Huron Signal.

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W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number.

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Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MARCH 25, 1864

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The eyes of Upper Canada are at present directed to Quebec, and the movements upon the political chess-board are watched with an absorbing interest. Our readers are all by this time fully aware of the demise of the Macdonald-Dorion Government. As the Hon. John S. Macdonald said in his closing speech, (which will be found elsewhere) it had immense difficulties to contend with. It is extremely hard to introduce a new era in the Government of a country. When people have been accustomed to a long course of legislative extravagance, they are inclined to imbibe the idea that such a things is not only tolerable but desirable A very large majority of the people of Upper Canada for eight long years protested solemnly against the profligate expediture of their money, but there was always a shoal of needy officials, hangers-on, leeches, who could be purchased for any purpose, however vile, and when, on the fall of the Cartier-Macdonald Administration the pruning knife of economy and retrenchment was applied, a howl of rage was raised against the new men. The Footes, and Babys, and Grand Trunk officials saw that if such a system should be firmly established, their greedy gains would cease, and hence from Mr. Brydges of the Grand Trunk to Mr. Foote, of mucilage notoriety, a cry went forth to the opposition for help. That cry fell upon sympathising ears. Although in a minority—although they knew that the country held their memory in detestation—although their past acts arose to condemn them at every turn, the Opposition moved Heaven and earth to overthrow their opponents, and every obstacle that a factious and obstructive spirit could devise was thrown in the way of the new Government, in addition to the load of unpaid debts and unfulfilled obligations, left as a legacy to their suffering country by their predecessors. Notwithstanding all these difficultiys and trials, it must be admitted that the new ministry performed wonders during their brief career. The Militia of the country was raised to a higher position than it ever held before, by a judicious economy thousands of pounds were saved, and the finances of the Province bade fair to arrive at a state of unwonted soundness and elasticity, useless officials were dismissed, the rod of justly-merited punishment fell upon wrong-doing officers, and the efficiency demanded by the Cabinet was in most cases secured But while we accord all praise to the Ministry for what it accomplished in such a short time, we must also remember that there was an anomaly connected with its very formation, which materially strengthened the hands of the Opposition, because it weakened the party in power: *The ministerial platform on important questions was not such as to secure the hearty co-operation of staunch liberal members!* Over and over again we have been accused of deserting the cherished principles of by-gone years. A glance at the political history of the past two years will prove the falsity of the charges, for notwithstanding the defection of such men as Mr. McDougall, it is a fact that the Browns, Dicksons, McKellars, Stirtons, McKenzies, &c., of the House supported John S. MacDonald only by way of sufferance, and because they considered his Ministry a vast improvement upon the old one. The now famous watchword of "*too far West*" has been vigorously enunciated; and will continue to resound until we secure justice for the section that pays the taxes of the Province. All things considered, it is not surprising that Mr. Macdonald found himself too weakly supported to carry out with a vigorous hand the work marked out for the present session.

The premier having advised His Excellency to entrust the formation of a new Ministry to Hon. Ferguson Blair, that gentleman entered into negotiations with Sir E. P. Tache, but failed in effecting his object. He then communicated with Mr. A. A. Dorion, requesting him to undertake the formation of the Lower Canada section of a new Cabinet. The result, and the situation generally, up to nine o'clock on Tuesday evening is thus given in the telegraphic correspondence of the *Globe*:—

"Mr. Dorion has not succeeded in his attempt to construct the Lower Canada section of the Cabinet, so as to command sufficient support from Lower Canada. It is reported that Messrs. Chapais, Abbott, and Dunkin were among those he approached, and that the reply of some of them at least, was to the effect that such negotiations could not succeed unless the Lower Canada leader belonged to the *Bleu* party.

"Finding his endeavours unavailing, Mr Dorion waited on Mr Ferguson Blair, and informed him that he could not succeed.

"Shortly after receiving the communication of his non-success from Mr. Dorion, Mr Blair drove out to Spencer Wood and informed the Governor General that he was unable to accomplish the task of forming an Administration entrusted to him by His Excellency.

"In what direction the Governor General now looks for advice, I have not yet ascertained.

"Her Majesty's Opposition held a caucus to-day in the Laval University. The report is that Mr Turcotte presided, and that he, Mr Cauchon, Mr Chapais and others made speeches counselling all who have been accustomed to act together against the Macdonald-Dorion Government, to remain firm in refusing to co-operate in any arrangement not emanating from their own side of the House. They further urged that by pursuing this course the reins of government would certainly fall soon into the hands of their own party leaders.

"Messrs. Dunkin, Knight, Morris, Street, Shanly, Tasse, Webb and others, are said to have been absent from the caucus. Mr McGee is said to have been present; and it is alleged told the meeting that he was authorized by Mr Foley to declare that he (Mr Foley) was prepared to act cordially with the Opposition against any Government that might be constructed by any member of the Macdonald-Dorion Administration. It is hard to believe this, but such is the current report, and I give the statement only as such.

