The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1874.

NOTICE.

Subscribers are reminded that the coloured address-label of each paper sent to them shows a figure which indicates that future number of the paper up to which their subscription has been paid, serving, in fact, as a date. The current weekly number can readily be ascertained by reference to the volume and number printed on the title page.

LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received several letters from friends throughout the country who are office-bearers in newly formed Liberal-Conservative Associations, or are desirous of forming Associations, asking for information as to the way in which they should proceed, and for copies of the Constitution of the Toronto Association. We take this means of informing our friends who have written us, as well as others who may be in the same position, that they will best get the information they desire by addressing "The Secretary of the Liberal-Conservative Association. 85 York street, Toronto," who, we have no doubt, will be pleased to give them all the information they may require.

THE CROOKS-ROACH TRANSACTION.

Thankful for a peg, however small, on which to hang its apology, the organ of the Brown-Mowat Government comes at last to the rescue of the Provincial Administration. In an article headed "A slanderer cornered," large capitals and all the artifices of type-setting are used to make the negotiation of Mr. Adam Crooks bear a less ugly look than it has been universally credited with since our first comments appeared. When we saw the classic heading, our first impression was that the traducer of Henry Ward Beecher was to be exposed in the columns of our Provincial Thunderer, and we felt just a thrill of compassion for Tilton. Next it crossed our mind that Mr. Brown was dispensing with the tedious delays of the Law Courts, and was bent on using his own columns to vindicate the morality of his manhood from the slanderer who, he tells us over his own name in the *Globe* of the 1st inst., has been libelling him, a matter which, but for his characteristic impetuosity, scarce a score of people in the Province would have heard of. Reading a little further, we jumped at the conclusion that the *Globe* was out with an article proving the Crooks-Roach alliance to be a myth, and an invention of the Tory enemy. We were fully prepared to find the "slanderer "cornered" who had ventured to assume that "the COLONIAL TRUSTS COR-"PORATION (Limited) is authorised "by the Treasurer of the Province of "Ontario" to sell £313,300 worth of the Municipal Debentures of Chatham, Brantford, Cobourg, Goderich, Guelph, Peterboro', Port Hope, Stratford, St. Catharines, Lindsay, Hope, Ops, London, Northumberland, Durham and Perth at 85 cents in the dollar. It would not have surprised us to read that Mr. Crooks never saw Mr. Roach; never rendered him a bill of costs; never plotted with him for the Solicitorship of the old Canada Agency Association; never acted as Toronto guide, philosopher and friend of the Company built up on the debris of the defunct Agency; in a word that he the poor dear innocent man employed the Colonial Trusts Corporation (Limited) as fiscal agents of the Province of Ontario, because he knew nothing of it or its London Manager, Mr. Roach, nor its Toronto Manager, Mr. Chipman. That the office of Mr. Crooks and the office of Mr. Chipman were under the same roof, we expected to see denied in the whilom vigorous rhetoric of the mouthpiece of the Government. But our disappointment became intense as we found that there was no "slanderer cor-"nered," only a difference of view expressed as to the value of the Debentures of the City of London. The cry was "wolf"; but the animal that revealed itself as we got through the article was only a very pitiful little brown mouse, born of a mountain of invective. Not one word is said as to the good taste or good faith involved in the selection of Mr. Crooks' own Company as agents for THE VENDORS (THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO). We scarcely see how one word could be said, and are compelled to commend the discretion of the defendant's counsel, in avoiding so dangerous a topic. In another place a proper inquiry will have to be instituted; and it then remains to be seen whether the *Globe* will stand by a transaction of a nature analogous with what it a hundred times conjured up and denounced in the days of Grit adversity. Hard words break no bones; and we suppose our contemporary has merely caught the *tete montee* and exalted style of the writers and speakers who figure in the Beecher-Tilton correspondence. The "base hound" who dared to write disrespectfully in the London *Standard* of George Brown's Reciprocity Treaty, and the "cornered slanderer" who says in the *Mail* that a discount of 15 per cent. off our Municipal Debentures is an alarming sacrifice, may take heart of grace and may both yet hope to go down to their graves without having been forced into Court to prove themselves respectable men.

Not one word of argument does the Government apologist use to controvert our charge of improvidence against Mr. Crooks. Nearly a column is occupied in the reiteration that Mr. Becher was employed recently to effect a sale of the Six-per-cent. Municipal Debentures of London (the less) in London (the greater), and accomplished his task, in part only, at 90. Now Mr. Crooks, in his advertised Prospectus, places the amount of the first lien on the assessed property of London at £99,800, and the property itself at £1,214,146. And he is at pains to show that these Five-per-cent. Debentures "are "and will continue to be a first charge on "all the assessable value of the Munici-"pality." Mr. Becher must therefore have been employed to negotiate what was tantamount to a second mortgage, and he did so at 90. Mr. Crooks is left in a dilemma. Either his bonds are a second lien, or Mr. Becher's were. He went in a private capacity, and the class of capitalists he operated among is shown by his sales. *In four months he sold £20,000 worth*, in parcels varying from £500 to £1,500. The title and validity were not guaranteed by the Province of Ontario, and Mr. Becher was not the Provincial Treasurer, disposing of the "surplus assets of the Province." He peddled his wares among those he knew and had access to; and he found a few people not unwilling to believe all he said of the excellence of the investment. Mr. Adam Crooks sending in a card with the words "Treasurer of Ontario" pencilled under his patronymic, would not be kept waiting a moment by any one of the leading financiers of Lombard street and its environs. "Open sesame" would be the answer to his knock from Threadneedle street to the Monument. And if he chose to employ an obscure corporation in Old Broad street as fiscal agents of Ontario it was not from necessity; but because he had a good and sufficient reason of his own, and an object to serve, that the fifteen municipalities concerned are all just now exceedingly anxious to be informed of. If a "base hound" were to suggest his object, we do not think he could be pilloried in the next issue of the *Globe* as a "cornered slanderer." The comparison instituted between the operation of Mr. Becher, confined to one municipality and bolstered up with a lawyer's letter declaring the by-law valid, and that of Mr. Crooks as demonstrated in his extraordinary advertisement is simply childish and ridiculous, and will not impose on any intelligent reader. Will "the libelled saint" have the goodness to explain why our first lien Municipal Debentures should be offered without tender at 85, when the Five-per-cent. Debentures of Montreal are sold at 95½, the Provincial stock of Quebec at 97½, and Dominion Five-per-cents at 107½? Surely here is room for a categorical business answer, such as the people want. The men of Chatham, Brantford, Cobourg, Goderich, Guelph, Peterboro', Port Hope, Stratford, St. Catharines, Lindsay, Hope, Ops, London, Northumberland and Durham, and Perth want to know what the Government has done for them. They can see what it has done for Crooks, Roach & Co. And they don't care a fig whether Mr. Becher is a Grit or a Conservative. The city he lives in was content to employ him to sell its bonds. Having no public standing and no footing on 'Change, he did the best he could in his private capacity, and earned the gratitude as well as the remuneration of his employers. The other Municipalities will be none the more content, nor, we should say, will London be. Mr. Crooks has appointed himself their Trustee, and they want him, or his Government, or his curator, the Reciprocity Commissioner, to show cause why he should not be impeached for an improvident, possibly, in the eyes of Equity, an unjust, stewardship. "Cornered slanderers" can afford to laugh till this is done, and an attempt made to do more than talk Billingsgate.

We are tired of reiterating that this Province cannot afford to repudiate the claim of an innocent English purchaser of these debentures, who may have read the Treasurer's endorsation to be an absolute guarantee. Nearly everybody likely to buy them would so read it. The *Globe* in the first blush of its innocence actually, and in words, so interpreted it. On 18th July the announcement of Mr. Crooks' operation was made in that journal. Here are the words, and the public may judge for themselves:

"The last English mail brings us the advertisement issued by authority of the Hon. Adam Crooks, Treasurer of Ontario, for tenders for debentures representing a portion of the surplus debt of the Province, and received from the several municipalities on behalf of their reduced indebtedness to the Municipal Loan Fund. The debentures thus offered amount to £313,000 sterling, say one and a half millions of dollars, and are payable at various periods, some maturing as early as 1880, but by far the largest portion not till 1893. THE WHOLE ARE OF COURSE GUARANTEED BY THE VENDORS, the Government of Ontario."

And so far the *Globe* was right. The five purists, who pretended so much loyal anxiety to avoid entangling relations between the Government and the indebted Municipalities, of course guaranteed the bonds. They offered them at 85, and if they are not greedily snapped up, it is because it was never intended that so rich a plum should fall into the mouths of the general public. We agree with the remark we heard fall from the lips of an old Reformer, discussing this matter: "This is the worst thing I ever yet saw "done by any Administration." The honest yeomen of Ontario who have to pay $100 for $85, will re-echo that observation.

NO THOUGHT FOR POSTERITY.

We cannot well conceive of any more infamous doctrine than that first propounded at Woodstock by Mr. Oliver Mowat, and again, the other day, at Lindsay by Mr. C. F. Fraser, that it is the duty of the Ontario Government to spend every cent of the moneys which flow into their treasury. One can very well understand why the members of the present Ministry should proclaim such a doctrine; for having emptied the Provincial vault it is only logical on their part to find an argument which may be used to justify their extravagance. We are firmly of opinion that the time has come when it should be the aim of the Government to return to the economy of the Sandfield Macdonald Administration rather than to perpetuate the policy of indiscriminate expenditure which has characterized the Grit Governments that came after it. Four or five years ago, Mr. E. B. Wood, when Treasurer of the Province, estimated the normal receipts and expenditures of Ontario. Since then, by the action of the Dominion Government, we have been relieved of the annual payment of some $260,000, interest on Ontario's share of the debt of old Canada which was not assumed by the Dominion at the time of Confederation. This leaves so much more of a margin than Mr. Wood calculated for manipulation by the Government. At the same time the wholesome dread which possessed that gentleman—as clear-headed in such matters as the best among us—ought to be a beacon-light to the men who are entrusted with the management of Provincial affairs. The annual expenditure has increased wonderfully. Though much of the increased expenditure of the past few years has been of a reckless character it is nevertheless true that the increase of population and the extension of the bounds of settlement must tend to increased outlay. The receipts, except when swelled by forced sales of property which ought to be held as capital, are almost stationary. Put these two facts together, and it is as clear as the sun at noonday that the time will come when the receipts will not be sufficiently large to meet the expenditures. You may say there is the recourse to Direct Taxation. Very true; but that is a recourse which it ought to be the aim of all our public men to avoid; and that can only be done by checking the unnatural, reckless, and shameful expenditures which have attended the administration of public affairs in this Province under Grit rule. We contend the time has come to save, not to expend. We hold that at this moment to proclaim the doctrine to which Messrs. Mowat and Fraser have given expression is to perpetrate an outrage upon the community. The hungry sharks of the Grit ranks ought to be pretty well satiated by this time. Let there be a halt and a rest or in a year or two more the Provincial Treasurer of the day will have to speak of surpluses as things of the past, and cast about for new means of raising money. This is a result which it is imperatively necessary to avoid.

IMPERIAL POLICY.

