mon Prayer, used by the Church of England, and were banished from the country! There is some consolation, however in the thought, that as in the natural world storms and hurricanes, while they inflict some local individual misery, do on the whole purify the atmosphere; so in the moral world—those storms and whirlwinds produced by religious prejudice, tend on the whole to elicit truth, and give a healthful tone to society.—*St. Catharines Journal.*

NEWSPAPER BORROWERS.

"I want you to go over to Mr. Mason's and borrow me his newspaper," said a man well to do in the world, to his son Robert, a lad of thirteen.

"But, father, he can't have had it more than an hour," remonstrated Robert.

"All the better for that, my son; I like to see the news before it is old."

"But I don't think Mr. Mason has had time to read it himself. The last time I went to borrow it for you, he said he had hardly looked into it, and he seemed as if he did not wish to lend it."

"He is very disobliging, them, to be unwilling to lend a newspaper to a neighbour."

"Why, he pays for it, and shouldn't he have the first reading of it?'

"Don't talk about what you don't understand, Robert, but go to Mr. Mason, and ask for the paper."

Robert slowly and reluctantly obeyed, and in a few minutes returned with the borrowed paper, which the owner had not yet found opportunity to open.

And this is but one among a multitude of incidents of similar character, which are constantly occurring, to the great annoyance, and sometimes to the serious disadvantage of those who subscribe and pay regularly for the newspaper which they read. Numerous instances of constant and indiscriminate borrowing, in which the lender has been exposed to much inconvenience, and vexation, have come within my own personal observation. Quite recently, I heard a gentleman remark, that when he commenced taking a certain newspaper, he resolved that he would never lend it, until he had first read it himself. He persisted in his determination, notwithstanding considerable importunity on the part of some of his neighbours, until about three months after his subscription, the paper was regularly missing for several hours after it should have made its appearance. The paper-carrier was accustomed to leave it on a table in an outer entry of the house. The gentleman ascertained that a near neighbour, who took no newspaper in the regular and honest way, and whose property was more than three times as much as his own, was in the habit of watching the carrier, and possessing himself of the paper as soon as it was left. After reading it to his satisfaction, he returned and replaced it.

In view of such cases—and they are by far more numerous than is generally supposed—we have but one word of advice for the newspaper borrowers—"Subscribe, and pay regularly for your papers."—*Traveller.*

A CRASH!—FALL OF PART OF THE HORSE SHOE FALL.

On Tuesday evening last, our citizens were startled on hearing a loud and terrific noise, resembling as near as we can describe it, the heavy booming of artillery, in quick succession, which shook the earth around us very sensibly. We did not know for a time what could be the cause of such a fearful noise; and for a few minutes were thrown into amazement, supposing that Miller's Millennium was at hand. It proved to be a part of the Horse Shoe Fall on the Canada side, which had fallen, carrying away about ten rods of the rock in length, by four in width. The canal boat, which has lodged for the last few months on the brink of the rock which has fallen, and which has excited the admiration of all who beheld it, was also carried over with the rock. It is now in the whirlpool, two miles down the river, dancing attendance to the freaks of that great maelstroom. The crash occurred about 7 o'clock in the evening; and it is indeed providential that it fell at such an hour, and at this season of the year. Had it been in the summer when so many thousands of strangers are here, there undoubtedly would have been persons crushed to death; for it is precisely the spot where so many continually passed, and where so many have stood to contemplate the grandeur of nature, and behold the waters of the mighty Cataract above them rushing terrifically over their heads, that is now filled with the huge masses of rock which have fallen from above. The loss of this portion of the rock has not in the least diminished in appearance the view of the Falls: but has, in our opinion, added to the scene, and looks grander and more sublime, if possible, than ever.—[Niagara Falls Iris, Dec. 14.