"When the House opened this afternoon, the crowd in the galleries was not so large as yesterday. Sir H. P. Tache and Sir Narcisse Belleau were in the gallery set apart for Legislative Councillors, earnestly watching the proceedings.

"Mr C J Brydges is still here, and it is commonly remarked that he is never absent while a political crisis is going on.

"The Opposition appeared to be very jubilant to-night. They were evidently confident that Mr Blair would fail to form a Government, and that the old set of 1862 would then be sent for.

"In Ministerial circles, the hope was entertained that Mr. Blair would succeed in obtaining additional strength from the Lower Canada section of the House; but, failing this, the probability of Mr. Blair's advising and obtaining an appeal to his electors was freely discussed. The Lower Canada Liberals confidently assert that a Dissolution would secure them a large accession of strength

SPEECH OF HON. J. S. McDONALD ON TENDERING THE RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

From the Globe.

The Hon. JOHN SANDFIELD McDONALD rose, and said:—Before the Orders of the Day are called I shall crave the attention of the House for some little time, while I refer to matters necessary to be stated as preliminary to a motion which I shall feel it my duty to make before I sit down. It will be in the recollection of the members of this House, and of others who were members of this House at the time to which I refer, that when I had the honor of being called upon by His Excellency the Governor General to form an Administration to carry on the affairs of the country after the resignation of the gentlemen on the other side of the House, I found myself embarrassed by the fact that I had to deal, in the construction of that Ministry, with a House elected under the auspices of gentlemen on the other side. The task, therefore, was one of no ordinary magnitude and difficulty; still I took upon myself the duty that was assigned to me, for I considered the time had arrived, after a lengthy period of power in the hands of the party who called themselves the Conservative party, when we should endeavor to prove to the country that an Administration could be formed from the then Opposition equal to the task of conducting the affairs of the country in a satisfactory manner. With that view, I addressed myself directly to members of the Opposition, and not at that time agreeing with them on all points. Perhaps I should say I agreed with them on all points, except one particular point. At all events, I felt it my duty to approach them, and I must say they responded as cordially as it was possible for a party to do under the circumstances. An Administration was formed, the members of which were composed altogether of the Opposition, with one exception. An adjournment of the House shortly afterwards followed, a vote of supply having been granted, and we proceeded to fulfil the administrative duties which devolved upon the Government. From that which preceded us, we had legacies left on our hands which would have embarrassed a stronger Government than we were at that time. We had the Grand Trunk difficulty on our hands; we had the intercolonial arrangement, the meeting to effect which was agreed upon before we came into office; we had the postal arrangement too, on our hands, and various other questions of great importance; and we proceeded with a desire to settle those matters conformably to the wishes and expectations of the people of this country. We had been promised fair-play in our efforts to carry on the government of the country, and when Parliament re-assembled we proceeded with the measures we had announced in our programme of policy as the Macdonald-Sicotte Government. At last we had a vote of want of confidence passed, on motion of the member for Kingston. The difficulties which had preceded were not lessened by that vote; it is not necessary that I should detail the events at the close of the spring session of 1863. It is enough to say, that the embarrassments which then beset the Administration were of a very serious nature. I was left with about one third of the Administration which had been formed in 1862, but I felt I had still a task before me which I should accomplish, and I invited gentlemen to fill the situations which had been rendered vacant by the resignation of my former colleagues; and looking back on what then took place, I say now I have nothing to regret in regard to my own conduct in relation to that matter, and certainly I had nothing to regret with respect to the choice I made on that occasion. I had confidence in the gentlemen who had honored me with their co-operation, and joined the Government, and we went together to the country. And while on this subject, I may say that since you, Mr. Speaker, joined the Government, succeeding the Hon. Adam Wilson, now Mr. Justice Wilson, who left us to take a seat on the bench, and during the whole existence of the Macdonald-Dorion Government, a more harmonious and cordial co-operation could not have existed between twelve men than has existed from that day to this between myself and colleagues. (Hear, hear.) There is no truth whatever in reports to the contrary which have been put in circulation for very obvious purposes. I pass over that to recall the attention of the House to circumstances connected with our appeal to the country in 1863. We found, as usual, a vast amount of opposition to the Government, and opposition to the way in which it was organized, but, judging by the number of members who, in their addresses to their electors, did not object to the organization of the Government, or question the propriety of our appealing to the country, and who declared they were prepared to give fair-play to the Macdonald-Dorion Government, we had every reason to believe that when Parliament assembled we should stand firmly sustained by a majority which would enable us to carry on the affairs of the country with satisfaction to the people at large. We had reason to expect this, although, of course, various conjectures were indulged in as to the sincerity of the professions of those who