The speech delivered by Mr. Disraeli at the Lord Mayor's dinner on the 22nd ult., and which was copied in *The Mail* of the 4th inst., is a significant statement of what Imperial policy is and is to be under the new direction. He first made claim that his Government had dealt with grievances affecting classes—public house legislation is here meant—and had redressed them. After all that has been said to the contrary we believe this claim is now very generally allowed, and the practical success of the Government measure with regard to public house regulation conceded. He next referred to the factory legislation which had been carried, and said that the condition of the people ought to be the statesman's first care. In this connection he found occasion to say of the Empire that he trusted it would not be diminished, but rather increased; which gives us to understand that the anti-colonial policy which came in with the advent of the Cobden school of statesmen to power has been abandoned, and that one more worthy of a great Empire has taken its place. The abandonment of the insular, anti-colonial policy is final, too; its emphatic repudiation now, after trial for a while, is decisive. Diminishing stature and diminishing numbers of the population are too surely indications of national decline; therefore, says Mr. Disraeli, it is of the utmost importance that the thirty millions or more who form the British nation should be a people most effective in all qualities that make a gifted and powerful people. These words convey to us that, disregarding the current pseudo-philosophical cant about its being the best Government that governs least, and that leaves individuals and classes to fight their battles as best they may, Mr. Disraeli and his colleagues will extend rather than contract the sphere and duties of government, and will try what the State may do to cope with gigantic and still growing evils, against which individuals, and even classes, are powerless. This is throwing contempt on the teachings of Mr. Herbert Spencer and other professors of the "dismal "science;" but it is by reason of the conspicuous failure of the opposite system unmistakeably demanded by the popular voice. And never had a Minister a broader popular support in any policy than Mr. Disraeli is sure to obtain in this from the British people. "The "spiritual, intellectual, moral, and phy-"sical conditions of the people," says the Premier, "are questions which not "only deserve but demand the attention "of the Government of this country." These words convey no fine moral platitudes merely; they indicate, under the circumstances, the reversal of a policy which has already too long prevailed in England, and its replacement by one more consonant with the noble ideas of patriotism and of Empire. The single measure closely touching the condition of the masses which the session has seen passed is, he continues, only an indication of more of the same kind yet to come. Next comes a particularly significant passage in the speech, which will bear being read a good many times over:

"Then again, in the third place, in this session in which we were advised to do nothing, we could not shut our eyes to the great change which has been for some time taking place in Europe, and not merely in Europe—to that great contest between the spiritual and temporal authorities which has already, in the history of the world, produced such vast consequences, and stamped indelibly its features on the history of mankind. That contest has already commenced in our country, and has commenced with forces not unequal on both sides. We have therefore felt it our duty to prepare for the coming storm by strengthening as far as we could the ecclesiastical establishments of the United Kingdom—(hear, hear, and cheers)—because we believe that, irrespective of all religious sentiment, in them are to be found the barriers of political liberty, and we look upon them as the best security for those civil rights which for generations this country has so long enjoyed, and is so proud of enjoying."

Coming from a speaker so accustomed to weigh well the meaning of what he utters, these words are a tolerably plain intimation as to what side England will be found upon in the great contest alluded to, which we are told is "between "the spiritual and temporal authorities." When we read further the speaker's opinion that this very contest has already commenced in the British Islands, and "with forces not unequal on both sides," we obtain an idea of what his estimate of its intimate immediate importance to England is. Evidently Mr. Disraeli is not one of those who look upon it as something taking place afar off, with which England has little or nothing to do. He prepares to meet the coming storm, not by abandoning to destruction, but by strengthening as far as possible the ecclesiastical establishments of the United Kingdom; and he does this, be it remarked, as a means of preserving political liberty and civil rights. For this he will be denounced alike by Revolutionary and by Ultramontane fanatics, but that he will be sustained by the great body of the people in the three Kingdoms we firmly believe. He alluded to the abolition of Patronage in the Church of Scotland, and to the Public Worship Regulation Bill affecting the Church of England, as measures calculated to strengthen these two Establishments respectively. Finally, having referred, in the absence of Lord Derby, to Foreign Affairs, Mr. Disraeli promises that should next year find himself and his colleagues still in power, they will then be prepared with a full measure of such legislation as they believe the country to require, and will not again ask indulgence by reason of the shortness of the time for preparation. The Premier's declaration of Imperial policy is on the whole most satisfactory, and one that will inspire confidence over the whole wide Empire in both hemispheres.

OUR PACIFIC PROVINCE IN DANGER.

We have already endeavoured to show the effect the Treaty is likely to have in bringing the Maritime Provinces in the East, and Manitoba in the West, into a condition of commercial annexation to the United States, the precursor of political annexation soon to follow. And we have quoted, further, the opinion of a San Francisco paper to the effect that the annexation of British Columbia is a probable result of the policy of the men now in power at Ottawa. We to-day reproduce in another column a paragraph from the New York *Bulletin* to the same purport, sustained by a quotation from the Victoria *Standard*. In California the prospects of annexation, owing to the Treaty, and the Americanizing policy of the Canadian Government in railway and other matters, are eagerly discussed, and it is confidently believed that a new Pacific State will ere long be added to the Union.

Somewhat frightened by this renewal of anti-Confederation discussions the Government organ seeks to divert public attention from the sins of its masters, and bellows "Tory, Tory," at the top of its voice. If it is of the essence of Toryism to point to unquestioned facts, and to draw the inferences which are plainly deducible from them, we accept all that the appellation implies. "There are certainly," declares the organ of the Independence-Rouge-Parti-Nationale-Annexation Government, "no bounds to the lengths "Tory partizanship will go, if it sees the "remotest chance of accomplishing its "ends. It cannot be forgotten that it "was the chief of the Tory Party in "Canada who suggested secession as the "alternative of the British Columbians if "the present Government of Canada did "not accomplish what had, under the "*regime* of their predecessors, been "found to be impossible; and now the "organ of the Tory Party is re-echoing "American invitations to the people of "the same Province to sever their con-"nections with Great Britain and Cana-"da, and cast in their lot with the Re-"public." This impudent attempt to cast a slur upon Sir John Macdonald's loyalty could only come from men who have good reason to be suspicious of their own. What is true of Sir John is true of the "Tory" Party. When he saw that the Government were determined upon casting British Columbia adrift, Sir John Macdonald said that it was an intimation from the Ministry that the people of the Pacific Province had better change their allegiance. That is a very different matter from any expression of his own opinion, of which he had already given abundant evidence by bringing the westernmost colony of British America into the Union. And we to-day point to the articles in the *Alta California* and the New York *Bulletin* as establishing the truth of the Opposition declaration that the policy of the Government towards British Columbia is a disloyal policy, and that unless very soon changed its effect must be to give force to the invitations to annexation which are now so plainly and openly put by United States newspapers.

One feels very much disposed to laugh at the clumsy efforts of the organ to re-establish its party leaders in the confidence of the British Columbia people. Its simulated regard for their good name is indeed refreshing; its tears would be enough to make one weep in sympathy with its effusiveness, if one did not know that they were but crocodile tears. It is too sorry a pretence. "Fine words but-"ter no parsnips." The British Columbians believe they have been badly treated by the Mackenzie Government, and all the gushing love and regard of the Government's organ will not convince them to the contrary until some practical proof of the Ministry's sincerity is given them. To deny that prior to Confederation there was a strong annexation feeling in British Columbia, which its acceptance into the "new "nationality" of Canada effectually killed, is—whether ignorantly, or with a wicked motive, we shall not say—to state what is not the case. And not since the terms of Union were mutually agreed to and accepted has the dread word annexation been heard until now. Is not the effect easily traceable to its cause? Abuse the plaintiff's attorney may be considered a good line of defence by the Government and its organ—and we are free to admit that it is the only line there is left it to take—but it will certainly not deceive those who are most immediately interested in the movements of the hour, and it must utterly fail to remove from the minds of the people of Canada as a whole, the impression so strongly imprinted there, that the Americanising policy of the Government is highly dangerous, both as to its present and prospective operations.

THE PROOF ACCUMULATING.

We felt it to be our duty to denounce the improvident—if not suspicious—offer made of our Municipal Debentures by Mr. Crooks, who has visited London, it may be assumed at the expense of the Province, to cry stinking fish of our Provincial credit, as did Mr. Cartwright of our national credit in the Parliament at Ottawa. He has of his own motion and free will hawked the five per cent. Municipal Debentures of Chatham, Brantford, Cobourg, Goderich, Guelph, Peterboro', Port Hope, Stratford, St. Catharines, Lindsay, Hope, Ops, London, Northumberland, Durham and Perth, through the City of London at an advertised discount of 15 per cent. And what can strangers think of securities thus abjectly discredited by the Financial Minister of the country from which they come? Is he so verdant as not to know the suicidal tendency of a voluntary self-depreciation? Had the debentures been offered by Mr. Crooks at 75 instead of 85, it is absolutely certain that not one of them would have been taken up by the British public or the Stock Exchange. A Seven-per cent. Government transaction is viewed in London with the same suspicion that would attach here to a Fifteen-per-cent mortgage advertised in our own columns. But Mr. Crooks brags in his prospectus that this investment is to pay from 7 to 6¾ per cent., and until specially informed by him to the contrary, the endorsation clause in his prospectus was on 'Change thought to be an absolute Government guarantee. And why, it may be asked, when Five-per-cent. Corporation Bonds of the City of Montreal sell at 95½, should Mr. Crooks venture to offer those of the City of London at 85? If these Bonds, constituting a *first* lien on the assets of the Municipality, are to be sacrificed at 85, when the City of London wants to raise money on a *second* mortgage, as it were, of its municipal assets, what then will be the price of its bonds, as valued by such a broker as Mr. Crooks, or his friend and client Mr. Roach, whom he has employed to negotiate this sale? The security offered by the city of London is put by Mr. Crooks at over five millions of dollars. The first lien reaches about five hundred thousand, represented by the debentures in question. The Government of Ontario endorses the paper without recourse, but could not in reality dare to repudiate its liability, were an English creditor eventually to come against it for interest or principal. And even otherwise the Government of the Province would be bound to put the legal machinery in motion, which it does guarantee to be all-powerful for the collection of the money. And can anybody, looking at the amount of the security and of the bonds respectively, doubt the good business it is to buy them? Well then, have these bonds really to be sold to pay seven per cent.? Will anybody dare to make that assertion who has any knowledge of the English money market? What we have said of London applies equally to any of the municipalities concerned. In Mr. Crooks' own schedule of the assessed value of the fifteen municipalities concerned, the highest proportion borne by the first lien debentures to the assessed value is about one to ten. And what would Mr. Cawthra or any Canadian capitalist think of the soundness of a borrower able to show such a margin on a proffered security, "title and valid-"ity" guaranteed by the Province of Ontario, with unearned interest and other glittering attractions thrown in? Would he propose a shave of fifteen per cent. off the face of the mortgage? We trow not. And as we have before said five per cent. in England is at least equivalent to the eight per cent. sought by capitalists here. There must be something in this extraordinary project that does not meet the eye; and it is matter for serious regret to the friends of Confederation that the Governments of the two leading Provinces should at one and the same time be under suspicion of a job. The question which naturally arises is whether our population is yet sufficient to furnish material for so many Governments as are rendered necessary by the existing political system, without having recourse to men of the McKellar, Crooks, Archambault and Chapleau calibre. If they are honest, they have a most unfortunate way of blundering into situations wherein their honesty is compromised. This Crooks-Roach combination, it must be admitted, has an ugly look about it.

PROVOKED TO ACTION.

