where he shall guide. In the meantime, he will find you cale lodgings for the night, and give you sufficient to bear your expenses home, whither I wish you to return as soon as possible, and be assured that your case shall not be forgotten."

It is generally known that James, with a love of justice, had a considerable share of eccentricity in his character, and that he frequently went over the country in various disguises—such as a pedlar, an itinerant musician, or even a wandering beggar. The disguise were sometimes assumed for the purpose of discovering the abuses practised by his servants, and not unfrequently from the love of frolic, and, like the Caliph in the Arabian Tales, in quest of amusement. On these occasions when he chose to discover himself, it was always by the designation of the Gudeman of Ballengeich. He had a private passage by which he could leave the palace, unseen by any one, and he would make his retreat alone, or accompanied by a disguised attendant, according to his inclination.

On the present occasion he determined to visit the Warden of the March incog, and, making the necessary arrangements, he soon arrived in Annandale. His inquiries concerning the widow and Mary corroborated the opinion he had previously formed, and learning where Mary resided, he resolved to repair thither in person disguised as a mendicant. On approaching the farmer's he had to pass a rivulet, at which their was a girl washing linen, and a little observation convinced him it was Mary Morrison. When near, he pretended to be taken suddenly ill, and sat down on a knoll, groaning piteously Mary came instantly to him, tenderly inquiring what ailed him, and whether she could render him any assistance. James replied it was a painful distemper, by which he was frequently attacked; but if she could procure him a draught of warm milk, that and an hour's rest would relieve him. Mary kindly said, if he could with her assistance walk to the farm, which she pointed out near by, he would be kindly cared for. She assisted him to rise, and, taking his arm, permitted him to lean upon her shoulder, as they crept slowly along. He met much sympathy in the family, and there he heard the history of Mary and Wallace Maxwell (not without execrations on the warden for his indolence) and their affirmations that they were sure, if the King knew how he neglected his duty, he would either be dismissed or severely punished; although the former had spoken plainer than others whom James had conversed with, he found that Sir John was generally disliked, and he became impatient for the hour of retribution.

Marching back towards Dumfries, James rendezvoused for the night in a small village called Duncow, in the parish of Kirkmahoe, and next morning he set out for Amisfield, which lay in the neighborhood, disguised as a beggar. Part of his retinue he left in Duncow, and part he ordered to lie wait in a ravine near Amisfield till he should require their assistance. Having cast away his beggar's cloak, he appeared at the gate of the warden's castle in the dress of a plain countryman, and requested the porter to procure him an immediate audience of Sir John. But he was answered that the warden had just sat down to dinner, during which it was a standing order that he should never be disturbed, on any pretence whatever.

"And how long will he sit," said James.

"Two hours, perhaps three; he must not be intruded on till his bell ring," replied the porter.

"I am a stranger and cannot wait so long; take this silver groat, and go to your master, and say that I wish to see him on business of importance, and will detain him only a few minutes."

The porter delivered the message, and soon returned, saying. "Sir John says that however important your business may be, you must wait his time, or go the way you came."

"That is very hard—there are other two groats; go again, and say that I have come from the Border, where I saw the English preparing for an incursion, and have posted thither with the information; and that I think he will be neglecting his duty if he did not immediately fire the beacons and alarm the country."

This message was also carried and the porter returned with a sorrowful look, and shaking his head.

"Well, does the warden consent to see me?" said the anxious stranger, who had gained the porter's good will by his liberality.

"I beg your pardon, friend," replied the menial, "but I must deliver Sir John's answer in his own words; he says if you choose to wait too hours he will then see whether you are a knave or a fool; but if you send another such impertinent message to him both you and I shall have cause to repent it. However, for your civility, come with me, and I will find you something to eat, and a horn of good ale to put off the time till Sir John can be seen."

"I give you hearty thanks, my good fellow; but, as I said, I cannot wait. Here, take these three groats; go again to the warden, and tell him that the Gudeman of Ballengeich insists upon seeing him immediately."

No sooner was the porter's back turned than James winded his bugle-horn so loudly, that its echoes termed to shake the castle walls; and the porter found his master in consternation, which his message changed into fear and trembling.

As the time the warden had reached the gate, James had thrown off his coat, and stood arrayed in the garb and insignia of royalty, while his train of nobles were galloping up in great haste. When they were collected around him, the king, for the first time, condescended to address the terrified warden, who had prostrated himself at the feet of his sovereign.

"Rise, Sir John," said he with a stern and commanding air. "You bade your porter tell me that I was either knave or fool, and you were right, for I have erred in delegating my power to a knave like you."

With a faltering tongue and a quivering lip the warden attempted to excuse himself, by stammering out that he did not know he was wanted by his majesty.

"Put I sent you a message that I wished to speak with you on business of importance, and you refused to be disturbed. The meanest of my subjects has access to me at all times; I hear before I condemn; and shall go so with you, against whom I have many and heavy charges."

"Will it please your majesty to honour my humble dwelling with your presence, and afford me an opportunity of speaking in my own defence?" said the justly alarmed warden.