had proclaimed to their constituents that they had no party obligations which bound them to this side of the House, or to the other, but that they were prepared to generally give the Administration fair play. We met Parliament as early as possible after the general election. We felt that we owed it as a duty to the country to hasten with all possible speed to ask the House to confirm the disbursements of public money we found it necessary to make for public purposes, for we thought it due to the people of this country that we should not continue for one moment longer than we could help to make appropriations of public money without that sanction which all constitutional usage has pointed out as the best safeguard of the rights and privileges of the people with regard to expenditures from the public treasury. We felt also that there was another measure which called for our immediate attention, and that was to render more perfect the system of our militia and volunteer organizations. Having those objects in view, we summoned Parliament for the fall session rt certainly an inconvenient season. But at the outset we met with opposition where we had no right to expect opposition of such a character as was offered to your election as Speaker—coming from parties whom I do not intend to name, nor is it my desire in addressing the House on this occasion to claim more than the liberty generally accorded to those in my position, of giving explanations such as are usually deemed proper to give on the eve of an announcement such as I am about to make. I do not allude, therefore, to this by way of recrimination, nor do I desire to mention the names of any parties, but as regarded those who had gone to their constituents, and claimed their support on the grounds I have mentioned, and who would not have been out of the floor of this House but for the support they received from the large party who were professedly and avowedly supporters of our Government. I think that at all events, on the principles of fair play which they professed, they should not have made a political question out of the election of Speaker. Members, however, had no doubt the right to express their opinion as to who should preside over the deliberations of this House, and we found we carried the election of Speaker by a small majority. Immediately afterwards we were met by a strong party vote on a question arising out of the Essex Election. On that question we found our majority diminished from what it was on the question of your election as Speaker. We found then that the expectations which had been formed with regard to the members returned to give us fair play were not to be realized, and before we had time scarcely to consider what our real position was we were met by charges of a personal nature, made against two of the members of the Government, involving their personal honor and personal veracity. The attack upon us was of so determined a character and of so direct a nature, that respect for ourselves and our own position demanded that we should not shrink from the ordeal of an appeal to the majority of this House with reference to those charges. I shall allude no further to that subject beyond saying that we succeeded at all events in having a majority of the House in our favor, and this I think showed that the subject of the accusation was not of a nature to brand us with that infamy which was sought to be fastened on us. Then another question was raised, when the member for Shefford moved his motion of want of confidence, and, in the discussion of that question also, attacks of a personal as well as a general nature were made upon the Administration, and the smallness of the majority by which we were sustained made our position one of no little difficulty. Still, as we had called Parliament together, in order to carry that session one or two measures of great importance, we determined that so long as we had a constitutional majority we should not retire, but should go on endeavoring to carry those measures. Soon after the failure of the motion of the member for Shefford, we carried the two measures, and Parliament was prorogued, and since that period we have continued to carry on the Administration of the affairs of the country in the same ways as before, endeavoring to effect as much retrenchment and economy, and to do as much to secure good government to this country as it was possible for eleven or twelve men to do. (Hear, hear.) We again met the House this session, and had a debate for a fortnight upon the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne without any amendment being moved. We have thought all along that the interests of this great Province required that the legislation should be carried on by an Administration more vigorous. I do not mean as regards the ability of the members composing it, but as regards having a greater numerical strength than we have in this House, in order that the Government may be carried on with satisfaction, and in a way to realise the expectations of the people who sent us here. The gentlemen on the other side have abstained, this session, from putting to a test whether we have a majority of this House or not. We have not admitted, nor do I at this moment admit, that if put to the test they could carry a majority of this House against us. But we have come to the conclusion that it would not be fair or just to the people of this country, or to the House, or to ourselves, that we should maintain any longer a position in which our majority is so small that we cannot promote the necessary and useful measures with that energy which the people of this country expect at our hands; and that the time has come when the gentlemen opposite, not having made that trial of strength which was the constitutional mode of attempting to displace us, we ourselves should make a fair acknowledgment of the difficulty of our position, and place our resignations, as we have done, unanimously in the hands of his Excellency. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. TURCOTTE—Why did you not wait for that trial of strength?

Mr. McGEE—You should have done it long ago.