Mr. Mackenzie would seem to be at length somewhat alarmed at the aspect of affairs in Manitoba, where, as well as in British Columbia, his repudiation of the railway scheme of the late Government has given rise not to much uneasiness only but to positive distress and suffering. It had become a problem, what was to be done to prevent a calamity which was inevitable unless active means were taken to prevent it. Though it places the Government in the attitude of opposition to their own announcement during the late session, it is a relief to find it announced in an Ottawa organ of the Administration that they "will at once call for "tenders for the construction of the "Pembina Branch of the Canada Pacific "Railway." "Yesterday," the organ adds, "the Minister of Public Works tele-"graphed to Governor Morris the text "of the call for tenders, so that the peo-"ple in Manitoba will have an oppor-"tunity of competing for the contract. "It is the intention of the Government "to have the road under construction by "the first of September." During the session Mr. Mackenzie declared that work would not be commenced on the Pembina Branch until the American Company had continued their line to the border. We pointed out at the time that the most certain way to induce them to continue the work of extension was to give practical evidence of our own intention to build the road between Pembina and Fort Garry. We are glad that this step is now to be taken, for it will prevent that distress in Manitoba next winter which was certain otherwise to have come upon the people of that Province. Let us hope that the letting of the tenders will be free from that jobbery which has characterized so many of the transactions of the present Government.

SMALL INVESTMENTS.

The late Baron Rothschild said that difficult as it was to get money it was far more difficult to keep it. Such has been the experience of many besides the great Jewish millionaire, who, by the way, like most persons who have made money, is commonly supposed to have been as successful in taking care of his wealth as he was skilful in acquiring it. The Baron's remark touching the troublesome *onus* of retaining acquired dollars may seem strange to the numerous fraternity of mortals who never have, or had, any of the superfluous cash recognized as "capital." But if any of these impecunious gentry were to be left a legacy they would soon have an expansion of ideas on this interesting subject. One supposes it is not too much to say that nine out of ten of the tribe of continuous ne'er-do-wells if they suddenly came into possession of fifty or a hundred thousand dollars would not only be no better, in various respects, for the unlooked for acquisition, but, in a brief space of time, would be as needy as they were before. Entities of the Rothschild genus are like a reservoir of water, tight and sound, fed by a never-failing current. If not wholly retaining all they receive, they judiciously let out their acquisitions in a regulated channel, as the sluice-keeper in a mountain mill district every day carefully manages his shuttle for the supply of the mills down in the busy valley. But 'tis another matter with your Micawbers. Their porous receptacles, fill them as you may, have a thousand leaks, big and little, so that the superficies of their storage perpetually gravitates nearer and nearer to the bottom. In such case the problem is simple. Given a two-inch feeder and an aggregate six inch escape-pipe, how long will it be ere the reservoir runs dry? Apart, however, from this spendthrift and happy-go-lucky class, there is a considerable number of persons now in poor circumstances who, if they became possessed of a little money, would be nearly as likely to come to grief from not knowing what to do with it, or how to invest it so as to be safe and yet bring in a fair return. The supplement of the London *Times* every day teems with advertisements which look harmless and straightforward enough to the uninitiated, but which are only covers for traps skilfully laid and baited to catch the numerous class of persons who, having made or suddenly inherited "a "little capital," are sorely puzzled respecting the profitable ordering of their white elephant. "Snug, paying businesses"—from which the proprietor states he retires "owing to ill health" or to private reasons which will be satisfactorily explained on interview, but omits to say that the books have been expressly manufactured to show weekly takings which do not exist, that the business, in fact, is one of the numerous class "made to "sell"—are never-failing lures which lead troops of small capitalists to the speedy loss of their money. The practised eye knows all about these advertisements at a glance—as it does those issued by the swindling loan-offices. But to the retired gentleman's servants, the widows and spinsters, the people who have saved up a few hundreds or thousands, or have come into a small legacy, they look fair as gospel.

The large experienced capitalists, the speculators and men of business, are, of course, competent to take care of themselves, and know much better what to do with their money than we or anybody can tell them. But, suppose a widow, or a careful hard-working person who has got fifty pounds or more, comes—as they always are coming to friends or neighbours—for advice as to its disposal, what shall we say in the way of counsel? Well, perhaps for such amounts, there is nothing better than a Government savings' bank. There the money is safe, the interest is regularly added to the principal, and the whole or any part can be added to it at brief notice. True the interest is small, but that is unavoidable. In such cases safety is the first consideration. It is an axiom in the money market that safety and moderate interest always go together. Savings' banks, however, sometimes will not receive more than a limited sum. Perhaps there is more capital to be invested than one of these institutions will take, or than the owner wishes to invest in it. Again is heard the anxious query, "What "shall I do with my money?" Very often the question is asked of somebody—a relative most probably—who is as much puzzled as the inquirer how to answer it. Sometimes the advice is given that the money cannot be better disposed of than by "lending" it to the person whose advice is asked. This, if we remember rightly, was the judicious counsel Mrs. Rebecca Crawley gave her friend Miss Briggs, in *Vanity Fair*. Shares in joint-stock companies are frequently recommended by those who, perhaps, are already shareholders; while some advocate lending money on mortgage or real estate. Before the Act was passed limiting the liability of holders of shares in joint-stock companies, thousands of widows, spinsters, and other moderate investment seekers, unaware of the responsibility they incurred in joining such institutions, used to be hopelessly ruined. Even under the limited system many have been seriously crippled. Managers of joint-stock companies—men of known integrity, wealth and proved capacity—die or retire. A new element may then be introduced into the direction, injudicious investments may be made, or frauds perpetrated which may involve the concern in ruin. All this has happened, and will happen again. The possibility of such disasters should be fully understood and considered by people who intend to invest their all. A glance at the lists of shareholders in the various joint-stock banks of the United Kingdom will show, however, what a very large number of women capitalists have staked their entire fortunes on the honest and successful management of these useful, and in most cases prosperous, yet at best more or less risky concerns.

THE FARMERS AND THE TREATY.

Mr. Malcolm Cameron, formerly the bitter opponent, but now the warm political-friend, of Mr. Brown, is out in favour of the Reciprocity Treaty. He says that "it means $5 on a cow, $25 on "a horse, $3 on a hog, 25 cents on a tur-"key, 12 cents on a chicken, and $2 a "ton on hay, 15 cents on barley, and 25 "cents on wheat." This is an attempt to bait the hook very attractively for the farmers, but neither the figures themselves nor the supposition upon which they are strung together will bear the test of close examination. Aside from all theorizing on the subject, what we do know for a fact is that since our neighbours had abolished the late Treaty they have been just as good customers, and have paid as high prices for our farm produce as before. The change produced a shock which somewhat checked produce operations for one year, after which markets re-arranged themselves, and we have since been getting as good prices as before, and in fact better prices. The truth is that the Eastern States must have our produce at any price, especially our white wheat and barley. Barley they require to import in large quantity, chiefly from the growth of the German element in their population, and the demand for "lager." Of inferior wheat they have a large surplus, but of the best white wheat they are ready to buy all we have to spare. Mr. Cameron, it will be observed, wants us all to believe that, with Reciprocity conceded, the whole amount of the duty now collected on Canadian produce exported over the border would go straight to the pockets of our farmers. This is strange doctrine for a Free Trader, it being the orthodox Free Trade belief that it is always the consumer who pays the duty. Mr. Brown, as a member of the Cobden Club, must also believe this to be true doctrine; in fact the whole fabric of Free Trade argument falls to the ground the moment it is admitted that the producer pays the duty. We submit that Mr. Brown, Mr. Cameron, and others who like them profess Free Trade views, are under obligation to explain to the people of Canada how they propose to reconcile such views with their advocacy of Reciprocity on the ground that the amount of duties which our produce has now to pay at the United States frontier would be so much clear gain to our side were they remitted.

We might help them out of the difficulty in our own way, but this, we suppose, they would not thank us for doing. It may be observed that sweeping statements either way to the effect that the consumer always pays all the duty, or that the producer always pays it all, are exaggerated and misleading, for the simple reason that they ignore the wise old rule that "circumstances alter cases." The circumstances under which national exchanges take place are so various that no invariable rule can be laid down. Only a rule capable of variation according to circumstances can be a true one with regard to the incidence of duties on imports. If our neighbours had no white wheat or barley of their own, then, probably, they would when importing these articles pay the greater part of such duties as might be imposed on them. If, on the contrary, they had a surplus of both, then we, in offering to them what they did not positively need to buy, would probably pay the greater part of the impost. Perhaps we should not greatly err if we assume the actual fact to be nearly midway between the two extreme suppositions, and say that, as things are, the burden falls about equally on both sides. When Mr. Cameron says that the Treaty means $25 on every horse, $5 on every cow, 25 cents on every bushel of wheat, and 15 cents on every bushel of barley sold by us to the Americans, he is uttering what every drover and every grain buyer in the market will tell him is downright nonsense. Very likely is it, indeed, that the wide-awake dealers who make money by buying stock and produce here and selling it in the States, will be too dull not to take advantage of Reciprocity at once as a reason why they must now offer lower prices here than during years past. They will be sure to do this; we may safely trust to their feelings of self-interest that they will not neglect it, and Mr. Cameron's expected gain of twenty per cent. to our farmers will dwindle down to ten, or it may be to five per cent. in some cases. Just now American consumers of Canadian wool talk of getting the article fifteen cents per lb. cheaper than at present, if the Treaty passes, while sellers on this side talk of getting fifteen cents more than at present in the same event. On this occasion we do no more than point out that Mr. Cameron's figures of prospective gains for our farmers are not to be relied upon; while taking the liberty of insisting, at the same time, that leading Free Trade journals and public men amongst us are bound to explain, if they can, how it comes to pass that they are supporting the Treaty on grounds which if assented to are absolutely fatal to their whole theory of international exchange.

NUISANCES.

In what we here call the "heated "term," but which is known in England as the "dead" or extra-Parliamentary season, the vitiated "Conservatism" which, even in professed Radicals, Levellers, Mission-people, and all the tribe of social and political obstreperists and topsy-turveyors is certainly inherent in human nature—causing mankind not merely to tolerate but apparently to take kindly to a hundred nuisances huge palpable and gross as a mountain—this Conservatism, we say, is sometimes temporarily lulled to sleep. Its place in our busy work-a-day world is taken by a severe splenetician which impels people to the inquiry whether that wretched animal man does not create for himself a host of annoyances which are only tolerated because nobody calls in question their necessity. Under the infliction of heat, dust, sleeplessness, weariness, all-overishness, and other afflictions incident to the season, men's bump of causality gives rumblings of uneasiness. Presently there is a visible eruption of protest against time-honoured discomforts and nuisances. The pages of our contemporaries already begin to evidence the signs of the times. One newspaper is going for the "cat nui-"sance." Another is out against the "street car nuisance." The railway peddler nuisance is vigorously knouted. Nor does the Governor-General address nuisance escape the editorial tender mercies. Of course nothing will come of all this. The heat will moderate. The water-melon is at hand. Peaches will be ripe in the mouth. A sea-side trip or camping-out expedition will restore the equanimity of the critics and of the community. Things will go on again as they were. We shall continue submissive under the old nuisance-yoke—and "gee" and "haw" in the usual patient style, at the familiar mandate of the customs and the interests which boss the established annoyance business.

