Huron Signal.

GODERICH, JAN. 30, 1868.

THE WEEKLY "SIGNAL."

The present issue of the Weekly Signal enters it into the 21st volume. For twenty long years this journal has buoyed up in the troubled waters of Canadian Politics the Signal of Liberalism, and we think we can claim for it a full share of the success won by the Reformers of our country. It has contributed, we believe, very largely to the material prosperity of the Counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce, and we may be pardoned if we modestly claim for it, at the present moment, as wide a circle of influence and as strong a hold upon the popular mind as at any former period. We need only say, in commencing the new volume, that it is our intention to render the "Signal" worthy of its increased circulation and the generous patronage extended to it.

A NARROW VOTE.

On Monday evening last the Bill by Mr. Blake to prevent Dual Representation, was up for its second reading. The six months' hoist was moved by Mr. Beatty, when after a debate, the vote was taken, and the Government sustained by a majority of two.

AGRICULTURAL GRANTS.

We were sorry to hear while in Toronto a few days ago that the Committee of the Assembly to which the consideration of the new Agricultural Bill is committed, is likely to come to the conclusion that additional grants will *not* be given to Counties divided into Ridings. If such a recommendation is sanctioned by the House, it will be an act of gross injustice to such large counties as Perth, Huron, Bruce, Grey, &c. We trust our representatives will speak out strong in the interests of their constituents when the proper time arrives.

NEW TYPES.

We are now receiving through the able agency of friend Halley, of Toronto, a complete assortment of new and fashionable news, advertising and jobbing types from the best foundries of New York and London, Eng. In the jobbing line we have purchased the sizes of what is called "Old Style" letter—a most elegant type for fine work, besides nearly all that is new and beautiful in wood or metal letter. With this acquisition and by employing good workmen, fine ink and the best of papers, we shall be enabled to turn out job work equal in style and finish to that of Toronto, Montreal and other Canadian cities. We have gone to the necessarily heavy expense in the full belief that we shall continue to receive the patronage of all who prefer good work to the coarse daubs so frequently perpetrated by so-called printers.

COUNTY COUNCIL.—We have only room in this issue to state that Robt. Gibbons Esq. M. P. P. has been re-elected Warden of Huron by a majority of 19. Full particulars in our next.

MR. HOLMES, (X M.P.P.), so far from appreciating the bit of fun poked at him by our Carrier Boys in their New Year's Address, has given up the "Signal" in high dudgeon, after informing us that he has taken it for 20 years and done a great deal to advance its interests. We never knew of the latter obligation, but, if it is true, it is also true that this journal, "once upon a time" conferred a "Signal" favor upon Mr. Holmes, which more than squares the account. The fact is Mr. H. is altogether too touchy for a man who aspires to high public positions. However, in all good nature, we say, with tears in our eyes, good bye, Mr. Holmes, give up the "Signal" for such a trifle, if you will, and sink into hopeless political darkness.

OUR CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY for 1868, is, we flatter ourselves, as neat a specimen of color printing as can be turned out of any country office in Canada. It is creditable alike to Mr. A. T. Simmons, the compositor, Mr. A. McDonald the pressman, and the office from which it emanates.

LUCKNOW.

Anniversary Services will be held in the Methodist New Connexion Church on Sunday, the 2nd Sermons by Revds. Messrs. Walker and Moss. The Soiree will be on Wed. eve., the 5th. Speeches by Revds. Messrs Walker, Moss, Shaw, Brown and others. Tickets 25 cents.

A Wesleyan Social will be held in the Temperance Hall, Lucknow, on the 19th, when Rev. W. H. Poole of Goderich will lecture on "Our duty to the New Dominion." Addresses by the Revds. J Whiting, A. L. Russell, and others. Tea at 6 p. m. Tickets 25 cents.

☞ On Friday last Hon. J. S. McDonald announced, parenthetically, that a number of members of the Assembly would be absent this week attending to municipal duties. This action on the part of the Ministry renders it possible for members to retain responsible positions in their County Councils.

☞ Our representatives in the Assembly, Messrs. Gibbons and Hays, will please accept the thanks of the editor of the *Signal* for a full supply of parliamentary papers.

☞ The chief cities of Upper and Lower Canada are up and doing to relieve the distressed fishermen of Nova Scotia. We hope the villages and townships will follow suit.

☞ Probably the oldest printer in America is John G. Barry. He is now in his 83rd year, and has been working at "case" for seventy years. "Uncle John," as he is called, is at present in Vicksburg. Mr. Geo. Cox of this office *(Signal)* was Mr. Barry's case companion for six years in Tennessee.

☞ The large amount of local news in this issue crowds out a political article which we were anxious should appear.

MOSSOURI CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Huron *Signal*.