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

This question is beginning to attract the notice of all parties in Western Canada, and justly so, for the contemplated removal suggests points of deep importance; first, it is enquired what are the reasons given for such a step. In answer to this it is stated that the understanding was that the Seat of Government should be removed to Quebec at the expiration of the present parliament. It was well understood in Canada West, that the removal should take place after the lapse of four years. We conceive that to be of small consequence, however, as it never was competent for any one parliament to declare that all future parliaments should be held here or there. That is a matter for the government and parliament of the day to decide. From the preparations already made, however, it would seem that the present government are bent on construing the resolution of the Assembly in such a manner as is best calculated to secure the approbation of their Eastern supporters, and in so doing to involve the country in another extravagant charge for removal. Now, it really becomes a legitimate question, "What good are we to expect in return for these expensive movements, or is it done solely with the desire to conciliate our French fellow-subjects?" As we have never seen the former attempted to be shown, we are very reluctantly compelled to conclude the latter to be the real ground of such a step. We are none of those who sound the alarm of "French Supremacy," and such like bug-bear stories, but we should be wanting in candor if we hesitated to avow our conviction, that the present move is just one of those miserable shifts which have often been resorted to secure the countenance of the French-Canadian Members of the Assembly: and we are equally well convinced that it will result in the frustration of the ends desired to be attained.

The time is at hand when the people of Western Canada, as one man, will hasten to discountenance a project fraught with mischief, and dictated by a maudling spirit. The Municipal Elections will serve as an opportunity for the people to give expression to their views, and we trust that in no one instance will they neglect to do so.—Let the subject be clearly understood, and the expression as firm as it is bold. If Western Canada cannot be trusted with the seat of government for which she pays the lion's share, it is about time that a union which is only nominal should be severed.—If the union can only be preserved by pandering to the *prejudices* and courting the *favor* of our eastern brethren, the sooner it is dissolved the better for all parties concerned.—*Dundas Warder.*

MURDER AND ROBBERY IN DETROIT, MICH.—Yesterday morning, one of the most atrocious murders it was ever our duty to chronicle, was discovered in the very heart of our city. A person of the name of John Charboneau, an Italian or Canadian Frenchman, who had been a resident of this city several years, was found murdered in his shop, on Woodward avenue, a few doors below the Post Office. He had for a long Time been engaged in peddling with a small waggon, containing cases filled with jewelry, watches, Yankee notions, &c., the like of which there are a great many in the city. Of late, he has also occupied a small shop, where he has carried on the business and also lodged. On opening the door of his shop, yesterday morning, a horrid spectacle presented itself. He lay at full length on his bed, his head badly cut, several wounds on his face and throat. An axe, was found under the bed with which the awful deed was doubtless done. He must have been first struck with the axe on the head several times, which must have instantly killed him. It would seem that he was first struck and killed with a heavy instrument, and the desperate perpetrators of this cold blooded deed, not satisfied with their hellish act, had finished their work with a knife. He was known to be person of considerable degree of shrewdness and had, it is supposed, accumulated about $500—some think more—which was mostly in money. It was generaly known among his associates and acquaintances that he had considerable money, and usually carried it about his person.—*Detroit Tribune, Dec.* 10.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE INDIAN WARRIOR BRANT (*Thayendanega*).—At the reinterment of the remains of this Chief and his son at Brantford on the 20th ult., an American of the name of Hotchkiss stated that fifty-four years since his father knocked at Brant's door, and asked for employment, as his funds were exhausted, and he had no means of proceeding on. This was readily given him. A short time after he took sick; was carefully nursed and attended to for nine weeks by the Chiftain's family, and when sufficiently recovered to be able to proceed, and being desirous to go to his family, some four hundred miles distant, he was furnished with a horse and necessary means to do so.

The character of Brant was indeed a noble one, and requires no eulogy to exalt it. An idea may be formed of it, from an extract which we take from one of his letters written to General Chaplin in December, 1794, in regard to a boundary line between the Indians and the United States, of which he was a mediator:—

"My principle is founded on justice, and justice is all I wish for. Never shall I exert myself for any nation or nations, let their opinions of me be what they will unless I plainly see they are sincere and just in what they aim at, and that nothing more than strict justice is what they want.—When I perceive that these are the sentiments of a people, no endeavor ever shall be waiting on my part to bring nations to a good understanding."