Nevertheless in the heated term, while the world has an ear to hear, one may profitably suggest that society does suffer under not a few self-imposed or needlessly tolerated worries. The cat nuisance we give up. The feline serenaders are lords (or ladies) of the situation. It is told of Mr. Ross, the crack marksman, that when interrogated by a friend, after carrying off the Queen's prize, respecting the school in which he had acquired his proficiency, he replied, "Shooting cats on the tiles." But, as one grumbler in a contemporary estimates that there are "at least eight "hundred" of these interesting animals every night going through their musical misunderstandings in the immediate vicinity of his mansion—all proof against bootjacks and empty bottles—we are afraid the wholesale discharge of midnight musketry *a la* Ross necessitated by such an army of grimalkins would not be tolerated by the police or the public. Cat, therefore, must continue King. *Les rois s'amusent.* It must be confessed, however, that the vast and varied animal chorus—the bellowing bulls, the frogs, crickets, cats and dogs—supplemented by cattle-bells, early-waking "roosters," and by wont-go-home-till-morning rowdy convivialists, are trying to light sleepers in town or country. The barrel-organ and hurdy-gurdy nuisance, a fearful bone of contention to different musical factions across the water, has not yet been acclimatised in these regions, though we think it might pay an enterprising person to send over a few instruments. Many English ears would probably not take unkindly to the strange yet familiar twiddling. The street car nuisance seems as impregnable to assault as the cats. Overcrowded vehicles, stopping every two minutes and painfully struggling along at the rate of about three miles an hour, have become such recognised institutions that it seldom occurs to any of us to ask whether the companies who have acquired these lucrative monopolies of passenger conveyance might not put on more coaches, and instruct the drivers to go a little faster than pedestrians usually walk. The smoke nuisance, increasing year by year as manufactories multiply, is in the same category. We accept it as a necessary infliction. The railroad peddler nuisance is a remarkable offspring of perverted ingenuity in torture—peculiar to this continent. Newspapers, books, peanuts, figs, apples, prize candy, vegetable ivory-wares, and announcements of refreshments at sundry stopping places, are introduced in ear-piercing tones and pitched into the laps of unwilling passengers, who blend with the bother of taking care of and returning them the task of showing their ticket at every fresh station. "The reason this nuisance is "tolerated," says the Boston *Advertiser*, "is simple enough. It is because, as a "rule, to the travelling public a scene "is more disagreeable than the imposi-"tions put upon such as are annoyed by "them. A few prize candy packages "thrown out of the window, a little "studied carelessness in letting flashy "books and periodicals tumble upon the "floor, and an ostentatious tearing up of "circulars unread would work wonders "in relieving sufferers. The evil is in-"creasing at such a rate that, unless "something is done by those who are "vexed by it, the heat and dust of a "summer journey will be the least of "the discomforts to be endured by tra-"vellers."

The *Acadian Reporter* is hot on the "address nuisance." It remarks, with some truth, that the Governor-General's enjoyment of his summer tours must be very much impaired by this series of inflictions which the general public seem to consider an essential consequence of the contact of such a distinguished personage with that public. Wherever he goes, the invariable address is lying in wait for him. No sooner is it rumoured that he may be expected in a certain place than certain busybodies who there do congregate spring to action, and Lord Dufferin, or his Private Secretary, is inundated with a volume of missives enquiring when and how he will arrive, and when, where, and how it will be his pleasure (!) to receive the invariable, infernal nuisance of an address which the officious busybodies are determined to bore him with. The Governor-General, a man of kindliness and genial social habits, makes the best of these annoyances. But why can't he be allowed to go his ways in peace, and enjoy his summer tour without these needless molestations? The frequency and folly of these laboured concoctions are nearly beyond endurance. Strings of dreary platitudes and fulsome flatteries are clumsily cobbled together, the object being often only to glorify the local magnates, and accord to them the felicity of notice in the newspapers and of a personal introduction to a live nobleman. The weary programme over, the bored Governor makes his escape only to remember where is the next address trap into which he must fall, and to speculate what will be the best process of verbal ingenuity by which he may give some variation to the form of reply.

The worst of it is, as our contemporary points out, that this "address nuisance" is extending through all classes of society. If a judicial functionary makes his first appearance in a court he is forthwith presented with a formal and stupid address, eliciting a similar reply. If a minister changes to another station the members of the church forthwith moan at him through a windy and heavy concoction, and he moans back in a corresponding key and style. If working-men present their employer or foreman with some small token of respect it is wrapped up in a "high-falutin" address, to which they receive a "reply," with the usual announcement about the "proudest day of life" and other customary and "correct" balderdash. In short, no person in any position can make any change in the ordinary routine of his life without a "suitable address," and a "suitable reply." All this rubbish, adds the *Reporter*, is sent to the newspapers, that it may be paraded before the public to the exclusion of useful matter. It is really time that newspapers set down their heels with a determination to put a stop to this address nuisance. In a large majority of instances, the address and reply are simply an impudent form of a puffing advertisement; and if published at all, it should only be on the condition of being paid for as other advertisements are. There are—at least there have been—cases where a popular address to a public man, where it was important to get some expression of public opinion upon a momentous question, have had a great significance. In such cases they are well. So, in like manner, where they really indicate the popular estimate of the public acts of some individual in eminent position, whose acts happen to have been called in question. Here they are a legitimate mode of expressing public opinion where it is desirable that public opinion should be expressed. But the resorting to addresses as an indication of public opinion has ceased to have any significance whatever. Seriously, this habit, like the minor folly of passing votes of thanks, has become an almost intolerable nuisance; and every man of common sense should at once determine to contribute his effort towards its abatement.

THE FINANCIAL SURPLUS.

Having taken several weeks to communicate with its Ottawa masters, the Government organ makes bold enough at last to deal with the question whether there was a surplus or a deficit in the financial transactions of the Dominion in the last fiscal year. Cuttle-fish like, it endeavours to becloud a plain issue with much irrelevant matter. Mr. Tilley's Estimates have now nothing whatever to do with the simple question, Was there a surplus or a deficit? His Budget Speech and Estimates are declared to have been "characterized by great recklessness." Our only reply to this is that it is a gross slander upon an able ex-Minister, who is a king in Finance as compared with Mr. Richard John Cartwright. Mr. Tilley's Estimates for 1873-4 were made prior to legislation which compelled him to bring down heavy supplementary Estimates. The probable deficit of over eight hundred thousand dollars, he however stated at the time, would not occasion any difficulty, as there was a large surplus on the previous year's transactions out of which it could be paid. The revenue of the year was even more prolific than was expected, and the expenditures less, so that at the end of the fiscal year there was, as contended by the present Opposition, an actual surplus of nearly half a million of dollars.

There are some things too evident to be boldly denied. Neither the Government nor their organ can assert that, as contended by them during the session, there is a deficit; they in fact admit that there is a surplus. But what they are unable boldly to deny they make a desperate attempt to explain away. Let us hear what they have to say:

"It is quite true that the total receipts of the year, under the operation of the new tariff and the rush to take goods out of bond when an increase of duties was anticipated last April, have, so far as can be ascertained at present, covered the deficiency and created a small surplus. But it was against any change in the tariff Dr. Tupper protested, on the ground that there was no deficit, and no need, therefore, to impose new taxes. The approximate additional customs duty which accrued from the removal of goods from bond in expectation of increased duties was $600,000, and of inland revenue, $650,000. But these are only in the nature of drafts in anticipation of the revenue naturally accruing in 1874-5. The improved revenue caused by the new tariff had amounted, up to the end of the financial year, to $546,000. These three sums, amounting in the aggregate to $1,796,000, bring up the revenue of the year to $24,204,925."

Greater shamelessness than is displayed in this extract it is not easy to conceive. Even if the figures given by our contemporary were correct they would utterly destroy any argument going to show that, with ordinary economy on the part of the Government, there was any necessity for an increase of taxation. At the very worst, the receipts of the year, *deducting the additional amount claimed to have been received from the new Tariff*, were equal to the expenditures, which included everything the Government could possibly pay; and there was a balance from the previous year of over $1,600,000. *The new Taxes were required, not because of a deficit, but to meet the increased Estimates for 1874-5 of a bogus "Reform" Government.* The figures of the extract we have quoted are, however, most shamelessly put. The large amount received from Customs and Excise in anticipation of an advance in the Tariff represents receipts which would otherwise have spread over the subsequent two or three months of the fiscal year. They might have been used for the purposes of calculation when Parliament was in session; it is the grossest piece of impudence to refer to them now as in any degree tending to swell the year's receipts. How our contemporary estimates that the improved revenue caused by the new tariff amounted to $546,000 we are entirely at a loss to know; we believe it is a very considerable exaggeration; but, in any case, the Government figures show, as clearly as it is possible to make figures show anything, that Mr. Cartwright's croaking speech was not in the slightest degree warranted by the state of the Treasury, that the statement put into the Governor-General's mouth at the opening of Parliament was not justified by anything like a fair cast of the horoscope of the year's transactions, that our credit has been decried without reason, and that the only cause which required an increase of taxation was the largely-swelled estimates of the Government for the then subsequent fiscal year, whose operations were entirely within their own control. The *expose* is one of which any Government ought to feel heartily ashamed.

THE RESULT IN EAST ELGIN.

This constituency returns now to the House of Commons a member of the same political stripe as the gentleman who was elected seven months ago, and by about the same majority. We are free to confess that we did not look for a different result. The two elections came too close together to allow of that change of opinion on the part of the electors which must be the inevitable result of the course of conduct pursued by the present Government. Mr. Jenkins, too, laboured under the very serious disadvantage of being new to politics, though an old resident of the Riding. Having entered the contest he fought it manfully throughout, but it was clear he was fighting a losing battle from the start. There is nothing in the result to justify any hysterics on the part of the Ministry, who have simply held their own in the constituency seven months after a General Election.

THE VICTORIA RAILWAY.

The turning of the first sod of this Railway, which has just taken place with more than usual *eclat*, and is but the initial step in the practical commencement of the work, is a strong illustration of the power of perseverance. It is now, as well as we can remember, something like three years since Mr. George Laidlaw, having quit himself of what he regarded as his particular work in connection with the narrow-gauge railways, projected the Credit Valley and the Victoria roads. The former has been in course of construction for a year, the latter has progressed sufficiently far in the financial arrangements necessary to a successful issue as to warrant the President and Directors in taking the step which has been duly chronicled in these columns during the past few days. The Victoria Railway, to cite the words of an authorized statement, is projected to leave the Toronto and Nipissing Railway somewhere in the Township of Reach, in a north-easterly direction to Lindsay, with a drop line south, to connect with the Port Perry Railway at Port Perry. From Lindsay the part now placed under construction is located through the Township of Fenelon Falls, where it crosses the Gull River Waters. Thence in a north-easterly course along the valley of the Burnt River to Kinmount, to which place the right of way has been bought, which is to be the terminus of the first section. Thence, from Kinmount, in as straight a line as possible, through the Townships of Snowdon and Dysart, and the village of Haliburton. Thence in a north-easterly direction through the English Land Company's lands to a point on the Ottawa River, thirty or forty miles south of Lake Nipissing. At Lindsay the railway will connect with the Midland, and the proposed Grand Junction Railways. Last session of the Ontario Legislature an attempt was made by the Company to induce the Government to take up the scheme in its entirety, and to pass upon the merits of a plan which was submitted to them for building the road through the more remote and unsettled districts. Whether from a pressure of business, or a disinclination to grapple with so large a question at once the Government determined at the time to confine its support, given under the Act relating to railways, to the first section between Lindsay and Kinmount, on which work has now been commenced.

