

loss. The owners of such of the American vessels as have been injured will, of course, demand redress for losses sustained by the outrage, either in their own persons or through their Government, and, if we mistake not greatly, the damage will be found far to exceed the cost of continuing the force up to the present hour. The Government are liable, for it was their duty to have kept up a proper protecting force of police, as authorized by the Act.

### THE MONTREAL FIREMEN.

One of the most striking evidences of the improvement of the social condition of the inhabitants of this city, is the generous emulation which pervades a body of men, acknowledgedly the most useful, to surpass each other in the exercise of a dexterity, and a power on which so often hang the lives and properties of their fellow beings—we mean the Montreal Fire Companies. For ourselves we can fancy few positions more gratifying, more self-ennobling than those these active firemen are so constantly called upon to fill; and we can fully understand, and enter into the feeling of honest pride with which his breast must be animated whose good fortune it is to save some agonized wife or helpless child from the devouring element by which he is himself so frequently surrounded.

On Tuesday, there was a general "turn out" of the different Companies, for the purpose of testing the power of their respective Engines—(most of them beautifully fitted up in all their appointments,)—and throwing their water to the greatest altitude. The object selected on which to trace the effect was the French Cathedral, and on the tower of this water was thrown by the *Montreal*, a new Engine built by a French Canadian, named Le Page, to the very great height of 166 feet—surpassing, we heard an American gentleman observe, anything of the kind known either in Philadelphia or New York, in which cities the Fire Departments have long been celebrated for their excellence.

The prize contended for on this occasion by the *Montreal*, was the largest one—a Purse of £12 10s., added to which was a Sweepstakes of £2 each. The other competitors were the *Union* of this city, and the *Diage* of Quebec, which latter, so far from raising the waters higher than they had ever been, was it appears the most deficient in power.

There had been a previous contest, when the *Hero* an engine of the second class, obtained a victory, as little Heroes ever should, by throwing the water up 155 feet,—thus winning a prize of £7 10s., with £5 each added. Its beaten opponent was the *Protector*, which had sustained some injury, thus preventing any desire of successful competition.

A Dinner subsequently took place, at which it appears some difficulty arose as to the recognition of the Mayor in his official capacity. This is to be regretted, for we certainly do think that political considerations ought not to weigh in the choice of the first magistrate of a city, who is supposed to have nothing but the public weal at heart—Be this as it may, however, we for one feel gratified for the refreshing dew he has been the means of showering upon the parched earth, in the immediate theatre of our labors, during the past hot weeks when all nature seems to have been withered up.

### WOODEN RAILWAYS.

From the correspondence which we promised last week, and which is published in our present number, it will be seen that an important saving in the construction of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway may be effected, by the substitution of wood prepared in the manner therein alluded to, instead of iron.—As an evidence of the stringent power of the preparation it may be merely necessary to remark that meat, kept five minutes in it will, when taken out, be found to have all its juice extracted, and every principle of decay removed. As we have before stated, this country abounds in the matter necessary to the preparation and hardening of wood.

### MR. CAMERON IN THE WEST.

As we professed in our opening number, we shall ever be prepared to accord every credit to the Government when their acts are such as to command it. Mr. Cameron the Solicitor General has, we find, proceeded to the Western District, for the purpose of inquiring into certain grave charges preferred against the Sheriff and protegee of the gallant member for Essex. These charges have been some time before the Government, and they who are more immediately interested in the proposed investigation, are indebted to the persevering energy and determination of R. Woods, Esquire, the brother of the member for Kent.

The following critique from a Kingston contemporary has been enclosed to us. "We should have thought that the editor of the paper from which it is taken would have done us the justice to send his commentary immediately to ourselves, in which case we could have earlier assured him, as he seems desirous to know, that his "impression is an erroneous one."—"The WEEKLY EXPOSITOR," has not attacked the Government in any other manner than an honest and independent paper has a right to attack it—that is by pointing out and deprecating abuses which involve the interests of the community at large. Whatever our private or individual feelings may have been, or are, we are sensible that to indulge in these in a publication such as the *Expositor* professes to be, would be to weaken our own strength. Let the Administration show no vulnerable point, and we shall certainly not take the trouble to . . . out of our course to imagine one. . . assuredly we can discover no good reason why we should suffer abuses which are generally acknowledged to exist, and which we have pledged ourselves to expose simply because they are these of the Government, which ought to set the example of perfection to all:—

