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, JUNE 2, 1864.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MAY 27, 1864.

THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

The United States Government has recently been guilty of an act of despotism, which, three years ago, would have been deemed impossible of perpetration on this continent. The facts are simply these: Late one night the printers engaged upon the New York *World* and *Journal of Commerce* received what purported to be a dispatch from the agents of the Associated Press, containing a Proclamation from the President calling for 400,000 men for service in the Federal armies. This dispatch, published by the journals in question in good faith, turned out to be a bogus affair got up by a scamp named Howard for the purpose of influencing the money market. As soon as it appeared, information of the fact was sent, by telegraph, we presume, to the authorities at Washington, and immediately orders were given to seize the offending offices. The *ukase* was carried out Parties of soldiers took possession of the respective establishments and held them for several days, notwithstanding the fact that the publishers did all in their power to rectify the error as soon as it was discovered. This dastardly act, which strikes at the root of the liberty which has been the boast of Americans for so many long years, was perpetrated without the shadow of an investigation into the circumstances of the case. True, reparation, though tardy and insufficient, came in the course of a few days, the soldiers being removed and the papers allowed to appear as usual. But the fatal precedent has been established. The military power has asserted its sway over the arm of civil authority, and President Abraham Lincoln has shown to the world that he can arrogate to himself a degree of despotism which would not be tolerated for an hour in Monarchical Britain, and in which he is not surpassed by the Emperors of Russia, Austria or France. When the *World* made its reappearance on Monday, it contained a lengthy and pungent letter to the President, towards the conclusion of which the editor, Mr. Marble, says:

"It is you that in this transaction stand accused before the people. It is you who are conspicuously guilty. It is upon you that history, when recording these events, will affix the crime of a disregard of your duty, oblivion of your oath, and a pitiable subserviency to party prejudice and to personal ambition, when the country demanded in the presidential office elevated character devotion to duty, and entire self-abnegation.

"But you are not to be left to the judgment of history alone. Thank God, by the provisions of our Constitution, not yet wholly abrogated, the people are soon to pass upon your claims to re-election, and the right of impeachment yet remains to their representatives. The people and their representatives have the right to speak which the pen is struck from the hands of a freeman by the bayonet; when the Bastile, once broken down on the other side of the Atlantic by the reverberation of our Revolution, is reconstructed here.

"In stormy times like these, amid dangers with which an unsuppressed rebellion environs us, his would have been a rash hand which had hastily set in motion for another purpose than the suppression of rebellion, the machinery of justice; who had invoked against disloyalty of rulers the retribution and redress of the law. The danger of such a course of laws is so far passed, that not even a resident could now plead national safety as excuse for refusing to do justice or submit to judgment."

PARLIAMENT.

Nothing of great importance has engaged the attention of the House since our last, the Queen's Birthday and other holidays having broken in upon the proceedings to a considerable extent. At the latest accounts the House had under consideration the report of the committee of supply. The following we extract from the *Globe:*

The Parliamentary Reform Committee had another meeting to-day. The subcommittee which was appointed at a former meeting, presented a list of propositions to be discussed, which list, with some amendments, was adopted.

Mr. Powell went west a day or two ago, with the view, as it is reported, of testing the opinion of his constituents as to the propriety of his accepting the Postmaster Generalship. The Ottawa members generally are understood to be a good deal dissatisfied at the prospect that Mr. Powell may get the vacant seat in the Cabinet.—They would, it is said, prefer to see Mr. Bell, of Russell, selected for the position. Some others, moreover, who consider their own claims to the vacancy superior to those of Mr, Powell, threaten that they will become independent members in the event of their claims being passed over for his sake.

Mr. Campbell's Gold Bill was printed and distributed to-day. It embodies several provisions of Mr. McDougall's Bills. The Crown lands in the gold district are not to be sold unless proved unfit for gold mining, and if sold and afterwards gold found, the Crown may resume them, reimbursing the purchaser for the price paid for his improvements. As nearly all of the gold lands have already been sold to speculators, the provision is inoperative. License-holders for claims on Crown Lands must pay $2 per month for an area of 20 feet by 50 feet on large, and 40 feet by 50 feet on small streams, &c. On private lands, which with recent sales will include the larger portion of the gold fields, the proprietor may license any quantity for a license fee of $1. There are various provisions in the new Bill about matters which Mr. McDougall proposed to deal with by regulations which could be modified from time to time, as circumstances might require. In the new Bill there is no assertion of the right of the Government to gold on private lands, or the right, to grant licenses if the proprietors refused. The result will be little revenue from the Crown Lands and great expense for officers and protection to speculators—who will take the gold and pay next to nothing.

AN IMPORTANT CASE.

