Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE] GODERICH, C. W., THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1864. [VOL. XVII.—NO. 5

IN THE BOX.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

(Continued.)

MR. WATKINS' STORY.

He shook me by the hand, bade me a hearty good-night, took up a candle, and lounged off into one of the little bedrooms which opened out of the passage leading to the back of the house. For myself, I declined having anything to do with the other chamber; it was too small and stuffy to suit my taste; and I had decided to take up my quarters for the night on the old carved chest, and at once proceeded to put my intentions into practice. Before settling myself for the night, I took a last glance through the window. The wind was hushed by this time, and the snow had ceased to fall, a clear cold night, full of promise for the morrow. Comforting myself with this reflection, I pushed the carved chest closer to the fire, and having laid down my black bag to serve for a pillow, and wrapped a couple of travelling rugs round me, I blew out the flaring tallow-candle, gave a last look to the fire, and in five minutes more had sunk into a heavy dreamless sleep.

When I awoke, it was still night; the fire had died down to a bed of glowing embers, which diffused a dim ruddy light around, sufficient to render the room and its furniture clearly visible, while leaving the corners in partial shadow. I awoke suddenly, with a sense of horror upon me such as no nightmare had ever inspired me with; and in my first waking moment could not call to mind the place in which I was; but a second glance round brought all the circumstances of the day to my recollection. I attempted to move, to get up, but found that I could not do so; I was perfectly helpless; and casting my eyes along the length of my body, I saw, with the most intense astonishment, that I was fastened down by a thick cord, wrapped round me again and again, to the carved chest on which I had made my bed for the night.—Who had done this? and for what purpose?

Though my arms and legs were strapped tightly down, my chest was left sufficiently free to enable me to turn my head readily from side to side, and thus see everything in the room except what might be immediately behind me.

For a moment or two, I imagined I was to be alone, but on turning my head more fully to the right, I saw that I was mistaken. On the large folding table which stood close under the window of the room, was squatted a figure so strange, so hideous, that in those first waking moments it might not unnaturally have been taken as the self-created illusion of a brain diseased. But not for long could I repress the conviction that the grim, dark, silent man before me was as much a reality, as much being of flesh and blood as myself; and gradually, as I looked more earnestly, the clear cut aquiline features of Nettlefold seemed to evolve themselves familiarly out of the hideously grotesque mask with which they were overlaid. Yes, it was certainly my American friend, and no one else; but in what a costume!

As far as I could judge, he had divested himself of every article of civilised costume usually worn by him, except a red woollen shirt; over this he now wore a gaudy and voluminous red and blue travelling rug, in which he had cut two holes for his arms, and which was fastened across his chest with an iron skewer, which he had picked up somewhere in the house; and held round the waist by a gay scarf, in which were stuck a revolver, a tomahawk, and a murderous-looking bowie knife. His feet were covered with a pair of Indian moccasins, which I remembered to have seen him wear as slippers on the previous evening; and in his long black tangled hair he had stuck a couple of peacock's feathers, taken from over the chimney-piece of the little bedroom. But the most singular feature of his transformation remains to be told. Having found a quantity of yellow paint in some odd corner of the house, he had daubed a circle round each eye, and marked an elaborate pattern with it on his face and neck, which gave him, in that half light, a horribly weird and grotesque appearance. Finally, he was sitting cross-legged on the table gravely smoking a long stem and pipe of red clay.

But what struck a colder chill to my heart than anything else was to see the hard, cruel, murderous look in those black glittering eyes bent so steadily and persistently on me; it seemed to me as though my pleasant new-found friend had suddenly died, and that some wandering fiend from the uttermost regions, finding the empty shell, had crept into it, and now mocked me with a horrible semblance of him who was no more.

'Nettlefold, what means this fool's trick?' I said at length. 'Release me at once. The joke has been carried far enough.'

He neither smiled nor spoke, only answered me by that steady unwavering gaze from his cruel black eyes. In spite of myself, my heart sank deeper within me, and I could not help betraying my anxiety when I next spoke.

'Come, release me; there's a good fellow,' I said. 'The joke is an admirable one, no doubt, but, upon my life, I can't see the point of it! Release me, sir; do you hear? or, by Heaven, you shall pay for it when I am free again!'

Still no answer, no light of recognition from those fiendish eyes. Instead of making any further appeal in words, I determined to try the effect of my own strength; but after a long and desperate struggle to break away from my bonds, I sank back breathless and exhausted, only more firmly bound than I had been before.