"No, Sir John, I will not enter beneath that roof as a judge, where I was refused admission as a petitioner. I hold my court at Hoddam Castle, where I command your immediate attendance; where I will hear your answer to the charges I have against you. In the meantime, before our departure you will give orders for the entertainment of my retinue, men and horses, at your castle, during my stay in Annandale."

The king then appointed several of the lords in attendance to accompany him to Hoddam Castle, whither he commanded the warden to follow him with all possible dispatch.

Sir John was conscious of negligence, and even something worse, in the discharge of his duty, although ignorant of the particular charges to be brought against him; but when ushered into the presence of his sovereign, he endeavored to assume the easy confidence of innocence.

James proceeded instantly to business, by inquiring if there was not a recent incursion at a small outstanding party, in which a poor widow's cow was carried off, her house plundered, and her son taken prisoner; and if she did not early next morning state this to him, requesting him to recover her property.

"Did you, Sir John, do your utmost in the case?"

"I acknowledge I did not; but the widow shall have the best cow in my possession, and her house furnished anew; I hope that will satisfy your Majesty."

"And her son, how is he to be restored?"

"When we have the good fortune to make an English prisoner, he can be exchanged."

"Mark me, Sir John! If Wallace Maxwell is not brought before me in good health, within a week from this date, you shall hang by the neck from that tree waving before the window. I have no more to say at present; be ready to wait on me in one hour when your presence is required."

The warden knew the determined resolution of the king, and instantly dispatched a confidential servant, vested with full powers, to procure the liberation of Wallace Maxwell, at whatever price, and to bring him safely back without a moment's delay. In the meantime, a retinue of men and horse, amounting to several hundred, were living at free quarters in Sir John's castle, and the visits of the king diffusing gladness and joy over the whole country.

Next morning James sent the young nobleman, whom he had pointed out to the widow at Stirling, to bring her and Mary Morrison to Hoddam Castle. He received both with easy condescension; when the widow, with much grateful humility, endeavoured to express her thanks, saying that Sir John had, last evening, sent her a cow worth double that she had lost; also blankets and other articles of higher value than all that had been carried away; but, with tears in her eyes, she said all these were at nothing without her dear son, assuring them that their request had not been neglected. James dismissed them, with the joyful hope of soon seeing Wallace, as he would send for them immediately on his arrival.

The distress of the warden increased every hour, for he was a prisoner in his own castle; and his feelings may be conjectured, when he received a message from the king commanding him to come to Hoddam Castle next day by noon, and either bring Wallace Maxwell along with him, or prepare for a speedy exit into the next world. He had just seen the sun rise, of which it seemed probable he should never see the setting, when his servant arrived with Wallace, whose liberty had been purchased at an exorbitant ransom. Without allowing the young man time to rest, Sir John hurried him off to Hoddam Castle, and sent in a message that he waited an audience of his Majesty.

To make sure of the youth's identity, the king went instantly for his mother, and the meeting called forth all the best feelings of his heart, for maternal affection triumphed over every other emotion; and it was only after the first ebullition of it had subsided, that she bade him kneel to his sovereign, to whom he owed his liberty, and most probably his life. Wallace gracefully bent his knee, and took heaven to witness that both should be devoted to his majesty's service.

James was delighted with the manly appearance and gallant behavior of Wallace; and after having satisfied himself of the sincerity of his attachment to Mary, he ordered him to withdraw.

He next dispatched a messenger for Mary, who, the moment she came, was ushered into the presence of Sir John; James marking the countenance of both—that of Mary flushed with resentment, while her eyes flashed with indignant fire. The pale and deadly hue which overspread the warden's cheek was a tacit acknowledgement of his guilt "Do you know that young woman, Sir John? Reply to my questions truly; and be assured that your life depends upon the sincerity of your answers," said the king, in a determined and stern voice

"Yes, my liege, I have seen her," said Sir John, his lip quivering and his tongue faltering.

"Where?"

"At Amisfield.'

"On what occasion?"

"She came to me for the release of Wallace Maxwell."

"And you refused her, except upon conditions which were an insult to her, and a disgrace to yourself. Speak; is it not so?"

"To my shame, my sovereign, I confess my guilt; but I am willing to make all the reparation in my power; and I leave it to be named by your majesty."

"You deserve to be hanged, Sir John; but when I look on that face I acknowledge your temptation; and it pleads a mitigation of punishment. You know that Mary loves and is beloved by Wallace Maxwell, whom you have already ransomed; you shall give him a farm of not less than fifty acres of good land, rent free, during his life, or that of the woman he marries: and father, you shall stock it with cattle; and every article necessary, with a comfortable dwelling;—all this you shall perform within three months from this date. If you think these conditions hard, I give you the alternative of swinging from that tree before sunset.. Take your choice."

"My sovereign, I submit to the conditions, and promise that I shall do my best to make the couple happy.