The scheme as a whole is a splendid one, not for Toronto only,—which, by the way, has not given a dollar to the enterprise—but for the large section of country specially interested in it. Referring again to the official announcement of the objects which the road is designed to serve, we find it said that it is intended to form a Trunk line from Lindsay to the Upper Ottawa, to intersect the Pacific Railway when built; affording access to all the railways of the Midland district of Canada between Belleville and Toronto, to the interior of the northern part of the Province and the Pacific Railway. It is to be built on the four-feet eight-and-a-half-inch gauge, and laid with steel. The members of the Government who attended the demonstration at Lindsay, and who, we regret to say, were somewhat obtrusive in defending debatable acts of the Ministry, must have had some twitchings of conscience—if of conscience they have any left—when considering how very closely the objects intended to be served by this road answer the ends which Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had specially in view when he framed and passed the Act which was so bitterly denounced by the Grit Party at the time and which that Party, so soon as it seized the reins of power, greatly enlarged and extended instead of attempting to curtail. This reminiscence apart, however, we are glad to see that The Government are alive to the more than Provincial character of this undertaking; and we hope to see developed and matured, before many months have passed, some scheme which, uniting the great objects of increased immigration and the settlement of the back country, will lead to the speedy continuation of the Victoria Railway to the Upper Ottawa. The scheme is in such excellent hands that there is no reason whatever to anticipate failure, or even any considerable halt in the prosecution of the road through to the Ottawa River.

ROUTED.

Prior to the meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade at St. John, strong attempts were made to carry the Board of Trade of that city and the Halifax Chamber of Commerce in favour of the Draft of Treaty. Both attempts signally failed. Then came the crushing condemnation of the Draft by the Dominion Board. Worse than all these defeats is the rout of the Treaty makers in the Grit city of Hamilton, where congregated the Hopes, the Mackenzies, the Saunders, *et al* to carry some little bit of comfort to the badgered and much abused (though, we believe, well-paid) Reciprocity Commissioner. Even Mr. Buchanan's attempt to throw oil upon the troubled waters was not successful. The Board, by the significant vote of 13 to 9, declared that without considerable modifications the Treaty would be "highly injurious to "the interests of Canada both politically "and commercially, and should on no "account be adopted by the people of "Canada without such modifications." These are strong words, and that the mercantile community of a city which only a few months ago rolled up a Grit majority of 600 should have endorsed them is one of the signs of the times. Whither shall Mr. Brown turn for a little comfort?

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE ELECTED IN NAPIERVILLE.

It is rather a significant fact that in the first election for the Commons which has taken place under the ballot a Conservative has been elected, and for M. Dorion's old seat too. M. Coupal has been returned for Napierville. This may be taken to indicate public opinion in that county of the way in which M. Dorion shelved himself on the Bench and of the conduct of the Government generally. Mr. Mackenzie will probably begin to learn that his position is far from impregnable.

And now there is another "base hound" in the ranks of British journalism whom we turn over to the tender mercies of the Reciprocity Commissioner. The *Pall Mall Gazette* summing up its considerations of the Draft of Treaty, says: "The "'reciprocal' concession of fishing rights "means substantially an enormous ad-"vantage granted to the United States, "who give up little or nothing, by the "Canadians, who surrender a most lucra-"tive monopoly. * * It may fairly be "argued that the United States give up "too little and demand too much." This, be it remembered, is from a staunch Free Trade advocate. The Reciprocity Commissioner must come to the front once more.

The twenty-seven who voted condemnation of the Reciprocity Treaty at St. John, N. B., recently, seem to have been a sad lot of impostors.

This is the frank opinion expressed by a Ministerial paper, the Ottawa *Free Press*. It must be accepted as very complimentary by the gentlemen referred to.

The Public Works Department, presided over so patriotically by the Premier, has dispatched another surveying party to Manitoba, who will proceed thither by St. Paul and the Northern Pacific Railway. *The Globe* recently declared that the Dawson route was in excellent working order, so the conduct of Mr. Mackenzie, in persistently bestowing Government patronage on the American route, which is running in direct competition with the Canadian highway, seems absolutely indefensible. It is no wonder that the Mennonites travel via Duluth with such examples before them.

The school teachers of Carleton county, of whom the majority would vote for Dr. Sangster, have not yet received their voting papers, and grave suspicions are entertained that some characteristic Grit trick is being played.

ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

Address by the President.

The fourteenth annual Convention of the Ontario Teachers' Association of Ontario was opened Tuesday afternoon in the theatre of the Normal School.

The President, Mr. Goldwin Smith, occupied the chair. There was a fair attendance.

The proceedings were commenced by Mr. A. Macallum reading a portion of Scripture, and offering up prayer, after which the Secretary read the roll of officers for the past year as follows:

President, Mr. Goldwin Smith, M.A.; first Vice-President, Mr. I. B. Dixon, M.A.; second Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Tilley; third Vice-President, Mr. W. McIntosh; fourth Vice-President, Mr. W. W. Tamblyn, M.A.; fifth Vice-President, Mr. J. Kilgour; and sixth Vice-President, Mr. Robert McQueen (Wentworth); Recording Secretary, Mr. A. McMurchy, M.A.; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Thomas Kirkland, M.A.; Treasurer, Mr. S. McAllister.

The minutes were then put in and confirmed.

The following communications were read by the Secretary:

From Dr. Ryerson, stating that he expected to be out of town for some time and could not therefore promise an address, but that if he returned during the sitting of the Convention, he would be happy to offer a few remarks before the teachers.

From Dr. Snodgrass (Queen's University) stating that he should be unable to give an address.

Letters were also received from Dr. Fyfe and Dr. Young to the same effect.

Evening Session.

The Convention opened in the evening at 7.30, Mr. Dixon, High School Master, Peterboro', in the chair.

The hall was perfectly crowded with school teachers and friends of education, many ladies being present.

The Chairman said he had very great pleasure in introducing as the lecturer of the evening, a gentleman with whose name all present were familiar. He alluded to Prof. Goldwin Smith. Everybody who attended the meeting of the Convention last year knew what to expect from Mr. Smith, as did also those who were not present on that occasion, namely, a very rich treat. (Cheers.)

Mr. Smith, on rising, was received with applause. He said that as yet he had not become so thoroughly a Canadian as not to feel the effect of Canadian climate. He would address his hearers to the best of his ability, but he must beg to be excused for any defect in his voice, as he was far from well in health. Mr. Smith then proceeded to read his paper. We have space for the conclusion only, as follows:

Yes, you have a great mission. Exaggerated things, no doubt, have been said about the office of a teacher as well as about every other office. The influence of the school has been unduly magnified in comparison with the influence of home. The importance of school education has been unduly magnified at the expense of that which we receive from society, from our calling, through all the various avenues of knowledge and natural improvement, in our after life. The importance of knowledge altogether has been magnified at the expense of character, the formation of which must be the main object of the trainers of youth. Still you have a great mission. I was impressed with that fact by another thing which I witnessed in England, and which it pained an English heart to see. I mean the polling of the *residuum*, which as I have already said was enfranchised for a party purpose by the Reform Bill of 1867. These miserable possessors of a misbestowed power, flocked to the poll, dragged with beer and inflamed with senseless fury, ignorant of everything, devoid not only of the rudiments of political knowledge and duty, but of the knowledge which is imparted in an infant school. Swarms of them were unable to make a cross opposite a candidate's name, and had to vote by the form appointed for illiterates. In the trial of a controverted election a witness was put on the stand who had never heard the names of the leaders of the two great parties, and only knew that in his own town one party was blue and the other yellow. In another trial the judge said that the sum spent in bribery altogether had been very small, but that, nevertheless, there had been a great deal of corruption, for the voters were so ignorant of what they were doing, and of their duty as citizens, that they could be bought for a pot of beer. Yet these men are arbiters of the destiny, not of England only, but of the Colonies and India. And it was Conservatism self-styled that had invested them with power, and was now appealing to their votes. We need Conservatism here to temper the rawness and wildness of Colonial freedom; but let us hope that it will be a Conservatism of a different kind; a Conservatism of the school-house and not of the pothouse, a Conservatism of intelligence, of morality, of honour, not of the party strategy, which does not scruple to snatch a party victory by committing moral treason against its country. In this country we must frankly do homage to popular right. By the hands, by the hard toil and endurance of the people this land has been reclaimed from the wilderness; to the people it belongs. We cannot allow ourselves basely to think of conspiring against them, or trying to rob them of their privilege by strokes of party tactics. On the other hand we owe it to them not to be their flatterers and their sycophants; to recognise their political faults and their political liabilities; in view of those faults and those liabilities to fortify our institutions in a sense honestly and nationally Conservative; and to endeavour by all the means morally in our power to secure the ascendancy of intelligence and principle over passion, to save civil duty from faction and corruption, to bar the way to power against the demagogue and open it to the man of honour. In this work, by which the foundations of a great community are to be laid, the school and the teacher, if they do their duty and preserve the moral confidence of the community, will have not the smallest or the humblest share. Here before me is a great Conservative Party, one without party banners, without party cries, without party wire-pullers, party slander, party trickery, party corruption, but which will continue to live and work when the political parties, with all that belongs to them, have been gathered into an unhonoured tomb.

And now to the business of our convention; may it be prosperously transacted and conduce, in its results, to the interest of our high public trust and the credit of our common profession. I am sure that we shall act together in perfect harmony, notwithstanding any pending question about which there may be a difference of opinion among us. We all give each other credit for acting on conscientious conviction, however widely divergent our convictions in every case may be. I will endeavour to do my part by attention and fairness in the chair; you, I have no doubt, will abundantly do yours.

After Mr. Smith had concluded he was loudly applauded.

Mr. McCallum, of Hamilton, rose to move

"That the cordial thanks of this meeting be tendered to our President for his very able, interesting and eloquent lecture, with which we have been to-night favoured."

The vote of thanks was then unanimously passed.

Calls were then made for a few remarks from Dr. Wilson, but that gentleman observed that after the exquisite specimen of English which had just been heard, he must be excused from making any address.

Mr. McMurrich, the Secretary, said it was usual for the Convention to take a recess of ten minutes after the lecture had been delivered.

This was accordingly done, and on the reassembling of the Convention, Mr. Smith took the chair.

The present position and mode of management of County Associations were then discussed by several delegates, after which the Convention adjourned.

RECIPROCITY.

Hamilton Board of Trade.

Hamilton, Aug. 10.—A special general meeting of the Board of Trade was held this afternoon for the purpose of considering the Reciprocity Treaty, Mr. Adam Brown, President, in the chair.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman said he hoped gentlemen intending to speak would approach the subject calmly, and discuss it in the light of patriotic, aside from political feeling.

Mr. Adam Hope read three resolutions, one approving of the Treaty, another complimenting the Hon. George Brown as its negotiator on the Canadian side, and a third for the transmission of the resolutions to Ottawa, if carried. After some remarks he placed in the Chairman's hands the first resolution, as follows:—

"That the Board of Trade of the City of Hamilton cordially approves of the proposed Reciprocity Treaty as a measure mutually beneficial to the interests of the people of both countries in the establishment of greater freedom in the commercial intercourse between the Dominion and the people of the United States, in the free interchange of the natural products of each country, of agricultural implements, of certain leading articles of manufactures, and in abolishing the restrictions hitherto existing in the coasting trade, with vessels on the river St. Lawrence and on the great lakes, and in conceding the right for ships built in either country to be registered in the other."

The Hon. Isaac Buchanan said he had a resolution to propose in amendment as follows:

Moved by the Hon. Isaac Buchanan, seconded by Mr. W. H. Glassco,

"That, while thinking the terms of the proposed Treaty most unfair to Canada in several respects the Hamilton Board of Trade feels that in the interest of the Dominion as a whole, it would be better to accept it than to have no Treaty, especially seeing that some of the blots on it may be removed before it is confirmed; and also seeing that afterwards the Dominion Legislature has it in its power to assimilate the case to Canadian finance and to Canadian industry by raising the tariff on the Atlantic seaboard."