Such sentiments were worthy of the great man. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Free and accepted Masons, and many are the instances left on record, and still told by persons yet living where he has exercised that Masonic virtue Charity in saving some of his white brethren, although his prisoners, and doomed by custom to suffer death with torture.—His efforts for the moral and religious improvement of his people were indefatigable; in the Church which he caused to be built he also got erected the first Church bell that ever called together the Red or White Man to worship the Almighty Ruler of the Universe in this part of the Province. He was also the first man that attempted a translation of the Scriptures into the Mohawk language, in which he succeeded, assisted by another person:—and who would not hold in veneration such a benefactor of his subjects, who left them in their own language the greatest blessing they could enjoy—the Holy Scriptures.

HORRIBLE MURDER.—John Charboneau, was found in his bed yesterdy morning, murdered in the most brutal manner. The throat was laid open by a heavy blow, sufficient to have caused instant death. There was a deep gash across the cheek extending along the jaw, the top of the back part of the head was also laid open, in a horrible manner, from which large pieces of the skull were taken out. There were other wounds about the head, all done with an axe, which was found under the bed. It is supposed that the murderer entered the front door by means of a false key, as no marks of violence were found upon the door, such as would seem necessary in forcing it, or that he slept with his victim. The murder was evidently committed for the purpose of robbing him, as he was supposed to have considerable money in his possession, and none could be found yesterday. David McGee and Archibald Neil, two shoemakers who occupy the adjoining shop, have been kept in custody as witnesses. There is but a thin board partition between their bed and the one used by Charboneau.—*London Free Press.*

LIBERIA.—The Springfield (Ill.) Journal mentions that a plan is in contemplation by some of the colored population of that vicinity to emigrate to Liberia. The persons taking the lead in the enterprise propose to found an Illinois colony, on the same principles as that of the Maryland colony, and will probably ask a small appropriation by the Legislature, to assist them in accomplishing their object.

CONGRESSIONAL ANECDOTE.—During Mr. Jefferson's Administration, Syrup was provided in the Congress. This was furnished and charged under his head of *stationery*. The *National Intelligencer* tells us that a member who did not like the beverage, jocosely remarked that he should be very glad if the officers of the House would provide a little whiskey for those who preferred it, and charge it to the account of fuel.

HURON SIGNAL.

THURSDAY JANUARY 2, 1851.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF GODERICH.

There is an old Scotch proverb that says "*It's an illnatured mouth that bites its ain nose*" and however rough the idea may appear, even the most superficial observer must feel convinced that the world contains a great number of these "*illnatured mouths.*" Men who really feel a sort of pleasure in injuring themselves, if by so doing they can injure others. This mischievious disposition is very prevalent, particularly in persons possessing large self-esteem and destructiveness with a deficiency of the moral sentiments and inferior intellect.—Such individuals are the most liable to disappointment while they are of all others, the least capable of bearing up under it.—In fact, to their minds, disappointment and revenge present but one idea; and their revenge will uniformly be of that ugly, snappish kind, represented by the figure of the mouth biting its own nose!

Our worthy citizens have had a very *harmless* exhibition of this kind of paltry ill-nature during the last few days, and as we are always willing to enlighten the public to the full extent of our means and abilities, we cannot allow even this *harmless* occurrence to pass, without endeavoring to enforce some useful lesson from it.

It is well known that our very remarkable friend, John Longworth Esq., who would, at any time, rather work mischief than sit idle, has, in anticipation of the approaching Municipal election, been poking and feeling the pulse of the several Wards of our young corporation, in order to ascertain whether or not, he could by any possible policy, sit in the County Council of 1851, as the Reeve or Representative of the Incorporated Town of Goderich!