MR. EDITOR,—Having promised to write a great many of my old Huron friends to let them know a little in respect to Missouri, as a country to live in. I will take the opportunity, if you will be so kind as to allow me, of making one letter do them all. In the first place as regards the climate, I consider it healthy and as for the best no person that has lived in Canada need be afraid of it. This past summer was considered as hot as summers are here in general. I done some of the heaviest hewing in the warmest weather I ever did in Canada without any trouble, and walked two miles to my work every day. Of course the warm season is longer but on the very hottest days there is always a cooling breeze on the prairies. I may say we have had no winter weather until this last week, we have not an average of two inches of snow, but I believe the Thermometer has been as much as 4° below Zero for one or two nights. Now the weather is getting mild and warm again. The old settlers do not anticipate this to be a hard winter. I am still framing and building; all out door work of that kind so far. I consider the climate is far better adapted to the farmer in general than Canada, the season is so much longer. The farmer is not so much hurried with his crops putting them in and taking them off, likewise it takes so much less to feed his stock in winter. As regards water this season has been unprecedented by accounts of the oldest settlers, for drouth. I may say in this section we have had no rain of any account since the last of June up to date, which I am afraid will injure the fall grain, but I am told by the farmers that with those who use the drill, the grain looks well. Corn in this section is generally light, although I am told on good authority that, those who subsoiled their land in the spring, raised as much as 50 bushels to the acre, with only one shower of rain. Fall wheat averaged from 32 to 34 bushels to the acre, as plump and as bright grain as I ever saw; oats were good; potatoes generally poor, say 50 to 100 miles west of us here, in this State, their crop was good; potatoes excellent; they had more rain. The country is generally well watered, only in several counties around they can not dig far enough to strike springs. They strike coal at 10 to 20 feet, in some places it comes right to the surface. They generally use cistern water, which is very pure near the Missouri river, and where the country is rolling, springs run to the top as in Canada. As regards the soil of what I have seen. The North, West, and South West portions of the State excel any soil I ever saw in any country, varying in depth from a foot to four, and five feet, and even deeper. In some parts clay bottom, in other gravel, and sand; but generally clay subsoil. The face of the country I have described is generally about two thirds prairie, the other timbered with several kinds of oak, hickory, basswood, walnut, maple, and white wood, and in the bottoms it is generally thrifty, and on the uplands more shrubby. It is so arranged by nature that every farmer generally has plenty of timber. I consider it the prettiest farming and stock raising country I ever saw. The South East portion of the State is generally hilly and broken—not much good for farming except in the bottoms. It is mining region, and fruit of all kinds especially the grape, thrives luxuriantly, and I may say spontaneously; in fact the whole State is well calculated for fruit of all kinds. As regards prices of land, I may say in the first portions of the State I described, there is no government land. It is generally owned by speculators and farmers, prices ranging from $4 to $10 for unimproved land, and improved lands from $10 to $30; and even a great deal higher, according to the position. I was offered 160 acres 12 miles from Mexico City, splendid prairie land, at $4 per acre, another tract along side, of 160, with 30 acres broke and fenced and house, for $900. By going farther west and farther from railroads, you can buy cheaper. This State is filling up very rapidly, but still there is a great rush to Kansas and Nebraska, where they can get government lands under the Homestead act. This country is progressing fast as regards R. Roads it has now four main lines extending from east to west and the Missouri River is navigable in the same direction for some hundreds of miles out side of the State. Other Roads are of secondary consideration in the meantime. As regards society it is as good and generally better than in Canada. Whiskey drinking is not practised to the same extent. Whiskey here is $8 per gallon, in a great many places it is prohibited altogether. The principle of education here is the free school system, adopted and enforced by the State Legislature. School houses are building fast as the country settles—a great many of your spare teachers would do well here; salaries are good. The people seem to attend to church matters pretty well. They are chiefly Methodists and Presbyterians. As regards taxes here they are not more than half as high as they are in the County of Huron. The people here think they are awful. Next as regards clothes—I can buy boots and shoes or any thing I want to wear here cheaper than in Ainleyville, and far better, which I can prove by some of your readers to whom I sent the leading papers containing the St. Louis markets. Farm produce sells generally high here on account of the local demand caused by the influx of immigration amongst us, and all the States and Territories to the west of us are settling up fast, and the country being so drained out by the war, it has not recovered yet. Butter sell readily at 40 cents; potatoes $1 per bushel; pork $6 to $7 per cwt; Beef retail 10 to 12½ cts per lb; Flour $5.00 to $6.75 per cwt; Lard 15 to 20 cts per lb; eggs 35 cts per dozen. As regards Mechanics such as carpenters, cabinet makers, blacksmiths, shoe makers, waggon makers, masons or brick layers do well here, there is two kinds of tradesmen could do a good business here, that is a fanning mill maker and a good plough maker, that is two things I have not seen ever, since I left Canada. As for the old Missouri farmers, I consider them 100 years behind the age in everything as regards farming, they have no plough what we would call a plough, when they go to harrow they go to the bush and cut down a brush and hitch on to it, they have no taste for farm buildings only a good house to live in themselves; live easy, care for nothing only raising "niggers, mules, hemp, hominy and bacon. But the programme is altered—now free Missouri invites the industrious mechanic, farmer, and in fact the surplus population, at the rate of some millions, yet, before her wealth is properly developed, I must say a word in conclusion as regards the old Missourian farmers. I find them generally kind and honest in all their dealings, and, in fact some of them are shrewd business men.