An important case of wholesale bounty jumping and infraction of the Foreign Enlistment Act came up for examination before the Mayor of Goderich and A. M. Ross, Esq., on Wednesday evening last. A young man named John Smith was charged by Elliott Hunter, a Volunteer, with having endeavored to induce complainant to enter the service of Abraham Lincoln as a private soldier. The evidence of Hunter was to the effect that on the 14th instant prisoner and he, at a point about four miles out of Kincardine, got into a conversation about the hard times in Canada. Prisoner said he could put him in a way of making money. Witness, in order to draw prisoner on, asked him how. He, (Smith) then persuaded him to go with him by way of Guelph to Buffalo and enlist in the federal service. He was to get $700 bounty. Smith was to get $200 from the recruiting agents for procuring him, and was then to assist him to desert, on the successful accomplishment of which, Hunter was to pay Smith $200 out of his $700 of bounty money. The whole job was to take only two weeks, Smith to pay all expenses until they reached the other side. Smith told Hunter he had *thirteen* other boys to take at the same time. On his cross-examination by Mr. Cameron, Hunter admitted that he intended all the time the conversation alluded to was going on to have Hunter arrested. Their worships decided to take bail for the prisoner's appearance at next assizes, himself in £200 and two sureties in the sum of £100 each.

We are informed that a large number of young men have been induced in a manner similar to that desc ib d above to leave the County of Bruce for the federal armies.

CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The celebration of Her Majesty s Birthday in Goderich was the best we have ever seen, whether considered in view of the numbers gathered together or the manner in which they entered into the spirit of enjoyment expected on such a day. The day, which was a most delightful one, was ushered in by the booming of cannon by way of a Royal salute. Very soon after sunrise the streets of the town began to present a lively appearance, the farming community from far and near turning out *en masse* to see the fun. About ten o'clock two separate trains brought up a great number of Excursionists from Brantford, Stratford, &c, the steamer Huron brought her quota of pleasure-seekers, accompanied by a fine brass band, and about one o'clock p. m. the Canadian entered port from Northern towns and villages with a large cargo of humanity, livened by the musical strains of the Southampton band. The Rifle Company fired a *feu de joie* at 9 o'clock A. M., but did not have an opportunity of witnessing the evolutions of the corps, it not being generally known that it would turn out at that hour. The artillery company fired a *feu de joie* and several volleys at 12 o'clock, noon, after which it went through a number of intricate evolutions to the evident satisfaction of the great crowd of spectators. In the afternoon a variety of games were entered into. The foot, sack, bell and wheelbarrow racing caused unbounded amusement. In the latter several unlucky individuals were run over, but, we believe, were more frightened than hurt. The sledge-throwing gave an opportunity for muscular display, but was attended by some danger, one false throw in particular sending the heavy tool right into the crowd. How it missed striking some one is almost miraculous. In the course of the afternoon the *Huron* and *Canadian* gave excursions out on the Lake and were extensively patronized. In the evening, also, the Canadian took out as many people as could find standing-room aboard for a moonlight sail. With the exception of a specimen or two of rowdyism everything passed off in the pleasantest manner, captain Rowan and Mr. Rumball doing all in their power to enhance the enjoyment of their passengers. A fine display of fireworks took place on the square in the evening, after which the firemen, in full uniform, marched in torch-light procession, thus ending the day's programme.—There was very little drunkenness observable during the day, and the best of harmony and good feeling was manifested throughout. Altogether, Goderich has no reason to feel ashamed of the way in which she showed her loyalty to our noble Queen.

BAD DELIVERY.

It may not be uninteresting to Toronto publishers to know that their papers are brought West very irregularly. The *Globe* is frequently a day behind, and the *Leader* most usually so. The bad connection made at Paris is assigned as the cause. The matter should be enquired into by those interested.

The Railway Amalgamation Bill.

We learn from Quebec that there is a probability of the abandonment of Mr. Woods' Amalgamation Bill, the railway authorities deeming it possible to carry out their arrangement on the old charters. If this is true, it is no small concession to the force of public opinion.

How they do it.

We have received the following precious epistle from a firm in Chicago:

"SIR,—We are desirous of getting the names of parties in your section of Canada for the purpose of sending a circular. What will you charge to send us a list of your subscribers to the Weekly *Signal* to use for the purpose above mentioned, and their P. O. addresses. We are willing to pay a reasonable amount, and will send you Canada money on receipt of your letter."

We positively refuse to comply with the above request, because we believe the applicants are a set of swindling humbugs, and because we would deem it a criminal act to connive at the victimizing of our Weekly subscribers to the extent of at least 10cts each. Application must be made in some other quarter—the *Signal* will have nothing to do with it.

LATEST EUROPEAN NEWS.

By the arrival of the steamer *Asia*, we learn that the House of Commons had a debate on Mr. Baring's motion, relative to the admission of the pirate Georgia into the River Mersey. The Atty.-Gen. said the Government could not interfere, and generally defended the Government's course. Mr. Cobden denounced the course of the Government. A Hamburg despatch says the proposed visit of the Princess of Prussia to the seat of war will not take place.