Wallace was now called in, when Mary clasped him in her arms, both falling on their knees before their sovereign. He raised them up, and said, "I have tried both your loves, and found them faithful. Your Mary is all that you believed her, and brings you a dowry which she will explain. I shall see your hands united before I leave Annandale, and preside at the feast. Let your care of the widow be a remuneration for what she has done for both, and I trust all of you will long remember the Gudeman of Ballengeich visit to Annandale."

A New Work at Chicago.

The tunnel so far from satisfying, has only whetted Chicago enterprise. The Illinois legislature will be asked at the next session to charter a joint stock and warehouse company. The company proposes to dock out from the causeway of the Michigan Central Railroad into the lake, along the entire front of the south division. To effect this it will be necessary to build a new break water, about a third of a mile from the shore The basin thus formed could be divided into alternate basin-piers and docks. Upon these piers the company will erect their warehouses. A city which has sixteen miles of river dockage and yet wants and needs more, may be said, without much hesitation to be in a prosperous condition.

There is something exquisite in an American's reply to the European traveller, when he asked him if he had just crossed the Alps, "Wal, now you call my attention to the fact, I guess I did pass raisin' ground"

Railway to Brantford.

We observe that the people of Brantford are stirring themselves to obtain a branch line of the Great Western Railway from Harrisburg to that town. No doubt, the inconvenience at present to passengers, who wish to reach Brantford by rail from Hamilton and other eastern points, is very great. The ever-recurring delays and disapointments consequent on the Buffalo and Lake Huron trains to connect with the Great Western trains at Paris, have been felt to be a real grievance to travellers. When the freight business is considered, the advantage from the proposed line is much enhanced. The cost of transhipment at Paris, and the inconvenience of dealing with two railroads instead of one, in shipping merchandise to or from Brantford, are a serious hindrance to that important and prosperous section of country. The manufacturing interest of Brantford would, as well as the agricultural, receive an impetus from the proposed extension. A branch line from Harrisburg to Brantford, in connection with the Great Western Railroad, would at once reduce the distance for passengers passing west to Brantford not less than ten miles.

GODERICH SALT IN STRATFORD.—On Friday last, our enterprising townsman Mr. Corcoran returned from Goderich bringing with him an excellent sample of the salt now in course of being manufactured in that town. Mr. C. visited the works, and having ascertained the superior quality of the article, at once secured a car load, which is the first shipment the company made. Mr C. says the Goderich salt is equal to the best imported from England, containing but one per cent of foreign ingredients, viz. magnesia—whilst the Syracuse salt contains 2½ per cent—chiefly iron—and the Saginaw salt an equal per centage but chiefly lime. In the meantime owing to a scarcity of the article the price has not been reduced. Our Goderich friends may "thank their stars" that they struck salt instead of oil, which for the present at least, is a mere drug in the market.—*Beacon.*

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, DEC. 20, 1866.

A Republic within a Republic.

"Whoop! Hurra!" shouted an Irishman one, on landing at New York, "I'm all the way from Cork, an' I'm agin the Government!" That was poor Pat's idea of American liberty. He had heard in a vague sort of way that in this blessed country he could do pretty much as he pleased, and he determined to assert his natural rights as soon as any one had temerity enough to "thread on the tail of his coat." After all the Irishman was not so far wrong. Although cuffed about a good deal at times, Patrick has had a great deal of his own way. For digging canals and building railroads he was considered indispensable, and when it came to fighting the poor fool was in the midst of the "skrimmage," while the natives boosed it as officers, or revelled in the sweet pickings of the commissary department. And now the reward is before us. There is *within* the Great Republic of America, another and an *Irish* Republic, having a President, Secretary of State, Senate, and the Fenian Brotherhood only knows what. Such an anomaly could only exist in a country where strange anomalies are the rule, not the exception. We venture to say that no other nation on the face of the globe would permit a body of men to band together for the openly-avowed purpose of waging war upon a foreign country with which it is on friendly terms. The Fenians of the United States do not act altogether in comedy. They have openly changed the wreched rifles of June last into breech-loaders, they depart in large bodies for Ireland, they talk about issuing letters of marque to privateers, (in fact some of these pirates may be on the ocean at this moment) and they declare in the hearing of a professedly Christian and civilized people that they *will* yet overrun Canada, the people of which have never injured them in any way. Are they denounced as dangerous characters? Are they told that their organization is dangerous in the extreme? No! The press of the the United States prompts them—urges them on to their own destruction! There will be a just retribution upon all this. In their efforts to create a rebellion in Ireland, the Fenians will dash themselves against the power of the British Empire, and be crushed, and the day will come when they will turn upon those who now aid them in hatching the evil eggs of sedition and rapine.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL ACT.