ADAM FORBES,
formerly of Morris, Co. Huron.
Mexico City, Missouri. Jan 18th, 1868.

TOWNSHIP OF COLBORNE.

January 20th, 1868.

The Municipal Council met this day at Dark's Hotel, Smith's Hill. Present, Wm. Young, Reeve, and Messrs. John Morris, Wm. Halliday, Elijah Martin, and Henry Spence, Councillors.

After taking and signing the declaration of qualification and office, and the minutes of last meeting being read and approved,

The Reeve appoints Francis Stuthers as auditor; the Council appoints Patrick Carroll as the other Auditor. It was moved by Mr. J. Morris, seconded by Mr. E. Martin, That Jas. Tewsley be Township Clerk—Carried. Moved by Mr. Halliday, seconded by Mr. Spence, That Jas. Tewsley be Treasurer—Carried. Moved by Mr. E. Martin, seconded by Mr. Halliday, That Jas. O. Steward, be assessor—Carried. Moved by Mr. J. Morris, seconded by Mr. Halliday, That John Allen be collector—Carried. Moved by Mr. Halliday, seconded by Mr. J. Morris, That Wm. Jones be Inspector of Taverns—Carried. The following persons were appointed as township officers:—Poundkeepers—David Fisher, Samuel Fisher, Peter Fisher, Robert Bissett, John Million, George Old, Anthony Allen, John Brindley, and Samuel Morris. Fence-viewers—Robert Henderson, Matthew Levy, John C. Martin, Thos Burns, and Wm. Green. Pathmasters—David Fisher, Samuel Fisher, Colin Sinclair, Wm. Bragon, Wm. Blake, Wm. Good, Nicholas Mohring, Jacob Wilson, Joseph Montgomery, sen., Richard Jewett, sen., John Snyder, Rodney Adams, Wm. Crews, John Stevens, Nicholas Morrish, John B. Old, Jas. Symington, Jas. Hamilton, Gordon Young, Jas. Stewart, Patrick Carroll, Wm Jones, Jas Barker, Joseph Morris, Wm. Hussey, Wm. Watt, Geo. Boyd, Robert Wilson, John Glen, Chas. McHardy, Robt. Fawn, Geo. Morris, Jas. O. Stewart, John Cantelion, Richard Morrow, Thos. Thompson, Hillary Horton, Thos Christlow and A. E. Wilson. Moved by Mr. J. Morris, seconded by Mr. Spence, That the offer of Mr. Cameron for back taxes due on Block A, amounting to $600.00, up to the end of 1867, be accepted—Carried. The following bills after being examined and approved were ordered to be paid: W. T. Cox's bill for printing, amounting to $13.05; Jas. Watson's bill for supplying bread, &c., to J. Fritsley, $32.50; Jas. Young's bill for covering a culvert on boundary line, amounting to $7.00, be paid. Moved by Mr. J. Morris, seconded by Mr. Spence, That a by-law be now passed that no person shall cut any timber on the Township roads from this date, and any person wishing to contract for the same may apply to the Township Council at their next meeting—Carried. Moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Spence, That a by-law be passed for fixing the salaries of the Township officers. It was moved by Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. Martin, That the Assessor's salary should be $50.00. Moved in amendment by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Halliday, That the Assessor's salary be $60.00 the same as last year. The Reeve voted in favor of the amendment.

Officers salaries the same as last year. Auditors $2.00 each, Township Clerk and Treasurer $130.00, the Assessor $60.00, Collector $50.00, Inspector of Taverns $8. Moved and seconded that the time for payment of taxes for the year 1867, be extended to the 1st of February next.

The next meeting of Council to be held at Dark's hotel, Smith's Hill, on Saturday the 15th of February next, at the hour of one o'clock. Moved and seconded that the minutes of this meeting be printed in the Huron *Signal*.

JAMES TEWSLEY,
Township Clerk.

THE SKATING CARNIVAL.