Liverpool, Saturday Evening

Cotton market firm and unchanged.—Breadstuffs inactive. Provisions quiet and steady. Lard easier and declining. Produce market steady.

Copenhagen, May 10.

The government has concluded a truce, commencing on the 12th instant. The belligerents are to give notice of their intention to renew hostilities one week before the expiration. The allies will remain in possession of Jutland and the Dance of Alsen. The allies are not to impose any further contributions in Jutland, nor interfere in the civil government of that Province. The blockade of the German ports is raised.

TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION AT DETROIT.

FOURTEEN PERSONS SAID TO BE KILLED.

DETROIT, 21st.—The propeller Nile exploded this morning while lying at the dock. Six persons are known to be killed, and others supposed to be. The boat is a complete wreck and sunk. Later intelligence (7 p. m.) says that there is good authority to believe that fourteen persons were killed and others severely wounded. One man, a shoemaker, was killed in his shop by a splinter from the wreck, whilst others were torn to shreds. A passenger was blown into the air to an altitude of thirty feet, and upon reaching the water was found to be uninjured.

Dreadful Murder near Huddersfield.

A shocking murder was committed at Coldbridge, near Bradley, near Huddersfield, on Saturday, the 7th inst., the murderer being Joseph Haigh, a spinner, and his victim, Joseph Pogson, aged 65 years, his uncle,—Pogson, who had a small independency, resided at Haigh's house. For some days past Haigh has been in an irritable and excited state, but has attended to his work. On Saturday morning, between 4 and 5 o'clock, he rose, dressed himself, awakened his wife, and asked her to get up and help him to pray. She did so, but some expression which she used in her prayer annoyed him, and, saying that she did not speak the truth, struck her. She ran up stairs to obtain her uncle's protection; but Haigh struck the old man, who ran into another room to save himself from further violence. Haigh followed him, knocked him down, and as he lay with his head on the hearthstone, stamped on his head, disfiguring him greatly, breaking his jaw and fracturing his skull. He then went down stairs, procured a bowl of water, washed off the blood of his victim which had splashed up to his knees, and went to bed. Directly afterwards he was fetched out of bed by Police-constable Reid, who had been told of what had occurred, and was conveyed to the county police office at Halifax. In the meantime Pogson was attended by Mr. Clark, of Huddersfield; but the frightful injuries he had sustained led to his death at a quarter to eight the same morning. Haigh was brought before the magistrate in the forenoon, and remanded to Tuesday. Some two or three years ago Haigh was under medical treatment for insanity.—*Manchester Examiner.*

THE PRESS SEIZURE.—Governor Seymour, of the State of New York, "has directed the District Attorney to procure indictment against all who were engaged in the seizure of the offices of the New York *World* and *Journal of Commerce.*" Here is a step which places a State Government in collision with the Federal Government.

An Irish Grievance Petition, to which 400,000 signatures are appended, has been presented to the House of Commons by the Lord Mayor of Dublin at the bar of the House.—The petition sets forth that Irish manufacturing industry suffers by partial legislation; that 3,000,000 of the people have left "the old sod" in the last 20 years, and that the chief cause of the latter calamity is the unsettled state of the relations between landlord and tenant.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

Severe Fighting in Virginia.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Washington, 24th, 10 p. m.—A despatch from Grant, dated 11 o'clock last night, states, the army moved from its position to the North Anna, following closely Lee's army. The 5th and 6th Corps marched by ways of Harris's store to Jericho Ford, and the 5th Corps succeeded in effecting a crossing and getting possession without much opposition. Shortly after, however, they were violently attacked, and handsomely repulsed the assault without much loss to us. We captured some prisoners. Everything looks exceedingly favorable to us.

Another despatch, giving in detail the movements of our corps, and speaking of the rebel assault on Warren's position, says:—He was attacked with great vehemence, and I have never heard more rapid firing, either artillery or musketry. The attack resulted in a destructive repulse to the enemy. At the position attacked by Hancock, the rebels were entrenched and in considerable force between the creek he had crossed and the river, and made a pertinacious resistance to his onset, but before dark he had forced them from their works and driven them across the stream. It is said that in these engagements the slaughter of the enemy was very great.—Our losses were inconsiderable. The rebels charged against our artillery, and suffered especially from canister. A dispatch from Grant, dated 3 o'clock this morning, has also been received, which states:—The enemy has fallen back from North Anna, and we are in pursuit. Negroes who have come in say Lee is falling back to Richmond. Other official despatches from headquarters say Warren, Barnside and Hancock are pushing forward after the retreating army. Warren captured a good number of prisoners last evening, but had not time to count them or ascertain his loss. Hancock is storming rifle pile on this side the river. Last evening he also took between 100 and 200 prisoners, and drove rebels into the river, where they were drowned. Warren also captured some official papers among which was an official order called out boys 15 years of age to garrison Richmond; ambulance men and musicians are also ordered to the ranks. Sheridan was this morning at Dunkirk, and will be at Milford to night. No dispatches have been received to-day from Sherman, and none are expected for the several days. Dispatches from Butler have been received to-day, relating briefly the performances of his respective forces. Admiral Lee, in a telegram dated on the 22nd, to the sec. of the Navy, states that last night and Saturday night the enemy attacked our army, and were handsomely repulsed. A despatch from Canby, dated May 18, at the mouth of the Red River, states the Banks' troops had arrived at Semmes' Port yesterday, and will reach Morganzea to-day. The army is in better condition than expected, and will soon be ready to resume offensive operations.