The Municipal Act assented to on the 15th of August last, necessitates to all intents and purposes an entire change in the working of an institution in which every ratepayer of the country is deeply interested. And yet it cannot be denied that the framers of the Act have managed to surround it with a mass of verbiage which renders it as nearly unintelligible as an act of Parliament can possible be. It is really astounding how a large body of intelligent educated man could deliberately send out such a document. Were it some law regulating the taxation of lawyers' bills of costs the gentlemen of the long robe would, no doubt, sift the meaning out in some satisfactory manner, but we contend that an enactment intended for the guidance of plain but well-meaning people throughout the length and breadth of the country, should have been couched in plain English, and in clear, concise terms. As it is, many of the clauses of the new Act might as well be printed in Arabic or any other outlandish language. Township Clerks puzzle their brains over them, returning officers are in many cases at their wit's end, and even lawyers who have devoted years of study to municipal affairs can do no more than differ from each other, or express their opinion that such and such is the meaning intended to be conveyed. If ever O'Connell's statement that you can drive a coach and four through any Act of Parliament was verified, it is in this instance. We will not accuse the lawyer legislators with having purposely introduced ambiguities as a matter of business, but we do mean to say that it was disgraceful to allow such a crude document to find a place on our Statute books, before it had been revised and rendered ordinarily intelligible to the masses. The trouble that will inevitably attend the working of the new law will surely demand prompt action at the next meeting of Parliament.

HOW THEY ARE TRYING TO DO IT.

The opponents of Mr. Detlor, or rather some of them, are using weapons against him which are certainly not very honorable. For lack of some better argument they take for a text that he has taken his name from the store formerly occupied by him and transferred the establishment to his sons—they twist an extract from one of his former speeches to mean that he is in favor of trampling on the working classes,—they state that he said publicly at last nomination that he would not stand any more than that year—and they descend to matters of private character as if *any* class of right-thinking men had a right to do that, when they have a popular candidate's public career before them.

Now, if Mr. Detlor had retired from business *altogether*, after many years of hard work, he would have done what every man wishes to do, and what many thousands have done before him. The argument that by making a change in his business relations he is thereby preparing to leave the town or paving the way for such a contingency, is too puerile to have the slightest weight, and those who use it know in their souls that Mr. Detlor is no more likely to leave Goderich than Mr. Crabb. As well argue that because the latter offered the bulk of his property for sale as a Market that he wished to get away. Nor is there more consistency in the attempt to attribute to him a spirit inimical to the working classes. The language he made use of at the last Mayoralty Nomination, which has been distorted, as we have said, to convey this idea, was as follows:—

"It was supposed by the statesmen who gave us our municipal system that they were conferring a boon upon us, but they had all seen in too many instances how it had been abused, and in consequence of that abuse of power right thinking men were frequently deterred from accepting the honors offered them. When the Hon. Mr. Cauchon was offered the Mayoralty of Quebec, what did he say? His answer was, "No, I will have nothing to do with it while there is so much license on the part of the people." He even said he would advocate that that power be revoked and vested in Commissioners."

Now, no man can reasonably find fault with such language. There is no doubt that the great power placed in the hands of the people has been abused in many instances, and that good and efficient men have been deterred, by the knowledge that one or two individuals had the power of traducing their private character, from having anything to do with public life.—And we are sorry to have to say one or two of Mr. Detlor's opponents are acting at present *as though they were the very persons* Mr. Cauchon had in his mind's eye when he uttered the above remark.—Mr. Detlor is essentially a self made man, who has pushed his way up from a humble sphere of life—he has worked hard side by side with those who endured the hardships and privations of pioneer life, and he has done his individual share towards making the country of his birth what it is at this moment, a place where through industry, economy and the exercise of intelligence every man in the community may hope to *rise*, no matter how small and feeble the beginning. The strongest language we ever heard Mr. Detlor use in reference to the poorer class of the country, was when, in the County Council, he advocated the principle of *compelling* every parent to give his child the rudiments of education at the schools which have been so freely established by the workers, and he urged the idea strongly. Did that show a disposition to trample down the poorer classes? His arguments were coolly enough received at first, but he afterwards saw the idea embodied in a resolution of the body he then addressed, and ultimately forming a part of the policy of the Chief Superintendent of Education.

The assertion that Mr. Detlor stated at last nomination that it would be the closing year of his public life, is without a shadow of foundation. We have carefully examined the printed report of what he *did* say on that occasion, and we are prepared to prove that he used no such language or anything approaching to it. His friends may give him their hearty support and, no doubt, will do so, fully believing that his public character is devoid of a single stain of dishonor, and utterly regardless of the calumnies hurled against him.

GREAT FIRE.

A Large Frame Block Consumed.

On Monday morning last about 3.30 a fire broke out in a large frame building owned by Mr. James Watson, baker, on the South side of the Market Square in this town.—When first discovered the fire was confined to Mr. W. Gibbons' drug store. The alarm was given and in a very few minutes the fire engine was out, but unfortunately the valves were frozen, and it was found impossible to work it. The flames rapidly spread, enveloping in succession the drug store mentioned, Mr. W. Moss' shoe shop, Mr. E. L. Johnston's photographic rooms, which had been recently fitted up at great expense, and finally Mr. H. Dunlop's tailoring establishment. Little or nothing of Mr. Gibbons' property was saved, and he is a heavy loser, although insured for $600. Mr. Moss saved his stock all but a few dollars' worth. Mr. Johnston, the heaviest loser of all, saved a few of his most valuable instruments, but although partially insured, must have suffered a loss of at least $1000. Nearly all of Mr. Dunlop's goods were got out safely. His loss is covered by insurance. At one time Dark's Hotel adjoining was in great danger, the heat having broken all the glass in the windows on that side, and the flames having seized upon the shingle roof. By great exertions, however, the building was saved. The origin of the fire is, as yet, a complete mystery.