Attorney-General MACDONALD—The remark of the hon. member will not provoke me to recriminate. I rose to state frankly and fairly the position we are in, and not to make or provoke attacks of any kind. We have all along been sustained—not only the Macdonald-Sicotte, but the Macdonald-Dorion Administration, with a cordiality and devotion such as probably never was exceeded by the support given to any former Administration by this House. To my friends behind me I owe much more than I can express. They may not have approved of our Administration in every respect, yet they have believed we have been going in the proper direction in regard to carrying on the affairs of the Province with satisfaction to the people at large, and they have supported us accordingly.—My colleagues and myself owe to them the deepest gratitude for their unwavering attachment, for not one has left us. I do not, of course, speak of those who, after using language in addressing their constituents which might have warranted a different expectation on entering the House, went into opposition to the Government. Their constituents are the judges of their conduct, but with regard to ourselves, we have considered the position of matters fully and fairly, and have not shrunk from the responsibility of placing our resignation in the hands of His Excellency, with a view to arrangements being made, which we hope will be more satisfactory to this House and the country generally. I cannot conceal from myself, that, in bringing with the difficulties we have to encounter since I undertook the task of forming an Administration, I must have created feelings of a bitter political, and perhaps personal, nature against myself. As to that, I must leave the country to judge myself and colleagues by the course we have pursued; but it is quite clear that, with the feelings engendered against myself personally, there might be peculiar obstacles in the way of any arrangements I might attempt to make in order to form a Government numerically strong in this House, and that the great interests of the Province, which require that we should give our best attention to the passing of various important measures at as early a date as possible, appeared to point out the necessity of myself, at all events, retiring from the post of Head. I determined, therefore, to resign that position and my colleagues with me have unanimously placed their resignations in the hands of His Excellency the Governor General. I may add that during the time I have had the honour of holding this responsible position, I may have said many things I regret; but I am not the only person who has had to ask the House charitably to interpret words hastily uttered, and to believe that when I said something which appeared very pointed, or malicious probably, I did not intend it in the sense understood. I owe no grudge against any honorable gentleman on the other side. I desire, so far as I am concerned, to give and take, and I shall be as ready to forgive injuries as to forget them. I move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. CARTIER seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

LATEST FROM QUEBEC.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

From the Globe of Tuesday.

The Macdonald-Dorion Administration no longer exists! The negotiations instituted with a view to strengthen the Ministry in Lower Canada were not successful, and yesterday morning, at half past ten, a Cabinet Council was held to consider what course should be adopted The result arrived at was a unanimous determination to resign office. Accordingly, at one o'clock, the Premier waited on the Governor General, and placed in His Excellency's hands the resignations of all the members of the Cabinet. His Excellency was pleased to accept the resignations, and Ministers only hold office until their successors have been appointed.

Shortly after one o'clock the Governor General was pleased to send for the Hon A J Ferguson Blair, and to charge that gentleman with the formation of a new Administration. Mr Blair asked time to consult his political friends, and to this His Excellency at once assented. Mr Blair proceeded forthwith to place himself in communication with Sir E P Tache, but that gentleman being absent from town he had to be communicated with by telegraph at St Thomas.

An answer was received from Sir Etienne late tonight that he would return to Quebec to-day.

What success may attend Mr. Blair's application to Sir E. P. Tache, or what shape the reconstruction may take should the movement prove successful, it is, of course, impossible to say. We can but wait patiently the course of events for an answer to those queries. But assuredly this fact is certain, that no Ministry can be constructed with a prospect of long life before it, that does not deal with the question of representative reform. It may be that the new Government, like the one that has just expired, will leave this great question in abeyance; and even then, if composed of men of integrity and ability, prepared to deal earnestly and firmly with the financial questions now pressing for solution—we do not doubt that it will be sustained by a working majority of the present House. But, assuredly, the best men among its supporters from Upper Canada will do so with reluctance—will do so simply because they know not how to do better, and will do so with the determination of demanding a just share of representation for Upper Canada on all occasions and at all hazards.

The Macdonald-Dorion Administration has not enjoyed a long existence, and a very brilliant career was not, under the circumstances, within the scope of possibility. But, in the practical routine of administering public affairs, it has earned the hearty gratitude of the public. Retrenchment in the public expenditure has been effected by it to a large annual amount; many useless offices have been abolished; and not a few flagrant abuses in the public service have been exposed and redressed. The lesson taught by it to unfaithful and inefficient officials, will long exercise a salutary effect throughout the country. And not only has there been a total absence of the jobbery and corruption that so dag a ed our country for many years—but there has pervaded the whole proceedings of the Macdonald-Sicotte Government a degree of fidelity and carefulness in dealing with the public moneys altogether commendable. We had not unfrequently to dissent from the policy of the Government that has just expired; but, under all the circumstances of the situation, we cannot but feel that the country has deep cause to regret that it was not permitted to complete the measures of reform on which it had entered.

EXECUTION AT QUEBEC.

The Unfortunate Man Dies Hard.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.)

QUEBEC, March 22.

The unfortunate criminal John Meehan suffered the extreme penalty of the law this morning in front of the common jail in this city in presence of about 5,000 people. The appearance and demeanor of the unfortunate criminal was that of a man who realized the awfulness of the position which he occupied, but who had determined to meet his fate with unflinching fortitude. His step was firm, and his manner courageous. At ten o'clock he left his cell accompanied by his spiritual adviser, Rev. Mr. Maher.

When the prisoner reached the pinioning room he submitted himself calmly to the hands of the executioner. He made his appearance on the gallows shortly after ten o'clock.—Meehan addressed the people in French and English, his speech—which he delivered in a deliberate manner—occupying about fifteen minutes. At twenty minutes past ten the ominous clink which announced the fall of the drop was heard and the unfortunate man was launched into eternity.