Mr. Longworth, however, in his poking through the several Wards of the Town, made the mortifying discovery that Mr. Longworth's services, as Councillor, were not a marketable commodity. And, in conformity with the disposition to which we have referred, the disappointment must be avenged by an attempt to injure the whole Town! the entire interests of Goderich, including even a small interest of Mr. Longworth, must be sacrificed in revenge for Mr. Longworth's disappointment! A petition to the Legislature is got up, praying that Godeaich shall be no longer an Incorporated Town! Among other crudities, falsehoods and misrepresentations, it states that the petitioners have been inhabitants of Goderich since the year 1828, that is, twenty-two years, when in truth, it is signed by some who have scarcely been twenty two *months* in the place! The petition has been secretly hawked about, and we are informed, that through the influence of James Watson, Esq., who had *almost* been first Mayor of Goderich, and who, it is rumored, has recently got into the *hime* of real secrecy, it has obtained six or seven signatures, chiefly of the *stick-in-the mud* class, who think that a country can get along well enough without taxes. Without condescending to enquire into the causes or motives that have induced Mr. Watson to associate himself with Mr. Longworth in attempting to retard the already lingering progress of Goderich, we will content ourselves with merely jotting it down as one of the strange facts of the times; and then take a slight glance at the wisdom and sagacity of the proceeding. In the first place, this farce of petitioning the Legislature is altogether superfluous. It is akin to Mr. Watson's former petition for a "Remedial Act." According to the Municipal Corporations' Act, Goderich will or will not be an Incorporated Town, just as the inhabitants think fit to decide. It Messrs. Watson and Longworth can succeed in convincing the people of the Town that the Municipality should cease to exist,—if they can persuade them not to hold any Municipal elections on Monday next, then Goderich, as a matter of course, ceases to be an Incorporated Town. The town will be assessed for County rates—perhaps for Township rates—but the Legislature will allow us the glorious privilege of living free of local taxes and of wading through the mud to the knees! Messrs. Longworth and Watson have taken advantage of the very extraordinary and unfavorable circumstances of the year 1850, when the want of a proper assessment law exempted a large portion of the Town property from taxation—when the Tavern License money was but partially available, and when an attempt at Free School Education rendered a heavy tax inevitable. We say, this worthy pair of her Majesty's Magistrates have taken advantage of these extraordinary circumstances, to appeal to the prejudices of the ignorant against taxation and the expenses of a Municipal Corporation. But these worthy economists are aware, or, at least, as men of large pretensions, should be aware, that, in the present year, the tax arising from the Canada Company's vacant Town Lots, and the Tavern License money, will amount to a much larger sum than the whole taxes of the past year. They should be aware that the Statute Labor alone will be of more value than the whole taxes of the past year. They are aware, that if the Town should cease to be a Municipal Corporation, the people would not, in all probability, be exempted from one single sixpence of the tax which the Town Council is likely to levy—and that the taxes, the Tavern License money, and the Statute Labor, would all be under the control of the Township Council, and would, to a great extent, be expended on mud roads and corduroy bridges, as formerly.

In short, every man of even average intellect, can only regard this attempt of Messrs. Longworth and Watson, as an attempt to keep the Town of Goderich twenty years longer in the mud, without putting one single shilling in their own pockets, by the transaction! And all this, merely on account of personal disappointment and mortification. "*It's an ill natured mouth that bites its ain nose!*" We hope our readers are aware that we have not one farthing's worth of personal interest in either side of this question, and we intend to make them aware, that neither fear, favor, interest, nor affection, shall ever prevent us exposing these low, despicable efforts of disappointed vanity and presumption to gratify their chagrine and mortification, by injuring the public interests.

☞ The following is a statement of the number of travellers carried on the Huron Road by Mr. Daly's Opposition Stages, up to the 1st of December:—

From the 30th Sept. to 1st Nov.	
Up	308
Down	209
Total in October	517
From 1st Nov. to 1st Dec. up	282
Down	243
Total in one month	525
Up and down in October	517
Up and down in November	525
Total in two months	1042

Here, then, are *one thousand and forty-two* passengers conveyed by one line of Stages (the Oppsition) in the two worst months of the year! Certainly the Hotel keepers of the Huron Tract, and indeed, the people generally, should present Mr. Daly with a gold medal or a gold watch. And if the Canada Company really possess a tithe of that liberality which they profess, they will present Mr. Daly with a span of the best horses in Huron—for, the Company must have derived a very large amount of benefit from the vast influx of people that have been brought to Goderich by the Opposition Stages, and that too, at a season when no stage would have been running had Mr. Daly not commenced. In years past, it was a sad inconvenience to the public, and a serious loss to Goderich, to be entirely destitute of any conveyance to and from Hamilton during the fall season. The Mail was then carried on horse back for the accommodation of Messrs. Hobson & Davies' horses, and the mercantile men, and the "travelling public," were allowed to accommodate themselves, by paddling thro' the mud in the best way they could. This *serious public calamity* has been removed by the enterprise of Mr. Daly, and we are glad to learn that the public are to a very considerable degree, disposed to appreciate and support this enterprise. There is a strong presumption, that so soon as the Post Office Department is assumed by the Colonial Government, Mr. Daly's Opposition Line will become at once the "Royal Mail Line."—Such is the public feeling in his favor,—and public feeling will have its own weight in this matter.