County Court and Quarter Sessions.

The newly-appointed Judge not having arrived, as expected, on the Tuesday afternoon of the Court week. Deputy Judge Toms continued the business on Wednesday morning. The following is a list of the civil cases disposed of:—

Connor vs. Scott—Verdict for plff., $110.03, Sinclair for plff.

Offay vs. Offay—Undefended issue.—Verdict for plff $142, Hays and Sinclair for plff, Cameron for def.

Mirks *et al* vs John McLeod—Verdict for plff, $225.60, Sinclair for plff, Gooding for def.

Jas Vanstone vs A Holland—Verdict for def, $147.30, Cameron for plff, Moss and Gooding for def.

Spence vs. Corrigan—Verdict for plff, $121.75, Doyle for plff.

Holland vs Vanstone—Verdict for plff, damages $305, Moss and Gooding for plff, Cameron for def.

John McHardy vs John McDonald—This was a case of trespass to goods, to recover the value of a horse seized by the Sheriff. Verdict for plff, $121, Cameron and Elwood for plff, Gooding and Moss for def.

Horton vs Brooks—Verdict by consent for plff.

Barber vs Wright. do do

McLennan vs Fraser—Verdict for plff, Sinclair for plff, Cameron for def.

The criminal business was, we are happy to say, very light. The following the only cases:—

The Queen vs Henry Mace, stealing a Carpet-bag from Dark's Hotel, the property of Mr. M Campbell, Lucknow.—Verdict guilty. Sentenced to 1 months hard work in gaol, Mr Lefroy for def.

The Queen vs Jacob Hobson — The prisoner was charged with having stolen a watch from John Gallagher in the fall of '65. The case for the defence, it will be remembered, was not ready at last court, and in the interim it seems the principal witness failed to be as clear on the main points as was requite for a conviction. M C Cameron for defence.

The Queen vs Wm Foster—Malicious injury to property. This was what is known as a "squatters claim" case, and was of no great importance. It passed off under a plea of right. Sinclair for def.

There were two or three other criminal matters before the Grand Jury in which true bills were found and bench warrants issued.

PRESENTMENT OF GRAND JURY.

The Jurors of Our Lady the Queen, upon their oathe present, that they have visited the County Gaol and find that in all its appointments it is admirably adapted for the purposes in view, and that the manner in which its keep reflects great credit on the Gaoler, Mr. Campaigne, and for cleanliness and comfort leaves nothing to be desired. The prisoners therein confined report that their treatment is good, and that they have no complaints to make.

The attention of the Jury has been called to the necessity of a more simplified plan for ventilating the building, and beg to submit that an opening be effected in the grating of the cupola, with ladder to entrance of same, in order to allow access of jail officials readily to the ventilator from the inside, and avoid the necessity of regulating the same from the outside of the building, and would express the opinion that if carried out and effected as pointed out and desired by Mr. Campaigne, the Gaoler, it will in no wise compromise the character of the gaol as a place of security.

The Jury further present that in visiting the gaol their attention was called to the case of a woman placed therein upon a plea of insanity. In conversing with her they found that her case was one deserving of pity and commiseration, as she is nearly sixty years of age, and very frail, and nearly destitute of clothing, and requiring more gentle nourishment than the common gaol allowance affords. The Jury regret that no House of Providence or other similar benevolent institution exists in the County, to which she may be sent, but respectfully submit that Mr. Campaigne be instructed to provide what necessaries may be required over and above gaol allowance, so that her comfort may be insured.

The Jury tender their congratulations at the lightness of the criminal calendar, both as regards character and number. And, lastly, the Jury bear their testimony to the courtesy and attention of the Crown Attorney, Ira Lewis, Esq.

W. M. SAVAGE,
Foreman.

Grand Jury Room, }
15th Dec. 1866. }

What did it Amount to?

A persisted, unmanly attempt has been made during the past six months to injure the public character of Robert Gibbons Esq., but what has it all amounted to? His traducers cannot get up a show of opposition, and he stands just as high in the estimation of the public as he ever did. So much for loud-mouthed abuse!

RESPECTABLE.—Some people seem to think that when we said Mr. Detlor's requisition was largely and respectably signed we meant to convey the meaning that the same could not be said of Mr. Crabb's. Many respectable men appear amongst the supporters of the latter, but surely they need not be thin-skinned about the matter, if their candidate is all they claim for him.