SIGEL'S DEFEAT—DISPOSITIONS OF LEE'S AND GRANT'S ARMIES.

(Washington Correspondence of the New York News)

The *Star* of last evening says, "Secesh in Washington is jubilant over the belief that Breckenridge, having defeated Sigel, has joined Lee with strong and effective reinforcements. Why not, instead of the childishness of bandying epithets and calling names, have the audacious to say that the government is deeply distressed and annoyed at the fact that Breckenridge has joined Lee with reinforcements. The facts of the subject, as they are related by those who have the best opportunity of knowing them, are as follows: Gen Lee, aware of the movement of Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley, had ordered the cavalry under Gen. Imboden to watch his movements, and to manœuvre against him in such a manner as to keep him in the valley. It was understood at Richmond that Sigel had taken 6,000 troops, and it was supposed there that he was, or would be, ordered to join General Grant (in case Lee's opposition to Grant's advance should prove to be a formidable obstacle to the progress of the latter) and that he would endeavor to move his column across the Blue Ridge at Swift Run Gap, twenty-five miles west of Culpepper, thence across the Rapidan at Germania Ford, and so connect with General Grant's right wing near Spottsylvania.

The forces under Breckenridge and Echols were moving from South-western Virginia at this time, *en route* to join Lee; but it was arranged that on reaching the Shenandoah Valley they should stop, say at Staunton, put themselves in communication with Imboden, and be guided by the state of affairs actually existing there at that time. These arrangements were carried out. On the 15th inst., Sigel's forces, in their progress down the Shenandoah Valley, had arrived at Newmarket, a point 90 miles west of this city, and 35 miles north west of Culpepper; the bulk of his troops being infantry. Here they were assailed by Imboden's cavalry. Sigel, who is a good soldier and a gallant general, manifestated an admirable disposition of his troops, and fought desperately. Indeed he came near being victorious. But at the critical moment Gen. Breckenridge sent Echols' whole division to the field, and it arrived in time to turn the scale against him. Sigel was defeated and compelled to retreat. His loss is not less than a thousand in killed and wounded, and 140 prisoners, besides two whole batteries of artillery, of six pieces in each.

What makes the government feel so bad about this, is the fact that this is a blow from which Sigel cannot recover. It must be the end of his movement in the Shenandoah Valley. The statement made ten days ago, that Imboden's cavalry had been ordered to join Lee, and the statement made a week ago that Sigel was passing through Thoroughfare Gap to join Grant, are thus proved to have been without foundation.

It is stated further, however, that immediately after the defeat of Sigel, Imboden was left at Newmarket to watch his movements, and that Breckenridge resumed his march, and on the 16th and 17th succeeded in joining Gen. Lee on the river Po, with the whole of his own and Gen. Echols' troops. The reinforcements thus brought to Gen. Lee cannot be less than 20,000 troops.

In order to understand perfectly the depression which this fact causes here, it should be remembered that all this took place after the "great Union victory" of the 12th; a victory which consisted in the brilliant achievement of Hancock's corps and their capture of guns early in the morning, and the subsequent recapture of most of the guns by the Confederates, and the fact that two of Burnside's divisions were badly cut up in the afternoon.—On the 13th, 14th and 15th, Gen Grant, followed up his victory of the 12th by maintaining an attitude of masterly inactivity. And on the 16th he made a slightly retrograde movement to the north side of the Ny river, where he is now receiving reinforcements.—It is known, too, that Gen Lee's army occupies to day the same position that it held eight or ten days ago, on the north side of the river Po.

During the last five days, too, it has been heavily re-enforced, both from North Carolina and from the West. The value of Butler's operations below Richmond may be inferred from the fact that ever since the 9th instant detachments of Confederate troops from North Carolina have arrived at Richmond every day. They all came as far as Petersburg by railroad. Part of them came all the way by railroad, by the way of Barkesville, which is not much out of the way.—Others, leaving the cars at Petersburg, march to Chesterfield, and thence to Richmond, which only makes a walk of twenty-five miles. They are allowed two days to make this march in, as there does not seem to have been much hurry in getting them up from Petersburg. Petersburg is now, and has been all the time, in the possession of the Confederates. On the 6th, the same day that Gen. Grant made his retrograde movement across the Ny, two of these bodies of Confederate troops that were marching from Petersburg to Richmond, attacked two divisions of Butler's troops. Your readers will see that Stanton's account of this affair states that "Gen. Smith's line was forced back in confusion, and with considerable loss," and that "Butler retired leisurely within his own lines," because "his troops had been on duty for five days!" When the veracious Secretary admits as much as that, it may be taken for granted that the matter is really much worse than his despatches indicate.