Turning my head, after a time, in the opposite direction, I saw with surprise, for I had not noticed it before, that the ladder which gave access through the trap-door to the loft was no longer there, so that all means of communication between the two rooms were removed; but whether the ladder had been taken away by Nettletold or by the landlord, I had no means of judging. While thus looking, I saw, and the sight made me give a start of surprise, the white face of Mattinson peering down on us through the trap-door. He, at all events, was safe for the present, and in some measure free. My start of surprise did not escape the vigilant eyes of the American; his glance, following mine, saw the face in a moment; the next, his revolver was out, and a bullet went crashing through the framework of the door, missing the landlord's head by a hairbreadth only. The American, with a guttural 'Ugh!' of disappointment, put back his revolver into his belt, and resumed his pipe without another word.

A horrible conviction had been gradually forcing itself on my mind, and now I could struggle against it no longer—Mr. Jabez Y. Nettlefold of New York was undoubtedly mad. There could be no question on the point, for on that supposition, and that alone, could his extraordinary conduct be accounted for. The shot fired at Mattinson, who, as far as I knew, had offended him neither in word nor deed, enlightened me as to the extent of my own danger, which only needed a glance at the fiend-like expression in his eyes to receive confirmation most complete. As I lay there, bound and helpless, I had time to imagine all that was likely or unlikely to happen me; time enough to summon up whatever of fortitude or patience I possessed to meet with calmness the fate which loomed so closely before me. My young life, with all its ambitions, fears, hopes, and jealousies, about to come to a sudden and ignoble conclusion in a lonely country inn, far away from all who knew or loved me?

How long I had lain thus, whether hours or minutes only, nursing these bitter thoughts, I cannot tell, when I was aroused by a movement on the part of the American. He put down his pipe, leaped off the table, and seizing a great log of wood, threw it on the fast decaying embers; then taking his bowie-knife out of his belt, he deliberately proceeded to sharpen it on the hearthstone. When the edge was to his mind, he went back to his seat on the table, and fixing on me again with his relentless eye, addressed me as follows:

'Dog of a pale-face, listen! Once I was a white man like thee, but a Great Spirit came to me as I lay asleep—whence he came, and what was his name, I cannot tell, for on these points my mind is confused—and he laid on my brow a finger that seemed to scorch and wither up my brain; and he said to me: 'Arise, and go back to the wigwams of thy people, for thou art not a pale-face. Many moons ago, thy fathers dwelt on the prairies, and fished in the great lakes, and hunted the buffalo, and were braves among the red men, and their blood runs in thy veins. Get thee hence, and take with thee the scalps of as many white men as shall be given into thy hands; so shalt thou be honored among thy people, and thy name shall be Soan-ge-taha, the Strong-hearted. And when the Spirit had done speaking, he put his hand into my bosom, and plucked out my heart of flesh, and put in its place a smooth flat stone, worn and polished by the action of the waves; and he said: 'Pity and fear shall be unknown to thee. Go; and the first white man on whom thine eyes shall rest after waking, thy scalp shalt thou assuredly take to decorate the poles of thy wigwam, when thou reachest the hopes of thy people on the wide prairies of the west!' Stranger, thine was the first face that my eyes rested on after waking. When morning breaks in the east, then shall I set out on the long journey before me, and thy scalp shall go with me. Wagh!'

I could not keep back the little sigh, half a sigh and half a sob, that burst irrepressibly from my heart as he finished speaking.—There could be no doubt now as to the fate in store for me. O bitter, bitter for life's bright dawn to end so suddenly in utter darkness! So young, too, and ah, so unfitted to die! I shut my eyes, and my soul seemed to be sinking down through endless depths of night to where no voice could ever comfort me—no friendly hand succor me—to the shadowless realms of death. But, hark! what was that? The low, quavering sound of a human voice, weak and uncertain at first, but gathering strength as it went on; no voice very sweet nor very skilful, but full of earnestness, and touched with a solemnity and depth of feeling that appealed directly to heart. It was the poor deformed man lost of the lonely county inn, singing a quaint, old-world psalm, learned probably at the little church among the Fells. Coming at such a time, it brought tears into my eyes, and lined me out of the depths of that terrible despair, and gave me strength to look my fate more calmly in the face.

Seven o'clock striking by the little cuckoo-clock in the corner. Where have I been and what has happened to me? It was not a dream then? Alas! no, for I am still bound hand and foot to the chest; but my limbs, where the cords have cut into them, have lost all feeling by this time, and are like the limbs of a dead man. I have been unconscious of my position for the last few minutes, unconscious of everthing except some vague, blessed dream of home, the home I shall never see more. Still grim and immovable, he leans as some Indian idol, with his yellow painted face, Nettlefold sits as before. Another half hour, and daylight will be here, and then——

This thought was still lingering in my brain, when the American laid down his pipe, stepped on to the floor, and going to one corner of the room, brought from thence some short pieces of cord, which had evidently been cut and laid ready for the purpose for which he now required them. With these he tied my ancles firmly together, and fastened my arms close to my sides; then cutting the longer cords which had bound me to the chest, he lifted me up lightly, as though I were a child, and set me upright against the door of a large cupboard which reached from the floor almost to the ceiling, and filled up a recess on one side of the fireplace. Then passing a longer cord across my chest and under my arms, he fastened one end of it to a large hook in the wall, and the other to one of the iron bars that guarded the window.—Fixed thus, it was impossible for me to stir; indeed, had my ancles been free, I could not have walked an inch, so numb and dead were they through having been so tightly bound for so long a time. 'Truly,' I thought, 'my last moment on earth is at hand.'