"We have received from Montreal two numbers of a weekly paper just published in that city under the title of '*The Weekly Expositor*,'—a Railway and Mining Journal, and Reformer of Public abuses. A singular association of names and attributes, by the way. The paper is very well written, neatly printed, and contains much information on railway and mining matters; promising so far a great deal of usefulness. A 'reformer of public abuses' would undoubtedly prove also of great utility; but with all respect for the talents, and consideration for the position of the writer, we feel ourselves compelled in candor to say that we know of no greater 'public abuse' than the practice very common in this country of seeking redress for real or fancied personal injuries at the hands of the government of the day by threatened or actual opposition to that government through the medium of the press. The impression is abroad that the *Expositor* owes its existence to mere personality of feeling—the desire to revenge the actual or fancied ill treatment of its conductor; and we confess that we should like to find this impression an erroneous one. The bitter tone of hostility assumed at the outset towards the administration is certainly not calculated to prove it so."

### THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Since the observations contained in our last number, we have had no reason to alter the favorable opinion we expressed in regard Mr. Skerrett's company, who, we are glad to find, have left off the absurdity of Tragedy, for the more enlivening Comedy, in which they all more or less excel. Tragedy, however well played, loses in a small theatre much of that illusion which distance creates, and without which it degenerates into the bombastic. Several good pieces have been performed during the past week, and the first among these is decidedly "Old Heads and Young Hearts," a comedy by Bourcicault, full of point and spirit, and excellently well understood and performed by the whole company. This was played last night to a full house, which we were glad to see assembled to acknowledge the indefatigable pairs of the "Manager in Distress." Among these were two or three beautiful women of the "melting eye and the raven hair," whose example, if more frequently given, as we are sure it will be when Mr. Skerrett assumes the direction of the new Theatre now in the course of erection, would we are confident be more generally followed.

The star of the night was, of course, Mrs. Skerrett. She acted the widow with a fascination that caused one almost to regret she was not in reality what she represented herself—arresting as she did, every eye by the graceful playfulness of her manner, and the winning modesty of her deportment. Both in the comedy and in the after piece (*Tom Noddy*) she was attentively listened to, and warmly applauded,—the house evidently undecided whether to admire her most in her own female character, or that of the soldier, but not very warrior boy of the days of the Cavaliers and Roundheads, which she played in the most charming manner.—Her benefit takes place on Saturday—the last evening of the performances of the season,—and we feel assured that, after the demonstrations that were made last evening in favor of the mirth inspiring husband, even a more triumphant tribute to talent awaits the highly gifted wife. Let those who have not seen Mrs. Skerrett, and who think our encomia overcharged, go and judge for themselves.

To night Mrs. Maywood, who plays the old woman with much nature and judgment, takes her benefit in the much spoken of Comedy of Fashion—an American delineation of high life. This at least is a curiosity, and as such, if no better reason offered, worthy of attention.

Of Mr. DeWalden we need not say more than is contained in the following paragraph, which we gladly copy from the *Times* of this morning:—

"To-morrow evening, Mr. DeWalden, the indefatigable stage-manager, asks the play-going portion of our citizens to testify their appreciation of his varied merits, and none have greater claims upon them. As an actor, he is deservedly a favorite: to see him make his entrée, is to know you will be amused; and so versatile are his talents, it is difficult to say in what he excels. His modern gentlemen are elegant and easy,—with his "Littleton Coke," "That he is spirited, his "Frank Heartwell," is a proof. His men about town are life-like;—"Tom Shuffleton" evidences this. That he can assume the peculiarities of age, none can deny who have witnessed his personations of "Old Cobble" and "Restive." That he is a low comedian, "Puggs" has convinced us. On Friday, he gives imitations of the great actors of the age,—Kean, Macready, Vandenhoff, Farren, Buckstone, &c. &c., and gives us a taste of his qualities as a comic singer. Two distinguished gentlemen amateurs also lead their attraction. It is the last night but one of the season."

We have particularly to request, that such of our Subscribers as may have reason to complain of the non-delivery of the '*Weekly Expositor*,' will make the fact known at the office. The list from the commencement may be had by those who are desirous of possessing it.