The most serious matter by far, however, is that which relates to the probable amount of reinforcements which Gen. Lee may have received, or which he may reasonably expect to receive from Gen. Johnston. It is well known here that Gen. Johnston had at his disposal three weeks ago 80,000 troops—Gen. Sherman, of course, has fully as many. Atlanta is very strongly fortified. It can be held for weeks by 30,000 troops against a hostile force three times that strong. Nothing is more probable than that the Confederates have determined to abandon the idea of giving battle to Sherman's army on the Coosa or Etowah rivers, and have resolved instead to transfer the bulk of Johnston's army to Virginia. Indeed, I learn from good authority that the government is satisfied that this is what they are doing. It may be taken for granted, therefore, that even at the risk of losing Atlanta, Gen. Lee's army is now being reinforced by Johnston's veteran regiments, and that it is considered necessary in order to save Richmond, Gen. Johnston, himself and that if it is so troops will be found near rebel capital before the end of the month.

Federal Disaster Under Butler.

The confession is now made that the Federal losses in the recent engagement between Butler's and Beauregard's forces amount to 5,000! The following is from the Philadelphia *Inquirer*:

BERMUDA HUNDRED, May 18.

The director of transportation of wounded informs me that many *five thousand* of our men were captured, wounded and killed on Monday. Nearly the whole of Heckman's brigade are either killed, wounded or missing. Our forces have fallen back to within five miles of this place. They are no longer managing Fort Darling.

The Federal Losses.

The *Times'* war correspondent states that the losses of the 5th Federal army corps, since May 5th, amounts in killed, wounded and missing, to 13,000. Now, there are four army corps engaged, the 2nd, 5th, 6th and 9th; thus if we take the casualties of the other corps in the same proportion, the total losses of Grant's army up to Thursday amount to 55,725. The *Times* adds that the number of "straggling" or deserters, from the Potomac army amount, since the commencement of the campaign, to 12,000; add these to the average losses, and the total number placed *hors de combat* amounts to 67,720 men! Is this the truth all told?

Outrages by Federal Troops in Louisiana.

A correspondent of the Houston (Texas) paper gives a highly Southern version of the victories won over Gen. Banks, in the course of which he states:

"Many of the stately residences along the route are blackened ruins, the fences destroyed by fire, and a scene of desolation is seen on every side. I wondered what the object was for an army and people who professed to belong to a christian nation to thus devastate the land they profess to come to save—oh shame, where is thy blush? I had formerly believed that many of the stories of the burning of dwellings, robberies of churches, &c., were exaggerated. But after seeing these things with my own eyes I am now satisfied they are true. A Catholic church in the Spanish settlement near Double Bayou bridge was sacked, and the church ornaments carried away; even the window curtains were taken. This cannot be denied. In the knapsack of one of the Nineteenth army corps was found the jewelery of a young lady. Earrings, breast-pins, and even her under-clothing was there. I will do the enemy the justice to say that the orders of their generals severely punish outrages of this kind, but many of the inferior officers encourage their men to do these acts, and even share with them in the spoils. These representations are no boast or misrepresentation. I can vouch for their truth. Well may we say, 'O Union, what atrocities are committed in thy name!'"

ANOTHER DRAFT IN CONTEMPLATION.—The Detroit *Free Press* says:—We are soon to be called upon for, probably, 300,000 more men, and for what? They are said to be imperatively needed to hurl against a few effete, demoralized southerners. Is it against an effeminate, exhausted, used up, retreating and disaffected army that they are to be used; is such the army, half the size of Grant's, and under an incompetent leader, that places obstacles in the road to Richmond?

PROJECTED RAID INTO KENTUCKY.—The Louisville *Journal* is advised that John H. Morgan is at the head of five or six thousand cavalry at Abington, Va., and contemplates an immediate raid into Kentucky by the Pound Gap. The Federal forces are ready to give him a warm reception.

LINES TO RICHMOND.—Correspondents are mistaken in supposing that the railroad through Petersburg is the only railroad connection Richmond has with the South. The railroad to and through Danville, Virginia, has lately been pushed to completion—and most probably, just to provide against any interruption of the other route at Weldon or Petersburg and now connects Richmond with the Southwest. Neither would the connection with Richmond with the Southwest be cut off entirely by the occupation of Gordonsville, since there is another road leading into that near Lynchburg.—[Petersburgh (Va.) Express.

MATCHES VS. TAXES.—The House of Representatives has passed a bill providing for stamp duty of one cent on each box of matches. The government may tax our matches, but we challenge the world to match our taxes.—*Oswego Palladium.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—A late letter from the gold diggings in British Columbia, published in the London Herald, describes the condition of things there as being wretched beyond conception. Nearly every recent immigrant who has the means is leaving the place for good.