The American retired a few minutes to contemplate the effect of his handiwork, and something like a gleam of satisfaction lighted up his murderous eyes as he looked at me. He then walked slowly backward till he reached the opposite wall of the room, and drawing out his bowie-knife, he felt its blade with his finger for a moment, then quickly raising his arm, he flung the knife with deadly aim, straight to me as it seemed. Involuntarily, I shut my eyes, and the same instant the blade whizzed past my left ear, and buried itself in the soft wood of the door a few inches from my neck. I breathed again, and opened my eyes. The American uttered a solemn guttural 'Wagh!' of satisfaction, and drew his tomahawk from his belt. I would not close my eyes this time, but setting my teeth firmly together, kept my glance bent on him, though my heart seemed to stop its beating while I gazed; and next instant the tomahawk came rushing through the air, and crashed into the cupboard door, a few inches to the right of my throat. Again the American gave utterance to the same sign of satisfaction as before.

I had scarcely time to wonder at my second escape before I saw him draw his revolver from his belt, and take a sort of rapid half-aim at me, I felt the wind of a bullet among my hair, and knew that I was safe for the third time.

'One!' said the madman gravely, as his arm went up again to the line of fire; and then the second bullet stirred my hair, and buried itself in the door above my head.

'Two!' said the American sententiously, as he strapped his gaudy rug more closely around him. I now began to comprehend that, in accordance with Indian usage, this was intended as a sort of torture, preliminary to the grand catastrophe. Suppose he were to miss his aim? I whispered to myself. Why, even in that case, the end of the tragedy would but come a few minutes sooner; anyhow, he would doubtless tire in a very short time of playing with his victim, and would inflict the final *coup*, and so bring the business to an end.

But bullet number three brought my thoughts to an abrupt conclusion. In this case, I suppose, the shot swerved slightly from the line it was intended to take, as it came nearer than the previous ones had done, and carried with it a portion of my hair.

'Three!' said the American. 'Bad!'

Shots four, five, six, and seven rapidly followed; by which time my head was hemmed in, as it were, by a circle of bullets.—When the last shot had been fired, Nettlefold crossed the room, drew his knife and tomahawk carefully out of the wood, and replaced them in his belt.

'Circle the first!' he said, protruding his hideous visage to within an inch of my own. 'Circle the second will'—— He did not finish his words, but nodded his head at me ominously three times, and then went back to his former place on the other side of the kitchen and began to reload his revolver.

But to fully bad he set about the operation, when both heard and I were startled by hearing a low, weird voice outside the door calling him softly by name—a ghostly passionless voice, without inflection or modulation of tone.

'Soan-ge-taha,' said the voice, 'Soan-ge-taha, cease what thou art about and come ashee!'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Popular Feeling in England.

George Thompson lectured in the Music Hall, Boston, on Monday evening; upon the popular sentiment of England in regard to America and the rebellion. After paying an eloquent tribute to President Lincoln, he said it had never entered his wildest dreams that he could congratulate America that she had an anti-slavery Congress. He reviewed the wonderful change and progress in behalf of human liberty that had marked the years since he was here, in this country concluding with the declaration that when this Republic put arms into the hand of the negro, buckled upon his back a box with ball and edges, it sealed the death warrant of slavery, and elevated the negro to the condition of a man. It only remained to preserve, not rest, nor waver nor relax in effort, until the last fiber of that root of bitterness is plucked up—until there shall not be a slave upon the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the northern most habitable spot to Panama—He was no stranger to the contest of the last 50 years. He knew, also, the history of the antagonism to that power, and he declared that in the office of the liberator the freedom of a race began. He recounted the various phases of English feeling in regard to the war, how that through ignorance, it was averse, and how it immediately changed when the Federal Government assumed an anti-slavery position. The proclamation of Sept. 22nd, 1862, was received with electrical effect in England, and when the 1st of January came, monster meetings were held to usher in the day that was to bring emancipation to 2,000,000. Mr. Thompson displayed a great number of tracts issued by the Union and Emancipation Societies in England, which had been scattered by hundreds of thousands, and had dispelled a large amount of ignorance which prevailed in the country. He also displayed numerous placards which preached from the walls against secession, and upon which, he said, thousands of pounds had been expended. He said the secessionists had never held but one public meeting in London, except one called by a Col. Fuller, of New York, and he received such a welcome that he never again ventured to appear before a British audience. The lecture, which was an hour and a half long, was concluded with an eloquent eulogy upon the friends of America in England, and especially upon one who stands pre-eminent for honest patriotism and eloquence, John Bright, and also with an appeal to America to indulge a kindly feeling for his country.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 26, 1864.