SQUIBS.—Parties have asked whether some of the recent squibs were not issued from this office, we answer, no! Nothing so disreputable has been sent out of the *Signal* office by us at any time, and when we cannot make a living without such sorry means, we will shut up shop.

TEMPERANCE MEETING.

A very successful Temperance Meeting was held in the basement of the Wesleyan Church last evening. The audience was a very fair one, and interesting addresses were delivered by Revds. R. Whiting and Forest, and the chairman, Mr. Wm. Dickson. Mr. James Thomson sang several pieces in good style.

☞ The United Counties' Council meet in the Court House this afternoon for the last time. The proceedings will be given in our next.

THE SALT WELL.—At a meeting of the directors last night, a number of tenders for the agency of disposing of the Salt manufactured were handed in, but it was finally determined to sell the article in bulk to Mr. Ramball at $1.20 per bbl, at the well.

ANOTHER DERRICK. — The indefatigable Platt has raised a derrick at his mills, and will soon be punching away at the rock below.

☞ In the Equilization Report of June last. Goderich was charged with $24,000 of village property by mistake. The sum should have been $4000.

REPEATED ATTEMPTS.—Let the individual who talks of Mr. Detlor's repeated attempts for the Mayoralty enquire how many times Mr. Crabb has tried his hand. How many times did he get eight votes in the town? How many times less even than that! Come now, give us a few items from the curiosities of municipal history.

COMMERCIAL ACADEMY.—The Christman vacation will commence on Monday, 24th inst. Classes will be resumed on Thursday, 3rd January, 1867. The anticipated success of this institution has, so far, been fully realized, and we trust that in future it will continue to be well patronized.

FIRE.—On Monday evening last a shanty occupied by one of Mr. Platt's coopers was burned, together with all the effects of the family. A liberal contribution has been raised to relieve the distress thus suddenly occasioned.

BALL.—The St. George's Society intend giving a Ball in the Victoria Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 20th inst. A large number of tickets have been sold already, and the affair promises to be a very brilliant one.

☞ We have received from Jas. Patton, Esq., a report of the recent examination of No. 2 school, Goderich tp, but as a similar report has already appeared in our columns we deem it unnecessary to publish a repetition. Of course there will be no offence taken.

☞ We are pleased to observe that David Patton, Esq., Goderich Township, passed a very successful examination on Friday last at the Military School, Toronto.

☞ People living in glass houses should never throw stones, and we would strongly advise the scribes who support Mr. Crabb to say no more against the private character of Mr. Detlor, for most assuredly if such a dishonorable method of municipal warfare is admissable a great many unpleasant things may be said of Mr. Crabb and his immediate supporters—things which if placed in print by some anonymous writer of squibs would bring a blush to the cheek of even the most hardened. We have not hitherto said one word against Mr. Crabb, and desire to treat him as a gentleman, but if he has any influence over his friends, we would urge him, in all sincerity, to put a stop to their ravings about *education, temper*, fitness for office, and all that. The *clique* supporting John V. Detlor is composed of the heaviest rate-payers of this town—men of all parties and creeds, and those guilty of such gratuitously insulting language will find in them a stronger determination than ever to elect the man of their choice.

Teachers Association.

The sixth regular meeting of the Teachers Association of Morris and Grey, was held in the school house at Ainlayville on Saturday the 8th inst. Owing to the almost impassable state of the roads; the attendance was not so good as usual. The following Office bearers were elected for the ensuing year viz:—Alexander McNair, President; Alex. Stewart, Vice President; Daniel Stewart, Secretary and Treasurer.

The subject discussed was—The best method of conveying the meaning of words—which was entered into with spirit and at considerable length. Some of those present were in favor of the use of dictionaries in schools, and others were for discarding the use of them except with advanced classes. The general conclusion arrived at was, that the best method was to teach the meanings of words in their relations to sentences; and thus to develop a spirit of inquiry and investigation in the minds of the pupils. Next meeting to be held on the first Saturday of February next, the subject of discussion to be—1st the value of Military training in schools, 2nd the reason of the mean construction of the majority of country school houses.

DANIEL STEWART,
Secretary.

The Fenian Privateer Reported Afloat.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The *World's* Boston telegram says, a Fenian Privateer is stated to have successfully eluded Federal vigilance and sailed from Newburyport several days ago *en route* for the Irish coast. The vessel in question is alleged to be the schooner *Estelle*, of 700 tons burden, and is said to be armed with the most improved and destructive ordinance, suited in calibre to that of the vessel, with a rifled 68 pound privot gun aft, and to contain a picked crew of more than 200 men, who have seen service in our iron-clads during the recent war.

The Fenian officials here state that before leaving for Ireland, Stephens issued letters of marque and reprisals to the *Estelle* to capture, burn, sink or destroy any English vessel out of neutral waters that she may encounter, and Captain Burke announced his intention of making the Atlantic too hot for a British ship. It is declared that the incoming Cunard steamer is to be captured at all hazards, and to that end the *Estelle* has sailed directly in the track of the expected vessels; others will follow as chance offers, and it is purposed to detach a portion of the arms and men on the *Estelle* to the most available English crafts captured, and thus improvise another privateer.