Town & Counties.

Notice to Correspondents.

J. G.—We will be happy to place your name upon our list of contributors.

H. L.—Interesting items of local news from your township and neighborhood will be most acceptable.

Seaforth.

This thriving Village is making rapid strides, and bids fair to become, ere long, a town of considerable importance. A beautiful English Church now rears its spire above all other buildings. A Methodist Church is approaching completion. A well attended School is kept by Miss Dorrence, and a polished education is given by Mrs. Askins. Taylors, Shoemakers, Milliners, Bakers, Butchers and Blacksmiths are arriving very fast. A swarm of merchants has sprung up of late, and their competition in these "hard times" makes merchandize remarkably low. Dickson, Pringle, Johnson, Logan, Richardson, Ord and Woods are prepared as usual to give the highest figure for produce. P. Ramsey, Esq., is at the head of the Lumber business. Mr. Curry is shipping a large quantity of timber. Vanstone, Bros, are progressing rapidly with their steam Flouring Mill. On Wednesday 15th, they raised a frame, four stories high, without the slightest accident, which is remarkable, as there were no less than 100 men present, all of whom were entertained with dinner and supper by these gentlemen in McBride's Hotel, in the host's best style. Mr. Watson's Foundry is in full operation. Mr. Cull of the "Huron Express" is erecting a capacious office and store on the front street. Thos Downey, Esq., has retired from Hotel business and has his Livery Stable nearer the station. Messrs. Strong, Powell and Montgomery are vieing with each other in making improvements around their respective establishments. Capt. Coleman's Company of Volunteer, are becoming proficient in the art of war under the experienced eye of Sargeant McLean.—COMM.

Harbors.

DEAR SIGNAL,—I see from the *Signal* of the 19th inst. that you, as well as the Kincardine *Review*, are comparatively ignorant as to the shipping accommodations on the Eastern Shore of Lake Huron. Any vessel navigating the Lake can find abundant of water at Inverhuron pier, where frequently large vessels, after taking on part of their cargo at Kincardine and Southampton, finish their loads, as was the case this spring with the propeller *Niagara* and schooner *Merritt*. If Inverhuron had a break-water built, it would be second to none on these Lakes.

Inverhuron, May 23rd, 1864. P. McR.

Teachers' Convention.

SIR,—In the *Globe* not long ago, I noticed among its columns an account of a Teachers' Convention held in some of the more easterly Counties. At that meeting several subjects were introduced and discussed, relating to the business of the teacher, which, if done justice to, to the earnest teacher must have been of no small benefit. The idea at once struck me that something of the kind in our section of the country is greatly needed, not only for the purpose of stirring up the dormant energies of teachers in general in relation to their work, but also for the more selfish end of personal benefit. I can say from experience that the exchange of thoughts on a subject that ought to engage our special attentions, is of no small benefit. Our superintendents, though in rather a quarrelsome way, are beginning to bestir themselves. Why should we, who have the educational interest of the country, to a certain extent, in our hands, be the last to make an effort for the furtherance of that cause, in which we are all more or less engaged? It is not, as our worthy Chief Superintendent has truthfully said, an act of parliament, or a certificate, that can make a man respected, or fit to hold an office as a teacher unless he is naturally qualified for the business. No certificate can ever make him so, and those natural abilities aided by extensive mental culture and observation. Let us, then, thy if we cannot get up '*l' esprit de corps* and show to constituents that if the future ministers, orators and statesmen of Canada go forth from their *alma mater* unqualified, it will not be for want of exertion on our part. Other Counties, other Townships, in fact, have their conventional meetings, most of these represented at a Provincial Convention held yearly. Why not have ours? All, I think, will readily admit that we need one, what, then, I would ask again, is to hinder us from having either a County or Township one, to meet either monthly or quarterly? As your columns do not admit of lengthy communications I shall draw to a close, hoping that our *third class* friends, for their *own* good, will bestir themselves, and expecting soon to hear from others who are willing to take active steps in the matter, either through your columns or privately, I remain respectfully yours, J. G., D.

GODERICH, 23rd May, 1864.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal;

DEAR SIR,—It gave me much pleasure to read your obituary notice of our former mutual friend, Mr. Archibald Cameron; but as love delights to linger on the excellencies of departed worth, and as I had access to his mind in a way that was peculiarly intimate, I hope it will not be considered out of place in me to add a few statements to those you have already given to the puplic.

Yours very truly,
C. FLETCHER.

"This star
Rose with us, through a little arc
Of heaven, nor having wandered far,
Shot on the sudden into dark.

Mr. Cameron was born in Breadalbane, Perthshire, Scotland, on the 25th December, 1836, and consequently he was at the time of his death in his 28th year, an age just long enough to tell us something of the privileges we would have enjoyed with him had life been spared to him and us, and so very short that we are filled with grief that our fond anticipations of coming good as the result of his piety and zeal are destined almost all to be enjoyed in the world to come.