THE TACTICS of Her Majesty's most Loyal Opposition have not improved since last session. Indeed we doubt if there has ever been such a display of vituperation and downright meanness displayed in the Canadian Legislature as has been witnessed within the few days since the opening of the present session. The Premier has been maliciously attacked by parties who, having been invited to his dinner-table, are dishonorable enough to twist the badinage so frequently indulged in on such occasions, to the detriment of their entertainer. In common life, people are generally disposed to adhere to the good old custom of manifesting a strict silence with regard to words that may fall from the lips of those whose boards they surround. Any man who would wilfully and maliciously retail on the street the subject of a private and confidential conversation at a friend's table—for gentlemen usually consider those who dine with them as friends—would be set down as a heartless scoundrel. What language, then, can be too strong in denunciation of politicians who are base enough to repeat, and twist, and pervert the remarks of a gentleman whose hospitality they had enjoyed, before such an august assembly as the Canadian House of Assembly. And yet such means have been used against the Hon. J. S. McDonald. Such conduct would be disdained by a savage Indian, who, if he does sometimes kill his foes with poisoned arrows, has at least an intense hatred of a "double tongue."—To most of the slanders thus trumped up the Premier has given a flat denial, and he announces his intention of answering the balance in good time.

The Opposition are in a splendid position to fire off squibs, for really and truly they seem to be at a loss what either to say or do. Mr. Cartier, true to his ultra-*loyal* instincts, attempted to fasten a charge of disloyalty upon the Ministry because a clause had not been inserted in the Speech congratulating the Prince and Princess of Wales upon the birth of their son, when, in reality, the *official* announcement of the fact had not reached Quebec. That question disposed of, Opposition gentlemen indulged in a little more bitter personality. Then Mr. McGee got a pretty severe scorching about the mighty loyal address from New York to his Canadian compatriots, then another gentleman told what he heard in Mr. J. S. McDonald's house, and so on as far as our information extends. Judging, however, from present appearances, the Ministry will hold its own, despite the frantic exertions of the opposition.

THE GREENWOOD TRAGEDY.

TORONTO was thrown into a state of most intense excitement on Tuesday last by the speedy dissemination of the news that the condemned felon WILLIAM GREENWOOD, in order to escape the last penalty of his crimes upon the gallows, had coolly and determinedly taken his life with his own hand. He hung himself with a towel about 10 o'clock on Monday night, from a bar of his cell, and thus ended his atrocious career. On Tuesday immense crowds of men, women and children flocked into the city to witness the execution, and when the facts of the suicide were imparted to them they grew perfectly furious.—The great public had lost a sensation—had been most unwarrantably deprived of the satisfaction of seeing a poor, degraded fellow—being dangling from the end of a rope, after having made a public confession of his horrible crimes, and consequently the members of the great public got up stories about a sham suicide, rescue, &c., and finally let off a little of their morbid excitement by indulging in a free fight. Never, we believe, was there a more powerful argument in favor of private executions, which by their very mystery are calculated to strike terror into the hearts of law-breakers. We extract the following details from Wednesday's *Globe*:

"Yesterday morning the city was thrown into a state of great excitement as soon as the facts of Greenwood's determined suicide became known. There were thousands of strangers in the city who had arrived the previous night, and long before daybreak all quiet of the city was abolished by the rattle of farmers' waggons coming in from all parts of the surrounding country loaded with men, women and children to witness the execution. Hundreds wended their way, with the first streak of dawn, to the Old Fair Green, in order to select good positions from which to see the unfortunate man launched into eternity. The gallows, however, had been removed during the night, and its absence created a good deal of inquiry, and various causes were assigned why it did not loom up, in its dreadful prominence, above the goal wall. Soon, however, the awful story of the suicide got into circulation and spread like wild-fire through the city, striking horror into the hearts of all as the terrible circumstances of the affair became fully known. The streets were crowded with hundreds of country people, as well as citizens, and every one was talking of the Greenwood Tragedy. The general belief for several hours was that the whole story was a *canard* put into circulation for the purpose of keeping as many as possible away from the execution, as it was anticipated that had it taken place a serious disturbance might have occurred. It was reported that a number of the friends of the condemned man had organized themselves into a strong body for the purpose of attempting a rescue. Absurd as this story may appear, it seems nevertheless not to have been without some foundation, for the authorities some days ago received information of such an attempt having been proposed, and the governor of the gaol, as he stated in his evidence before the Coroner, was warned that it was the intention of Greenwood's friends to make an attempt to rescue him from the gaol, or to convey to him some implements whereby he might cut the bars of his cell window, and then escape.