Important from Mexico.

HAVANA, Dec. 8.—Mexican news to 2nd inst. has been received. Maximilian has decided not to abandon the Empire, and has issued a proclamation communicating said facts. It was distributed among the people and affixed to the walls at the principal corners of the streets. It says that the Emperor still sacrifices himself for us, postpones his duties as a man for those devolving on him as a sovereign in these critical moments through which the country is passing, and solemnly declares that he will continue as the head of the Government, and will battle without rest till the last drop of his blood is shed for the defence of his dear nation.

The Barnsely Explosion.

SECOND EXPLOSION.

LONDON, Dec. 13, (evening).—A second explosion took place in the same colliery at Barnsley, while a large number of miners were trying to save the survivors of the former disaster, and thirty additional lives were lost. Another terrible explosion has taken place in a colliery in Staffordshire attended with great loss of life.

Barnsley, Dec. 13—This colliery contained the largest pit in this district of the country. The shaft is 270 yards deep, and the lateral works extend to a distance of two miles from the bottom. Nearly four hundred men and boys were in the mine at the time of the explosion, most of whom perished, 9 p. m 13th—Every aid is being given to rescue the survivors. Exploring parties have counted thirty-eight dead within the space of fifty yards. A few of the unfortunate victims have been brought out alive, but badly mutilated. Engineers are of the opinion that, owing to the foul air, there can be no more alive in the works. If this is so, over three hundred human beings lie dead in the recesses of the pit. The excitement among the families in the town is most intense and painful, and the works and vicinity have been a scene of wailing and despair all day. A similar accident occurred some twenty years ago, at the same pit, by which 73 lives were lost.

Barnsley, Dec. 13—Another explosion took place in the same pit 9 o'clock this morning, while working parties were finding and drawing out the dead. Several officials and a number of volunteers were in the pit at the time of the second disaster, and it is feared that they have all perished. The exciting scenes of yesterday were renewed,

Later.—Some of the volunteers have been taken out alive.

THE WONDERFUL GUN.—"I had a gun once—so excellent a gun—why, the moment a thief came into the house, it went off, though never charged?"—"Amazing! How did it come so?"—"The thief carried it off."

A FRIEND in the army writes: "An Irish soldier brought me an old brass watch to fix It was well worth ten dollars to repair it, and I asked him whether he wanted it fixed at that figure. 'Och, and sure I will,' was the reply. 'if you will agree to take the watch as part pay.

WONDERFUL SAGACITY OF A DOG. The Montreal *Gazette* reports that on the 26th inst. while Dr. Hamilton, of Sutton, C E., was driving his rounds with a pair of spirited horses, one young and only partially broken, the reins became deranged, removing his power over them, and he was thrown from the carriage and considerably, though not seriously injured. But, strange to relate, his dog "Jake," who accompanied him followed the horses, and after they had run a quarter of a mile stopped them by jumping and seizing the young horse's rein near the mouth, and held them until some neighbors who saw the occurrence came to relieve him.

A Parisian authograph monger advertises signatures of Seward at ten francs; of Jefferson Davis for fifteen, and of McClellen for twenty.

Letter from S. P. Yeomans

To the Editor of the Huron Signal:

SIR,—A person who has always been surrounded by jovial companions in his own country, to be suddenly transplanted among strangers in a foreign land, naturally feels that he is a sort of "Robinson Crusoe," barring the "monarch of all Survey." As he looks back upon his former home and the happy days he has spent there, and thrusts his hands into his pockets up to his elbows, where instead of *jingling* the national coin of his own country, he shakes together a few of Uncle Sam's "shin-plasters," the elongation of his countenance becomes remarkably interesting and expressive. Under such circumstances he will find it difficult at times to be as smiling and humorsome as recommended by the "Poor Young Man" who writes such excellent articles for your journal. But an evening spent with Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller, I grant, will cause a wonderful contraction to take place even in the countenance of "Jingle" or sleepy "Joe."

Let a Canadian get aboard the train at Chicago some sun-shiny morning in the beginning of August, and after a day's ride across the prairies in the "Sucker State," he will see where Uncle Sam's johnny-cake comes from, and as he casts his eye on and on over cornfields as far as the eye can reach, and catches a last glimpse of the setting sun reflecting his rays upon the forest trees in Iowa, he will find himself deposited upon the banks of the "father of waters," the great Mississippi. If he is at all *aquatic* in his inclinations and jolly in his disposition he will soon have an opportunity of throwing up his hat and a hearty cheer at the arrival of a "Mississippi flat-boat." To keep up his spirits after a long day's ride across the prairies, the inner man must be refreshed, and being just in season he will find the hotels and eating houses amply provided with all the luxuries of the Great West, which consist chiefly of hot-rolls, pumpkin-pies, and apple-*sass*. All restraint is gone. Red tape is played out. "Richard is himself." Every one takes such an interest in him that even the ladies in the house and the servant-maids (excuse me girls, "*hetps*") ask him where he came from? Where he is going to? How long he is going to stay? How his mother is? And if he is not glad to get out of Canada and into a free country? To all of which your correspondent, in order to excite their curiosity, with a polite bow, informed them that he was just on his way from Canada to Texas to "shoot bears."