Immediately after the fatal drop a general panic took possession of the crowd. The jail guard used their efforts to keep back the swaying multitude, and by their exertions succeeded in maintaining remarkable order under the circumstances, until the body was removed about half an hour after, by which time the greater part of the crowd had dispersed. Meehan died very hard. Either from the clumsy manner in which the knot was tied, or from the fact that his feet had not been pinioned as well as his arms, the unfortunate man struggled in the agonies of death for fully five or six minutes.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

NEW YORK, March 22.—Money market more active and firm: call loans at 6 to 7 per cent. Sterling Exchange advanced to 174 to 178 for banker's bills. Gold firme; opening at 163¼, advancing to 164¼, declining to 163¼ to 163⅜ and closing at 163⅜ to 163½.

Washington, March 22.—Most of General Grant's staff arrived at Washington this afternoon, and are making preparation for the general to go to the front.

The Secretary of the Treasury has given positive orders prohibiting the shipment of American coal to Canada.

New York, March 22.—The *Commercial's* Washington special says:—

"Intimations now are that General Meade will be temporarily retained in the army, which is to be divided in three divisions, under Gens. Sedgwick, Hancock and Warren. Gen. Grant will also have two corps, under Gens. Burnside and Siegel.

"Official advices from Arkansas state that there is a steady return there of citizens to their allegiance, many prominent Confederate citizens among the number. Gen. Albert Pike, has it is averred, made overtures for an amnesty."

The Philadelphia *Inquirer's* New Orleans letter says Gen. Banks took the field on the 6th, leaving for Franklin to direct the operations. The force is composed of 13,000 cavalry, with 24 light guns in four brigades under Gen. Lee, and will sweep across the country and hence into Texas.

Louisville, March 22.—The *Journal* has a special dispatch from Chattanooga, which says on the authority of deserters that Jno. Morgan's command is still opposite Decatur, and cannot be mounted from the scarcity of horses.

Nashville, March 19.—The recent raid on Richmond caused the Confederate General Pickett to send several of his regiments from this State to Virginia just as he was ready to commence operations in this direction. These regiments are returning, however, evidently with a view of carrying out their original intention.

Gov. Vance, in one of his recent speeches stated that the Confederacy depends on North Carolina for the support of its army. He dwells on the importance of keeping the railroads in good condition on the road that Lee could not remain in Virginia 48 hours after they should fail to perform their means.

The Wilmington *Journal*, in speaking of the success of the blockade runners in getting into that port says the statistics for the past year show that on an average only one out of twenty have been captured. In rough weather the blockaders are obliged to go to sea which, with the exception of dark nights, is the most auspicious time for our skilful pilots who, with the aid of our perfect system of signal lights, seldom miss their mark. The report of Governor Vance, showing the amount of Confederate supplies received through the Confederate port, discloses a most startling state of things. Every thing the energy of that State has received through this channel in great quantities. An experienced manager of a line of steamers that owing to the peculiar shape of the coast its numerous channels extending an area of 30 miles, the contingency of the United States could not seize the blockade of Wilmington effective.

THE MEXICAN THRONE.

The Archduke and Archduchess Maximilian arrived at Paris on the 5th instant, and were received at the Tuileries by the Emperor and Empress. The *Memorial Diplomatique* of to-day says:—The decay caused by the indisposition of the Archduke Maximilian will compel him to remain four or five days at Paris, some independently of the visit of ceremony which the Archduke has to pay to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, cousin to Princess Clotilde, the latter has to take leave of her unfortunate father, who will remain one month in England. The arrangements for the Archduke's departure from Trieste will be completed on the 15th inst. The Archduke has declared that he will officially receive the Mexican deputation immediately upon his return to Miramar. The deputation will pass through Vienna, and will be received by the Emperor of Austria. The Archduke however, requires that the final acceptance of the crown shall take place in the saloon chosen of Miramar where it was offered to him in the month of October last. The Mexican deputation will this time be accompanied by a certain number of Mexican notables, among whom we may mention M. Aranzore, formerly Minister of Finance; M. Murphy, formerly Mexican Minister at London; Colonel Fatio and several generals and superior officers made prisoners at the taking of Puebla, who have hastened to give their support to the Government of Maximilian.

THE EUROPEAN IMBROGLIO.

(From the Boston Post.)

The European imbroglio would seem to be growing importance. The intelligence we printed yesterday, if words used in Parliament be any indication of purposes of foreign cabinets, is most significant of the real question of interest to us in this confused matter: namely, whether things are to drift into a general war. This intelligence is that the merely local war goes on, and the Austrians are moving, in Jutland, to the attack of Fredericia.