The inquest was opened yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, at the gaol, by Coroner Hallowell, and after the jury had been sworn in, they proceeded to the cell of the deceased for the purpose of viewing the body. There were present besides the Coroner and Jury, the Sheriff, the governor of the gaol, the gaol physician, Mr. S. Richard, Q. C., Mr. McNab, County Attorney, and a few others.

The body was found lying just as it had been left by the governor of the gaol, after it had been cut down. It was lying on its back, with the feet towards the door, with the clothes still on, as it was thought best by Mr. Allen that the jury should see it in as nearly as possible the same state as when found. The lips were partly open, disclosing the teeth, the upper and lower jaw being tightly pressed together, as if done in a moment of intense agony. On the right cheek, and around the right half of the mouth, there was a quantity of blood, which had evidently flowed from the right nostril and the mouth. The upper lip was slightly swollen. The eyes were closed, and though there was the pallid hue of death overspreading it, yet the face was calm, settled and quiet, looking as though his spirit had flown without a struggle of the body. There were no signs of a violent death, no evidences in the face of strangulation, and he looked as though he had died peaceably and happily in his bed. The only evidences of strangulation to be observed were on the neck, which was partially discolored; while on the skin, beneath the left jaw, there was a slight abrasion, produced, most likely, by the first sudden jerk the unfortunate suicide gave himself. The neck was not dislocated, and death must have been produced by strangulation or choking, the very means he himself used to put his victims out of the world. Suspended from the window was a portion of the towel with which the rash act had been committed. It was tied firmly around the bars, the lower end reaching to within a foot of the bed. The towel was a very long one, about five feet and three-eighths in length, and was what is termed a "roller towel." It used to hang on a nail in the corridor, within about ten feet of Greenwood's cell; and, as he had the privilege of going into the corridor during the day, he must have taken it off the nail and have secreted it in his room. It was fastened to the bars by a slip-knot, a noose being also made at the other end, into which the suicide must have put his head, and pulling it tightly around his neck, placed the thickest portion of it under his right ear, and then have thrown himself from the bed. The towel, however, was so long that, in order to effect his purpose, he had to put himself in a sort of leaning position, bringing his whole weight upon the towel, and thus tightening it around his neck. By simply kneeling upon the floor he could have relieved himself from the pressure, but so determined was he that he placed himself in an almost impossible position, in order to effect his horrid purpose. There was a small quantity of blood on the bed, and some also on his left hand, which must have come from his nose or mouth."

Loss of the 'Boheman'

THIRTY-ONE LIVES LOST!

The Steamship Bohemian of the Canadian Line struck on a rock four miles outside of Cape Elizabeth about 9 o'clock on the evg of the 23d. She had been turned towards shore, but she soon went down about 2 miles from the shore outside of Richmond Is and, having stove a hole in her engine compartment. The night was clear and the Cape lights in full view. She had 19 cabin passengers all of whom are supposed to be saved, and 199 steerage all of whom are still missing. Boat No. 2 was swamped alongside, owing to the rush of people crowding into it, and drifted ashore with a man and child in it both dead. The boat had a cargo of silks and other goods, mostly on Canadian account valued at $1,000,000. She was going at half speed and signaling for a pilot. All her papers and mails were saved. She is going to pieces fast and it is doubtful if the cargo can be saved.

NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Godey for March is a superb number, brilliantly illustrated and full of information for the ladies. The Magazine has doubled its circulation since last year. For sale here.

The *Atlantic Monthly* for March, presents a tempting bill of fare to the reading public. It is truly a fine number of this popular monthly. The contents are:—

The Queen of California; The Brother of Mercy; Ambassadors in Bonds; Wet-Weather Work, V.; On the Relation of Art to Nature, II.; Our Classmate; Whittier; The Constitutionists of St. Medard; House and Home Papers, III.; Song; Our Soldiers; William Makepeace Thackeray; The Peninsular Campaign; Reviews and Literary Notices; Recent American Publications.

From our Clinton Correspondent.

AGRICULTURAL DINNER.—CLINTON.

The Clinton Agricultural Association gave their accustomed annual Dinner on Friday, the 19th inst., in Smith & Andrew's Hotel.—The Banquet was a very successful one, although there were not so many of the farming portion of community present as were expected. We would here remark, that it is a matter of regret, that our farmers do not seem to take that interest in such demonstrations, which most particularly pertains to their welfare as agriculturalists. About forty, including mechanics, commercial men, and a few from the learned professions, besides farmers, sat down to the sumptuous repast prepared by our worthy host, Mr. Andrews, who, we must say, regardless of expense prepared a feast which would reflect credit on any of our city Hotels. The tables, which groaned beneath their weight, presented all those luxuries which are calculated to make men happy.

After all had fared sumptuously, and the viands were removed, the chairman adopting the motto, "*carpe diem*," immediately proposed the first toast of the evening, "Her gracious Majesty Queen Victoria;" song by Mr. Joslin. The next toast the "Prince and Princess of Wales and His Excellency the Governor General," was drank with great gusto.