☞ We remind our readers, or rather Subscribers, that these are the New Year Holidays, and that money is both useful and valuable in such times.

☞ We are requested by John Holmes, Esq., to state that the following Resolution of the County Council should have read, "seconded by Mr. Helmer," instead of "Mr. Holmes."

MT.—43. It was moved by Mr. Robert Henry, and seconded by Mr. Holmes, That the Surveyor be allowed twenty pounds, instead of fifteen pounds for his extra services, that the Council was not aware of at the time of fixing the said salary.

☞ Father Mathew returned to New Orleans a few days since from a short sojourn at the mansion of Mansell White, Esq., near that city.—On bidding the Rev. Gentleman adieu, Mr White handed him a letter enclosing a draft for $100, accompanied with a request that he would draw on him for any amount of money he might stand in need of during his sojourn in the United States.

RESIGNATION OF MR. MERRITT.

We learn that the Hon. W. H. Merritt has resigned his office as Chief Commissioner of Public Works, and his seat in the Provincial Cabinet. This step has been anticipated for some time, as Mr. Merritt's financial schemes could not possibly be harmonized with the avowed policy of the Government; and we believe that the Hon. Gentleman's retirement rates solely on this fact. We are happy to learn that Mr. Merrit leaves the Cabinet on the most friendly terms with his colleagues and that he will continue to perform the departmental duties of the office he has resigned until certain important matters connected with the Public Works and now in hand are disposed of.—*Globe.*

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. W. H. MERRITT.—We see it stated in the different Toronto papers, that the member for this county has resigned his situation in the government; but yet that he will continue to discharge the department all duties of his office, until certain important affairs connected with the Board of Works are disposed of. the *Globe* alleges the cause to have arisen out of the hon. gentleman's "financial schemes." This may be so; but we think it unlikely that the public will be aware of all the facts of the case before the ensuing meeting of the Legislature. Mr. M. is now here, but will return to Toronto next week.—*St. Catharines Journal.*

Communications.

GODERICH, Dec. 30, 1850.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

Dear Sir,—A short time ago I read a communication in the Signal, signed a "Taxpayer;" and last week I read another over the name of "A Councillor," purporting to be an answer, to what I considered to be the "frivolous and vexatious" queries and remarks of the "Taxpayer." But, with all due deference, Mr. Editor, to both these gentlemen, I think the one showed the cloven foot, and the other a rather lame one. And if you, or perhaps more strictly speaking, your readers, will have patience with me, I shall try and explain myself, and as it is a matter of some public importance, especially at this particular time; although the special interest is purely local, other localities may be somewhat similarly circumstanced, and therefore the general reader somewhat interested in the subject.

Firstly, then, as the Councillor would say, it appears to me that the ruminations of Taxpayer as displayed by his letter, contain nothing but an ungrounded, captious, fault-seeking attack on the Corporation, or more strictly speaking, again, on that portion of the Councillors that by unwearied attention to their Municipal duties, have shewn that they at least were *willing*, however incompetent they might be considered by some parties, to do their duty to their constituents. On the other hand, it occurs to me that "A Councillor" has displayed more zeal than tact or discretion, in his reply. But to the point, Taxpayer sets out with a series of querelous insinuations that the Corporation, in one short year, have fairly landed the community in the veriest "slough of despond" of ruinous debt, and grinding taxation; but quaintly hints that he knows all about it, if he only choose to speak his mind; and winds up his remarks with an *apparently* ingenuous request for information, merely for the public good.—Again, the "Councillor" barely meets the covert charges of "Taxpayer" by a somewhat hurried statement in figures, which, however correctly set forth they may be, would appear with more force and effect, in the Statutory Report of the Auditors, which ought at least, to be forthcoming next month.