For several years past the want of a Skating Rink has been felt in Goderich—other places of less importance had their's, and their people enjoyed themselves. Clinton and other villages could boast of their skating rinks and their carnivals, but we of Goderich have hitherto remained without those pleasures. Several attempts have been made within the last five or six years to have a suitable and convenient rink constituted, but without success. This year, through the able and zealous management of certain gentlemen of the town, a rink has been built, and it is now in operation. So far, we trust, it has proved a success to the proprietor, as we feel certain it has proved a boon to those who seek recreation in the graceful art. A suitable place has been obtained and utilised, and one in every way convenient for the great body of the townspeople. Last week the enterprising managers determined to have a masquerade carnival, after the fashion of city rinks, open to to the public on payment of a small fee. Friday evening last was the time fixed upon for the event, and at the appointed hour the skaters commenced to assemble. Ladies and gentlemen in all imaginary costumes made their appearance. The public anxious to see the sights also came pouring in—at eight o'clock there must, at least, have been two hundred lookers-on. Seats were placed on each side of the rink for the convenience of spectators. The platform on the end next the street was packed with ladies and gentlemen, and in the north-east corner was placed the band engaged for the occasion. To describe all of the characters represented would be impossible. From the old man of three score and ten to the stripling in his teens was a fit representation found. English and French officers mingled with the sombre sons of the south. The stars in the zodiac were holding commune with sublunary beings. It would be impossible indeed to give even a faint idea of the variety of costume. Of the ladies, conspicuous among the number could easily be told a married lady, by her easy and graceful figure on the ice. No one who had admired her in the graceful art on ordinary occasions, could make any mistake under mask. This lady was dressed as "Night," and her dark dress was resplendent with "Stars of the Night." Another lady in the same character, next claimed the attention of our reporter, who was informed by some of the *knowing* ones that she was a young lady who from her personal charms and amiability had deservedly become a great favorite among the gentlemen on the rink. Her dress was black and studded with stars after the most prominent constellations. Her hat was decked in the same manner, and from the top, supported in some mysterious way, appeared a "Luna," in the first quarter. Her dark hair, in flowing tresses down her back, was the subject of characteristic representation. The appearance of this lady was very much admired and her elegance and grace elicited the warmest encomiums from the spectators. As a skater, she also took a high rank. Next came a young lady in a white dress, bespangled with the dew of morning. On her cap appeared the Morning Star, the harbinger of day, and on her breast the rising sun in the orient. This lady, we were informed, represented glad, cheerful "Morning." Two young ladies in neat and becoming dresses took the part of "Flower Girls." Their characters were well represented and elicited general admiration. Their sweet faces, after they removed the masks showed that our reporter was correct in their identity. The most pleasing to us of all the lady characters was that of a "Turkish Girl," personated so well by the amiable daughter of a gentleman, the estimable representative here of a friendly government. The character was well conceived, and delineated. This lady's skating too claimed our special attention. Of the gentlemen, most conspicuous appeared a "General of Division" of the British Army. He wore real military uniform, but the spurs were wanting. His hat must have seen "Peninsular" days, as it bore no appearance of anything but antiquity. This gentleman did not deign to expose his face to the "vulgar gaze" at the appointed hour of nine o'clock, but remained masked the whole evening. Our reporter could gain no reliable information as to his identity. The next that met our eye was a "swell" in the character of a French officer. His dress was neat and becoming, and his mantle led our mind back to the days of the old Imperial army, under the "Little Corporal." His Satanic Majesty was well represented by a young gentleman of good figure, who conceived and took the chairs for well. He carried in his hand the sceptre of Neptune, and his time (on skates) to the music we much admired. This appeared to be lost sight of by many. The "Young man of fashion" with his eye-glass, rings, chains and ruffles was particularly good. His urbanity in mask equalled the acknowledged politeness of a certain young gentleman in a well-known public office. The "Old Darkey" with his crisp hair, wide-awake hat, (that was once) and coat with the buttons near the shoulders, was a fit representation of "Old Uncle Ned." The humor and quaintness of this character was much admired, and our reporter was informed that this representative was no other than a well-known young and smiling-faced professional embryo of the town. Two other characters of the same description appeared the most prominent part of which was the great extent of shirt collar. Some one near us remarked that the Attorney-General had lent them some of his for the occasion. The clergy was represented by a stout gentleman with a long black gown and a Friar's cap. His advent on the ice was pretty late in the evening, it should have been earlier for due appreciation of the character. The metamorphosis was admirable, and the delineation perfect, with the usual inexperience of "the cloth" in such amusements, this gentleman did not appear quite "at home" on the ice. Mr. "Punch" was well represented. He was dressed in scarlet and was of the proper proportions. His hat was exceedingly high (except when it met the ice), but was wanting that peculiar cast which so distinguishes that humorous gentleman. This character was well taken and evoked much laughter. No one could mistake our laughing, jolly little friend, in this impersonation. Of all characters of the amusing class, perhaps the best was the "Dowdy Easter," Old Perry of Perryville, Vermont, U. S. A., so he styled himself. His standing collar, elaborate tie, and strange coat of fantastic colors were the source of much amusement. The "poor Indian," of "untutored mind," was also represented. His blanket and red face were quite characteristic, but not the head-gear. One character we could not discover—its possessor was an exceedingly rapid and graceful skater. One of the neatest costumes was a Zouave dress well put on. This young man displayed good taste in his skating as well as dress. Old father "Time" with his hoary locks (wanting the scythe), was also well represented. Many others, whose characters our reporter couldn't ascertain, mixed in the general masquerade, and revelled with the lively throng. At the appointed hour of nine o'clock the greater number of the masks were removed, or the parties immediately left the rink. This is the first thing of the kind we have ever had here, and we would be sorry were it to be the last. We hope Mr. Hyslop the proprietor, and the Committee of Management, will have two or three evenings of such amusement ere the close of the skating season. The novelty of getting at the dress must be a source of amusement to the performer, as its exhibition is to the spectator. So long as such affairs are conducted with the propriety of the one we have mentioned, we see nothing to which the most fastidious could object—Better for young and old to spend such an evening as was spent by many of our townspeople last Friday than in less profitable and more objectionable employment. We have a word to say about the arrangements. The rink should be much better lighted than it was. Twice as many lights would have been none too many. There should be but a private entrance for the parties in masks. They should not be subjected to the ordeal of passing through a dense crowd before reaching the ice. Better accommodation could with propriety be made for spectators. We forgot to mention that the band engaged for the occasion discovered sweet music during the evening, much to the enlivenment of the proceedings. In conclusion, we hope that the carnival of which we have given but a faint sketch may have proved as remunerative to the proprietor as it was amusing to the spectators.