The President then explained the object of the meeting and suggested some very appropriate ideas of the manner in which the evening should be spent. He enumerated certain topics concerning which the course of the conversation should be directed; among some of them were the manner or means by which Canada Thistles might be thoroughly eradicated, the time and manner in which seed ought to be sown, also the nature of the stock best adapted to our climate. After which with his request an article was ready to H. Read, from the Canada Farmer on Canada Thistles. Mr. Andrews was then called upon, who very ably dilated upon the kind of Horses best suited for our country, and the manner of training them. He argued that horses should be made to work a little when young and not fed to excess. Capt. Wilson then spoke at length on farming in general, but in particular confined himself to the kinds of Sheep, which he considered best calculated to yield the most and finest wool; as well those affording the greatest amount of mutton. The far-famed farmer Humphrey Snell, after the Captain had resumed his seat, expressed his views differing somewhat from those of his predecessor. He however agreed with the Captain in recommending the South-Down, as affording the finest and yielding the greatest amount of wool.

Several other gentlemen were called upon who extended their remarks to the manner of cultivating the soil. Mr. McTavish on behalf of the mechanics, made some very appropriate remarks on the new and improved kinds of Farming Implements. The Scotch Plough was his hobby, he also explained a new kind of Cultivator manufactured in Clinton, which with slight alterations could serve three or four purposes, the last being that of a plough. After some remarks from a few others, the evening being far spent and the flowing nectar all exhausted, it was deemed advisable to draw the proceedings of the evening to a close. Then was proposed the health of the President, song with chorus "For he's a jolly good fellow," by R. H. Read. After which was drank the health of the Vice President, the Secretary and Treasurer in their order—song "the Old Irish Gentleman," by C. F. Clark. The hour for retiring having arrived, the health of our worthy host and hostess was drank with full glass. Mr. Andrews responded in a concise though pleasing manner. After which was sung "God save the Queen," and the meeting was dissolved.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

QUEBEC, Feb. 22.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

On the question of receiving a petition presented at the close of last Session, complaining of the undue election and return of Mr. Raymond, for the County of St. Hyacinthe.

Mr. Langevin object d to the petition being received, on the ground that it was not dated.

After debate the Speaker said that the petition had endorsed on it his certificate, dated 15th October; that the recognizances had been properly filled, and that the statute did not require an election petition to be dated. He ruled that the petition be received.

The Chairman of the Montgomery, Joliette, Ottawa County, Montreal East and Russell Election Committees, reported that their respective Committees had adjourned till to-morrow, on account of the absence of certain of their members.

Mr. Verchères moved that the Verchères Election Committee having, at the request of both parties, allowed till the 17th of Feb for the production of evidence on behalf both of the petitioner and sitting member to have leave to adjourn till that day.—Carried.

David Ford Jones, Esq., the newly elected member for South Leeds, was introduced by Hon. Mr. Macdonald, of Kingston, and Hon. Mr. McGee, and took his seat.

Attorney General Macdonald, seconded by Hon Mr Cartier, moved that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, to congratulate Her Majesty on the increase of the Royal Family, by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales having been delivered of a son, and to express our great joy and satisfaction at this auspicious event.—Carried.

A Committee, consisting of Atty Gen Macdonald, Hon Mr Macdonald, (Kingston,) Hon Mr Dorion and Hon Mr Cartier, was appointed to draft the address. The Committee reported an address, which was adopted and ordered to be engrossed, and communicated to His Excellency, in order to its being duly transmitted to its destination.

Attorney General Macdonald, seconded by Hon Mr Cartier—Moved that a message be sent from this House to congratulate their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the joyful occasion of the birth of a son to their Royal Highnesses.—Carried.

The order of the day being called for the consideration of His Excellency's Speech,—Hon Mr Cartier asked that the order be postponed till to-morrow, on the ground that several members of the Opposition had not yet arrived, and that they desired to take the Speech into consideration by themselves before the Address in reply was moved in the House.

On motion of Atty Gen Macdonald, the House then adjourned at ten minutes past four.

QUEBEC, Feb. 23.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

After routine proceedings, on motion of the Hon Ferguson Blair, seconded by Hon Mr Campbell, addresses of congratulation to Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the birth of a son to their Royal Highnesses, were adopted.

The Council then proceeded to take into consideration His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon Mr Moore, seconded by Hon Mr McMaster, moved a series of resolutions of which to found an address in reply to the Speech, and which were as usual an echo of the Speech itself. A debate arose thereon, which was still proceeding when our despatch left.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

The chairman of the Montmagny, Montreal East, and Joliette Election Committees reported that their respective committees had adjourned till to-morrow, on account of the absence of certain of their members.