His youth was characterized by no flash of [illegible] gems [illegible] heart delights to tre[illegible] temptation. His educa[illegible] thing more than a weli-[illegible] Parochial education, and his ac[illegible] with general literature was beyond [illegible] might have been expected from his limit[illegible] privileges. Indeed, a pretty fair proof of th[illegible] success of his studies at this period of his li[illegible] is given in the very flattering testimonial which he brought with him to this country in 1852 from Mr. McNab, his former teacher, himself a man of no ordinary abilities, and who was warmly attached to Mr. Cameron from the early manifestation of his superior powers and promises of future excellence.

Having arrived in Canada he betook himself to teaching, first on the London Road, section No. 1, township of Goderich, and ultimately in our Central School in Town, in all extending over a period of about eight or nine years. The trustees and parents of the pupils he taught bore ample testimony to his efficiency as a teacher, and those who visited and examined his classes had the fullest proof that he both prosecuted the teaching of youth as a deeply interesting science, and discharged the duties of the school with all the energy of one under deep moral obligation.

He was about a year in the Goderich branch of the Bank of Upper Canada, and not only gave full satisfaction to his employers, but so commended himself to those influential parties in the Bank as promised to be highly advantageous to him in after life; and consequently when internal changes in the Bank deprived him of his situation, he left encouraged by the hope of being again received in its employ in a more advantageous position.

But we love to look upon our friend, not merely in the discharge of his public official duties, as a "Young man rejoicing in his youth," we find much that is pleasing. He stood among his fellows as a cheerful companion without the blemish of giddy folly.—As a leader in all that was good, without the dictatorial conceited bearing which renders abortive so many benevolent plans for the good of others, and as a Christian without the austere bigotry which turns the young mind from the sacred enjoyments of genuine religion.

Of our Young Men's Christian Association he was secretary, and one of its leading members during the whole period of its existence. He attended our Bible class in the Canada Presbyterian Church during most of the time he lived here. With him and others in that little band we had frequent and precious intercourse. The hidden man of the heart, which to the outer world was a field unknown, was there unveiled, and an interchange of sentiments and feelings was enjoyed which most on earth resembled the communion of the Church above.

On such occasions if there were any questions which required more than usual reflection or Christian experience to understand them it was to him and the late lamented Mr. Alex. Robertson, and to James Dobbie, also now alas! no more, and to Mr. Angus McKay, jr., now in a foreign land, and a few others, that we turned for the answer, and were seldom disappointed in our appeal. The happy hours thus spent can never be forgotten.

It is impossible to do justice to his labours as a member of the church. For many years he was a manager, and took a very active part in all its schemes. And none of the members of the Building Committee of Knox Church can forget his untiring labors as their secretary and treasurer. The clearness of his views, the fertility of his resources, and his indefatigable zeal for the interests of the committee, often filled them with amazement and delight. But his labors are ended, and now he rests in peace.

Mr Cameron was afflicted with a scrofulous tumor on the neck in the Fall of 1861, and after lengthened medical treatment he was led to believe that a visit to his native land would be of service to him, and with this view he spent the summer of 1862 in Britain, consulted some of the most eminent physicians in England and Scotland, and put himself under a course of medicine prescribed by one of them with considerable benefit. He returned to Canada in the Fall of the same year much improved and hopeful of a speedy cure. These hopes were partially realized during the succeeding winter. In the course of last summer, however, he had a series of severe colds, which gradually reduced his physical strength, and in the same proportion gave power to his disease and directed its fatal energies against his lungs. About this time he was induced to use a violent remedy to remove the tumor, which it effected, it is true, but only confirming the disease of his lungs, of which he died on the afternoon of Sabbath the 8th May, current. During his last illness Mr. Cameron said little about his state, but there was no hesitation or doubt in his replies when he was questioned respecting it. The day before his death his mother asked him whether or not he was afraid to die. "O no, mother, I am not afraid to die!". When another friend remarked to him that he thought it unnecessary to speak to him particularly about his higher interests, knowing that these had been attended to long since, he acknowledged that "he had done so, and that it was well, for his condition was ill suited for such work." Shortly before his death on two successive occasions he desired the 14th and 15th chapter of St. John to be read to him, which seemed to give him great comfort. Not more than an hour before his end, he engaged audibly and with composure in prayer, thanking God for his goodness to him hitherto, and praying that now he would smooth his way in death, and that he would take him home to Himself. Shortly after this he was asked whether or not he would wish his father to engage in prayer; he replied, 'O yes, if you think I can follow him and take hold of his words,' and whilst his father addressed the throne of Grace he folded his hands across his breast, and without a struggle entered into the presence of the hearer and answerer of prayer.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord henceforth, from yea, saith the Spirit that [illegible] issue [illegible] race, which [illegible] slaves in the Un[illegible] never have been abl[illegible] with either of the contend[illegible] United and Confederate States on the one side there was a d[illegible] favor of the perpetuity of slavery, other there seemed to be no possi[illegible] even to undo that unholy compact cont[illegible] in the constitution of the United States which a slave coming into a free state, have ever much he may have suffered in endeavoring to reach that free state, is liable to be again restored to his master. It is to be hoped, with respect to this contest in North America, with whatever calamities it may be fraught, whatever slaughter may be committed, that Providence will decree that some atonement for all the misery shall be made to mankind, and that the issue will be one which will place those four millions of the black race in a condition of freedom—in that condition which may hereafter lead to their prosperity by the proper employment of that liberty which the United States have proclaimed as the most sacred principle of their constitution. It is evident that it must be left to the contending powers to work out this great problem, and I, for my part, should think it a great misfortune if this country should be obliged by any paramount considerations to take a part in the present contest. It may be that the result of this contest, the beginning of which we all deplored, the continuance of which we all regret—it may be that the end of this contest may see that sin, that crime, that detestable state of slavery forever abolished from among civilized nations. (Hear, hear.)