OUR COLLEGES.

No. 1.

(For the Huron Signal.)

DEAR SIR,—I notice in the press of Ontario a controversy going on in regard to denominational colleges, and the rights of those colleges to receive aid from the Government. The question is one of great importance, and is just now ably advocated on both sides. I have noticed several of our editors, and their correspondents, who have committed themselves as advocates of the Toronto Monopoly who, judging from their articles, do not fully understand the question, and are unwittingly using their influence on the wrong side, against the country and in favor of Toronto. That the Toronto people and the Toronto press should ask for the centralization of all our higher institutions of learning, I can understand; but Toronto is not Canada, nor is it Ontario. It is a fine city, and we wish it prosperity, but we cannot think that the Toronto press can be sincere in asking to send the 385 young men from Cobourg, and the hundreds from Belleville and Kingston and other places, all up to one college in Toronto, when superior advantages for education, health and morals can be secured at much less expense to the country and to themselves in other places.

I see in the Goderich *Star* of the 24th, an editorial on this subject, in favor of the one college argument, against the claims of denominational colleges, and the writer has fallen into the same error as others in regard to the main points at issue. I proposed first to reply to the *Star* on two or three points, and then to present a few arguments in favor of several denominational colleges endowed by the state.

The *Star* and others speak of a university as a training institution or a teaching body, and hence we are told what the university can do for us in teaching and training so many, and in doing it so efficiently. Now a university does not either *teach* nor *train*. Its duty is to examine and confer degrees. We who advocate several colleges, ask and urge for one university over all the colleges—not connected with any, but for all the country; to be a grand fount an of honor from which all honors in arts, law and medicine must come—to which all the colleges, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jews, and infidel can send their students on equal terms; a university amply provided for by Government, composed of able men appointed by Government—men who will be, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion. That university would fix the standard of education in arts, law, and medicine, and have nothing to do with theology. Such a university would be to the colleges as our County boards of examiners are to the common schools, or as our Normal School is to our grammar schools. The *Star* will see how a high standard could then be kept up and raised higher as thought best, and how poor one-horse-power colleges could not long exist, for their support, like our Common and Grammar Schools, would depend upon the amount of work done, the examiners or University for Ontario being the judges. There could be no partiality—no second or third-rate diplomas—no jealousy or fault-finding with each other's honors—no mixing up politics and annual grants—no building up Toronto at the expense of other places, equally or more deserving. No wrongs inflicted on those denominations which made large sacrifices for the education of the country before the Toronto College had an existence—no pandering to church and state in any form, but a system in connection with our colleges on the same principle as in our common and higher schools. Our model, as the late Hon R. Baldwin drafted it, was the great London University, England, with her thirty-six colleges, or Oxford University with her twenty-four colleges, or Cambridge University and her seventeen colleges. The London University is an examining body for thirty-six teaching bodies. Let Ontario give us such a university, and if then she can't afford to aid the colleges in their work of teaching as we do our Grammar Schools, let all the colleges support themselves. Let the Toronto College, sometimes called University College, be supported by those who desire education there; place it on the same footing precisely as Victoria, Queen, Trinity and others, and let those churches whose ministers are educated there, carry out their voluntary principle, and pay for what they receive, and compete for honors side by side with the students of other colleges. We don't ask for grants to teach theology or religion—we don't ask for grants for any purpose that is denominational; we say strip all the colleges, or shelter all alike. Give to none, or give to all. We very much prefer one university for Ontario, and provision from a permanent endowment fund for all the colleges, according to the work done. If we have not enough in our present endowment fund, we can increase it, or divide it equally on an equitable principle, and leave the friends of each college to enjoy the luxury of supporting their own, as some have done for thirty years past.