Mr. Scatcherd moved that a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting leave to Hon. James Shead, a member of that body, to attend on Friday next to give evidence before the Carleton Election Committee.—Carried.

Mr. Scatcherd moved that the Carleton Election Committee have leave to adjourn till Friday next.—Carried.

The House then proceeded to take into consideration his Excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Macfarlane moved the adoption of a series of resolutions on which to found an address in reply to the speech.

Mr. Caron seconded the resolutions.

Hon. Mr. Cartier raised explanations with reference to a rumour which had gone abroad that an offer of a seat in the Cabinet had been made to a member of this House.

Attorney-General Macdonald conceded to the fullest extent, the right of the Honorable Gentleman to ask the question, and replied that there being a vacancy in the Cabinet, a seat in it was offered to the member for Russell, and by that gentleman declined.

Mr. Bell, of Russell, said: As allusion had been made to him, he begged to say that the offer referred to had been made to him in an honest and straightforward manner, and that for reasons which to his judgment were good and sufficient, he did not accept the proposal.

In reply to Hon. John A. Macdonald, Attn. Gen. Macdonald stated that the vacancy in the Cabinet was caused by the resignation of the office of Solicitor General West by Mr. Richards, which was sent in by that gentleman by the next post subsequent to his defeat in South Leeds, and was immediately accepted by the Government.

The resolutions being considered clause by clause, the first was adopted without discussion, and upon the second relating to the militia, a debate arose, which was proceeding when our despatch left.

QUEBEC, Feb. 24.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Speaker communicated a message from his Excellency granting leave to Hon. Geo. Goodhue to be absent from his seat in the Legislative Council, during the present session.

On motion of the Hon. Ferguson Blair, leave was granted to Hon Mr. Skead to attend and give evidence before the Carleton Election Committee of the Lower House.

Hon. Ferguson Blair then resumed the adjourned debate on the Address.

The debate was proceeding when our report left.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

The Speaker informed the House that he had found the recognizances to the petitions complaining respectively of the undue election and return of Mr. Simpson for Niagara and Mr. Raymond for St. Hyacinthe, to be unobjectionable.

Mr. Wallbridge moved that the Laprairie Election Committee have leave to adjourn till the 3rd of March—the motion being made with the consent of both parties. Carried.

Mr. McTilvern read affidavits from the medical attendant of Hon. J. H. Cameron, and from Mr. Cameron himself, that he was disabled by sickness from attending the meeting of the Legislature, and that it was uncertain when he could attend. He moved the discharge of the order requiring Mr. Cameron to be taken into the custody of the sergeant-at-arms whenever he should be absent from the Joliette Election Committee.

Mr. Daly objected that the motion could not be considered without notice. After some discussion, the motion was allowed to stand as a notice, with the understanding that it could at any time hereafter be moved out of its place on the notice paper as a matter of privilege.

Mr. Walsh resumed the adjournment debate on the Address.

Latest News from Europe.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24th.—The steamship Hecla, from Liverpool on the 5th via Queenstown on the 10th, arrived at this port at ten o'clock this morning.

The judges of the exchequer in the Alexandra case had decided, by a majority of one out of seven, to dismiss the appeal on the ground of want of jurisdiction. Lord Palmerston said the government had remonstrated with Austria and Prussia in regard to the proclamation of the Duke Augustenberg, in placing Schleswig and Holstein under their protection. Prussia admitted its disapprovat of the affair in Schleswig and ordered its stoppage. In Holstein affairs were under the control of the German Diet. Prussia also positively declared that it would respect the integrity of Denmark.

It is fully confirmed that the Dones have retreated from Schleswig, evacuated the Dannewerk and blown up their works at Missunde. The Germans followed the Danes to Flensburg, when the latter also retreated towards Duppel. Severe sanguinary engagements had taken place, with considerable losses on both sides. The Germans had secured great booty and large numbers of prisoners. Great excitement existed at Copenhagen under the retreat of the Danish forces. At an extraordinary sitting of the Danish Diet, the president of the council said that the King was not just unusual in the retreat of the Danish forces and that the conduct of Gen. De Meza was inexplicable. The Prussians had occupied Flensburg. The Austrian loss there was 1,100.

The Earl of Russell stated in the House of Lords that Mr. Adams thought it prudent to withold Mr. Seward's offensive despatch, at which Lord Derby was so indignant, and it had never been presented. Mr. Layard said America had made no demand written or verbal for indemnity for the Alabama doings.

A proclamation by Marshal Wrangel announces the appointment of Baron Zedlitz as Prussian civil commissioner of Schleswig, confirms the present civil functionaries in office and prohibits demonstrations adverse to the Austrian and Prussian policy, and attempts to establish any other authority in Schleswig.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The City of London from Liverpool on the 10th, via Queenstown on the 11th, has arrived. Mr. Milner Gibson, in the House of Commons, said experiments had been made with a view of establishing fog signals at Cape Race, but the results were not very encouraging.