Mr. James Watson had an amendment to the amendment to propose. He read the following resolution:

"That this Board, after taking into consideration the draft of the proposed Reciprocity Treaty, are of opinion that without considerable modifications it will be highly injurious to the interests of Canada, both politically and commercially, and should on no account be adopted by the people of Canada without such modifications."

Mr. Watson's amendment was carried as against Mr. Buchanan's by eleven to ten. It was next carried against Mr. Hope's by thirteen to nine.

After some discussion the Chairman ruled that Mr. Watson's motion was finally carried, and the meeting broke up.

THE VICE-REGAL TOUR.

(BY MAIL FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Nepigon, August 3.

On his Excellency disembarking at Sault Ste Marie on Friday, he was met on the wharf by the Reeve and Township Council, and a large crowd of enthusiastic spectators. The Reeve, Mr. Peter Brown, was introduced to his Excellency by Mr. Barron, M. P., by whom the Vice-Regal party was conducted up the main street. Here, as elsewhere, the day was observed as a general holiday, the stores being all closed and the people dressed in their best for the occasion. About a quarter of a mile up the street leading from the wharf a very handsome triumphal arch was erected, and as his Excellency was proceeding toward it a Vice-Regal salute was fired from a field adjoining the road by members of a local corps of Volunteers from two field pieces.

Beneath the triumphal arch his Excellency was presented with the following address, which was read by Mr. Brown: "To his Excellency the Right Hon. the Earl of Dufferin, K. P., K. C. B., Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, &c., &c., &c.: May it please your Excellency, the Council of the municipality of Sault Ste Marie, on behalf of their fellow-citizens and themselves, desire to tender to your Excellency and Lady Dufferin a hearty and cordial welcome on this your first visit to the district of Algoma. It is with unfeigned pleasure that we behold in our midst the representative of our revered and well-beloved Sovereign, and deem ourselves happy in having this opportunity of assuring your Excellency of our continued feelings of loyalty and devotion to her Majesty's person and government. We also trust your trip over our lakes will be a source of pleasure and enjoyment both to yourself and Lady Dufferin. Signed on behalf of the Council and citizens of the town of Sault Ste Marie.

"PETER BROWN,
"Chairman of Council."

His Excellency in reply said—"I am extremely sensible of your kindness in having met me on this occasion with so flattering an address, and in having made the various other preparations with which you have been good enough to receive me. Both Lady Dufferin and myself have looked forward with the greatest interest to the cruise on which we are now embarked. Every step of our way has afforded us repeated opportunity of observing how industry and contentment reigns in every part of Canada, and how completely satisfied its inhabitants are with the institutions under which they dwell as well as with how fervent and firm a loyalty they cling to their connection with the Mother Country. Although great progress has been made we are after all but in our infancy, and perhaps there is no place more likely than this to profit by the increase of population which will inevitably take place as soon as the great territories of our North-West are occupied, and the transportation of goods, merchandise and products of that district is necessitated from the interior to the sea. Both Lady Dufferin and myself desire to convey to you our thanks for those expressions in your address personal to ourselves, and we assure you that with all our hearts we reciprocate the good feeling you have been good enough to evince."

The customary introductions having been made, his Excellency returned to the wharf, where a steam tug and a large boat manned with members of the Volunteer corps were in waiting to convey the party to an Indian settlement named Singwauk, where a large number of Indians resided, who had been burnt out completely on Manitoulin Island. The site, which is two miles from Sault Ste. Marie, is an extremely pretty and picturesque one, and is admirably adapted for the purpose for which it has lately been purchased.

The mission of his Excellency to this settlement was the laying of the corner stone of a new Church of England Industrial School for Indian children. His Excellency selected the boat in preference to the tug, and arrived at the landing place first, the steam tug having to make a detour in order to avoid shallow water. The weather, which had hitherto been extremely fine, now became sultry and cloudy, and vivid lightning flashed in the distance. Before arriving upon the scene of the ceremony rain commenced to fall. It proved, however, to be only a brief shower, and had passed away before the conclusion of the service. The rev. gentlemen present were Rev. Rural Dean Givins, Rev. Mr. Wilson, Superintendent of the Mission, and Rev. Mr. Rolf, of Sault Ste. Marie.

His Excellency having laid the stone, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for the distinguished honour he had conferred upon them by attending to lay the stone.

His Excellency, in responding said: "It is with great pleasure that I have taken an humble part in the interesting ceremony of to-day. I am always glad to have an opportunity of showing the sympathy which I feel, and the interest which I take in the welfare of our Indian fellow-subjects. We are bound to remember that we are under the very gravest obligations toward them, and that the white race in entering this country and requiring them to change their aboriginal mode of life, incurs the duty of providing for their future welfare, and of taking care that in no respect whatsoever are their circumstances deteriorated by changes which are thus superinduced. It must also be remembered that although we ourselves have the advantage of living under Parliamentary institutions, and that the humblest person in the land is able to feel that his representative is in a position to plead his cause and watch over his interests in the high Court of the Parliament of the Dominion, for obvious reasons those advantages have not yet been extended to the Indian population. On that account therefore, if on no other, we are bound to be very solicitous in our endeavours to advance civilization, to settle the country, and to bring it under cultivation, that we do them no wrong or injury. I must say that no better nor surer method could be adopted to secure these results than that which we have now assembled to inaugurate. It is very evident that so great a change as that from the wild life of the hunter to the occupation of the cultivator could scarcely be effected in a single generation, nor indeed can it be effected at all unless those who are thus invited to alter all their habits of thought and life, are educated with that intent. For this purpose it is obviously the best method to lay hold of the younger generation by instructing them in the arts and habits of civilized life, and to put them in a position to join with us on equal terms in our endeavour to build up this great country, so that the various races may be united by common interests and in a common cause. I am happy to think that with this intent there is further joined the influence of religion, which is even a greater and stronger means of cementing the heart of men together than that of patriotism. But when the two are united and combined, as they are upon this occasion, it is impossible but to anticipate the happiest and most successful results. I can assure you, Mr. Wilson, on behalf of those present, and on behalf of those—and there are perhaps many more than you can imagine—who take a deep interest in this work, and on behalf of your Indian friends, that you deserve our heartiest and warmest sympathy. I can only conclude these imperfect observations by saying on behalf of Lady Dufferin and myself, that we both wish this Institution and those engaged in promoting it, all the success that they themselves could desire."

Shortly afterwards the party returned to Sault Ste. Marie, and landed on the Canadian side some passengers who desired to disembark there. In the meantime the Chicora had left for the American side. As she moved away another volley was fired by the Sault Ste. Marie Volunteer Corps. When in the middle of the river a volley was fired from the American fort, from which the Union Jack was flying. The ensign of the fort was also dipped as we passed.

Two companies of the 20th Regiment of Infantry are stationed at the American fort, and the Governor General had not been on board long before the following officers of the American troops paid a visit to his Excellency: Capt. Minor, Capt. Rush, Lieut. Lopwood, Lieut. Camel and Lieut. Davis.

Lieut. Hamilton met them as they approached the wharf and saluted them. He then conducted them to his Excellency, who was in the saloon. Having stayed on board about half an hour, they insisted upon his Excellency visiting the Fort. His Excellency complied with the invitation, and on returning was informed that Lord Clandeboye, his eldest son, who had been indisposed during the whole of the day, was getting worse. The medical man of the Garrison, Dr. King, a gentleman of considerable medical renown in the United States, prescribed for the invalid.

His Excellency, in consequence of his son's illness, deemed it unadvisable to leave Sault Ste. Marie until the next day.

Lord Clandeboye improved during the night, and at noon was so much better as to admit of the vessel proceeding into the lake.

Dr. King was requested to join the party in order that he might complete the cure of his young charge, and he kindly consented to do so.

Colonel Cumberland left us at Sault Ste. Marie, and returned to Collingwood in the Frances Smith.

The Chicora passed through the locks at one o'clock. A stiff breeze was blowing on Lake Superior, and a heavy sea rolling. For the first time during the trip the boat pitched a little, and this slight oscillation was more disagreeable than a more violent motion would have been. Captain Orr was instructed to hug the shore and keep in as smooth water as possible. Between six and seven o'clock Batchewaning Bay was reached, and the vessel was moored to the wharf opposite the saw mill of Messrs. Cameron & Co., which was then in operation. His Excellency and staff landed and looked through the mills, after which they strolled through the grounds adjoining. They then returned to the boat, which left the Bay about nine o'clock.

During the night we arrived in Michipicoton Bay, and the vessel was anchored about half a mile from shore. After breakfast on Sunday morning, a couple of boats were lowered and a visit was paid to Michipicoton River, Hudson's Bay Post, which is half a mile or more up the river. The dwelling house and stores are situated in a beautiful position, commanding an excellent view of some magnificent falls a mile or so further up the river. The surrounding country has a fertile aspect, and the land around the Post is well cultivated. A not inviting crowd of Indians were assembled on the grass in front of the stores. The Chief shook hands with his Excellency, and expressed himself thoroughly comfortable and contented. A large quantity of pipes and tobacco were given to the storekeeper for distribution amongst the aborigines. Their Excellencies went through the stores and examined a large variety of furs. The whole party were fitted out with white and blue woollen overcoats, trimmed with scarlet, scarlet sashes and scarlet worsted caps.

We returned to the Chicora in time for dinner. On getting on board the vessel was got under weigh, and we left for Michipicoton Island harbour, where there is a deserted fishing station. His Excellency visited Agate Island, but the search for agates was an unfruitful one. The island was left about ten o'clock. There was every appearance of the existence of a heavy sea outside, but fortunately upon passing the point it proved that the apprehensions were unfounded.

Nepigon Bay, almost a lake itself, was entered about eight o'clock this morning, and in a couple of hours we were moored at the mouth of Nepigon River.

His Excellency, Lady Dufferin, Lady Harriet Fletcher, and the staff will proceed this morning up the river, forty or fifty miles in canoes, under the direction of Captain Wilson, Collector of Customs at Sault Ste. Marie. This gentleman is thoroughly acquainted with the whole of this district, and will convey his Excellency to the best portions of the stream for fishing. It is expected they will be at the river five days, and on their return to the Chicora, Silver Islet will be the next point visited.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

EUROPEAN.

The Carlists have gained some successes in Navarre.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli will shortly visit Ireland.

There has been a split in the Old Catholic Party, and Pere Hyacinthe has joined the Moderate section.

Serious riots have taken place in Portsmouth, England, over a right of way claimed by the people.

A categorical denial has been given by the French Government to the charge of having given aid and comfort to the Carlists.

The French man-of-war which has been lying at Civita Vecchia, to afford an asylum for the Pope in case of need, is to be withdrawn.

A vessel which left Norway on the 2nd ult., with a hundred families of Icelanders bound for Halifax, is overdue, and some anxiety is felt in consequence.

It is reported that Russia has agreed to recognize the Spanish Republic, and the German Minister at Paris has announced the like determination of Germany.

The *Golos* of St. Petersburg says the Czar has invited the son of the late Emperor Napoleon to witness the military manoeuvres of the Russian army.

A cable despatch received from Ireland, announces the death of Jack Hussey, the celebrated longshoreman who has saved seventeen persons from drowning during the past ten years. For his life-saving services he received a large number of gold, silver, and bronze medals, and several certificates, besides a purse of $100.

The sensation of the hour is the romantic escape of Marshal Bazaine from the Island of St. Marguerite, where he was confined as a military prisoner of rank, undergoing sentence of Court Martial. It appears that his rescue from confinement was contrived by his devoted wife, and a charming incident in the story is the account of how Madame Bazaine, with her own fair hands, rowed her recovered husband to the steamer awaiting him. The Island of Ste Marguerite is one of a group of islands in the Mediterranean, called the Lerins Isles, near the coast, belonging to France, and in the department of the Var. Two of them, Ste Marguerite and St. Honorat, are fortified, and the first has already attained a wide celebrity on account of its containing the prison where "the man with the iron mask" languished for so many years.