In my next, I will prove that Victoria, and other colleges, are not sectarian, and that they do the same educational work as the college in Toronto, and that they do it as well, and are as much national institutions, though denominational are responsible for their morals, &c.

(To be Continued.)

☞ If you want a sound commercial education, attend the Goderich Commercial Academy.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENCE.

We desire to direct the attention of our readers and especially that of the County Council which meets to-day, (Jan. 28,) to the copy of a Petition which was circulated throughout the County some time ago, and very numerously and respectably signed. The petition will be found below. As may be seen it is addressed to the County Council praying for the abolition of the present system of School Inspection, and the substitution in place of it of one Inspector or Superintendent for the whole County.—A temperate, sensible petition, like this, signed by Trustees, Teachers, and the leading men of the county deserves to say the least—the best consideration of the Council. "No educational principle is either more evident in itself or more thoroughly established by experience than this,—that the efficiency of a system of schools cannot permanently be maintained—whatever other conditions of success be present—without a regular and searching inspection." How great the influence for good or evil which the County Council can exercise over the Schools of this County. It rests with them to determine whether the inspection of our schools be—a sham—or a reality, which will tell upon the efficiency and thoroughness with which our school system will be carried out in this County. The first thing towards securing a proper inspection of our schools is to entrust that duty to a practical teacher—to one possessing sound judgement, as well as a thorough acquaintance with the practical duties of the profession. Then such a man as this should be respectably renumerated. The Council could then insist upon his devoting himself exclusively to the duties of this important office.—Although the County is large it is decidedly better to entrust the supervision of the County to one, giving him if necessary, an assistant. We consider the present renumeration—$4.00 a school—entirely too small to secure the thorough and efficient inspection we contend for, and which is the only one worth paying for at all. Under the present system, persons are appointed to this office of local superintendent, who have never had any experience whatever, in the school-room. Besides, these persons have the duties of their own proper professions to attend to—duties sufficiently onerous to demand their whole time and energy. No inconsiderable sum is spent every year upon this system which we believe to be as good as thrown away, in so far as securing more efficiency as our schools is concerned.

The fact that all the youth in this County receive their education in the Common Schools, attaches an interest and importance to this matter, which cannot possibly be overrated. While the people are so liberally taxing themselves for the erection of elegant and commodious school houses, and for the payment of teachers, the County Council should see to it that these schools be made as efficient and thorough as possible. In no way can this be better done than by the appointment of a thoroughly good superintendent over the whole County.

To the Warden and Members of the Municipal Council of the County of Huron in Council Assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Teachers and Trustees of the Common Schools and others writes, the County, respectfully she weth—

I. That we regard an efficient discharge of the office of Local Superintendent as important and to be successful working of our Common School system.

II. That it is our conviction that the principle under which appointments are at present made to this office is open to serious objections, of which—without intending in any sense to impeach our present Local Superintendents, who in general no doubt do their work as efficiently as could be expected under the circumstances—we may state the two following: 1st. That it leads necessarily to appointment of parties who as a general rule cannot be expected to give more than a very limited share of their attention to the duties of the office. 2nd. That it does not require even the semblance of a guarantee that those, who are thus appointed to supervise the teachers and direct them as circumstance may require in the adoption of improved methods of imparting instruction, shall themselves possess in any measure the experience of practical educationists.

III. That we are of opinion that the interests of education in the County would be materially promoted were the present Township Superintendents superseded by the appointment of a single superintendent to whom shall be entrusted the oversight of all the schools in the County.

IV. That we are of further opinion, in the event of the above change being made, that the County Superintendence should be given to one of the most efficient and satisfactory manner, and that the emoluments attached to the office should be such as to render it an object of ambition to meritorious teachers; and, as in the first place, there can be no room to doubt that there are among those engaged in conducting our Common Schools men capable of discharging the duties of such an office with credit to themselves and advantage to the cause of Education; and, as in the second place, it would manifestly tend to stimulate the exertions of teachers if it were to be understood that the promotion into such an appointment of this sort was to be regarded as one of the first prizes of their profession, while it would at the same time be an important step toward securing to the profession a greater share of the talent of the country.

We therefore sincerely hope that the Council may give the subject here brought before them their best consideration, and that they may see it to be expedient to make the change asked for by the undersigned.

East Wawanosh.

Council Room, Jan. 20th, 1868.