Earl Russell and Lord Palmerston both made explanations relative to the Danish question, denying the right of Austria and Prussia to abrogate the treaty of 1852.

Both houses of the Bigstaad adopted resolutions exhorting the people to tranquility and order, and pledging themselves to an energetic defence of the country. The Austrian headquarters on the 9th were at Flensburg, and the Prussian at Flensburg. The Germans had decided to raze the Dannewerke. It was rumored that the Prussians were attacking the Danes at Duppel, and had lost over 500 men. Result unknown. Danes, in great numbers, had quitted Alsen. Date Fredericksick was proclaimed at Flensburg. It was reported that Denmark had proposed a European congress relative to Schleswig.—It was asserted that the Austrian ministry had resolved that the London Protocol can no longer be prescribed as a basis of negotiations.

The London *Times* says the Danes lost everything in Schleswig except honor. The *Morning Post* says the situation is an informal suspension of hostilities and the time has arrived for a basis of arrangement to be discussed. The *Morning Herald* contends that if Austria and Prussia repudiate the treaty of London a general war can hardly be averted.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—The Bank of England's minimum rate of discount is reduced to 7 per cent. The Confederate steamer Florida left Brest on the night of the 9th. It is presumed that the Federal steamer Kearsage will pursue her.

The Danish Bigstaad have voted an address to the army in favor of vigorous prosecution of the war.

PARIS, Feb. 10.—The *Constitutional* considers that the evacuation of the Dannewerke by the Danes will prolong the war. It fears that the indications now arising will be different to those before the war. The basis of negotiation, it adds, has been displaced and many complications and difficulties are possible.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 11.—Breadstuffs market quiet and steady. Provision market steady.

The *Times* says:—Official assurance received from Vienna that the statement that Austria has withdrawn from the London treaty is not correct.

The *Pays* thinks the Danes are in a position to carry on a defensive war in Schleswig for many months to come. They occupy the Island of Alsen with the strongly fortified position of Duppel on the adjoining main land from the Island. It will be next to impossible to dislodge them. So long as the Danish forces are concentrated the allied powers will be compelled to support large armies of occupation in Schleswig; however, the Danes, with the fact, may hoodwink the Germans yet.

Copenhagen despatches state that during the retreat at the engagement near Oversee, the first Copenhagen regiment of infantry made a special bayonet charge upon a battery of 16 Prussian guns; the regiment was nearly destroyed, but the army was to be saved.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—Riots have occurred in the Canton of Seine. Several arrests were made, but the people released the prisoners using seditious cries.

PARIS, Feb. 10.—Denmark yielding to remonstrances of European commerce, has ordered that the Bremen and New York mail steamers shall not be molested.

The British Parliment and the War.

The two German Powers having actually rushed upon the Danes in Schleswig, the people of England became more anxious to know what course our Government had resolved to pursue. Hence a very lively interest was manifested in the meeting of Parliament on Thursday. For the mere opening ceremony few people cared. Her Majesty the Queen as usual, being absent; the Royal speech, when read in the papers at two o'clock, was speedily criticised, with many contemptuous remarks; and certainly it is one of the most meagre and unsatisfactory addresses ever presented to the two Houses. Everybody expected that the Ministers would at all events, give some explicit deliverance upon the quarrel between Germany and Denmark; but, as you already know, the paragraph devoted to that pressing question was purely historical, giving no opinion but only expressing regrets. As the afternoon wore on Parliament street and Palace yard were thronged with people collected to see the Lords and Commons pass to there respective Houses. There was very little cheering, and this circumstance made the expressions of feeling in favour of the Premier, when he was recognized, all the more palpable. It was somewhat curious that only a couple of hours or so before, the divorce case, to which he had been a party, was settled by the vindication of his character, and the discomfiture of his slanderer; and to this circumstance his greeting may be mainly attributed. Inside the House the scene was also highly animated, but more so in the Commons than in the Lords, and it was in the former House that I got my place. Scarcely a seat was vacant in the Lower House, and strangers filled up every inch of space allotted to them. A good deal of time being consumed in notices of motion on future days, and by new members taking their seats, the Queen's Speech was read by the Speaker. As that document will have reached you before this letter, I need say nothing about it in the way of describing its contents. The only passage in it that produced even the slight st expression of approval, as it was being read, was the paragraph towards the end, stating that a commission is to be issued for the purpose of revising the various forms of subscription and declaration required to be made by the clergy of the Established Church. Lord Richard Grosvenor, a very youthful looking person, moved the Address in reply to the Royal Speech, and spoke well as did also Mr. Groschen, one of the members for the city of London, also a young and promising senator. Mr. Disraeli, the leader of the Opposition, started to his feet the moment Mr. Groschen sat down, and caused some little amusement as well as cheers by the precipitancy with which he did so. His spe