Disastrous Fire in Detroit.

OVER $20,000 WORTH OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.

The most disastrous fire which has occurred to this city for several years, broke out in the Planing Mill and Sash Factory of H. Crapo, opposite Cowie, Hodge & Co.'s Foundry and Machine Shop, Atwater street, last evening. About seven o'clock dense volumes of thick black smoke were seen to issue from the building, but it was some moments before the fire alarms were given, and the engines turned out. The combustible nature of everything in and about the premises soon furnished food for the devouring element, and in a very short time not only the planing mill, but the lumber yard and workshop were in a mass of flame. As speedily as possible the steamers and hand engines got to work, but the fire had obtained too much headway, or rather had already partly consumed so much material that little was left for them to do but extinguish the fire which raged among the lumber piles and shingles. Those who were near the place when the fire broke out, describe it as spread over the yard and buildings as terrific, and some men, who were in one of the shops, had barely time to get out. The engine shed of the Michigan Southern Railroad, which was some distance from the planing mill, took fire and was completely destroyed.—There was only one engine in the place, and it was got out without injury. The only loss to the company will, therefore, be the building and two large stoves, which could not be got out. The foundry and machine shop of Messrs. Cowie, Hodge & Co., was at one time in imminent danger, as was also that of Kellogg & Co., but happily escaped with a slight scorching. The boat house of Detroit Boat Club, in which upwards of $2,000 worth of boats, besides other property, were kept, narrowly escaped. The boats, however, were got out, so that the loss beyond that of the building would not have been material.—The loss sustained by Mr. Crapo must be enormous, and as he had but a few months since purchased the factory and lumber yard from Mr. Chas Byram, and expended a large sum of money in new machines and lumber, the unfortunate circumstance is deeply to be deplored. We have been credibly informed that his loss will amount to little less than $20,000, but whether any of this is covered by insurance, has not yet transpired, as Mr. C. resides in Flint, and his superintendent, Mr. H. H. C. Smith, is also absent at that place. The origin of the fire is at present a mystery.—*Detroit Free Press.*

GREAT WESTERN FREIGHT TRAFFIC.—Before the commencement of navigation we were led to understand that an arrangement had been entered into between the Great Western Railway Company and the owners of some of the Lake Propellers, for the conveyance of grain and produce from Chicago to the G. W. Railway Depot in this place, which would be continued during the summer. In accordance with this arrangement a commencement was made, and three or four cargoes delivered, which were in due course forwarded to Hamilton by train, to be thence despatched to eastern ports. The Company, moreover, commenced to provide accommodation for the reception and storage of this freight as it arrived, by increasing the breadth of their dock at the north end of the freight house, and covering in the greater portion of it, evidently with the expectation that the business of the summer would require such preparation; all at once, however, it is announced that the traffic is to be abandoned, and that the vessels would in future be employed by the Grand Trunk Company. As to the cause of this break up of the arrangement, we have not been definitely informed, but have heard it stated to be owing to some dissatisfaction on the part of the owners of the vessels, with the terms of the contract,—these not being as favorable to them as those of the Grand Trunk Company, by whom they are to be employed for the remainder of the season.—[Sarnia Observer.

THE CROPS SOUTH OF GALT.—We have information from the country about Glenmoris that the fall wheat there looks very unpromising, and it is estimated that about one-fourth has been killed out. Many farmers are plowing up whole fields and sowing with spring wheat. South of that, between Paris and Brantford, it is in even a worse condition. On flat land this is found to be the case almost invariably—the rolling land makes a much better show.—*Galt Reformer.*

LARGE SHEARING.—A sheep owned by Mr. Oliver Johnston, in the township of Storrington, was sheared last week and the large amount of 13 pounds and 9 ounces of fleece taken from its back. The sheep had been running on the roads all spring.—*Kingston Whig.*