The Council met this day according to law. The members elect being being, H. Helps, Esq., Reeve, Henry Deacon, Thos Taylor, David Scott and Geo. McKay, Councillors. The members of the Council took their declarations of qualification and oath of office, after which the minutes of the two last meetings were read and approved. Moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Scott, That Wm Bengough be appointed Editor for the year 1868—carried. The Reeve then nominated Jas Edmund as the other Auditor. A communication from Dr. Sloan regarding a poor man lying sick at Mr. Holland's, Blyth, was read.—Mrs. Holland being present the Council directed her to present a petition from the ratepayers of East Wawanosh and they would then consider the case. Moved by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. McKay, That the Clerk procure four Municipal Manuals for the use of the Council, and also Assessor's Instructions, notices, &c.—Carried. The Clerk applied for a higher salary when it was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McKay, That the Clerk's salary be $70, and that he verify the Assessment Roll without extra pay. Moved in amendment by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Deacon, That the Clerk's salary be the same as last year. Motion carried by vote of Reeve. Moved by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Scott, That the Clerk put up notices for tenders for the offices of Treasurer, Assessor and Collector. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Deacon, That the Council now adjourn, to meet again on the second Tuesday in February next.—Carried.

JAS. TISDALE,
Township Clerk.

STANLEY.

Council met pursuant to adjournment at Joslin's Hotel, Bayfield, on Saturday, the 18th of January, at one o'clock p. m. All the members of Council present. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Deeds of road allowance from Mr. McDougall and Mr. McBeth ordered to be registered.

Moved by Geo. McDonald, seconded by Peter Douglas, That the county Treasurer be allowed to deduct the amount for which lots 248 and 249 Bayfield, were sold at the at the recent sale, as the Council is satisfied that the taxes on said lots were fully paid.—Carried. Moved by Thos. Simpson, seconded by Geo. McDonald, That the account of George McGregor for lumber and hauling, $8.42, be paid.—Carried. Moved by Geo. McDonald, seconded by James Elliott, That the sum of $6.00 be granted to furnish lamps for the drill shed at Bayfield.—Carried. Moved by James Elliott, seconded by Peter Douglas, That the following accounts be paid,

A. Sparks, road commissioner	$17.55
Goderich "Star,"	4.00
T. J. Moorhouse,	2.93
Reeve for recording deed and lease,	2.25
Reeve for postage and stationary,	1.50
Geo. Erwin, repairing scraper	2.00
Geo. Castle, the Collector's salary	80.00
David Bleme, for gravel	1.56
The Receiver General	800.00
Councillors' salaries	138.60

Carried.

Moved by James Elliott, seconded by Geo. McDonald, That the next meeting of Council be held at Varna.—Carried.

WILLIAM PLUNKETT,
Township Clerk.

Varna, 18th Jan. 1868.

The Council met at Varna on the third Monday of January according to statute, at one o'clock p. m. Members present, Thos. Simpson, Reeve, Peter Douglas, Deputy Reeve, Dr. Woods, Geo. McDonald, and James Anderson, Councillors. The legal declarations of qualification and office taken before the clerk. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Moved by Ninian Woods, seconded by James Anderson, That the Clerk be continued in office.—Carried. Moved by Geo. McDonald, seconded by Peter Douglas, That the following be the salaries fixed for the current year, and that a By-Law to that effect be framed and passed. Clerk, $80; Assessor, $80; Collector, $75; Treasurer, 50; Returning Officers, each $4; Auditors each, $5; Inspector of taverns e25; Reeve and Assessor each, for selecting jurors, $3; Clerk, $6; Road Commissioners each, 15 cents per hour when actually engaged. No extra allowance with respect to the school rates.—Carried. By-Law no 1, giving effect to the foregoing resolution read and passed. Moved by Peter Douglas, seconded by James Anderson, That the following be the paid officers for the present year. Joseph Higgins, Assessor; Alex. Sparks, Collector; Robert Reid, Treasurer; Geo. Laing and Alex. Falconer, Returning Officers; Francis Kedslie and William Downing, auditors; Alex. McGill, Inspector of taverns; John Johnson, John Dowson, William McClymont, and William Philips, road commissioners.—Carried By-Law No. 2, giving effect to motions 1 and 3 read and passed. The path masters, pound keepers, and fence viewers were then appointed. Moved by Peter Douglas, seconded by N. Woods, That Robert Anderson be paid $4 for a sheep killed by dogs.—Carried. Moved by James Anderson, seconded by Ninian Woods, That the Council do now adjourn to meet at Kippen, on Monday the 24th February, at 10 o'clock p. m.—Carried.

WILLIAM PLUNKETT.
Township Clerk.

Varna, 22nd January, 1868.

MAPLE LEAVES.

NO. 2.

Canadian Winter Scenes.

For the SIGNAL.

Gently the large white flakes are falling, and noiselessly they cover the chilled bosom of sleeping mother earth. Gently they fall, lest they disturb the repose of the valley—smiling in its dreams, or awake but sleeping thunders of the far off hills. Gently they fall, covering with their mantle of purity the hurrying footsteps of the rich, and the faltering footprints of the houseless.

Slowly but surely the flakes descend, and earth is wrapped in many a coat of spotless beautiful innocence. Now is heard the merry sound of sleigh bells jingling on the moonlit air, and from many a well robed sleigh the silvery laugh of youth and beauty swells and falls upon the listening ear,—reviving in the breast of hoary age, the cherished membrance of a happy youth. The hoary champion of the far off North has stalked abroad:—already his breath is on the gale and his touch they proud imperious roam of HURON still is mighty and yields itself, with many a throe, a bondsman to the Northern king. The rivers cease their murmering songs, and roll beneath in fierce defiance of their icy bonds.