The next morning he takes leave of such friends as he has made at the hotel, and with his carpet bag in his hand, steps aboard a *flat boat* for the first time in his life, with a heart "light, merry and free," in the fulness of his heart he can adopt that good, homely, expressive and democratic language, "fellow-citizens." The flat-boat heads down stream. He has Iowa on his right hand and Illinois on his left. His fellow-passengers are the most cheerful, open-hearted and sociable fellows he has ever met with; there are no quizzing glasses brought to bear upon him, and the ladies make themselves "so agreeable" that he cannot help but enjoy himself if he tries. He is so often addressed as "Captain," "Colonel," "Major," "Judge," or "Doctor," (never lower than a "saw-bones") that in order to do away with all doubt as to the correctness of his *handle* he politely informed them, as he assumes a perpendicular attitude, that he is an *E. C. G. H. G*—(Ex-Captain Goderich "Home Guards.")

After a pleasant trip of two days and nights our flat-boat hauls up at St. Louis, in Missouri, where the scene changes. Our light hearted Canadian becomes the subject of sorrow and mourning, in consequence of the wickedness and depravity of the inhabitants of the "Puke-State," and especially at their inability to distinguish between other peoples' property and their own." (as Judge Toms once told a criminal in Goderich). His state room has been entered and his *only coat* feloniously taken therefrom. But in all our misfortunes experience teaches us that we can find some one to sympathise with us. It was so in this instance in the person of a little French frog-eater, who having lost his coat also, let off steam in Franco-English with such rapidity that he did not make it sufficiently intelligible to get back either of the coats, or compensation from the officers of the flat-boat for them.

The command is given from the deck of our flat-boat, "all aboard," "haul in the plank," and our coatless friends are left in the city, meditating upon the past, present and future. The cholera is raging through the city; its inhabitants are becoming its victims at the rate of at least two hundred a day. Out in the river lies a flat-boat with a negro regiment on board, quarantined by the city fathers The "woolly-heads" having partaken too freely of *green* sugar, abstracted from the cargo are rapidly falling victims to this fearful malady, thirty of whom having, perhaps, got on the outside of a larger quantity of the "raw material" than the others, have already gone to give an account of the deeds done in the body.

We will leave our coatless friends for the evening to their meditations, trusting that their friends in Goderich, who are (at the period to which this letter refers—August) inhaling the "balmy breezes" from Lake Huron, upon those romantic hills, and you, Mr. Editor, will bid them "God speed" as they again step upon a flatboat, heading for the "Sunny South," where they witness the most remarkable preservation of human life that has ever came to the knowledge of the *E C G H G*, the particulars of which I will defer for my next letter, as I do not desire to trespass too much upon your space or the patience of such of your readers as may deem my communications worth a perusal.

Yours respectfully,
S. P. Y.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

The Council met at Homesville, Dec. 10th 1866, according to appointment, the Reeve and all the Councillors present. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved

The account of Jas. Richardson for his services as R. Officer for Ward No. 4 for 1866 $5, and also for the use of his house &c., $2, ordered to be paid.

The account of Geo. Graham for putting in a culbert on the 11th con. opposite lot 39, certified by Mr. Sheppard, amounting to $3—ordered to be paid.

The account of Jas. Miller for putting in a Culbert on the 9th con. opposite lot 34 $3.30—ordered to be paid.

The account of Henry Cook for gravelling 31 rods on the 9th con. opposite lot 40, and for repairs done on side road between lots 40 and 41, and putting in three culberts on the 9th con, one at the schoolhouse opposite lot 37, and another opposite lot 39, amounting in the whole to $44.50, certified by Mr. Sheppard,—ordered to be paid.

The account of Wm. Loft for repairing a scraper, amounting to $1.75,—ordered to be paid.

Moved by Mr. Patton, sec. by Mr. Sheppard, That John Thompson be paid the sum of fifty three dollars for turnpiking and gravelling on the 5th con. opposite lot 8,—ordered to be paid.

Moved by Mr. Sheppard, sec. by Mr. Patton, That Thos. Dyke be refunded $3 for statute labour done extra in 1863,—ordered to be paid.

Moved by Mr. Sheppard, sec. by Mr. Patton, That Joseph Proctor be paid the sum of $6 for digging a ditch and covering a culbert on the centre road opposite lot 24.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Sheppard, sec. by Mr. Weston, That James Connel be paid the sum of $1.25 for filling a gravel pit on side road, between lots 35 and 36 on the 12th con,—Carried.

The account of Alex Chisholm for gravel, certified by several Pathmasters amounting to $14.92½, the sec. of Patrick Cronan for repairing road near