AMERICAN.

Difficulties between whites and negroes in Tennessee still continue.

A Union mason was killed in Williamsburg, N. Y., last Saturday, in a scuffle which occurred with some non-Union workmen.

Grasshoppers have devoured everything in Northern and South-Western Kansas and Nebraska. The damage is far greater than in 1866. The corn crop throughout this region is totally destroyed.

A Cuban and a Spaniard who quarrelled in New York, are said to have gone to Brussels for the purpose of fighting a duel. Surely they need not have journeyed farther than Missouri or Kansas to find a congenial locality.

Mr. D. B. Wain, jeweller, Louisville while on his way home Sunday night, was seized by four masked men, and no trace of him has since been found. Evidences of a struggle were found in the neighbourhood where he was captured.

Geo. Stanley, living in Carrollton, Md., went home late the other night, and observing some one in his hen house took a shot gun, fired at the object, and killed his mother, who had gone there to catch some chickens. Young Stanley is almost crazed by the sad event.

J. Eager, of New York, and Charles Booth were driving on Sunday over Kettle Bridge, Penn., when their horse took fright and backed the carriage to the side, throwing over both occupants. Eager died before reaching the hotel. Booth was only slightly injured. The men fell over forty feet.

From Capt. Harvey Mather, editor of the *Ledger*, of Memphis, who returned from Somerville Saturday afternoon, the following account of the riot at Somerville has been obtained: The election of the day before was hotly contested. Many negroes attended the polls heavily armed. Some openly threatened to burn the town. During the day a prominent negro politician named Cash Warren had abused a young brother of Mayor Hendon, and Friday, encountering Mayor Hendon on the street snapped a pistol twice in his face. The Mayor then shot him dead. Almost simultaneously two or three shots were fired at the negro by some friends of the Mayor who had collected, among whom was Oscar Burton, who was subsequently charged with firing at Warren, when he met his death. The negroes, who became very much incensed at the death of Warren, threatened to kill Burton, who about eleven o'clock appeared on the street armed with a double-barrelled shot gun and pistols. Judge Reeves, Albert Reeves, the Sheriff-elect, and Paul Reeves, attempted to arrest and disarm Burton, wounding him severely in four places. He returned the fire from his shot gun, mortally wounding Paul and Albert Reeves, and next fell himself, but rising on his elbow he drew a pistol and shot J. G. Reeves in the shoulder. A party of negroes then opened fire on Burton, shooting him in a number of places. One of them, rushing up, put a pistol to his back and fired. In all he received thirteen wounds, and if any prove fatal, which the doctors' doubt, it will be the one mentioned. On the arrival of the military from Memphis, they found the citizens in arms, and the town under strict patrol. Their arrival was hailed with great joy by the white citizens.

CANADIAN.

Strathroy is about to establish a High School.

Halifax is suffering from the prevalence of incendiary fires.

St. Catharines is to be the next place of meeting of the Labour Congress.

Admiral Wellesley has left Halifax for Quebec on board H.M.S. Bellerophon.

A young woman at Liverpool, N. S., has died from hurts received by the goring of a vicious bull.

The next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Oddfellows will take place at London, Ont.

On Friday evening a jealous woman at St. Catharines fired four times at her rival in the open street.

Mr. Mackenzie is about to lay out a great deal of money in Kingston upon military buildings and works.

The Hon. George Brown has brought a suit for libel against the London *Herald*. Damages are laid at $10,000.

Mr. Hazlewood, C. E., reports the line surveyed by him between French River and Pembroke to pass through an excellent country for settlement.

Two Dominion Ministers are at present sojourning in St. John, N. B. Of course their joint presence is due solely to departmental exigencies.

The convicts in the Sandwich Gaol attempted on Saturday last to secure their liberty, in this endeavour making a ferocious assault upon Mr. Leach, the Governor.

The little son of a butcher living at Prescott entered his father's stable on Monday and received so severe a kick on the forehead from one of the horses that his recovery is very doubtful.

The navvies working on the Intercolonial near Bathurst appear to be a savage set, for on Saturday last a constable assisting in the execution of a civil process was most cruelly assaulted.

A very important meeting of the Hamilton Board of Trade was held on Monday when a resolution was passed emphatically condemning Mr. Brown's notions of Reciprocity.

The Barrie branch of the Liberal Conservative Association held a delightful picnic at Orillia on Sunday, when a meeting was held at which addresses were delivered by several leaders of the Party.

A very serious fire broke out on Sunday morning on the canal side at Montreal, which caused a great deal of damage, including the destruction of a the steamer York a dredge, and a barge.

The present rulers of Canada have shown their magnanimity by declining to pay for the bust of Canada's greatest statesman, which was placed in the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa about two years ago.

The Hon. M. Chapleau has published a letter written by him to M. Ouimet, in vindication of his (the writer's) reputation. The meaning of some passages is rather obscure, probably from errors in translation.

An absent-minded druggist at Orangeville, while making up a prescription for a customer, managed to put in four grains of arsenic. The patient who swallowed the dose was taken very ill, and owes his life to the prompt and efficient attendance of two medical men.

A singular accident happened on King street, Bowmanville, on Saturday. Mr. Morgan Davies was driving home from his office, accompanied by his little daughter, and just after starting his horse took fright at something and commenced to run. A double team and carriage were crossing the street at the time ahead of him, and Mr. Davies' horse jumped across between the horses and carriage, breaking the pole from the carriage, and the dashboard, and some other parts of Mr. Davies' buggy. Mr. Davies and his daughter were violently thrown to the ground by the collision, but it is thought no serious injuries were inflicted.

AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER NOTES.

HEALTH OF FARMERS.

BY ALEXANDER HYDE.

It may be at the risk of a man's reputation to talk to farmers about the necessity of sleep. It has been a long customary to think and speak of the time spent in sleep as so much wasted, but to utter the sober truth on this subject may subject one to the suspicion of being either a sluggard or a lunatic. Has not Solomon, the wisest of men, said, "Drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags," and again, "Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty," and, still again, "O, sluggard, when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?" Yes, Solomon has said just so, and he has also said, "The sleep of a labouring man is sweet," and David, the father of Solomon, has said, "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late," and again, "He giveth His beloved sleep," and the disciples of One greater than either David or Solomon, said, "Lord, if he sleep he shall do well." Now Scripture is its own best interpreter, and interpreting these texts by each other we conclude that sleep in itself "*per se*," as John Tyler would say, is a good thing. That it may be indulged in to excess is as true of this as of every other blessing. That farmers, as a class, do not fully appreciate this blessing, may not be equally obvious, but is nevertheless equally true, and it may be worth while for them to consider the end which God had in view when He gave His beloved sleep.

"Blessings on the man who invented sleep," said Sancho. Thanks to the Great Creator who appointed the day for labour and the night for rest, says the Christian. Sleep is just as much the appointment of God as is work. Paul does, indeed, say, "If any will not work, neither shall he eat," but there is just as imperative a law, though an unwritten one, which says if a man does not sleep he shall surely die. After a week's sleeplessness, and in less time in some instances, the brain runs like a watch without a balance wheel, and soon the main-spring of life loses all its propelling power.

The two great restorers of exhausted nature are sleep and food, and which is the more important of the two it is impossible to say, as both are absolutely essential. Whether a man will die sooner for the want of food or the want of sleep, depends upon his constitution and habits. He will die soon enough and miserably enough in either case. No constitution can stand the constant strain of labour, or even of wakefulness. Nature must have her hours of recuperation, and there is more truth than poetry in the expression, "Kind nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

If a person is sick there is no better medicine than sleep. It is emphatically true of a sick person, that if he sleeps he is doing well. Fatigue is a temporary sickness, an exhaustion of the vital forces, for which sleep is a specific. No nostrum ever invented by quack or regular was half so sure of producing a cure. Farmers work hard as a general rule, and their muscles consequently become excessively fatigued. The simple remedy is sleep, and plenty of it. If any one attempts to cheat nature and work twenty-four hours in a day, the penalty is more sure than when he steals a sheep from his neighbour's flock. Every person has his modicum of vital energy to expend. If he draws upon this faster than it accumulates he may, possibly, do more in a day or a year than his more moderate neighbour, but the latter will, in a life-time, accomplish the most.

We hear it sometimes said "It is better to wear out than rust out," but it is better still to do neither. The miller stops grinding when his pond is exhausted, and if the farmer imitated the miller's example, and let his pond of vital force accumulate more each night, his machinery would last longer and do better work. When the muscles begin to yield an unwilling obedience to the dictates of the will then is the time to stop work and recruit by eating and sleeping. Farmers are careful not to overtax their horses, why should they overtax themselves? They know that when a horse has done a day's work, a night drive on the road, no matter if the moon does shine, is wont to make him stiff, but a certain farmer of our acquaintance seems to think that the moonlight was made purposely to give him time for extra labour, and we know many farmers who are stiffened up with rheumatism, which a little more sleep and less labour would have prevented.

But we must give a passing consideration as to the how of farmers' sleeping. The bedroom of the head of the household is, too frequently, a contracted apartment on the lower floor, handy to the kitchen, but poorly ventilated. The first requisite of health is pure air and an abundance of it, both when awake and when asleep. In the daytime farmers have this; for they are outdoors most of the time, and it is the secret of their general health and longevity. If they breathed as good air in the night as in the daytime, they would live longer and enjoy life more. If a person goes into one of these little, close bed-rooms, in the morning, the air seems intolerable, while the occupants of the room may be unconscious of its impurity, having become accustomed to it. Of the two, the sleeping apartment should be larger than the living room, for the latter is opened frequently, and is seldom occupied long at a time, but the bed-room is considered as an inner sanctum, and kept closed, though occupied many hours consecutively.

As a general rule the sleeping apartment should be on the second floor, where it is further removed from the dampness of the earth and catches more of the floating breezes. In any case it should be provided with ventilation. With a window let down and an open fire-place, or even an open stove door, there will be a constant circulation of air up the chimney. If there is no chimney in the room, then one window should be let down from the top, and another open at the bottom, when the fresh air will enter at the latter opening and pass out through the former. The bed should not be stuck up in one corner close to the wall, but placed so that the air may circulate freely around it, and the sleeper should lie with his face turned to the outside of the bed and not towards its centre. Of the practice of covering the head with the bed clothes of a cold winter's night we need not speak, for none but foolish children and half-witted men would think of doing such a thing.

The use of feather beds is still too common among farmers. Feathers are soft, and are good non-conductors of heat, and hence many rheumatic farmers think they can sleep on nothing else, especially in winter. But some of these old beds, having imbibed the perspiration of numberless bodies, possibly for generations, are only fit for the dung-hill, not because they have lost their warmth, but because they are too savoury. A fresh feather bed is enervating—an old one is a hot-bed of disease. On this point we will introduce the testimony of an observing woman, Mrs. Plunkett, of Pittsfield, Mass. Speaking of these nuisances in farmers' houses, she says: "These are often precious family heirlooms, and they had an excuse for being while yet stoves and furnaces were unheard of, but are none the less injurious for all that. A coarse sacking, filled with inexpensive straw, forms the under bed; on this is laid a huge bag filled with thirty or thirty-five pounds of feathers. The farmer, with his blood at boiling heat after a day's haying, lies down on this cheap and unpatented vapour bath and perspirator, and tries to go to sleep. Is it any wonder that he tosses and groans; that he finds his garments 'wringing wet' and himself nearly deliquesced; that he rises with the 'first streak of light' from pure misery? The poor wife who, very likely, in addition to all his discomforts, has suckled an infant all night, finds herself more dead than alive in the morning, and looks forward with justifiable shrinking to the tasks of the day, as she finds 'the baby all broken out with prickly heat,' and fretful accordingly. No wonder she calls this world 'a vale of tears,' and considers life a thoroughly puzzling problem. Feather beds are answerable for much of the debility among farmers' wives."