I shall not trouble you, Sir, with any remarks on the fruitless, and somewhat unseemly altercation which characterized the first meeting of the Council, nor on the difference of opinion which existed amongst them as to the legality of the election of Mayor. And hence, of all their subsequent proceedings, suffice it to say that five of the parties elected conceived the proceedings to be illegal, four of them therefore declined to act along with the others, and one, for this and other causes resigned. There were therefore, for some months, only seven, the smallest number allowed by the Statute to form a quorum: and although these seven felt firmly convinced that they were not only legally authorized, and morally bound to do the work for which they were elected; yet as the private affairs of one of their number, caused his unavoidable absence, for months together, in the earlier part of the season, it was utterly impossible for them to carry on the business of the Town in a satisfactory manner; then, how worthless must appear the cry (to every unprejudiced mind) of "what have they done, they are afraid to act," and how pertinent must appear the question, "who is to blame?"—Whether is it the four who would not act, and did not resign? Or is it the seven? who from circumstances over which they had no control, found themselves unable to carry on the business of the Town with satisfaction to themselves or the public. On that I offer no opinion, the electors must judge for themselves

There is, however, Sir, another subject which has been brought before the public, in a somewhat secret manner within the last few days, on which I would solicit space for a few remarks. It is a Petition to the different branches of the Legislature praying for the repeal of the Act of Incorporation, and to have the Town again joined to the Township; the reasons assigned for this request, I shall notice shortly by and by.—This Petition, Sir, is hawked about from door to door for signature, or rather it is being exhibited at one door and passed by another, and so on; for reasons best known to the bearer, who, like every other pedlar who has wares for sale, or an object to gain, has a story by rote of the benefits to be gained by purchasing from him only, or believing in his report of the affairs of the nation generally, and of the direful loss of the individual who will not buy from him, and of the utter ruin which will inevitably overwhelm the Town, if his *tale* is not believed *his* opinions acted upon.

In the present instance the *natives* are being treated to something like the following. Good morning Mr. —. Well, have you paid your taxes? if the answer is 'no.'—Well shure you're a fool if you pay a hap'orth of them, they cannot legally collect them, its true I paid mine shure, but I'm sorry for it now, I am, but this Corporation will ruin the place shure, its ten years too soon, we are far worse than when we were joined to the Township shure, we are, S———n is trying to be elected Mayor, and shure if he gets in, d—l a hap'orth he'll do but as the C———r bids him, &c., &c.

This petition at its outset asserts that the Petitioners have "resided in the Town of Goderich for many years, and from the formation of the Township in 1828."—Now Sir, of the half dozen or so names, which were at it on Friday last, some of them may claim the term "many years" but not even the *bearer* of it himself that of 1828. And when I know that individuals have been asked to sign it who have not been in this part of the country for two years, and who are only in the Town occasionally, to earn money by the week or job! What are we to think of the truth of the assertion. Again, the reason assigned for the repeal of the Act of Incorporation, is the "enormous expense by the creation of offices and officers" that we are few in numbers, and that some of us are "very indigent;" the latter perhaps but too true, honest poverty is however no disgrace, and it is not every poor man that cares to proclaim his poverty from one end of the Province to the other; but we shall see whether the remedy as proposed by these would be Legislators, is not worse than the disease.

I Sir have "resided many years in the Town" I have done so in the days of "club law;" I have lived in the Town when the wave of a stick would call the boys to do this or that so, the idol of the day bade them; I have lived in the Town when the father of the settlement (as Dr. Dunlop was in those days, emphatically called) was turned out of the chair at a public meeting, on the signal given by a rap of a club on the table; I have lived in the Town when the boys from the farthest limits of the Township, rated as with a rod of irony, or of ridicule, just as the whim of the moment moved them; I, Sir, have lived in the Town for one year free of this foreign interference, and having got this slight foretaste of freedom, I, for one, have no wish to return again, like the "dog to his vomit" to the days of anarchy & misrule: and, I trust the Town will never again be fettered (to that incubus from which we have so long prayed to be relieved. But these are only negative reasons for opposing this movement, I shall now point out a few positive reasons that we should do so to the utmost.

