to all who are anxious to invest in such desirable stock at this particular season of the year.

The Blankets will be offered precisely at half-past Six o'clock,

And A. O. B. would urge upon intending purchasers the necessity of being early on the spot.

Saturday Night,  
AT HALF-PAST SIX O'CLOCK.

A. O. BUCHAM.  
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1869. dtw

**IMPORTANT AUCTION SALE**  
OF PURE-BRED GALLOWAY CATTLE, LEICESTER AND SOUTH-DOWN SHEEP, HORSES, IMPLEMENTS, &c.

Mr. James McMonies, jr., has received instructions from Thomas McCrear, Esq., to offer for sale by public auction on his farm, Lot 5, 15th Con. East Flamboro.

On Friday, 22nd January.  
at 11 o'clock a.m., the following pure-bred Stock, consisting of 7 cows, calved or to calve, 2 three-year-old heifers, 5 two-year-old heifers, 2 yearling heifers, 3 heifer calves, 2 yearling bulls, 3 bull calves. The above are all pure-bred Galloway stock, either imported or from imported stock.

**OTHER STOCK**—Also, three span of good team horses, 1 yearling filly, 1 filly foal, 1 yoke of good oxen, 1 grade cow.  
**SHEEP**—1 first-class aged Leicester Ram, 2 shearing do rams, 5 ram lambs do, 7 pair of do. Ewes in lamb, 5 pair of do. Ewe Lambs, 5 pair South-down Ewes, 4 pair do. ewe lambs, 1 do. ram lamb.  
Waggons, sleighs, harness, ploughs, chains, screw stump machine, and all the other farming implements. Also, a portion of household furniture. All must be sold, as the proprietor has rented the farm.

**TERMS**—Sums of \$10 and 1 under cash, over that amount ten months' credit on approved joint notes.  
THOMAS MCCREAR, Proprietor.  
Guelph, 8th January. dtw1

**BALTIMORE OYSTER DEPOT!**  
WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.  
IMPORTED DIRECT.  
GEORGE WILKINSON, Sole Agent.

**PLATT & CO'S BALTIMORE OYSTERS!**  
Sold to the Trade at Hamilton and Toronto prices.  
Guelph, 6th January. dtw

**VALUABLE and DESIRABLE**  
DWELLING HOUSE FOR SALE

That eligible and commodious Stone Dwelling House and Lot containing nearly half an acre of ground, with large Stables and out-houses complete, the residence of the late Dr. Parker, situate on the corner of Market and Dublin Streets.—This property is but a short distance from the Market and business part of the Town, and is an admirable location as a dwelling for a professional or business man. The above property will be sold on easy terms, which may be known by applying to

GEORGE ELLIOTT, or N. HIGBOTHAM, Executors.  
Guelph, Jan. 7. dtw

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS.**  
ESTATE LATE DR. PARKER.

The Executors of the late Dr. Parker have placed the Medical Accounts of the said Estate in the hands of Mr. R. MEREDITH for collection, who is authorized to grant receipts for the same. He will be found at the store of Messrs. C. & T. Meredith, west side of Wyndham Street, a few doors below the Old Post Office. All accounts not paid by 1st February next will be put to suit in the Division Court.

GEORGE ELLIOTT, N. HIGBOTHAM, EDWARD BLAKE, Executors.  
Guelph, Jan. dtw

New Advertisement.

1869 FEARFUL PANIC. 1869  
\$15,000 WORTH OF

**CANADIAN GOODS**  
To be rushed off before the 1st March, at the BRITANNIA HOUSE.

IN ORDER to make room for Spring Goods HEFFERNAN BROS. are determined to clear out their Immense Stock of Canadian Goods  
**AT PANIC PRICES!**  
Consisting in part of TWEEDS, FULL CLOTHS, SATINETTS, FLANNELS, BLANKET, caps, SHIRTS, DRAWERS, &c. Call at once, and call early.  
THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW CHANCES THAT RETAIL PURCHASERS have of Buying Goods at LESS than Wholesale Prices.

**HEFFERNAN BROTHERS.**  
Britannia House, Wyndham-St., Guelph. Jan 9. dtw

Retiring from the Retail Trade.  
ENTIRE STOCK OF DRY GOODS TO BE SOLD OUT.

**WM. STEWART,**  
In returning thanks to his friends and the public for the liberal patronage bestowed on him for the last thirteen years, respectfully intimates his intention of retiring from the Retail Business.

In order to facilitate the entire clearance of Stock, he will on WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY, commence the GREAT SALE, when Goods will be offered at Cost, and in many cases under. The public should take advantage of this rare opportunity of securing first-class Goods at the Lowest Prices ever offered in Guelph. The reputation of the Stock being so well known for extra quality, and being composed of New and Fashionable Goods, all may rely on extraordinary Bargains.

On and after the 2nd of January the Books will be closed, and during the sale Goods will be sold only FOR CASH.

N. B.—This is no clap-trap sale, as the subscriber is positively retiring.

**WILLIAM STEWART.**  
Wyndham Street, Guelph }  
Dec. 30th, 1868. dtw

**LANGDON.**  
MY STOCK OF

**GROCERIES, TEAS, WINES AND LIQUORS**  
Is now complete, and I am prepared to sell Goods as low as any House West of Montreal, no matter what their pretensions may be. Give me a call and prove it. In stock.

Very fine Black, Young Hyson and Japan Teas  
Coffees, Tobaccos, Sugars  
Pickles, Sauces, Lobsters, Sardines  
Bottled Ales and Porter.

**Wines and Liquors--Best Brands**  
Marcell Brandy, Jules Robic Brandy, Pinet Castillon & Co's Brandy, Seligete Brandy, Holland and Old Tom Gin, Rum, very fine Old Port Wine, Pale and Brown Sherry, Has's Scotch Whisky, Camlachie Scotch Whisky, Stewart's Scotch Whisky, Duval's Irish Whisky, Windsor Pure Rye and Malt Whiskey, Bourbon Whiskey.

Labrador HERRING, Lake Huron Herring, White Fish, Salt, &c., very low.  
Guelph, 5th January. dtw

**J. J. LANGDON.**

**Christmas and New Year's Gifts**  
For Christmas and New Year's Presents go to

**JOHN R. PORTE'S**  
JEWELLERY AND FANCY STORE,  
Next-door to Mr. Berry's Confectionery Store, Wyndham Street  
The following choice articles will be found in Stock

**Ladies' Companions**  
Ladies' Work Boxes  
Ladies' & Gents' Writing Desks

Chessmen, Chess, Draught and Cribbage Boards, Inkstands, Book Slides, Vases, Parian Figures, &c.

**WATCHES, CLOCKS & JEWELLERY**  
Of every description, and at all prices, to suit purchasers. A LIBERAL ALLOWANCE DURING THE HOLIDAYS.  
Guelph, 17th December dtw

**JOHN R. PORTE.**