Now put this fact with another about this local war, as stated in Parliament by Lord Palmerston, in reply to a question addressed to him by Lord J. Manners, February 25.—"That," the British premier said, "which has happened relative to the Prussian operations in Jutland is this—that the allied troops passed the frontier and took up a position at a place called Kolding. On representations being made at Berlin, we were informed that that operation was not only without orders, but against positive instructions, and that in consequence the commander of the forces on the spot would be reprimanded. But it was added that, it appearing that the occupation of that particular place being of great strategical value for the security of the allied troops in Schleswig (laughter), the occupation would nevertheless be continued." It this is not trifling with matters of life and death, or Pam's way of joking, the progress of the Austrians in Jutland is serious business. It is certainly a unique way to maintain the integrity of the Danish kingdom, to overrun it with the sword.

There is still another significant fact. Lord Palmerston stated on the 24th ult., that the German Diet was "originally asked to send a delegate to the proposed Conference," but at that time he did not know whether it had accepted the invitation. The Arabia has brought the news that the Diet officially declared that it had no invitation to join the Conference. It will be recollected that Austria and Prussia accepted the invitation to take part in it, on the condition there should be no armistice. This announcement of the Diet would seem to make confusion worse confounded. The friends of peace build a good deal on Lord Palmerston's declaration that he thought the Diet would join in the Conference.

The timidity of the French Emperor had been severe. The *Moniteur* had no givings out. France was all impatience, a Paris letter says, "on account of the obstinate silence maintained by the Imperial government on this question and its refusal to give any intimation of its sentiments or policy. But not one line or word will the *Moniteur* vouchsafe to give us beyond the very driest chronicle of the incidents which are taking place beyond the Eider." The reticence is broken by a remonstrance by Napoleon to Prussia against the occupation of Jutland! A Paris letter dated Feb. 26, by a private arrival, says as to France: "The fact is that what between real disgust at seeing one small, tiny State of a million and a half of inhabitants bullied by all Germany, and forty millions of population, and the strong excitement and temptation of the opening prospect of a successful campaign on the Rhine—between these two exciting causes, for both undoubtedly have been in operation, the warlike ardor of the French has been rapidly in the ascendant."

Voluminous diplomatic and other papers have just appeared in England touching the case of that "tiny state." In one, an address of the Danish assembly to the Danish King, reads: "It is clear that the only object of the system adopted by our adversaries is the reduction of the country to a humiliating state of vassalage to the German Powers." This system Denmark is opposing. A despatch from the Danish foreign minister to his representative at St. James, reads: "Our line of conduct has, therefore, long been decided upon, and I have every reason to hope that we shall not be left to our own resources in a struggle in which not only the fate of Denmark but also the most sacred interests of the entire North are involved. This shows the resolution of the Danes; and the very last intelligence—the remonstrance of both France and England against the occupation of Jutland—proves that Denmark is not to be disappointed. There must be breaking down somewhere or there will soon be general war in Europe.

Emigration to the United States.

The New York *Herald*, of the 20th, says the whole number of emigrants arrived at this port alone was 80,538 more than in the preceding year. The whole number of passengers landed at this port during the years 1863 was 191,377, of these 37,533 were citizens or persons not subject to bonds or commutation, and 156,844 were aliens.—This shows an increase in alien emigrants of 86,538 over 1862, 91,315 over 1861, and 54,684 over 1860. The total number of emigrants from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to these shores since emigration actually began is put down in the report at 2,730,874 souls. But a recent statement from British official sources gives the number emigrating to the United States in the forty-six years, from 1815 to 1860, at 3,148,266. In the same period of forty-six years it is also stated that 1,196,521 persons emigrated from the United Kingdom to the British colonies in North America. A large number are known to have eventually settled in the United States. Thus it appears safe to assume that since the close of the last war with that country, in 1814, about three and a quarter millions of the natives of Great Britain and Ireland—"a population for a kingdom"—have emigrated to this country. Next in magnitude is the migration from Germany, amounting to 1,786,041 by our custom house returns. The next is that from France—208,065. A large share of the foreign emigrants embarked from the port of Havre, arrives from Bremen, Hamburg, Antwerp, and so on.

HALIFAX LADIES.—I remark that all the belles here seem to have pressing business. They seldom saunter along the promenades seldom even indulge a glance at admiring gallants. Their gait is always at moderate speed, sometimes rapid, and when the streets are slippery with ice, they accelerate their movements by frequent sorties, so that smooth ly worn soles are common, sometimes extending for twenty feet or more where a descent occurs. While the stranger is picking his cautious steps over precarious localities, the native maid spurns her best foot forward, and with full confidence quickly surmounts the difficulty, as a dexterous slide. No wonder sailors adore at skating. The Halifax girl is no shady. She laughs at the biting cold and as she fingers at the driving snow and stinging sleet.—*St. John Telegraph.*

The very self-crucified Vaelis, the Austrian nobility, have recently received a heavy rap upon their noble knuckles from no less a personage than the Emperor Francis Joseph. At one of the Court balls, a young officer of artillery, of plebeian birth, asked a lady of high rank to dance with him. At the lady's blue blood flushed into her face, as she refused with marked disdain. The Emperor, who had seen the insult offered to his guest and his uniform, came up and said, "Captain my mother wishes to dance with you!"—And a minute after, the gunner was clasping the hand of her Imperial Highness, the Archduchess Fredericka Sophia Wilhelmina, mother of his Imperial Majesty, Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria.