The great outcry against the Corporation is the enormity of the Taxes, and this is most insiduously dinned into the ears of the unwary and unthinking, the advocates for the proposed change never tell their hearers that the Council had no more to do with the greater portion of the tax than the man in the moon had, that the people voluntarily taxed themselves to the amount of £112 for school expenses and teachers salaries; in other words, to the extent of 2½d per pound; and if they choose do so again at the next annual school meeting, in what way, I would ask, can the Corporation help it, or why should they attempt to do so.

But still, the people may next year vote their Teachers' Salaries with comparative impunity, for this reason, (and did time permit me I would prove it,) viz.: that by the new Assessment Law which comes into operation with the New Year, a new description of assessible property becomes liable to taxation within the Town, which at the rate of one penny per pound, will amount to from £150 to £200, perhaps the latter sum altogether. This alone, I should think sufficient to stop the cry for repeal of the Act of Incorporation. "Ah!" but say they, "this property can be assessed with the Township as well as without." True, but the Township has nothing to give us in return for a share of our taxes, it having no property of the description I allude to, to be affected to such an extent by the new Assessment Law.

I might allude, Sir, to the improvement which the Statute Labor will annually make, when confined within the boundary line, to the Tavern License fund, &c., which our neighbors seem so anxious to share with their country friends, but space will not permit. I cannot, however, close without asking some of the subscribers what reason they can give for having within some two years adhibited their names to a petition for the Incorporation of this said Town of Goderich; and now, without giving the experiment a fair trial, praying to have the Act repealed—did it not occur to them two years ago that "Offices and Officers" would be required, and does it not occur to them now, that they may be asked to point out the "enormous expense,"—will the extravagant amount of some £30 or £40 appear to the Legislature a sufficient reason for making Acts of Parliament the one day and repealing them the next? May it not occur to some member to ask whether the subscribers had or had not tried to fill some of these "offices."—But, really Sir, the whole affair is so ridiculous, silly, and *transparent*, that it will not bear a serious thought. Yours, X.

Ashfield, December 28, 1850.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

SIR,—In looking over your paper of the 36th inst., I saw a letter signed "The old Councillor for Ashfield," and in reading over that precious document, one would think that the old Tory Councillor for Ashfield had turned Reformer in good earnest. All this wud be very guid if we didna ken who it came fra, but a body kens what sort of a hide and seek Councillor he made when he was in himself. And its no secret that he moved heaven and earth, to get himself sent back again this last year, and if he had been in again he would have been as ready for the high pay as any one among them,—Now Mr. Editor, I am a plain Scotchman, and disna ken very muckle, but I ken this, that when I am forced to give awa siller, I like aye to ken what I am giving it away for. And if the honest auld Councillor, instead of tellin the Town reeves of the United Counties what they should do, condescend to enlighten the rate payers of the United Townships, on a subject of far mair importance to them, than how the Town reeves are paid, viz., what is the natur of the business that he and his precious batch of colleagues in office, hae done for to entitle them to pit thirty pounds of our siller in their pouches. He says in his letter that there are some of the Town reeves, who are not worth five shillings a day at any time or place; but I am very sure that if we had five of the very worst of them out here they wud hae done all our business in as many days, which paying them at his rate would only hae cum to six pounds five shillings instead of thirty pounds, an the work wud hae been equally weel done; for I wud rather see men playing hide an seek ay, and pay them for it too, than pay them for sitting day after day, an scolding ither like as many fish wives. But the guid folks of Ashfield, Wawwanosh an Kincardine hae the heft an the blade in their ain hand, and if they pit in any six men to manage their affairs again, they deserve not only to pay high taxes, but to be pointed at wi the finger of scorn frae the one end of Canada to the ither.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

A RATE PAYER OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF ASHFIELD, WAWWANOSH AND KINCARDINE.

PORT ALBERT, Dec, 28, 1850.

My Dear Sir,—In your last issue there are a few mistakes in my communication, viz: In the third paragraph, you say "as one of those drawers must be compelled to act as *Treasurer*." It should be, "competent to act as *Foreman*," &c. Have the goodness to correct this in your next issue, also a word or two in other parts of the communication.

Very truly yours,

JOHN HAWKINS.

Thomas McQueen, Esq.

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