But hark! whence comes that murmering sound, that joyous laughter, and that instrument glee? 'Tis from the far off crystal ice, where lovely maids and manly youth enjoy, on spurning steel, the lightening speed of well skilled feet. The rising moon is round, and large and bright, and far and wide her slanting, wayward beams are cast o'er Huron's frozen crest. She shines alike on azure sheets of smoothest ice like silvered mirrors of the wandering stars, anon on glistening heaps of pearled berge—the shattered remnant of an icy plain—transforming 'neath your gaze their weird and spectral forms to ruined towers, to lofty battlements, and cities walled and turreted as when the Feudal William reigned supreme. The glistening spears and polished helms of bygone years arise to guard the silent walls, and dancing lights of blue and silver hover o'er the fairy scene like guardian spirits of the storied dead.—And now we backward turn with eager gaze to watch the fearless crowd who dash with sounding speed across the frozen waste. Their blooming cheeks aglow, our country's fairest daughters glide around on tempered steel—that gleaming—flashes back the moon's bright rays, and matchless send a challenge forth e'en to Circassia's fairest fair; a more than British health and beauty skims in graceful curves o'er broad Canadian lakes or winding streams; and manly self reliant youths are there who boast of fair Canadian birth, yet yield a willing knee to noble Albion's noblest Queen.

We turn to woodland scenes, and deep within the resounding woods are heard the strong and well directed blows, that oft repeated bring to earth the sturdiest of her forest sons.

Still further on the timid deer attracted by the juicy buds of tree tops, fallen from their high estate, is startled by our rude approach, and head erect she sends a fearful glance around to seek the object of her fears; then with one single mighty bound is hidden from our view. The frightened rabbit startled from her mid-day rest darts swift athwart the winding path, and from the growth of cedars dense the whirring partridge cleaves the trembling air. High overhead the jetty squirrel skips lithe, from limb to limb—from tree to tree, as with his glossy mate he plays at hide and seek or, chattering, calls her to a new-discovered feast.

E'en yet a leaf is left to fall and whirl in fitful circlets o'er th'encrusted forest snows.

'Tis from the branching maple overhead, and as it whirls,—the sport of wanton winds,—it whispers to our frail mortality, that the winter of life cometh, and that the glories of our spring our summer and our autumn will soon be the sport of the winter winds of Fate, that we ourselves, like its own sturdy parent, will soon pass away 'neath the sickle of advancing years, and that, the destiny of our lives being fulfilled, we must yield to other destinies and to other creations, unmindful of our hopes our fears our labors or even of our very existence.

A CURIOUS DOCUMENT.—The following singular agreement was found at the house of John Grant, a prisoner, now on his trial at the Assizes in Toronto for larceny at Aurora:—"Aurora, Nov. 13, 1867.—I, Julia Henwood, doth hereby agree to marry John Grant within one month from this date, providing that he signs over to me the articles that he agreed to, namely:—1 mare, 1 set of harness, 1 waggon, 1 yearling heifer, 1 spring calf, 4 sheep, 1 plough, so help me God, Julia Henwood. Witness: John Cameron, Edward (his x mark) Miller." The value of the articles enumerated, with which the amorous John purchased the hand of the lovely, though mercenary Julia, is estimated at $140.

Agricultural Shows.

MR. EDITOR,—In the *Signal* of January 23rd, 1868, you made some remarks respecting our Agricultural Shows, in which I believe there is much truth; as you have opened the question, please permit me to make a few remarks in the *Signal*. I admit there is good stock in our County which has been taken from show to show and received premiums, and but little more is known of them or benefit received except by a small locality where kept. I have acted as judge on many occasions when I gave as my opinion of stock brought before us ways not worthy of a premium, was overruled with the argument that we would give offence—the parties received the money—I deny that it was much good to agriculture. Allow me to make the following suggestions, if practicable, the two Ridings unite and have a County Show in the most central places and facility to it; on condition that the place selected make all the necessary accommodation for the Shows free of cost to the County Society. I would further remark, Clinton is entitled, and I believe the best prepared for a County Show. In the prizes give a good premium to the best pure bred Durham Bull, from each township in the County, the exhibition to take place in the spring, to receive the premium in the fall, on condition of having served a given number of cows, if required in their respective townships; members of the County Society to have the preference, at reduced rates. Also give a small premium extra for the best Bull exhibited from all the townships. The same principle could be followed more extensively if funds would permit.

I conclude, A FARMER.

Further Respecting the Great Robbery in Pennsylvania.

Correspondence of the Rochester Union.

TITUSVILLE, Jan 17, 1868.

Last night a little matter, long expected came off on one of the hills bordering the Creek,