A person out West attended church service on a recent sabbath and took down in short hand the hymn as sung by the choir. The result of his labor produced the following:—

"Waw-kaw, swaw, daw aw waw,
Thaw saw thaw law aw waw,
Waw-kaw, taw thaw raw vaw vaw braw,
Aw thaw'raw jaw saw aw."

He subsequently ascertained that this was the verse given out,

"Welcome, sweet day of rest,
That saw the Lord arise,
Welcome, to this reviving breast,
And these rejoicing eyes."

A CUTE WIDOW.—It is said that a man on his death bed called his wife to him and said:—"I leave my horse to my parents—sell him and hand the money you get for him over to them. But my dog I leave to you; dispose of it as you think best." This the wife promised to obey. So in due time after the death of her lord she started out to find a market for her animals. "How much do you ask for your horse?" inquired a farmer.—"I cannot sell the horse alone," she replied; "but I will sell the dog and horse at a fair price for both. Give me a $100 for the dog and $1 for the horse, and we can trade on those terms;" and the cute widow conscientiously paid to the parents the $1 she received for the horse, and kept herself the $100 she received for the dog.

Town & Counties.

"Only one week" See Moorhouse's advertisement.

We would direct attention to the advertisement of Mr. M Robertson. His stock of furniture &c. is large, and of such quality and price as to entitle him to a fair share of patronage.

TRAGEDY IN SEAFORTH!

A MAN KILLED BY A LUMBERMAN!

We have gleaned the main particulars of a terrible tragedy that took place in Seaforth, on Tuesday evening last, which are as follows. On that day a lumberman named Cartman, with several of his companions, entered Downey's Hotel, Seaforth, with a view to creating a disturbance. They wanted those in the barroom to fight with them, and threw a buffalo-skin over the heads of one Joseph Mooney and another man. Mooney told them when they went into a tavern they should not act so. They then told him if he wanted anything to stand up, Cartman appearing particularly desirous of fighting Mooney. The latter at first refused, but eventually went out on the street to fight Cartman. No sooner had they taken their places than the lumberman struck Mooney a terrible blow above the temple, felling him like an ox. The by-standers carried the wounded man into Downey's, and Dr. Chalk, who happened to be in the village, was in attendance immediately. He felt Mooney's pulse and pronounced him dead; indeed, death must have ensued in a few minutes after the blow. Cartman, on learning that Mooney was dead, endeavored to escape, but was caught in Strong's stable, and taken into custody. An inquest was instituted yesterday, but had not terminated when our informant left. The wound, a triangular one, fracturing the skull, it is thought could not have been given with a man's fist alone, and the general belief is that he held some hard substance in his hand at the moment. Cartman's comrades endeavored to rescue him both before and after his arrest. One of them, who rendered himself conspicuous, has also, we believe, been taken up. Mooney was a farmer, residing near Seaforth, was married and had a family of six children. His poor wife, on learning that she was thus suddenly widowed, went almost distracted. It is most painful for a public journalist to have almost every week to record scenes of strife and bloodshed. Our splendid county, if it *is* making rapid strides towards the full blessings of civilization, is also subjected to a full share of its curses.

MAYORALTY ELECTION.

The following is the state of the polls at the close:

	Watson.	Crabb.	Johnstone.
St. Patrick's	21	11	15
St. David's	31	15	11
St. Andrew's	34	6	17
St. George's	19	3	22
	105	35	65

Total of votes polled ..... 205.
do do at Jan. election ..... 428.
Difference ..... 223.

THE DECLARATION.

The declaration took place in the Town Hall yesterday at noon. A large number of expectant ratepayers present. After reading over the statement of the polls at the close the clerk declared Mr. Watson duly elected. Mr. Watson, in a brief speech, thanked the electors for the honor they had done him, and expressed his satisfaction with regard to the quiet manner in which the election had been conducted. If an effort were made to set aside his re-election he was determined to defend himself vigorously. Mr. Crabb, being called upon, came forward and spoke for nearly an hour, endeavoring by documentary evidence and otherwise to exculpate himself from certain charges made against him by some of his townsmen from time to time during the past five or six years. On mature consideration, and as we have published no charges against the gentleman, either at the Nomination on Saturday last or at any other time, we think the subject had better be kept out of the columns of a public newspaper.—He sought to convince and influence the ratepayers of Goderich, the most intelligent of whom were fully represented on the occasion, and it is for them to decide as to the merits or demerits of the allegations advanced. We take this course, not on account of any ill-feeling against Mr. Crabb, but simply because we think a dispute of the kind should be confined as much as possible to our own limits, and we feel convinced that we will be sustained in so doing by every right-thinking man in town. In concluding his remarks, Mr. Crabb thanked those who had voted for him, and announced his intention of entering the field again if the present election should be set aside, on account of Mr. Watson being disqualified, of which he felt satisfied. After some remarks from Messrs. Gibbons, Johnstone and others, the meeting broke up.