As to how long farmers should sleep, no general rule can be laid down. There is no doubt but that some constitutions require more sleep than others, and custom has much to do in the regulation of this matter. Franklin is said to have laid down this rule: "Six hours for a man, seven for a woman, and eight for a fool," but we do not believe Franklin was ever so foolish as to have promulgated such a dogmatic law. Another equally absurd maxim which was sounded frequently in our youthful ears was: "Five hours for some, six for many, and seven for any." The some are very few who can be satisfied with five hours' sleep. The most distinguished preacher of this country, and one who accomplishes prodigies of work, says he sleeps all he can, and the more he sleeps the more work he can accomplish. We have no doubt that farmers, as a class, do not sleep enough, though it is true that tired muscles recuperate sooner than exhausted brains.

Many farmers make a mistake in giving their children no more sleep than they allow to themselves. Childhood requires more sleep than maturity. The little infant does well when it sleeps pretty much all the time. As years increase less sleep is demanded, till we arrive to second childhood, when sleep, as an old Greek philosopher expressed it, hands us over to his twin brother, death. Rousing up boys at four or five o'clock of a Winter's morning and sending them out to do chores, or on to the mountain for a load of wood, is a sin against humanity. It brings on disease and premature old age. We see many labouring men at forty and fifty years of age bent over and walking as though it was a tax on their energies to drag one foot after the other. One great reason is that they have discounted the hours that should have been allotted to sleep. If a farmer makes it a rule to get up in season to hear the matin song of the birds, he should also make it a principle to go to bed at the same time with the feathered bipeds. Every man should study his own constitution, and eat, sleep, and work in such proportion as to make the most of life.—*New York Times.*

THIN SEEDING.

At a meeting of the Midland Farmers' Club held at Birmingham, England, Major Hallett read a paper on "Thin Seeding and the Selection of Seeds," in which wheat was first spoken of and the process of tillering—the great characteristic of all the cereals—described. At the Exeter meeting of the British Association he exhibited three plants of wheat, barley, and oats, each from a single grain, with the following; wheat, 94 stems; barley, 110 stems; oats, 87 stems. A plant of wheat required space for full development, and therefore time to fill that space. It was evident that the proper space and time to allow each grain were those which, while sufficient for full development, left no ground unoccupied at harvest. Such proper time must, it was plain, be much earlier than when wheat was planted so thickly that tillering could not take place. In reference to the time of sowing, the rate of wheat growth during the different months must be considered, and the best measure of this was the time it takes to come up. Wheat sown on the 1st of September comes up in seven days. In a mild autumn, wheat sown on the 1st of October comes up in 14 days; on the 1st of November, in 21 days; on the 1st of December, in 28 days. Assuming this to be the rate of wheat growth when it is up, then that which was up on the 1st of September made in the first 15 days of that month a growth equal to that of the whole month of October; in the next ten days a growth equal to that of the whole of November; and in the last five days of September a growth equal to that of the first twenty days of December; or, in other words, wheat up on the 1st of September, compared with that up on the 1st of October, had exactly a double autumn for growth before the winter set in. In determining the space to be assigned to each grain, they must deal with seed the result of continuous selection, for the vital powers of the different grains of ordinary wheat are so very unequal that it would be impossible to fix upon any uniform distance. In planting grains of wheat in August, singly, and twelve inches apart each way, all the requisite conditions of time and space seemed to be best fulfilled. He had known wheat planted on September 9, nine inches by nine inches, to produce at the rate of 108 bushels per acre. It was a matter for the maturest study and judgment to correctly apportion the quantity of seed to the time of sowing and to all the existing surrounding circumstances. As a general basis, he would suggest on a large scale the drilling of wheat as follows: End of August to the 10th of September, two or three gallons per acre; for each week later, to the end of September an additional gallon per acre. With regard to the selection of seed, Major Hallett said the importance of a good pedigree for animals, as also for some agricultural plants, was fully recognized; but the moment the farmer dealt with cereals he altogether ignored the great principle of like producing like. Upon that great principle running through all nature he based his system of selection. After alluding to the benefits which had resulted from the principle of selection in many agricultural plants, such as parsnips, cabbages, turnips, potatoes, hops, &c., he said that close observation showed that in the cereals, as throughout nature, no two plants or grains are precisely alike in productive power, and hence that of any two or greater number of grains or plants one is always superior to all the others, although that superiority can be discovered only by actual trial. This superiority may consist in various particular characteristics. The following were the chief points of his standard in order of their importance, but all have to be duly considered: 1, hardihood of constitution; 2, trueness of type; 3, quality of sample; 4, productiveness; 5, power of tillering; 6, stiffness and toughness of straw; 7, earliness of ripening. The plan of selection which he pursued was as follows: A grain produced a plant, consisting of many ears. He planted the grains from these ears in such a manner that each year occupied a row by itself, each of its grains occupying a hole in this row; and the holes being twelve inches apart every way. At harvest, after the most careful study and comparison of the plants from all these grains, he selected the finest one, which he accepted as a proof that its parent grain was the best of all, under the peculiar circumstances of that season. This process was repeated annually, starting every year with the proved best grain, although the verification of this superiority was not obtained until the following harvest. After giving instances of the results due to the influence of selection alone, by which the length of the ears had been doubled, their contents nearly trebled, and the tillering power of the seed increased five-fold, Major Hallett next proceeded to consider what might be effected by the combination of thin seeding with selection. Taking the seed wheat sown by a usual mode at two bushels per acre, 1½ millions of grains per acre (speaking roughly) were put into the ground. In ordinary crops the number of ears produced per acre being taken as about 1,000,000 and the crop as 34 bushels, they had, at 700,000 grains to the bushel, 23,800,000 grains per acre, or an average per ear of only 23 to 24 grains; and if more than 1,000,000 ears per acre were claimed it must be at the expense of their contents. Five pints of wheat per acre planted in September, 12 inches by 12 inches, gave 1,001,880 ears per acre, or 67,600 ears in excess of those produced on the other side of the hedge from 2 pecks, or more than 21 times the seed. Again, 5 pints planted 12 inches by 12 inches, Oct. 17, gave 958,320 ears per acre; and planted similarly Oct. 4, 966,792 per acre; while one bushel planted Oct. 15 gave only 812,160. Two plants of 24 ears each gave 1,911 and 1,878 grains, or 79 per ear. Twenty ears per foot, at 48 grains only per ear, would produce 11 quarters per acre.

DAIRY MAXIMS.

Milk will sour quicker if the cows are fed on sour milk. This is not objectionable for butter making, but it is objectionable for cheese making.

Cream from a farrow cow's milk will not all come if churned with cream from new milch cows. The mixed cream will make more butter than the cream from new milch cows alone, but not as much as if the cream is churned separately.

If I were receiving milk from low, swampy grounds, or from pastures filled with weeds, or from prairies, I would scald it. By heating to 150 deg. I would drive away the taint, but the scalding would also drive away the aroma of the timothy, clover, or June grass.

Cream can be raised by freezing, but this is not practised on this continent.

If milk is kept at a low temperature the cream rises slowly.

The effect of a sudden change in milk or cream is to injure the keeping quality of butter.

Whey, as it comes from the factory, invariably has a bad effect when fed to cows. If fed while fresh and sweet, it is not objectionable.

Raising cream by freezing does not expel the animal odour. Neither does it destroy germs in milk.

The cream which rises first makes a better quality of butter than that which rises last. The more aroma in butter, the less time it will keep. So with cheese.

In the Spring I would work all the cream into the cheese, to ripen it sooner and make it better, and work it off at Spring prices. Later in the season would skim more.

The cream from ordinary cows can nearly all be worked into cheese. It could not be done with milk from the Jerseys or other cows whose cream rises slowly.

To avoid greasy butter, churn with pressure instead of friction. The dash churn brings butter by pressure, and makes better butter than most other kinds of churns. Butter should also be worked by pressure instead of friction. The ladle or worker should not be drawn across the butter, but pressed down upon it.

Milk, while being scalded for taint, should be stirred.

Results favour shallow setting instead of deep setting. The amount of cream seems larger sometimes from deep setting, but it is owing to the fact that in deep setting the large globules carry with them considerable milk. The amount of butter from deep setting will be less than from shallow setting.—*Prof. L. B. Arnold.*

SELECTION OF SEED.

A contemporary says: "All the improvements that have taken place in vegetables, grains, or animals, from the original wild stock up to their most highly developed present condition, are due to selection of seed or parents and cultivation and feeding. Without the former the latter is ineffectual, for by selecting the best seed from a well-grown plant, the step gained is permanently held and made the base for another step upward, but if this selection is neglected the next crop reverts to its poor original type, and the gain which has been made is lost. It is well to consider this matter at the present time, when a selection of seed of the best and cleanest character can easily be made. If it is not convenient to select sufficient for the whole crop, a quantity sufficient for an acre or less might easily be selected if only by passing around the field and choosing the largest ears from the thriftiest portion of the field, carefully avoiding the gathering the seed of a single weed. In this way we have selected from the edges of a wheat-field, where the plants were fully exposed to light and air, those ears only which were over six inches in length, and which grew from thickly stooled plants. A bushel of seed thus gathered, sown upon an acre of well prepared ground the next year, gave a produce of nearly forty bushels, many of the stools leaving thirty stalks and ears from six to nine inches in length. The produce of this second crop scattered through the neighbourhood, being all sold for seed, greatly increased the average yield, and started a general effort toward improving the local varieties. It is not in foreign nor high-priced seed that excellence of quality consists altogether. When an extreme price is paid for selected seed, we do but pay for a service performed by another, that we may equally well perform for ourselves. It is necessary only that it be known what is to be done, and how to do it.

"As the sheaves come in from the field the best of them may be laid aside until an opportunity occurs, when every stalk of cheat, cockle, ox eye daisy, or other weed should be picked out, and the grain thrashed by beating the sheaf with a light rod, so that the grain be not cracked or broken. The grain should then be cleaned from chaff, freed from all light seeds, and be kept by itself, and sown thinly by itself in a well-manured spot. Next season from this spot the best heads only should be selected, and the course repeated with care and perseverance for a few years."

Worms in Timber.—The worm that produces what is known as powder post in hickory or oak is not indigenous to the wood, neither is it the same insect as the borer, although operating at the same time, and in a similar manner. The borer is the least troublesome, as it will not deposit its eggs where the bark is removed, but the insect that produces the powder post worm will deposit its eggs in the interstices of the surface, and, after the worm is hatched, it works in seasoned as well as partially seasoned timber, always following the porous strata of the wood. Experience has shown that the ravages of these worms may be greatly checked, if not entirely prevented, by cutting the tree at the time of year when it contains the least sap. The practice is, of course, governed by the locality, the safest time being the two months following the fall of the leaves. At this period the wood is more compact than at any other, and there is less substance for the worm to subsist on. Some object to cutting the timber at this season, on the ground that it is not as tough and heavy as when cut in the early spring, and they claim that the ravages of the insect may be prevented by removing the bark and placing the timber in