HARPER for April has been laid upon our table by Mr. Moorhouse. It is a fine number, containing an illustrated sketche of Speke's African discoveries, several good stories, the commencement of the late Mr. Thackery's last work, and other interesting matter. For sale at this office.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. McN., Lucknow.—In our opinion township councils have no such power. It is confined to cities and towns.

ELIZA,—We are sorry to have to refuse your verses. The versification is very wild.

BARNEY B.—Too personal by far. You are a wonderful fellow, but require a little holding back. Dot your i's and cross your t's like a good fellow.

Mr. T. Farrow, of Bluevale, writes to say that our strictures on the Belmore Soiree are too severe, although he fails to point out any serious inaccuracies in our sketch of the speeches. We are not aware that the gentleman has had an extensive experience as a journalist or reporter, and therefore we will be pardoned for clinging to our own ideas of these matters. It is perfectly legitimate for an editor to express his opinion with reference to the sentiments uttered at a meeting of the kind, especially as people in this country are not bound to accept more than suits them of what appears in newspapers.

The Wrongs of the Stomach.

In most of the early literatures is to be found a dialogue between the body and the Soul, in which each accused the other of their mutual perditions, recapitulating the offences which have produced it. Something similar might be written, with good effect, dividing the imaginary conversation between, let us say, the Sion ach and the Man, and making an attack of gout the subject of their recrimination. The Man might accuse the Stomach of having done its duty so badly that he is tormented with a burning fire in his extremities, which will neither let him eat, drink, walk nor rest. The Stomach might plead justification, and said that she had lighted the said fire as the only means of getting a moment's rest from an intolerable taskmaster. Again, the man might complain that he had lost all enjoyment of life, that his spirits were depressed, his mind gloomy, his appetite gone, his once fine, muscular system reduced to flabby indolence; that his food did him more harm than good, so that it had become a misery to eat, and that every meal was followed by a leaden oppression which rendered life an insupportable burden.

The Stomach, having listened to all this, delivered in tone of angry accusation, would reply, 'My case is just as bad as your own. Before I had well digested your breakfast, you gave me a meat luncheon to see to, and before I had got that done, you thrust a dinner upon me large enough for three stomachs. Not satisfied with that, you wound up the day with a supper, rinsing me all the time with ale, wine, spirits, tea, coffee, rum, more wine, and more spirits, till I thought you had taken leave of your senses; and when I heard you groaning in your sleep, started up every now and then as if apoplexy had broken into the house, and was going to carry you off, I said to myself, 'Serve him right if it did.' And in this way you went on year, treating all my remonstrances with contempt. I gave you headache after headache; I tried to recall you to reason with half a dozen attacks of influenza; gave you a bilious fever; made you smart with rheumatism; twinged you with gout till you roared. But all to no purpose. You went on making me digest till the work broke my back, and now I can digest no longer."

This reproach might be made even pathetic, by a description of the Stomach watching its hard task come down to it from the regions above between dinner and bedtime. First comes a plate of soup and bread, and a glass of sherry. 'I can manage that,' says the stomach. Then a plate of fish, with more bread and more sherry; 'and that,' adds the Stomach, 'though those sauces don't quite agree with me.' Then comes beef, or mutton, or both, and stout; then game and sherry, and then a dish of tart. 'Confound this pastry, says the Stomach, 'it gives me more trouble than anything else; but if the master will only stop here, I think, if I put out all my powers, I can get even this rubbish out of the way.' But she has hardly taken this hopeful view of the case, when down come cheese, celery, apples, oranges, nuts, figs, almonds and raisins, port, sherry, claret, and a tumbler of hot Hollands and water.

'Good gracious, was there ever such a mess!' exclaims the Stomach; what can the man mean? Does he think one poor of hands can manage all this?' Still the willing slave goes to work, when presently there is a rush of hot tea from above, with a thin slice of bread and butter. And when the Stomach, with infinite labor, has got the hodge-podge into some sort of homogeneous shape, and is preparing to take a nap after her exhaustion, lo! a devilled drumstick rushes into its laboratory, two devilled kidneys, a bottle of stout, and three tumblers of hot brandy and water.—*London Review.*

Sleep Walking

A case is related of an English clergyman who used to get up in the night, light his candle, write his sermons, correct them with interlineations, and retire to bed again, being all the time asleep. The Archbishop of Bordeaux mentions a similar case of a student, who got up to compose a sermon while asleep, wrote it correctly, read it over from beginning to end, or at least appeared to read it, made corrections on it, scratched out lines, and substituted others,